

Distractions

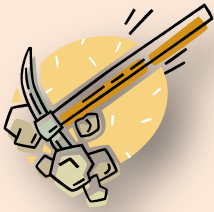
Distractions are a part of life. We find many of the things we enjoy doing, and things we have to do can be interrupted for some reason. Often that reason is unimportant from our perspective. Some of these distractions are only inconveniences and others are major. You're watching the big game, and the telephone rings or the kids want you to play, or your wife wants you to open the biscuits. Usually we deal with these distractions and accept them as a part of our life. Other times, we can lose our sanctification over them.

Just because we're Christians does not mean we are exempt from all the interruptions and distractions that can be thrown our way during a single day. Often it is our Christian duties and responsibilities that cause the disruption to our plans. There is the service or committee meeting scheduled at the wrong time. There are the nagging phone calls from your favorite telemarketer during supper.

In the Gospel of Mark, we find Jesus got distracted and interrupted four times. We read that Jesus had something He wanted to do, but was distracted.

- 1:36 - Jesus went out to a solitary place to pray. He wanted to be alone, but Simon and the other disciples followed after Him for His attention.
- 3:20, 21 - Jesus went into a house with His disciples and the multitude came so they couldn't eat.
- 6:31-33- Jesus tried to schedule rest for His disciples. They left by ship, but the people followed after them. Notice Jesus' reaction. He was moved with compassion for these. He wanted rest - but what He got was compassion.
- 7:24 - Jesus was trying to hide, "but He could not be hid."

Jesus experienced distractions and interruptions to His devotions, dinner and diversions.



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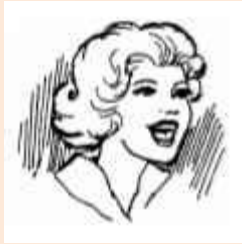
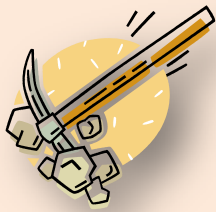
So what if we are distracted in our walk with the Lord. Let me suggest five things that might help:

1. **God knows our weakness.** - Psalm 103:14
He does not expect us to live in our world and possess superhuman control over our schedule. You can expect these issues and interruptions. He understands and He may even allow them to test us. If distractions come, deal with them as Jesus did, and then get back on track. If your walk with Him means so much to you, a couple of missteps will not derail you.
 2. **There will be better times.**
Distractions do not last forever. You will have time for your schedule to be reestablished.
 3. **Tell God about it.**
Ask Him for more uninterrupted time with Him. He can and may grant it.
 4. **Plan ahead.**
Good planning can eliminate some distractions. Get up earlier for your quiet time.
 5. **Remember** that when we get to heaven there won't be any distractions. We will be focused on Him alone. We will have uninterrupted, undistracted time with our Savior. So accept the irritating distractions that just may arrive today at your doorstep. Consider them as God's unexpected appointments for you. He probably has some planned for you today.
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Awana –

Because of the lack of space, some Awana awards were left out last month.

- Sparks First Book Award - Gregor Geisenhof
- T & T First Book Awards - Alyssa Ellerson, Leesa Bailey and Alissa Goodrich



WOMEN WHO WORSHIP - By Dot Davis

What's His Pleasure?

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created"
(Rev. 4:11).

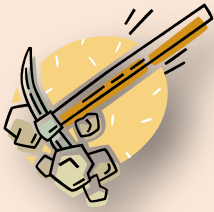
Can anyone please God? I used to have this picture of God in my mind: a stern, critical schoolmaster waiting for me to step out of line so He could use His switch on me! How differently I view Him now that I truly understand Scripture.

A verse that caught my attention some years ago is Revelation 4:11. It states that God created all things, including me, to give Him pleasure. I can bring God pleasure? Wow, what a thought!

But how? Well, it must begin with my position before Him, my identification with Christ. The Lord Jesus always pleased the Father in every way (Mt. 3:17, 17:5, John 8:29). When you and I, by faith, take up our position "in Him," we too please the Father just as He did (Eph. 1:4-6). But what about in practice? Can I possibly please God by how I think, speak, and act?

I Chronicles 29:17 says, "I know, also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness." What is uprightness? The Hebrew lexicon defines it as the moral quality of truth, honesty. Remember, our hearts are naturally deceitful (Jer. 17:9), so determination of will is required to be truthful and honest with God, ourselves, and others. This lack of guile pleases God (Ps. 32:2, 34:13, 1 Pt. 2:21-22).

Hebrews 11:5 and 6 instruct us that having a deep, unshakeable faith is also necessary to please God. Such faith shows that we trust His character and His Word. Doubt and fear, on the other hand, surely displease Him because by such attitudes we are saying that He can't be depended upon (Numbers 13 and 14, for example). Hebrews 13 also mentions a few activities that please God: praising Him even when life is difficult (v. 15), doing good and giving (v. 16), and doing His will (v. 21).



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Lastly, although the word "pleasure" is not specifically used, we may infer from John 4:23 that God takes pleasure in our genuine worship, worship in spirit and in truth. We should be especially mindful of that on the Lord's Day as we gather. We are there to give HIM pleasure by our focused and sincere attitude and acts of worship. What a pleasure it should be to us to give pleasure to God our Father. After all, that's why He created us!

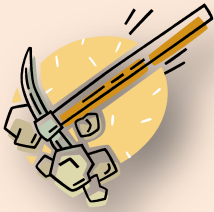
Vacation Bible School

"Polar Extremes" comes to First Baptist this month on July 20-24 with our VBS Program. Our theme is "All of me all out for God." The two-hour program gets underway at 6:30 each evening. There will be plenty of time for singing, memorizing, crafts, games, and Bible stories. Meet "Popsicle" our newest puppet to join the team. We plan to have a time for parents too. We'll be showing the DVD Treasure Principle. The 90-minute program will be shown Monday and Tuesday, and repeated Thursday and Friday. With all the financial problems in our world, it will be good to focus on biblical perspectives of our money. Invite the kids, and the adults to this year's VBS. Our offering this year will be going to the Bike and Books for Pastors effort that is buying both for pastors in the Third World countries with no means of transportation and unlimited resources. Can you help us reach our goal?



Church Orders Sports Shirts

We are ordering golf style colored shirts. The navy blue shirts with the First Baptist logo will be coming in this month. We hope to use them for VBS workers and the ESF Fall Conference helpers. We hope to use them at other times to promote our church in the community. Prices range from \$17-\$28 depending on size and you have until the first of July to sign up and order one. Show solidarity with your First Baptist family and order a shirt.



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Gym Equipment Fund

The gym floor has been completed and we hope to be able to buy some new sports equipment for the remodeled gym. This includes a new volleyball net, and basketball rims and backboards. We hope to raise \$4,200 to pay for these improvements without borrowing. Can you help? Designate your gift to Fit and Fellowship Fund.

Welcome New Members

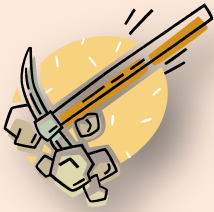
We welcome Gary and Sue Roofner back into our membership. They were members before and left for a few years but are back fellowshiping with our First Baptist family. If you are interested in becoming a part of our church family, speak to the Pastor.

Pastor's Desk



Normally, the chairman has the floor, but now the gym has the floor. They have been working this month on the gym. They've cut a double door in the west side wall, and raised two others. They put down foam insulation, wire mesh, and poured 45 yards of cement on the floor. I don't know where the yards went; I don't see any grass or trees. They tell me that they have buried two sockets to hold a volleyball net. I guess Pastor >Ben is trying to raise the money for new equipment to play in the yard. Whoever heard of a concrete yard? I guess, mowing won't be difficult. I'm not sure about watering all those yards.

Hey, it's time for VBS. Don't worry about the summer heat. I guess VBS will be really cool this year. Pastor has ordered a DVD series for the adults to see during VBS, and everyone is ordering shirts. I would like to, but when I saw the sizes, not sure there is a desk size.



Church Amends Constitution

With the New York legislators debating same sex marriage, we decided it was expedient for us to amend our church constitution to clarify our definition of marriage, and take a stand on sexual perversions. A copy of the amendment which passed unanimously is available at the office.

Christianity in Culture - by Ben Baker

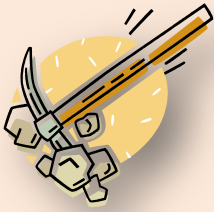
Christian Fundamentalism has come under attack in the recent weeks. On Sunday May 31st Dr. George Tiller, a late-term abortion doctor, was handing out bulletins at the door of the Lutheran Church he was attending. In walked a man named Scott Roeder who is a self-proclaimed Christian Fundamentalist. Mr. Roeder passed Dr. Tiller and instead of taking a bulletin from him, he shot and killed him.

This tragedy unfortunately was attributed to fundamentalists everywhere. The nation's media has affixed words like "intolerant", "ignorant", "murderers", and many more to fundamentalism. Here is one example from Micha Jaystone of the Seattle Examiner:

The assassination is the product of the hate and bile regurgitated by Christian fundamentalists. As such, these anti-abortion Christian fundamentalists constitute a threat to our national security; they are domestic terrorists.

As a fundamentalist church we cannot let our name get tarnished by an extremist like Scott Roeder. We must defend our beliefs and react in a way that is Biblical! Here are a couple of references that show us how to confront issues we do not agree with.

James 4:11,12 tell us that ". . .there is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is to save and to destroy. . ." This reminds us that we are not to carry out our own idea of judgment. God is the one who brings justice. And in this world he carries out justice on his own and through the established authorities. Not individual extremists!



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John 15:17 states; "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide . . ." This verse clearly states that he appoints us to bear fruit. This fruit is to make disciples (Matt. 28) and transform our lives to be like Christ's (Rom. 8:29). Our fruit would never be acts of hate towards another human being, no matter what they stand for.

So the next time someone confronts you about your beliefs, remember, we are a light in the darkness, and love in a world filled with hate. Our purpose is not to build walls, but to break through them with the power of the gospel!