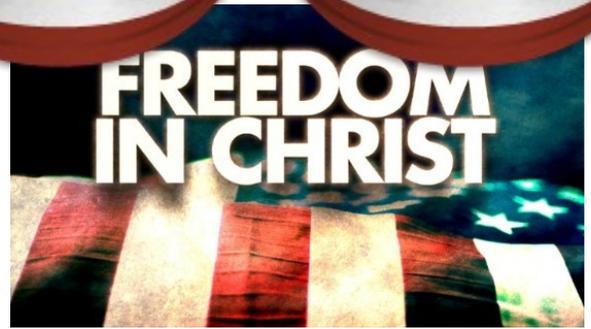




True Freedom (John 8:30-36)

As Americans, we value freedom. Our nation was founded on the principle of “liberty and justice for all.” Our First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and freedom to petition the government for redress. While our freedom of religion is under assault today more than ever before, it is the foundation of our nation.



Political freedom is a wonderful thing, but spiritual freedom is even better, because you can experience it no matter what sort of government you live under. And true spiritual freedom lasts forever. But what is it? John Piper (“You Will Know the Truth and the Truth Will Set You Free,” on DesiringGod.org) describes true freedom: “You are fully free when you have the desire, the ability, and the opportunity to do what will leave you with no regrets forever.” He explains,

If you don't have the *desire* to do a thing, you are not fully free to do it. Oh, you may muster the will power to do what you don't want to do, but nobody calls that full freedom.... And if you have the desire to do something, but no *ability* to do it, you are not free to do it. And if you have the desire and the ability to do something, but no *opportunity* to do it, you are not free to do it. And if you have the desire to do something, and the ability to do it, and the opportunity to do it, but it destroys you in the end, you are not fully free—not free indeed.

He illustrates this with an example of skydiving. Say you want to experience the thrill of the freedom of skydiving, but on the way to the airport you have an accident and can't get there. You lack the freedom of *opportunity*. Or, suppose you get there, but you didn't take the required class, so you don't know how to operate your parachute. You lack the freedom of *ability*. Or, you get to the airport, you took the classes, and you go up in the plane. But when they open the door and you look down, you're paralyzed with fear. You lack the freedom of *desire*, so you don't jump.

But there's one last requirement for true freedom. Suppose you get to the airport (freedom of opportunity), you took the classes (freedom of ability), and you go up in the plane, look out the door, and can't wait to jump (freedom of desire). So you jump and are enjoying the freedom of falling through the air. But your parachute is defective and you're going to smash into the ground. You are not truly free because what you're doing is going to destroy you. To go back to his definition: “You are fully free when you have the desire, the ability, and the opportunity to do what will leave you with no regrets forever.”

So, how do we get that kind of freedom spiritually? The Jews with whom Jesus was speaking in our text thought that they were spiritually free through their descent from Abraham (8:33): “We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free?’” Jesus explains that even though they don't see it, they are actually enslaved to sin. He shows them (and us) the way to true spiritual freedom:

True freedom comes from knowing Christ through genuine faith and abiding in His word! If you're still a slave of sin, Jesus offers you true freedom: “If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed” (8:36).

D.K. PREACHER'S KIDS

BY DAVID AYERS





Dear Friends,

The summer months are here. I know that many of you will be taking vacations and weekend trips. We plan to take some time off ourselves. But when you are home, be faithful to our Lord by supporting our church. Our faithfulness is a witness to others of how much we love our Lord and support His church.

Ephesians 5:14-18 reminds us that time is precious. We need to use it wisely this summer. Here are a few suggestions: 1> Be away as few Sundays as possible. If you can, arrange your vacation to take the least time from our church and its activities. 2> If you are a teacher or a leader, be sure someone has consented to take over your responsibilities before you leave. 3> Don't use the Lord's money for your vacation. There's no vacation from the responsibilities / ministries of the church. Your church ministers and reaches out 52 weeks a year.

I read this the other day and thought you might like it: "Vacations are simpler now. A man has a wife to tell him where to go, a boss to tell him when. All he needs now is someone to tell him how."

We are in the time of year when we are preparing for a new church year, and our Nominating Committee is hard at work. If you would consider serving in some way, please let them know. Contrary to what some people think, they can't read minds. Before you say "No," when asked to serve, think about some reasons as to why you should say "Yes." There are at least three good reasons why every Christian ought to serve in his / her church.

1. YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE NEEDS A SERVICE OUTLET. Nothing helps you to grow as a Christian like putting your faith into practice by teaching, singing, ushering or serving on a church committee.
2. YOU HAVE A TESTIMONY TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. The reason you are asked to serve is that your fellow Christians have confidence in you and in your ability. Your Christian testimony will be a good influence in the lives of those whom you lead and serve.
3. YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU. There is no way for a church to get its work done unless the members volunteer their time to teach and lead. When you accept a place of responsibility, you help our church family to move forward in the name of Christ.

Say "Yes, I will serve our Lord in our church." Together we can make a difference for Christ in our community. Be praying for the Nominating Committee, AND for our deacon elections. The board will go in the sanctuary for your nominations on Sunday, July 15. We will be selecting four new deacons to serve a three year term. Please pray about your nomination and make sure you ask that person before you write their name on the board. Remember what our constitution says, "As the Biblical meaning of the work states, Deacons should consider themselves servants of God and the church. They should not be considered a "board" with authoritative powers, but ministering servants promoting the spiritual progress of the church." May God lead us to the men He is preparing even now, men with servant-hearts, to serve in this ministry.

Thank you for all your love and support. Hope to see you Sunday with a Bible in your hand and a smile on your face.

From my heart,

Pastor Gordon





Journey Camp Recap:

For the past few months our Youth Ministry has been eager, and excited to see what Journey Camp had in store for our group. It seems like anytime there is change in any situation there is always a little bit of uncertainty, because of the deep fear of not knowing what's going to happen next. To say that camp got many of our students and leaders out of their comfort zones; would be an understatement. God moved this past week in a way that I can't truly put into words. Each day we were challenged to grow closer as a group, but more than anything closer to Jesus. Behind the music, the games, the giant sling-shot, and beautiful waterfall was a true yearning to seek God's presence. During my time in Youth Ministry I've been to almost a dozen other youth camps, and I can truly say that there have been others as genuine as this one was. In camp ministry there is always a flow that each camp takes in building up the week to a mountain top experience on the last night. The negative thing about doing ministry this way is many times the last night of camp is when students are the most fatigued and completely worn out, and when the Gospel is shared many teenagers confuse emotion with the Holy Spirit moving in their hearts. There was no build up of emotions this past week. Instead the Gospel was presented on night one, and the messages were built off of that. As leaders we saw so much spiritual maturity out of our teens, and were encourage by the growth we saw.

Thank you church for your financial support, and prayer support as it was a incredible week of growth.

Pastor Kyle

Upcoming Events :

Scavenger Hunt Madness – July 7

Purchase Tickets for Faithfest (\$20) August 25

The Heart of Revival

Revival. This is such a strong word in the Christian community. People think of revival and they think of Billy Graham. They think of Billy Sunday. Of Jonathan Edwards, George Whitefield. The list goes on, but everyone has some name of the past that they attach to the word revival. But every revival starts with one person. The power of the Holy Spirit changes one person, moves one person. That person talks to his neighbors, and the Holy Spirit changes his neighbors. His neighbors talk to their neighbors, and before you know it thousands of people are surrendering to the Spirit. Lives are changed throughout nations, and men are left scratching their heads and wondering, "what happened?"

It would be easy to look at revivals in the past and focus on their figureheads. It would be easy to think that since we're not powerful men like George Whitefield or Billy Graham, we can't start a revival. It would be easy to despair of ever seeing revival in our country because the figureheads just aren't there. Or maybe it's because the receptive spirit isn't there. *Nothing is easier than to sit back and just wish that we could do something to change it.*

But that's the amazing thing about revival. When Jesus told the story of the good Samaritan, a man who helped a total stranger at great risk, He ended with these words: "Go and do likewise." In the book of Matthew He says "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." His final command is to be His witnesses, making disciples throughout the world! And the amazing thing to think about is that he's talking to us. Each and every one of us. He's talking to me. He's talking to you. He told *me* to "go and do likewise." He told *me* to "go and make disciples..."

Some of us can feel like we're the only ones in the field. Like Elijah, we may think that nobody else is called to God's work of revival.

Some of us can feel like God is calling others to "go." He's not calling us, is He? It doesn't come naturally to us. We aren't good speakers. We aren't spiritual enough. We don't know our theology well enough. We're just not equipped to "go."

But the extraordinary thing about revival is that it starts with one person. As each person chooses to "go and do likewise," as each person is "transformed by the renewing of your mind," putting off our old life of sin like an old garment and clothing ourselves in the life of the Spirit, amazing things happen. Revival starts with one. Then it spreads to two more. Then two more from each of those. Soon the revival burns brightly – a consuming fire for all to see. There are news stories about it. People are amazed at the brightness of it. Most of all, people wonder how it happened. How did the flame come to burn so brightly?

It starts with one heart. Chris Schofield, Ph. D., serves on the BSCNC staff as director of the Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening. The Office of Prayer for Evangelization and Spiritual Awakening assists churches, associations and entities in the development of prayer strategies, ministries, networks and conferences that focus on global evangelization and awakening.

Chris will be leading in our revival October 14-17. All it takes is one heart ignited to fan the flames of revival across this world, will it be you. Join us for our revival October 14 - 17, we'd love to have you.





God can work in unusual ways. AJ Kirby from Dudley Shoals made a business trip to NYC. As he was chatting with his Uber driver he learned that his driver Chen was Chinese, a Christian and lived in Queens. So AJ gave Chen Randy's contact information. After several weeks of working out a good schedule to meet, Chen visited us in our apartment. Our rusty Chinese and his minimum English skills were a challenge but we managed to communicate with the help of Google translation on Chen's phone. On June 24th, Chen and his family joined us in our apartment for house church. We were thankful for the help of Ting, a student intern from Liberty University who is here for 8 weeks with International Project. Ting is Chinese and is a strong Christian! We are excited to disciple Chen and his wife Sung.

Jeff and Donna Johnson made a quick trip to visit in June. It was Donna's first time in the Big Apple. We loved showing them our neighborhood as well as the sights in Manhattan. They were able to meet many of the people we've met and were able to put a face with the names of people they've been praying for.

Thank you so much for your prayer support! Please continue to pray for us as we meet people and that we would have opportunities to have gospel conversations. Also, if you'd like to receive our newsletter please send us your name and email address and we can add you to the list.



Love to all,
Randy and Debbie Smith



We had a great time at Vacation Bible School this past week! We had 312 kids register with eight of those making a decision to put their faith and trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins. That is why we do VBS! We put a lot of resources into VBS so that as many children as possible in our community can hear the gospel. In addition to eight kids responding to the gospel last week, we were able to plant and water many gospel seeds. We know that we are only responsible for the planting and watering. It is God who brings the harvest.

Having a great VBS wouldn't have been possible without the help of countless people. I would like to take some time to thank everyone who helped make last week a success.

- *Associate Pastor Kyle.* We are so blessed at our church to have an associate pastor that believes and participates in kids ministry. Not only did he do skits and help teach the kids, but he even helped do some decorating before VBS. Thanks for supporting our Kids!
- *Food.* We had some great meals prepared last week. So, let's give a shout out to the kitchen crew. Thanks you guys for many amazing meals. VBS would not be the same without you.
- *Volunteers.* We had so many people volunteer of their time last week. It was a huge blessing! In order to have as large a VBS as we did, we needed to have lots of volunteers and God definitely provided for us. Not only did He provide us a great quantity of volunteers but He provided us with great quality of volunteers as well. If you volunteered at VBS, thank you so much!
- *Decorations.* VBS committee (Pastor Kyle, Megan Starnes, Amy Bowman, Andrew Shook, Jackie Barrier, Andrew & Leigh Haas, & Selena Bartley) The decorations were great a big thank you to those that donated items for us to use for decoration.
- *You.* Maybe you couldn't come help with VBS but you prayed or brought kids. Thank you so much as well. Both of those were greatly appreciated. VBS 2018 is in the books. Please continue to pray that we could connect some of the new families from VBS to our church and God. VBS 2019 is tentatively scheduled for June 23-28, 2019 and the theme is "In The Wild". I am confident it will be another great week because all the great people of this church will step up again.

Thanks!





VBS is over – now what?

Patsy Bolick

Now comes the hard part. We, as parents tend to breathe a sigh of relief when our children accept Christ, but really the hard work has just begun. This is true with every new believer, but especially children. I so appreciated Friday night when Kyle shared that he only began to get serious about his faith when he saw his mom getting serious about her faith. Parents, please do not doubt that you are an influence on your children in this area. If they see you going to church but see no other changes in your life - that speaks volumes to them. Children, especially youth, will not “play” church. It is either real or it is not, and if not, they don’t want to play. On the flip side, if they see you seeking a relationship with God in your life, being an encourager, loving people, serving, and discipling others - that speaks volumes to them as well.

Everybody needs to be discipled, and everybody should be discipling someone. Sometimes these relationships are natural (a parent and their child, or a friend that just steps up as a mentor), but some times they are formal relationships. For many, they just don’t have someone to step into that gap and be the discipler. That is where the church should step in and make sure someone does step into the gap. For any adults, youth and children that made a decision for Christ at VBS this year, we need to make sure they are being discipled – starting immediately. While the New Members Class is wonderful, this is not what I am talking about. It might be a good first step, but perhaps the end of that process should start a discipling process.

My Bible index features the following scriptures about discipleship. These are the things a new Christian should be taught. Perhaps we all could use a refresher on these things before we commit to teaching them. Here goes:

Psalms 15 – The entire chapter - How does someone behave who belongs to God?

Matthew 7:24 – *Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

Matthew 10:37-39 – *Anyone who loves his father or his mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.*

John 3:21 - *But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God.*

John 13:35 – *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*

John 15:4-5 – *Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Romans 8:5 – Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

Romans 12:1-2 – Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Galatians 6:8-9 – The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Titus 2:11-12 – For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

These verses serve to remind us of Peter’s plea:

Dear friends, I urge you, as **aliens** and **strangers** in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

We as adults feel the desire to fit in, and especially where our children are concerned (as we know how cruel children can be) we desire for them to fit in. But God’s word tells us the opposite. If you find yourself looking, sounding and acting like everybody else, or if you see that your children look, sound and act like the rest of the kids their age, more than likely some discipling is needed. Seek that out. Lets work hard to build a community of believers that values discipling and community.

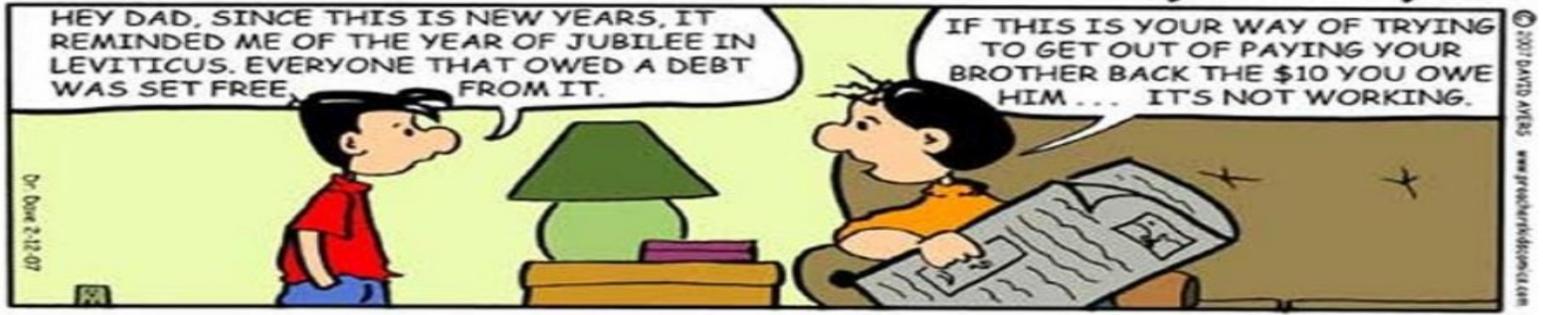




2018		<- JUNE	AUGUST ->				
JULY							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
1 Youth Summer Nights #2	2 10am - Ladies Crafts	3	4 Church office Closed	5 Youth ServeDay	6	7 Youth Scavenger Hunt Madness	
8 Youth Summer Nights #3	9 10am - Ladies Crafts	10 Seniors to go to a play	11 CARE group & Mission group meet	12 Youth ServeDay	13	14 Concealed Carry Class	
Camp Caraway			Camp Caraway				
15 Youth Summer Nights #4 (Paint Wars)	16 10am - Ladies Crafts	17 Mission Development Committee meeting	18	19 Youth ServeDay	20	21 Crawdads Christian Concdert (Sidewalk Prophets)	
22 Youth cookout @ Kyle & Emily's	23 10am - Ladies Crafts	24	25	26	27	28 Movie Night	
29	30 10am - Ladies Crafts	31	1	2	3	4	
Acteens Mission Trip							

P.K. Preacher's Kids

by David Ayers



2018		<- JULY	SEPTEMBER ->				
AUGUST							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 6pm SS teachers / Workers appreciation Party FH	
5 Youth Summer Nighths #5	6 10am - Ladies Crafts	7 Women's Bible Study	8 Family night supper	9 Youth Serve Day & 6:30pm "Ladies of Grace" Coffee House	10	11 Youth Virginia Creeper Family Trail Ride	
12 Youth Summer Nights #6	13 10am - Ladies Crafts	14 Seniors to see a play	15 Prayer walk and pizza	16 MOPS Steering Committee	17	18 Movie Night	
19 Youth Summer Nighths #7	20 10am - Ladies Crafts	21	22	23	24	25 GA Day Camp & ENDURE Work day & FaithFest	
26 GA Recognition	27 10am - Ladies Crafts	28	29	30	31	1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	

