

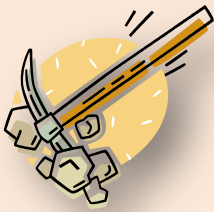
## **Afterward** - By Pastor Bob Flatt

We use "afterward" in reference to a later time, the consequence of a choice or to something that happens in sequence. Our present lives are the consequence of the choices we made in the past and our future will be determined by the choices we make today. The scripture tells us that when God is at work He always has an "afterward" in view.

In Genesis 15:12 - 18 there is the "Afterward of Preservation." Why did God preserve the descendants of Abram in Egypt? He did so to keep His promise to Abram, to judge Egypt, to build Abram's descendants into a great nation and to use them to judge the iniquity of the Amorites. There are times when what God wants to do in our lives is directly related to what He wants to do in the lives of others. Therefore, we need to be patient while God is at work. It took 400 years for the iniquity of the Amorites to be full. Only then was Israel ready to leave Egypt and possess the land.

The "Afterward of Discipline" is found in Hebrews 12:5 - 11. God disciplines us so that "...afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." Discipline is God's way of correcting and building character. Later in verses 16 and 17 we are told of the dangers of an undisciplined life. Because Esau lacked discipline, he sold his birthright to satisfy a passing want and lost out on the blessings that came with the birthright. "Afterward" realizing the consequence of his actions he sought to regain the lost blessings but could not.

The "Afterward of Responsibility" can be found in Numbers 32. The tribes of Reuben and Gad asked Moses to give them the land on the East side of Jordan. Moses responded to their request by saying "Now why will you discourage the heart of the children of Israel from going over into the land the Lord has given them?" Their request would have the same effect as the report of the 10 spies. It would discourage the people and they would not enter into the land. Moses told them that if they went with the other tribes and helped them subdue the land, "then afterward you may return...and this land will be your possession..." [v. 22] Joshua added "then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it." [Joshua 1:15] Moses also warned them "If you will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out." [v. 23]



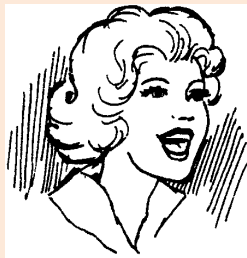
# August 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 529

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Have you considered God's afterward in your life? He will preserve you so you can enjoy heaven. He wants to build your character through discipline. Esau is the example of the dangers of an undisciplined life. Finally God reminds us of the need to fulfill our responsibilities so as not to discourage others and fail to enjoy the blessings of God.

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## **WOMEN WHO WORSHIP** - By Dot Davis **Life and Peace**

*"For to be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace" (Romans 8:6).*

We entered a little town in the Rockies region of Colorado, and there before us was a scene I can never forget: a majestic snow-capped mountain perfectly reflected in the peaceful lake at its base. I can still recall a few of the highlights of that trip with my aunt and uncle during my teen years, and that "picture perfect" view is one of them.

In Romans 8:6, Paul informs us, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." The word carnal is the same Greek word that Paul used elsewhere, translated as "flesh" (sarx). An unsaved person can only have a carnal mind, but a believer can have and should have a spiritual mind (1 Corinthians 2:16, Ephesians 4:23, Philippians 2:5). Paul says that to be spiritually minded is life (Christ's life in us) and PEACE. The presence of peace within, then, can often indicate whether I am being spiritually-minded or carnally minded, whether I am walking "in Christ" or "in the flesh."

I have sometimes thought of this verse in terms of my heart and mind being like that peaceful lake. There should be that smooth, tranquil surface that perfectly reflects Christ's peace within me. But as soon as something happens to disturb, I often find myself reacting in the fleshly forms of irritation, frustration, negative and critical thinking, resentment, worry, fear, or discouragement. The calmness of



# August 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 529

---

my mind and soul are lost, and I must confess to the Lord that I have chosen to be carnally-minded.

But peace can be restored. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee (Is. 26:3)." The pattern outlined in Philippians 4:6-8 also restores our peace.

If we are to be a reflection of Christ's life and glory, just as that undisturbed lake reflected that majestic mountain, we must be filled with peace. Had that lake been agitated and choppy, I never would have seen or remembered that amazing view. Give believers something to notice! Let the mind of Christ be in you, the peace of Christ fill you, and you will reflect His glory!

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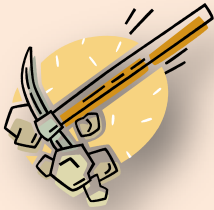
## **Pastor's Desk**

Wow! The summer is going by fast. Have you seen the new gym floor? It's awesome. I saw the guys here that Saturday morning as they poured in all the concrete and smoothed it out. I thought it might be good if we could bring them back to smooth out some other things, like helping us get our Fit and Fitness Fund done so we can order new equipment for the gym. A lot of work has been done in the gym and we're all grateful. A film was shown out there the other Friday night about being fireproof. I guess with all the work going on, we want to be sure the building is fireproof. Pastor says it wasn't about the building but about marriage. I don't know, but flyers went out which read First Baptist Church Gymnasium fireproof . . . I guess the real concern is that our lives are fire proof.

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## **Christianity in Culture** - by Ben Baker

We hear all the time about "the dangers of letting your kids watch TV". When we hear this we immediately think about the sexual references and violence that can be easily accessed. Actually, there is a more significant reason that we should



# August 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 529

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limit our TV viewing, especially as adults! The following information was written by Mr. Kim who has a Bachelor's in Neuro- Psychology:

*“When you watch TV, brain activity switches from the left side of your brain (responsible for logical thought and critical analysis) to the right side. This is significant because the right side of the brain does not critically analyze incoming information, instead it uses an emotional response. This means there is little or no analysis of incoming information.”*

So what does this have to do with Christians? The Bible tells us in Ps. 119:97 that the word of God should be our “. . . meditation all the day.” In I John 2:14 it states “. . . the word of God abides in you. . .” When we watch TV, we are filling our minds with information that we do not critically think through. We then adopt this information and react based upon these facts. When it comes to parenting, our marriages, and even friendships; we react based on the information that is in our brain. Our thoughts are what we fill our minds with. Satan uses our thoughts to distance us from God.

If we as Christians truly meditate daily on the word of God, then that is what will fill our minds. Our lives will then be filled with thoughts of God and of others rather than our own wants and desires. The traits of love, patience, gentleness, and kindness will replace thoughts of materialism, jealousy, covetousness, and pride. The old saying “garbage in, garbage out!” is truer than we like to admit. I pray that we as a Church moderate our TV viewing, and extend our Bible reading!

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## **All-Church Picnic at Strong's Pond**

Our church picnic will again be held at Strong's Pond in Barton. Plan to come on August 7<sup>th</sup> for a great evening. Bring your lawn chair and a dish to pass. Hamburgers/hotdogs and rolls will be provided. Need a ride? We'll take the van. Don't let the summer come to a close without enjoying the annual picnic.



# August 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 529

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## **Ben Concludes Summer Program**

Ben Baker has been spending Tuesdays here at the church with Pastor. There have been opportunities for study, and for meeting with other pastors. He has taught a Men's Class and the Junior Class for experience with different ages. He will be preaching on August 2<sup>nd</sup> while Pastor and Joanie are away. While we have given Ben a small amount each week to cover his expenses, you may want to help with his schooling next year as he continues to prepare for a pastoral ministry. A love gift is being collected. Designate the gift for Ben's schooling.

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## **Fit and Fitness Fund**

The goal of \$4,200 is being addressed through weekly gifts, and is now \$2,742. We hope to soon order the new equipment for our gym.

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## **Crusader's Class Steak Out**

The annual Steak Out for the Crusader's Class will be held at Brennan's Pond at 6:00 p.m.. There is a sign-up sheet, and the cost for the steaks will be shared by all. The Crusader's Class is currently studying Jeremiah and Lamentations during their class at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays.

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## **Fantastic Friday Family Films**

We showed the film, "Fireproof" last month and look forward to another film entitled, "Facing the Giant," which will be shown on August 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Invite someone to come with you for this outreach opportunity.



# August 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 529

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## Summer Singspiration

Our “Salute to Summer Singspiration” will be held here at First Baptist on August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 p.m. We will host the other two churches for the hour of singing. There will be a hot dog roast afterwards. Let’s make the other churches feel welcome for that annual musical event.

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## VBS

Polar Express was the theme of this year’s Bible School. We successfully completed the week with a closing program on Friday night with a good attendance. We were able to give \$581.02 towards the Books and Bikes Project for National pastors in the third world countries.

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### ALL CHURCH WORK DAY

Many hands make  
light work –  
WE NEED YOU!

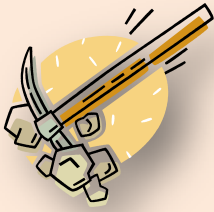
We would like to get several projects done before the ESF Fall Conference which will be held at Newark Valley in October. The gym floor needs to be painted so it will be really dry to be able to walk on it. Please reserve Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> on your

calendar. We want to make a good impression to honor God and His house.

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## Business Meeting

The congregation voted at their recent Quarterly Business Meeting to proceed with the projects of a new handicap bathroom and carpet for the hallway. In order to do this, we will be borrowing \$10,000 from the bank. We hope to have the projects done before the Empire State Fellowship Conference this fall. When these projects are completed, we will have successfully finished the goals we set up last year in our “Pressing On Campaign” which included the three primary projects of a new roof for the auditorium and new floor for the gym and a handicap accessible



# August 2009 Nuggets

First Baptist Church XLIV No 529

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bathroom. The original estimates for the three projects were over \$90,000. With special giving and use of designated money, we are left only with a \$22,389 debt for the roof, and \$10,000 for the bathroom. We trust God will continue to reduce these financial responsibilities over the next months.

*September*

*Valley Classics*

**September 8<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

hear

Mike and Georgann Viscome

Gospel Text Mission

[www.gospeltext.org](http://www.gospeltext.org)