

SAVING THE BEST FOR LAST
JOHN 2:6-10 (NLT)

When we are confronted with good and bad news, we normally want the bad news first. This phenomenon is caused by our desire to have bad news diminished by good news; it is a coping mechanism designed to help us accept deplorable news.

In John 2, we discover Christ as a wedding guest; Jewish wedding celebrations last for seven days. As this wedding feast neared its end the wine ran short; wine was a symbol of joy and celebration. Without it the gala would be over. As the story goes, Jesus intervened and new wine was distributed to the wedding guest. The wine was spectacular causing the master of the ceremony to exclaim "A host always serves the best wine first," ...*"But you have kept the best until now!"* This miracle, coined a now famous saying "saving the best for last" and established a model for how Christ would conduct His life and ministry.

When contrasting the work of Christ and Satan we discover Satan offers his best first and saves his worst for last? Sin is very alluring, it's packaged and advertised with the most attractive people pretending to be living the good life of success and security. However, Satan never mentions the consequences connected with sin's pleasure. It will never show images of people incarcerated for drunk driving, rape, murder, drugs, violence and general mayhem, nor of victims lying in repose at funeral homes. It will never depict the effects sin has on the family, church, community and the world, not that it would make a difference.

Notice what James, the brother of Jesus, wrote on this topic. James 1:14-15, *"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. ¹⁵These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."* This passage gives us insight into the progression of sin, how it corrupts and destroys us. Temptation is described as a predator who stalks its prey; once we succumb to its seduction, we are dragged helplessly away to our destruction. Temptation is the snare, once we're caught in the snare of sin we are doomed. Proverbs 13:15 states, ... *"the way of the transgressor is hard."* Proverbs 14:12 declares, *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways to death."* For some, wine is a symbol of joy and celebration while for others wine is known to be a symbol of God's wrath. Revelation 14:9-10 (NCV) ...*"that one also will drink the wine of God's anger."*

Let us transition now to contrasting the work of Satan with Christ's. In Matthew 20:16 we are taught the last on earth will be the first in heaven. In Psalms 126:5 we discover a promise for those who *sow in tears they will reap in joy*. In Matthew 19:21 Jesus told the rich young ruler *"If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven."* In John 21 we learn of fishermen who had fished all night for nothing were encouraged by Christ to throw their nets overboard one more time because He was saving the *best cast for last*. In I Kings 17:10-14 we learn of a woman who saved her best for last and was blessed by God. One of the most famous narratives on this topic is found in Genesis 22:13, in this story we find a father in the throes of sacrificing his only son when God, who saves His best for last, offered up a ram's life instead of the young lad's. In Genesis 37 we discover the story of Joseph. Joseph was Jacob's twelfth son, God saved His best for last after his brothers threw him in a pit and left him for dead God exalted him to the throne. In I Samuel 16:13 is the story of young David being anointed king of Israel after God rejected his seven older brothers. God saved the best for last! Finally, in Hebrews 10:12 Christ offers Himself to God as the final sacrifice for sin, He saved the best for last. Because of Christ's sacrifice we have been promised a home in heaven and given eternal life, God saved His best for last!

With love from above,
Pastor Tim



We are coming into the home stretch for collecting items for this year's event. Please make your final selections and deliver your gifts to the church before or on November 12th.

Items that need to be purchased:

- **Toys** such as dolls, stuffed animals, cars, puzzles, jump ropes, etc.
- **School Supplies** books, pencils, pens, crayons, notebooks, coloring books, etc.
- **Non-Liquid Hygiene Items** toothbrushes, bar of soap, washcloths, combs, etc.

Donations will be accepted in lieu of gifts. Place your contribution in a pink envelope and mark it OCC. Please add \$7 for shipping. For more information please contact Patti @ 510-276-3688.

Open Door Mission

We are collecting caps and WHITE socks for men and women at the Open Door Mission. Socks must be fitted (toe & heel). **Please, no TUBE socks.** The weather is getting colder, what a great way to give the warmth of Christ's love to hurting people.

The final deadline to receive items will be on November 6th. These items will be wrapped after Operation Christmas Child has concluded at the Women on Mission Saturday event. Please bring any extra Christmas paper, we could use it!

WHITTAKER RETIRES



FRESNO — Fermin A. Whittaker, executive director of California Southern Baptist Convention since February 1995, announced May 13 he will retire next February after completing 21 years of service.

In his announcement to the CSBC Executive Board during its regular spring meeting, Whittaker said that since his early call to ministry "I have known the blessings of being a servant of God. I find it amazing that God could take a stuttering kid like me and make a pastor of His church."

"I've served Him in Panama, Canada and Georgia. But for the past 21 years He has allowed me to lift His name and proclaim 'every man, woman, boy and girl' as a rallying cry for California Southern Baptists to reach our state and world for Jesus. I have been blessed by our God."

Whittaker also thanked Board members for allowing him to serve and for their support and prayers in reaching the world in California. "But now it is time for new beginnings for me and for our great Convention," he said.

Noting that he and his wife, Carmen, are in the "process of moving to Southern California," Whittaker said he would "complete my service with the Convention by commuting to Fresno."

In challenging the Board, Whittaker encouraged members to call a new head "who will lead California Baptists to fulfill our purpose of serving churches as they fulfill their mission of winning their communities and the world to Jesus."

He also encouraged the Board to call a "man who will keep the 'main thing the main thing' as he leads our great Convention to new frontiers."

When Whittaker retires March 1, 2017, he will have completed 22 years of service, the longest tenure of any CSBC executive in the 76-year history of the organization. He succeeded C.B. "Bill" Hogue, who retired after 10 years. Both served with the Home (now North American) Mission Board in Atlanta before assuming the California post.

By Terry Barone

Pray for Our Men and Women in Uniform

Devon Henesley - Grandson of Jean Johnson
Branch - Navy **Rank** - Chief
Assignment - Japan

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

Megan Hines - USNA - Pastor Tim's Daughter
MIDN - Megan Hines - **2nd year**
1 Wilson Rd. P.O. Box 12610
Annapolis, Maryland 21412



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Sunday Services

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

Wednesday

- Dinner - 5:00 pm
 - Bible Study - 5:45 pm
 - Choir Practice - 7:00 pm



4th - ESL Training - 4:00 - 9:00 pm
 5th - ESL Training - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
 5th - Leadership Meeting - 10:00am
 12th - Women on Mission - 10:00 am
 Packing OCC boxes
 19th - Men's Breakfast - 8:30 am
 24th - Open Door Mission - 6:15 pm



11th - Bob Shaw
 17th - Bill Duncan
 24th - Constant Harbour
 24th - Richy Ricardo



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Pastor: Tim Hines

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As we enter the month of November, our attention turns from many of the cares of this world to focus on more intimate realities in our life such as our relationships with our friends, family and God. God made us social beings, He intended for us to relate to each other in a common bond of love. This common bond of love is a staple of the older generations of people.

On many occasions I have heard older folks talk about their tight-knit families and how special the holidays are to them. Many of these folks admit they did not come from affluent homes, their lives were hard. Most of these "old-timers" were not accustomed to the finer things in life; yet, they were rich! They were rich in love; they found their strength and value in their relationships which were forged over many years. As these folks have grown older they have grown wiser. They realized at an early age not to put stock in an ever-changing world. To them, the world may have changed, but they plan to stay the same. They are committed, loyal, and faithful to those they love and will give the shirt off their back to help someone in need.

As we reflect on the current generation, we discover a lack of love and commitment towards our friends, family and God. Where it used to be exciting at the prospect of spending time at the holidays with our friends and family, now for some it is a drudgery. Instead of spending time forging better lasting relationships with each other we are forging fantasy relationships on "Fakebook" and other social media outlets. It is sad to see the current culture trample the traditions of the "traditional family" in exchange for an isolated lonely existence with a tinge of excitement and pleasure.

Many have lost their appetite with Thanksgiving, because they have nothing to be thankful for. The reality is we have all been blessed no matter how hard our life and circumstances may be. We are encouraged in Philippians 4:4-7 to take our troubles to the Lord in prayer and while we are praying we should give thanks to God for His unspeakable peace, love and kindness. We all have reason to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us use this time to once again to be thankful for **all** our blessings.