

In last month's newsletter, a challenge was set forth never to forget the powerful impact of the cross of Christ. For some, the cross was an emblem of suffering and shame but to those whose sins have been forgiven, by the death of our Savior, believe His shed blood delivered us from the agony and shame of our ghastly sin. Praise be to His holy name forever!

As we go further into spring, we move into the realm of harvest. Most of us remember from our childhood the little ditty "April showers bring May flowers." This ditty contrasts dark clouds and rain with sunshine and gain. It also differentiates doom and gloom with hope and assurances that with a little patience a beautiful canvas of various bright colors and shapes will appear on the horizon and soothe the anguish and despair produced by our pasts.

Though this cycle of hope and despair occurs naturally, from year to year, we that are saved are exhorted not to live our lives on a rollercoaster. Here is a great example from the Apostle Paul. In Philippians 4, Paul extols Christians to be full of joy *always* in the Lord. He contends joyful Christians will conduct themselves in such a way that other Christians, and non-Christians alike, will notice a God-like character; specifically, in how we live, in contrast to the world and they will be impressed.

Another reason why it is imperative for us to live a joyful, fulfilling life is that Jesus is coming soon. Paul infers, we should consciously and carefully consider our spiritual and emotional state of mind and being at all times because of the immediate expectation of the appearing of our Lord. Are you ready?

With the hope of Christ's return on the horizon, Christians are admonished not to worry about *anything!* It goes without being said; Christians are to live worry free, in this present age, because the glorious return of Christ will mark the end of worry, doubt, and fear and will usher in a new dawn of everlasting peace and bliss.

Paul declares that prayer trumps worry and fear; the power of prayer is so great anxiety and fear shutters in its wake. The formula presented in this passage is simple, yet effective. When we pray, we should lay everything on the table before God. Tell Him our needs and then praise Him in advance for entertaining our requests. Prayer is the antidote to fear; it brings peace to our hearts and minds when otherwise we would be upset and distraught.

God's peace is not a temporary fix to a problem, yet she is a constant friend to those who pursue her. God's peace not only acts as a friend, but she is also a spiritual guard dog to protect the most vulnerable parts of our inner being.

As we grow closer to our Savior, our reliance upon Him will grow stronger; naturally, our dependence on self-reliance and the world will wane, and we will experience the peace that exceeds all understanding. Christ's peace will attack fear, doubt and depression when it comes to prey upon our faith. It will aggressively defend us against every attack of Satan and his minions.

In this lesson, Paul adds another element to his admonition; if we are going to be successful in our endeavor to live peaceful lives, then we have to overhaul our character, meaning, the way we live and think.

Along with prayer and praise, we are to add these virtues to your lives. Paul writes in Philippians 4:8 "*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.*" When we occupy our mind with the goodness of God, it leaves no room for doubt and disillusionment. Our hearts will be filled with joy and our mouths with praises. The more we learn about God and His ways and surrender our wises to His virtues, the more of His peace we will possess.

Paul insists peace produces contentment; they are synonymous with one another. In fact, he gives a wonderful example of how one lives with the peace of God overshadowing their lives in Philippians 4:13, "*I know how to live on almost nothing or with everything. I have learned the secret of living in every situation, whether it is with a full stomach or empty, with plenty or little.*" This illustrates when we are at peace with God, we have everything we need.

We can overcome self, Satan, and the world if we would but rely on Christ's strength and power, and trust His abilities and sufficiency no matter the circumstances in our lives. Paul cements these truths by explaining the process of transformation in Philippians 1:6, he states; "*And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*"

May you be encouraged, as you read this article, to look unto Jesus, *the Champion, who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting Him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.* Heb. 12:2. May we too endure the trials of this life because of the joy that awaits us when Christ returns to take us to glory! May we be found faithfully serving, praying and praising God for all of His goodness. "*And they sang in a mighty chorus: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slaughtered, to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing."* Rev. 5:12

I pray God will continue to bless each of you as you strive to bring glory and honor to His name by the way you live your lives.

Your friend,
Pastor Tim

Easter Musical

Thank you to our music director Shauna, narrator/sound design Bill and the choir for an amazing musical "Risen Indeed."

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Thank you to all of you who gave to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Women on Mission

Last month at our Women on Mission meeting we stuffed Easter Eggs for the Afghan Easter Egg Hunt. We sure had a good time.

Then the next day several of us went to Fremont to help with the hunt. Guess what! It rained. We were not able to do crafts but the kids has a great time hunting eggs.

Mother's Day Breakfast

We are inviting the whole church to a Mother's Day breakfast on Sunday, May 8th at 8:30 am to honor the lives of our mothers.

Our men will be cooking breakfast and you can be sure it will be good as usual.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway if you plan to attend.



Ladies Tea

Ladies - You are invited to our Chocolate and Me tea on Saturday, May 14th at 11:00 am.

For additional details see the Women on Mission bulletin board in the hallway.

Looking forward to seeing all of you ladies.

50 Yard Line Sing

Sunday, May 29th
7:00 pm

Here is an invitation to join in an all East Bay church service on Sunday, May 29th at 7:00 pm. Four Castro Valley Churches (including Redwood Chapel, 3 Crosses, Castro Valley Church of the Nazarene and Castro Valley First Baptist) are combining their worship-leaders, vocal teams, band musicians, orchestras and choirs to lead an exciting and heartfelt night of worship on the 50-year line of Castro Valley High School's football stadium. We're calling this the *50 Yard Line Sing* and all the glory goes to God!

Though the service starts at 7:00 pm, starting at 5:30 pm, we will have the Food Truck Mafia where people can purchase and enjoy dinner as one huge East Bay church family! .

What an opportunity to glorify God in a mighty way, to meet other believers from other churches, to be spiritually encouraged through song, devotions, times of prayer, and to witness to our surrounding community through our loud praises and shouts to God!

If you are interested in supporting this event, please support us through prayer! Donations can be made toward offsetting the cost.



Let us also continue to pray for those who presently serve in the military as they offer their lives to keep America free.

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy **Rank** - 2nd Class
Assignment - Virginia Beach

Brandon Woolworth - Nephew of Chery Hanna
Branch - Air Force
Assignment - Tucson, Arizona

Megan Hines - USNA - Pastor Tim's Daughter
MIDN - **Megan Hines**
1 Wilson Rd.
P.O. Box 12610
Annapolis, Maryland 21412



First Southern Baptist Church
 15503 Usher Street
 San Lorenzo, CA 94580
 church@fsbcsl.org
 (510) 276-3688

Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Morning Worship 10:45 am



May Calendar

4th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
 8th - Mother's Day Breakfast - 8:30 am
 9th - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
 11th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study/- 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
 14th - Women's Tea - 11:00 am
 18th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study- 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
 23rd - Rest Home Ministry - 11:00 am
 25th - Wednesday Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 6:45 pm
 26th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm
 28th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am
 29th - 50 Yard Line Sing - 7:00 pm - Castro Valley
 High School

Happy Birthday

3rd - Chery Hanna
 6th - Kathy Musil
 10th - George Bocar
 15th - Wayne Hudgens
 23rd - Joyce Thornburg
 25th - Patti Hawksworth



First Southern Baptist Church
Newsletter

Glorifying God ~ Loving One Another ~ Reaching the World

Pastor: Tim Hines - Interim Pastor: Dr. John W. Shouse

Volume 4 Issue 5

www.fsbcsl.org

May 2016



So Blessed by You, Mom

A mother who always cares, A mother who's always there.
 A mother who always prays, A mother who always stays.
 When things get rough, When life gets tough,
 When all is just too much to bear, God's Word she shares.
 God's light she shines. So blessed God made this mother mine.