

November 2011 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLVI No 555



Avoid Going the Wrong Way

One of the most remembered sports moments of all time was a football player named Roy Riegels and the 1929 Rose Bowl Game. He played for University of California. There was a fumble at the 10 yard line as U of C was moving in for a score. There was a pile up and Roy Riegels came out of the pile with the ball. He was so excited, he got turned around and started running for the goal line. The crowd screamed and his teammates were right behind him screaming at him for going the wrong way. They tackled him at the 2 yard line. In the play that followed, there was a safety and Georgia Tech won the game 8 to 7. He would forever be known as Wrong Way Riegels.

It is possible to mean well, and act with enthusiasm, but be going the wrong way. Paul told Timothy how to avoid going the wrong way in the Christian life. He gives him four compass points in I Timothy 6:11.

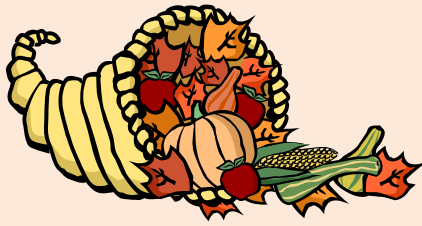
First, “flee these things”. Paul identified the these things in verse 10, including the love of money. Coveting after money can cause one the err from the faith. He adds in II Timothy 2:22, “flee youthful lusts”. Lust is a problem for all ages. We need to set guards on what we see and hear that would stimulate lust.

Secondly, Paul suggests “follow after”. That means pursue. There are some things to flee from and some to run towards. He states in verse 11 that those things include righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness.

We need to put as much effort into pursuing positive things as we do fleeing negative things. Always strive for holiness and never be content with your level of spirituality.

Paul then adds thirdly in verse 12, “fight”. It is a fight of faith and is not for the passive Christian. Some don’t believe in fighting, but sometimes it is necessary. We need to lay hold of eternal life, not in the sense of preserving it, but laying hold of it as precious.

The last point in Paul’s compass is in verse 20, “faithful”. Keep that which is committed to your trust. We need to be faithful, some have erred from the faith (21). Too many Christians have lives in shambles and they are going the wrong way.



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On the field of the Christian life, there will be fumbles and you will be called on to carry the ball and make sure you're headed in the right direction. If you're not sure, get out Paul's compass and start going the right way. The team is counting on you to go the right way!

Walking Program



Our popular Winter Walking Program will begin on November 1st from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The gym will be open Monday through Thursday mornings during the winter months. Bring your sneakers and join those taking "steps" for better health. It is a great time of fellowship along with a little exercise. Don't be a couch potato, come out and join us!

Gratitude Sunday

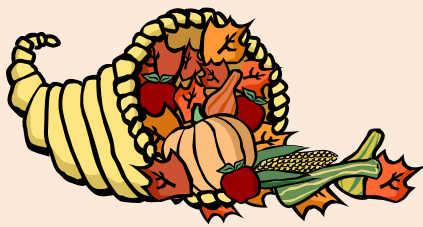
Gratitude Sunday will be on November 20th. Every year we encourage people in the congregation to write a Gratitude Note to someone in the church whose service you appreciate and consider a blessing. Gratitude Notes are available in each foyer for your use.

Our Gratitude Offering this year has been designated as a Servant's Offering and will be used to serve people in our congregation. Giving the Lord a gift beyond your tithe is a way to express your gratitude to God for your salvation and His daily blessings.

Pastor will be preaching a message that Sunday entitled "Go Home".

New State Representative Called

Dr. Jim Vogel was extended a call to serve as the next Empire State Representative at the Annual Meeting that was held on October 17th. Dr. Vogel will begin in April of 2012 with an Installation Service at the Spring Conference.



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Treasurer's Corner



It's getting to be that time of year! If you would like offering envelopes, they are located on the table in the rear of the auditorium. Please remember that we are no longer using numbered envelopes, so clearly mark your envelope with your name!

Women Who Worship

A Spiritual Harvest

"...for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Galatians 6:7)."

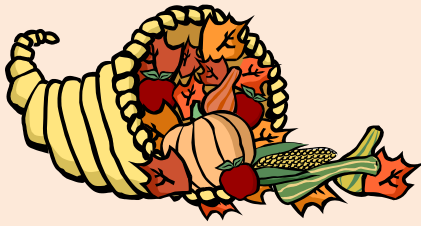
I'm so grateful for farmers! If I had to grow my own food, I would starve-- and my family with me! I am not blessed with a green thumb, so I really appreciate those who are.



In the spiritual realm, God has promised that if we sow the right seed, we **will** reap a rich harvest. Galatians 6:8 instructs believers to "sow to the Spirit." The idea is that we are to devote our time, energy, attention, and resources to that which is in cooperation with the work of the Spirit, His work which bears spiritual fruit in our lives and the lives of others. The verse also warns that sowing "fleshly" seed—selfish and worldly concerns-- will lead to a harvest of rot and ruin.

What kind of harvest may I expect if I sow to the Spirit? In Galatians 5:22 and 23, the harvest basket is filled with the fruit of self-sacrificing love, spiritual joy, undisturbed peace, forbearing patience, gracious gentleness, goodness that serves, confident faith, humble submission, and controlled behavior. Is this not the image of Christ? When we sow to the Spirit, we should reap Christlikeness. If we are not, then perhaps we ought to question if we are more preoccupied with "fleshly farming" than spiritual agriculture.

In Philippians 1:11, Paul indicated that the fruit of righteousness is **by Jesus Christ**. The efforts of our own sinful flesh can only produce the works of the flesh. In John 15, the Lord said plainly, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself...no more can ye,



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except ye abide in Me.” The more you and I ardently fellowship with, think about, love and submit to the Lord Jesus, the more fruit we will bear.

How do we actually “sow”? Paul mentioned prayer as a part of the “sowing” process (Phil. 1:9-11). Matthew 13:23 suggests that being receptive to God’s Word increases spiritual productivity. Psalm 92:13 states that faithfulness in God’s house results in fruitfulness. Back in Galatians 6, verses 9 and 10, serving and doing good to others are mentioned as productive “sowing.”

So how’s the spiritual harvest field of your heart looking right now? Is it kind of pitiful and paltry or lush and thriving? There’s no excuse for a poor spiritual harvest. God has promised a harvest if we are faithful to sow the right seed. It’s another blessing of His amazing grace!

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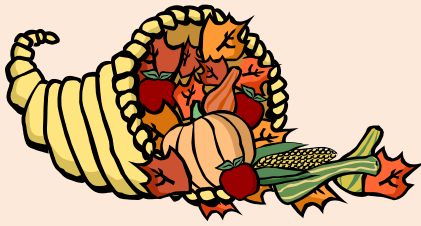
In Tune With...

No Longer Thankful



Our family is scattered around the country. Unable to travel to be with family, we decided to go to a local restaurant for Thanksgiving dinner. We arrived at the restaurant and were promptly seated. As the waitress approached the table she said, “Happy Turkey Day!” I thought it a little strange since the restaurant marquee advertised for a Thanksgiving Buffet. We finished our meal and headed home. On the way we made a brief stop for a couple of necessities. As we were checking out, the cashier said, “I hope you’re having a nice Turkey Day.”

Time doesn’t let me go into the history of Thanksgiving Day, but what’s this “Turkey Day” thing? As I pondered the question, I realized for someone to say “Happy Thanksgiving” implied there is someone to whom we are to be thankful. When a person says “Happy Turkey Day, it removes the idea of a God to whom we are to be thankful and the necessity to be thankful.



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Changing the day to “Turkey Day” betrays our history, denies the existence of God and infers the lack of gratitude. We are continually facing an insidious attack on the source of all morals and values. The next time someone says to you “Happy Turkey Day”, take a moment to remind them it’s a day of Thanksgiving to God for all the blessings we receive every day.

In the Bible we read: “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands...Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.” [Psalm 100:1, 4] “Let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with rejoicing.” [Psalm 107:22] “I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD.” [Psalm 116:17]

The Apostle Paul in Romans said, “because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, *neither were thankful*; but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened [1:21]. He goes on to say in the first chapter of Romans to show the progression from knowing God to a totally godless, immoral society. It all begins with the man’s unwillingness to be thankful to his creator. Why? Other scriptures tell us that thanksgiving is a “sacrifice of praise.” Man is not willing to sacrifice his glory to give glory to God. Man is not willing to turn the attention away from self and focus on God. The result is “Happy Turkey Day!” Stand up and be counted, tell the next person who say that to you “it’s not Turkey Day but Thanksgiving Day.” I feel sorry for people who have nothing for which to be thankful.

Give Thanks

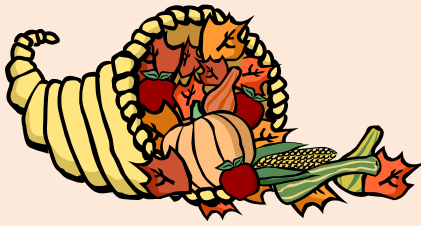
“ For the husband who complains when his dinner is not on time, because he is home with me, not with someone else.

“ For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes, because that means she is at home and not on the streets.

“ For the taxes that I pay, because it means that I am employed.

“ For the mess to clean after a party, because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.

“ For the clothes that fit a bit too snug, because it means I have enough to eat.



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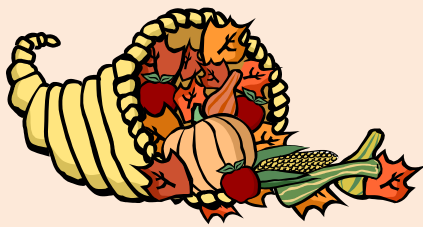
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- “ For my shadow that watches me work, because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- “ For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.
- “ For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.
- “ For the parking spot that I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.
- “ For my huge heating bill, because it means I am warm.
- “ For the lady in church who sings off key, because it means that I can hear.
- “ For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means that I have clothes to wear.
- “ For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been capable of working hard.
- “ For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means that I am alive.
- “ For too much email, because it means I have friends who are thinking of me.



“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18



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Nuggets Flashback

The following articles are from the May 1970 and June 1970 Nuggets, respectively. At that time, the church had formed an Expansion (Steering) Committee and the plans for building the auditorium were under way.

Expansion Recommended

At a recent business meeting, the church received a report from the Steering Committee regarding several proposals and possibilities for needed expansion. Following much discussion, official action recommended that the committee proceed further in obtaining all necessary reports and data for the consideration of a new church which would include adequate seating for 500 and educational facilities. The committee will make their report at the July quarterly business meeting. The committee welcomes any suggestions and asks that you pray that God may have His will in all plans.

Thanks

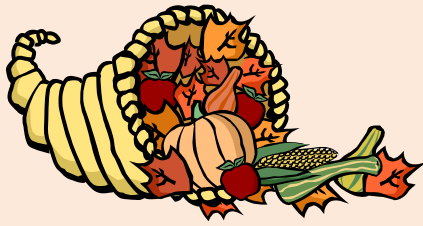
In connection with the Steering Committee's building proposals, a detailed drawing was shown and is on display in the church foyer. This time-consuming and attractive sketch was drawn by Steven McElwain. A special thanks!

This Little Light



Each month we would like to highlight a testimony of one of our church people. Since everyone has been shy about contributing, I will begin this month with my testimony.

As a three year old, I was brought to First Baptist against my young will. I did not want to come to church, but soon came to enjoy coming. By the age of six, the Lord used bedtime devotions with my mom to convict me of sin and my eternal plight. I accepted Christ as my Savior and He has graciously kept me and led me through my life.



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Through my Christian life, there have been countless folks in this congregation that have influenced me and guided me to the place I am now. So many faithful servants showed that service to God was a joyful and honorable way to live your life.

I pray that my generation, and those that follow will leave the same godly, servant legacy that was gifted to me.

-Kathy Brennan

"You teach a little by what you say; you teach most by what you are!"