

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Quarterly Members' Meeting, Evening Worship, After Church Fellowship

We have a busy evening planned! Our Quarterly Members' Meeting is this afternoon, **January 21**, at 5:15 p.m. After the meeting, we will have Evening Worship at 6:00 p.m., during which Elder candidate Glen Martin will share his testimony of conversion and walk with the Lord and answer any questions you may have. An After Church Fellowship will follow at 7:00 p.m. Please bring snacks to share!

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, the menu is **Pizza**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal!

Deacons' Retreat

The annual Deacons' Retreat will be held on **January 26 and 27**. Let Bob, Tom, or any active deacon know if there is something you would like them to discuss. Pray for them!

Wedding Shower!

There is a wedding shower scheduled for Emily Wise and Dustin Herb on Thursday, **February 1**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Girls of all ages are invited! They are registered at Target, Home Depot, Pampered Chef, and Amazon.

Oyster Roasts

Our annual Men's Oyster Roast is scheduled for Thursday, **February 8**. Men, invite your friends to this fun outreach opportunity! The Family Oyster Roast will be Friday, **February 9**. Please sign the lists in the hallway.

Senior Adult Valentine's Lunch

This is scheduled for Sunday, **February 11**, at 12:00 p.m. Senior Saints, sign up in the hall!

Home Fellowships

We are having Home Fellowships the evening of Sunday, **February 18**. Please let Dawn know if you can host a group! We need at least four homes.

Mentor Opportunity

The Old Savannah City Mission has asked Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church to assist them in mentoring men in their program. These men have either been incarcerated or

Continued on b. 4

FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

January 21, 2024

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Psalm 67:5-7 Pew Bible p. 481

Hymn #13, bulletin p. 5

"Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty"

Prayer of General Confession

Bob Dimmitt Ephesians 1:7-10 Pew Bible p. 976

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

"Grace"

Scripture Reading
Psalm 108
Dean McCraw
Pew Bible pp. 507-508

Hymn #334, bulletin p. 7

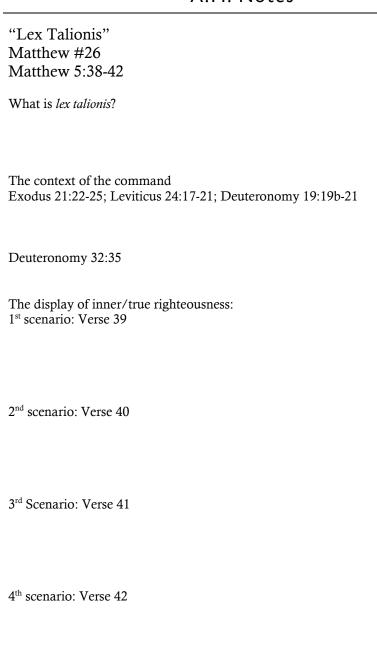
"All Glory Be to Christ"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
"Lex Talionis"
Matthew #26
Matthew 5:38-42, Pew Bible pp. 810-811

Hymn, bulletin p. 8

"Now Unto Him"

A.M. Notes



Prov. 25:21-22 & Exodus 23:4-5

Continued from p. I

addicted to drugs/alcohol. Please pray about God using you in these men's lives. Over the next several weeks you will be hearing about this opportunity from Pastor Bob Dimmitt and Tom Keller. You will also hear from those who have already participated in the program as mentors (Bobby Deloach, Reggie Brown, and Tom Keller). We are asking God to raise up 3-4 men who would be willing to mentor a man through his struggle and healing.

Marriage Retreat

Tom is organizing a Marriage Retreat for April 26 and 27. Details will be available in the weeks to come, but mark your calendars!

GAUGING INTEREST IN TRIP TO TEXAS!

Tom is planning a trip to the Institute for Creation Research Discovery Center in Dallas, Texas. Before booking the trip he wants to see how many people are interested in going. The trip will be May 27 thru May 31, 2024. We will take the church bus. The cost will be between \$850-\$1000 per person. This will include 5 lunches, 5 dinners, 4 nights in a hotel, and tickets for the museum.

If you are interested in going please sign up in the hall by February 4. Trip is open to all!



Important Upcoming Dates

January:

| 21 | Quarterly Members' Meeting | 5:15 p.m. |
|-------|---|-----------|
| 21 | Evening Worship with examination of Elder candidate | 6:00 p.m. |
| 21 | After Church Fellowship | 7:00 p.m. |
| 26-27 | Deacons' Retreat | • |

February:

| I | Emily Wise Wedding Shower | 7:00 p.m. |
|----|--------------------------------|------------|
| 8 | Men's Oyster Roast | 6:00 p.m. |
| 9 | Family Oyster Roast | 6:00 p.m. |
| П | Senior Saints' Valentine Lunch | 12:00 p.m. |
| 15 | Palentine's Party | · |
| 18 | Home Fellowships | 6:00 p.m. |



Grace

Order:

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus

Verse 3, Chorus, Verse 4, Chorus, Chorus

NIKI SHEPHERD, JONNY ROBINSON and RICH THOMPSON



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All Glory Be to Christ

DUSTIN KENSRUE



Now Unto Him



Articles

You Might Not Be a Christian If ...

We all need regular spiritual check-ups: By Bill Muehlenberg

Most folks do regular health check-ups. They go through various tests to make sure that they are in good shape and that there are no serious ailments or diseases or problems lurking anywhere within.

If we spend all this time and energy to ensure that our physical health is in good nick, then surely we should do the same regarding our spiritual health. And we have good biblical warrant for this very thing. In 2 Cor. 13:5 the apostle Paul said this: "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves."

So all those who claim to be a follower of Christ should be engaging in regular check-ups – for their soul. We must not be cavalier about, nor take for granted, our spiritual health. What follows are some possible questions we might ask ourselves in this regard.

But let me make a few necessary prefatory remarks. I need regular spiritual checkups just as much as any other Christian. And as I often say, only God knows for certain those who are truly his. Yes, Scripture gives us a lot of indications of who are really his, and Jesus said we can judge people by their fruit and so on. So there are various tests we can apply to others, but again, the point here is to apply these tests to ourselves.

Also, I say "might". We are likely all guilty of these things to a greater or lesser extent, and may still struggle with some of them. So it is not particular sins as such that can keep you out of the Kingdom, but rather longer-term patterns and habits that may well indicate a person was never born again to begin with.

As always, justification is a once-off process wherein we get right with God by grace through faith. And proof of being justified is a life-long process of sanctification where we cooperate with God in becoming more holy, more Christlike, and less full of sin and self.

Here then are a few things we can all consider as we appraise our Christian walk and where we are really at with God. Let me first begin with a purely biblical checklist. The apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 gave us a list of what Christian love is all about:

"Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

And let's make it very real and practical here. Simply substitute your name for the word 'love' and see how well you are doing in this regard: 'Bill is patient and kind; Bill does not envy or boast ...' This is as good a test as any if you are interested in properly monitoring your spiritual health.

But there might be various other things we could look at. You might not be a Christian if ...

- If you can find sin in everyone else but not in yourself.
- If you are more concerned about what others think of you than what God thinks.
- If you have little or no interest in regularly reading and studying the word of God.
- If you think nothing of the life to come but are only interested in this life.
- If you get far more excited over a game of sport or some material object than knowing and worshipping God.
- If you would rather go out and party than spend some time at a prayer meeting or Bible study.
- If you spend most of your time going on heresy-hunting crusades, convinced that most other Christians and their theology are heretical and to be condemned, while you and a few of your buds are on the straight and narrow.
- If you have no interest in sharing the gospel with others and praying for their salvation.
- If when things go awry you always find someone else to blame, and never consider that you might be part of the problem.
- If you refuse to forgive others but hold grudges and bitterness for years and years.
- If you think you are a really terrific Christian while everyone around you has so very far to go.

There would be many more such possible indicators that we could mention here. Again, having some of these may not necessarily mean a person is unsaved. The real key here is our heart attitude. We may be guilty of some of these things, but the thing is, we know it is wrong, it grieves us, and we ask God to help us overcome these things.

That is what separates the men from the boys – the sheep from the goats. If you find plenty of these things in your life, but it does not bother you in the least, nor make you want to change with God's help, then you may very well not be a genuine Christian. �

The Vital Importance of Personal Discipline in Your Life

By Derek J. Brown

Nothing of any significance has ever been accomplished without discipline. That's true in both the physical and spiritual realm. Talented athletes who rely upon their natural athletic prowess and refuse to put in the work to develop their skills rarely find enduring or memorable success. Wealthy sons who take their financial status for granted instead of laboring to multiply their inherited wealth often stand as pathetic examples of privileged yet wasted lives.

There have been great minds who have wasted their massive intellectual gifts because they simply would not discipline themselves to work hard. Regarding this last kind of neglect, I am reminded of the following description of William Coleridge, an eighteenth-century poet who, despite his literary gifts, fell far short of what many expected him to accomplish.

Coleridge is the supreme tragedy of indiscipline. Never did so great a mind produce so little. He left Cambridge University to join the army; but he left the army because, in spite of all his erudition, he could not rub down a horse; he returned to Oxford and left without a degree. He began a paper called *The Watchman* which lived for 10 numbers then died. It has been said of him: "He lost himself in visions of work to be done, that always remained to be done. Coleridge had every poetic gift but one—the gift of sustained and concentrated effort." In his head and in his mind he had all kinds of books, as he said himself, "completed save for transcription." "I am on the eve," he says, "of sending to the press two octavo volumes." But the books were never composed outside Coleridge's mind, because he would not face the discipline of sitting down to write them out. No one ever reached any eminence, and no one having reached it, ever maintained it, without discipline. (William Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 323) [1]

Instead of multiplying and growing his incredible gifts, Coleridge squandered them through a lack of discipline. And we don't need anyone to explain to us how tragic this kind of waste is; we all know intuitively—whether we are Christians or not—that there is something deeply wrong with failing to make a return on one's talents and resources.

Hard Work Beats Gifting

"Nine times out of ten," a church history professor once told our class, "hard work beats gifting." The reason why those with a strong work ethic often outpace those with superior gifts is that the latter often relies on his gifts and neglects the hard work necessary to hone his innate skill. As a result, these folks don't make any long-term progress. Initially, those with superior talent run ahead of their colleagues with ease; but as the race continues, the one who had only marginal abilities but possessed an unrelenting work ethic eventually overtakes the naturally gifted person.

Scripture warns us often of the danger of squandering our gifts and resources through a lack of discipline: "The soul of the sluggard craves and craves, but the soul of the diligent is richly supplied" (Prov. 13:4). We might have great plans and dreams, but we will only crave success (not taste it) if we don't discipline ourselves. But it's even more serious than that.

To Whom Much Is Given

Jesus links the diligent use of our God-given resources (time, spiritual resources, financial resources, ministry opportunity, and so on) to saving faith. That is, it is the one who multiplies what he has been given who finally hears, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21, 23). The one who squandered his time and resources won't be merely scolded and forgiven; he will be assigned to eternal condemnation for his laziness (Matt. 25:24-30).

This is not to suggest that we earn our way to heaven by our hard work: justification is by faith alone, apart from works (Rom. 4:5). Rather, Jesus is teaching us that a person with true faith will diligently use the resources he has been given for the glory of God and the good of others. "To whom much is given, much will be required" (Luke 12:48).

When I ponder this last statement from Jesus, I am usually drawn to consider the massive—and I mean massive—amount of money, spiritual resources (books, video, articles, audio, etc.), and discretionary time we have been given in America. In terms of the obligation to multiply our resources, we have been given more than any other people in this history of mankind. I shudder to think what the King will say to many of us on the Day of Judgment when he comes to take account of his investments. Much will be required.

What Is Discipline and What Keeps It Alive?

But what is discipline? Discipline is simply the consistent application of focused, unyielding effort to fulfill a particular practice (or set of practices) in order to accomplish a specific goal. Maintaining a clear vision of what one is seeking to accomplish, therefore, is essential to the life of any given discipline. That is, in order to maintain our motivation to pursue our disciplines and make the necessary sacrifices in order to prioritize them, we must keep our end goal always in view.

Your hope to clock a personal-best in your next 10k is what enables you to get up early, run your 30 miles a week, stretch regularly, and push aside sweets during your training months. Similarly, our desire to enjoy deep fellowship with Christ, grow in holiness, bear spiritual fruit, maintain our joy, and sharpen our ministry skills will, as they are fueled and guided by the Holy Spirit, strengthen our efforts to discipline ourselves to read and meditate on Scripture, prayer, and worship. �

Featured Content from Right Now Media

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tions he interviews top-level secular and biblical scholars in search for clues that support the Bible's timeline for this pivotal event in history. Now, see the evidence as the Bible comes alive with dramatic

for answers. As he investigates the possible loca- Baptist Church on the top right menu area, and click the links for The Red Sea Miracle, Parts I and II under our "The Pastor's Picks" channel. They are set up as small group studies, but you can watch the entire films by forwarding through each clip in turn.

Missionary of the Week

Ralph & Elaine Elliott Cru - Antwerp, Belgium

January 11, 2024

Dear Friends,

Elaine and I try to make a practice of reviewing, at the end of each year, what God has done in our ministry during the past year. It is so easy to forget or forget to express thanks to the Lord. As we do this, it makes sense to share with all of you what God has done and what we are thankful for.

Elaine and I hope all of you have a most blessed year ahead in 2024!

<u>January</u>

- Elaine and I continued our experiment with learning Dutch (Flemish). We are now able to read and slowly work our way through Dutch texts after completing these first basic levels of Dutch.
- Our friend Eric Walker, who ministered with us occasionally in Turkey, visited Antwerp and taught the Young Adults at church. The theme/title was called "Explosive Bible Study", teaching principles of effective Bible study methods.

February

- A Belgian business leader and myself (Ralph) started an online Leader Impact group based on the book study called *Boundaries for Leaders*.
- Elaine continued her Leader Impact group (initial Leader Impact study called Foundations) with diplomatic women in Brussels.

March (one of the craziest ever on record for us)

- Two different Cru campus student groups from Indiana descended on the Catholic University of Leuven (KU Leuven) for a week of ministering to students on campus. At this same time, and in conjunction with the Indiana group, a team from Global Leadership Partners came to the KU Leuven campus and shared talks on leadership based on the Emotional Quotient concept (EQ).
- The third week of March was perhaps our biggest event of the year as we helped host 120 delegates from Leader Impact across Europe. The conference was a big boost to the Leader Impact ministry in Europe overall, but particularly in the countries of Western Europe.

April April

• We hosted Jim and Nan Huhta, a Momentum Europe professional couple from the States. Jim used his professional expertise to connect me with a local Belgian cardiologist while Nan used her background in embassy ministry to help Elaine by ministering to women in the embassy and governmental sector.

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• Coinciding with the Huhta visit, we were honored to host Josh and Dottie McDowell for one day during their visit to Belgium. We shared and fellowshipped while touring the beautiful town of Bruge. During this brief visit, Josh offered a one-hour Q&A over the lunch time. It was fascinating to hear from Josh on some of his many exploits and challenges in the ministry over the last sixty years.

May

- I took part in a gathering of all the country leaders in Europe that was held in Bulgaria. Meanwhile, Elaine helped host the arrival of another group from our campus partnership in Indiana. The March group had ministered for one week during their spring break; this new campus group from Indiana stayed and ministered for three weeks! Good connections were made with students during this time.
- The International School Project (ISP ministry within Cru) team visited Antwerp and met with a small group of Christian school teachers, encouraging them with ways to reach out with the gospel to their peers in the public school system. They will continue to stay in touch and minister and encourage this group of teachers.
- Coinciding with the visit from Indiana, these campus students were also helping our Belgian staff member Olivier Mertens minister to young people at the *Art of Faith Festival* held near Antwerp. Olivier's ministry is focused on high school age young people. Great connections were made at this gathering. This music and arts festival happens in May each year.

<u>June</u>

• Elaine and I, and our partners Bob and Ria, traveled nearby to the Netherlands to attend a marriage and family conference being hosted by the Agape (Cru) ministry leaders of the Netherlands Family Life ministry. It was very helpful to see and learn what the Netherlands Agape staff members are doing in the area of marriage and family ministry.

July/August

• Elaine and I spent most of these two months in Florida, particularly with our daughter Lauren and her husband Micah. We understood early on in her pregnancy that her baby, Charlotte Rose, had a few very serious issues incompatible with life. We hoped for a miracle for her earthly life, but God gave her instead a heavenly one. Charlotte Rose was born and passed away on August 22nd. We were deeply saddened by this event but were grateful that we could be with Lauren and Micah during this difficult time.

<u>September</u>

- Our Belgium team—Bob and Ria, Olivier, and Ralph and Elaine—gathered to discuss plans for the year ahead and to spend time in prayer.
- Our church home group regathered to catch up and make plans for the third year together.

October

- Our Belgium team gathered for our annual Cru International Day of Prayer.
- Elaine and I began a Leader Impact group in Antwerp studying the Braden Douglas book *Becoming a Leader of Impact*.
- Elaine began her Leader Impact study with key diplomatic women in Brussels, using this same *Becoming a Leader of Impact* book.
- Our Young Adults leadership team from church gathered to make plans for the year ahead.

November

- Bob and Ria began a week of prayer and meetings within the Catholic church (and involving the local Catholic priest in their region) in the northern part of Antwerp.
- The Dutch leaders of Family Life in the Netherlands visited Antwerp and shared with our team how to do an evening home group with their Dutch family life materials. Elaine and I tried to follow some of the Dutch they were speaking.

December

• Our entire Belgium team attended the annual European Prayer Conference—a gathering of diplomatic and governmental representatives from the European Union (EU) along with representatives from various Christian ministries. This was a great time of networking, sharing important prayer items, and times of prayer. We were able to meet key EU Christian government leaders including talking more with the former prime minister of Slovakia.

Nursery January 21 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris **Preschoolers:**

Brittany Hall, Elinor Morris

Nursery January 28 Babies:

Jay & Lisa Rowe
Toddlers:

Sona Bailey, Debra Denney **Preschoolers:**

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

| | This Week at FABC | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--|------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Today | | | | | |
| Coffee Fellowship | | 9:00 a.m. | | | | |
| Sunday School | | 9:30 a.m. | | | | |
| Morning Worship | | 10:30 a.m. | | | | |
| Quarterly Members' Meeting | | 5:15 p.m. | | | | |
| Evening Worship | | 6:00 p.m. | | | | |
| After Church Fellowship | | 7:00 p.m. | | | | |
| | Tuesday | | | | | |
| Joy Class | - | 9:00 a.m. | | | | |
| Men's Bible Study | | 6:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Women's Bible Study | | 6:30 p.m. | | | | |
| i i | Wednesday | | | | | |
| Supper: Pizza | | 5:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Adventure Club | | 6:20 p.m. | | | | |
| Youth | | 6:30 p.m. | | | | |
| Bible Study | | 6:45 p.m. | | | | |
| | Thursday | | | | | |
| Senior Adult Bible Study | | 10:00 a.m. | | | | |
| Women's Bible Study | | 6:15 p.m. | | | | |
| | Friday - Saturday Deacons' Retreat | | | | | |

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for January

Bill Bailey, Reggie Brown

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Systematic Theology" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"New Members" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"Exodus" Youth House: Steve Posner
"Heaven Rules" Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith

Children and Students

| Babies | Room 3: | Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges |
|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| Toddlers | Room 24: | Lynn Ernst, Kelly Zittrouer |
| Pre-K | Room 25: | Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter |
| K, 1st and 2nd Grade | Room 28: | John and Pam Humphrey |
| 3rd-6th Grade Boys | Room 202: | Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills |
| 3rd-6th Grade Girls | Room 204: | Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton |
| Youth Guys | Room 206: | Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion |
| Vouth Girls | Poom 206: | Avalon Del oach |

Youth Girls Room 206: Avalon DeLoach