

## Upcoming Events

### Youth Group

*Middle & High School*

#### Sunday Night

Bible Study

6:00 - 7:30pm

#### Wednesday Night

Open Gym, Eat Out, etc.

6:30 - 8:00pm

### Children's Ministry

*Infant - 5th grade*

#### Sunday Nights

##### Nursery

Infant - 2 yrs.

6:00 - 7:30pm

##### M&M Kids

3 yrs. - Kindergarten

6:00 - 7:30pm

##### Imagebearers

1st - 5th grade

6:00 - 7:30pm

### Adults

*16 yrs - 99 years*

#### Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

Thursdays 7:00 - 9:00pm

#### Men's Basketball Open Gym

Saturdays 2:00 - 4:00pm

### **Scott's Thoughts** by Scott Deneen, Pastor to Youth and Families

One of my desires in writing these articles is to help us see what Christianity is and what it is not. Having grown up in the "Bible Belt," I have many ideas I *think* are Christian but are really just cultural. You may too. So as I study the Bible, some of my misconceptions are uprooted and discarded because the Bible exposes them as untruth. Like the types of people Jesus includes in His Church. Read Luke 5:27-31:

**"After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him,<sup>28</sup> and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.<sup>29</sup> Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them.<sup>30</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners'?"<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick.<sup>32</sup> I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."**

Jesus sees and calls a man known for his underhanded, cheating practices and wants him to be one of his closest companions - one of the twelve disciples no less! Levi (otherwise known as the disciple Matthew) is definitely a sinner of the worst sort, but Jesus - likened to a doctor in this passage - has come to make him better. And Jesus' Church is filled with people just like this.



JESUS WITH LEVI, TAX COLLECTOR

When you go to a hospital, you find patients at various levels of infirmity. They're all alive but some are very ill, others moderately so, and some almost completely better. The same is true for those within Christ's Church. All have been made spiritually alive by Christ and reconciled to God through Him; BUT they may still suffer from the lingering effects of their sin disease.

What's my point? Well, the gathering of God's people (i.e. the Church) is a gathering of people who fit into the class "sinners" and "sick." And Jesus has called these types of people into fellowship with Him - to be His closest friends. Therefore, when I show up for a Church service, I enter into a place where there are LOTS of messed up people - and I only add to their number! So when someone says, "They're just a bunch of hypocrites," they are absolutely correct. The Bible confirms their observation in this passage.

However, the point Jesus makes is that some hypocrites are made right with God through faith in Him while other hypocrites are not (those who refuse to believe in Him). The conclusion of the matter is this: there are two types of people - hypocrites in relationship with Jesus Christ and hypocrites *not* in relationship with Jesus Christ. Only those in relationship with Jesus are right with God, because only they have **Him** as their righteousness.

Willing to admit your sin disease and come to the Great Physician? Jesus Himself calls you to come for healing. Why not come today? ... and then come gather together with others who have done the same!

Blessings,  
Pastor Scott

## Kids ask tough questions...

At the volleyball skills clinic, players were given an "Open Mike" opportunity to ask our pastors a question. Here's one answered by Pastor Dave.



### Q. How long did it take God to write the Bible?

In human terms, the Bible was written by about 40 authors over a time of about 1,500 years [from around 1450 B.C. to around 70 or 90 A.D. - uncertainty due to differing views of historical evidence].

The Apostle Peter explains God's hand in writing the Bible - *prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.* (2 Peter 1:21)

Though the Bible has so many different styles of writing (stories, poetry, instruction, prophecy, etc.) from so many different authors from different times, places and cultures - it has one unified message from an unchanging God with the focus on Jesus Christ and Him crucified to save men for God.

## Volleyball News

### How to Bump a Volleyball

1. Remember that the first contact is normally the bump and a team can hit the ball 3 times before it must go over the net. (Exception: a block does not count as one of the 3 hits)
2. Anticipate the flight of the ball so that you can receive it in a "ready" position with knees bent, weight forward on the balls of the feet, and arms extended forward and down.
3. Hold palms open and facing up, and then lay one hand on top of the other.
4. Fold hands inward until thumbs are side by side, pointing away from the body and slightly down. The knuckles of fingers should be facing out.
5. Bring elbows in and lock them so that forearms are as close to touching as possible, creating a flat platform from elbows to the tips of thumbs.
6. Tilt platform toward the target.
7. Allow the ball to bounce off forearms (rather than swinging arms at it).



### Ephesians 2:8

For it is by grace  
you have been  
saved, through  
faith – and this  
not from  
yourselves, it is  
the gift of God–



You're no doubt familiar with the Old Testament book of Proverbs. The book tells us that it was written to give "prudence to the simple," along with knowledge and discretion (1:4). We are also told that heeding the words of Proverbs makes those who are wise even wiser (1:5). Who among us parents doesn't need prudence, knowledge, discretion, and even more wisdom?! The book of Proverbs is a gold mine brimming with parenting knowledge and principles that need to be reviewed over and over again.

Dr. Ted Tripp, author of the book *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, has found in Proverbs some wonderful guidelines for parents regarding the common communication pitfalls we so often fall into with our teens. Dr. Tripp reminds us that reckless words are extremely harmful, not only to our communication, but to our relationship

with our kids. The book of Proverbs tells us that reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing" (12:18). Dr. Tripp tells the story of visiting with a couple one night in their home. Their daughter came down the stairs dressed like a streetwalker. The father snarled, "Where do you think you're going dressed like that? You look like a slut!" She said, "I'm going out." And she went out the door. The dad turned back to continue his polite conversation. Should the dad have been concerned? Yes. He had to say and do something. But his words were reckless and destructive. That father didn't speak with the wise tongue that brings healing.

Parents, do you use reckless words with your kids? Evaluate the quality of your relationship, and make an investment with words that will pay great dividends in strength and influence.



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

#### Morning Service

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

#### Sunday Evening

- 6:00 Care Groups
- Image Bearers
- 6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

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

Team Rosters

Game Schedule