

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

"The LORD redeems His servants; no one will be condemned who takes his refuge in Him." Psalm 34:22

God is a God of mercy and compassion. God is a God of redemption and hope. Jesus says that if anyone comes to Him, He will never cast them away. In other words, Jesus is more willing to receive us than we are to go to Him. Jesus' "open arms" policy is a wonderful truth for those who fear rejection by God.

During my teenage years, I dreaded God's judgment. I knew I messed up, thought bad thoughts, did shameful deeds, and couldn't make up for them no matter how sorry I felt or how many times I promised never to do them again. You may feel the same way.

The wonderful truth contained in the gospel is that God knew all about my sin, but offered Jesus as a place of refuge. Jesus is a "hiding place" or "bunker" from calamity. God designed it this way in order to glorify Jesus. All those who come to Jesus by faith (by trusting in Him) shall be saved, and Jesus will be exalted as the Savior. This saving act of God magnifies God's mercy, brings praise to the saving Hero Jesus, and extends to me the greatest gift every given - an eternal relationship with God Almighty. God took pity on me in July 1982 when He brought me into a relationship with Jesus.

Take Noah for instance: Noah was also an ordinary man upon whom the LORD took pity. The world was in great distress, because mankind's sin was so great (see Genesis 6:5). God decided to start over, but would spare Noah and his family as a demonstration of His merciful grace. Was Noah perfect and therefore spared the calamity of the great flood? No. Was Noah a sinful man deserving God's displeasure? Yes. So why did God spare him?

God spared Noah as an Old Testament picture of God's saving grace. God put Noah in the ark along with his closest relatives, shut the door, and then destroyed everything outside the ark - *but preserved everything inside the ark!* Noah was safe as long as he was inside the ark God prepared for him. Jesus is the true 'ark' of God. We take shelter from Sin, death, destruction, and judgment only when we are in Jesus. According to Psalm 34:22, no one who puts their faith in Jesus will ever be condemned but will have everlasting life.

What's keeping you from Jesus? Sin? He came to take away your sin. Time? *Today* is the day of salvation! Fear of rejection? Hear the words of Jesus Himself: "whoever comes to me I will never drive away." (John 6:37).

Living in the 'Ark',

Scott

**Upcoming Youth
Events**

- **Youth Group**
(6th — 12th grade)
Contact Pastor Scott @
(704)263-4275
- **Family VBS**
June 12th—15th
6:30 to 8:30 pm



Jesus is the true 'ark' of God.

Attitude in Youth Sports: Parents Set the Tone ("Hey, Mom & Dad, Your Attitude is Showing!")

Attitude is defined as "a person's behavior, which indicates his/her thoughts, feelings, or opinions." In youth sports, you can tell kids' attitudes by watching their behaviors during practice or a game. If they see the game as a game, with an opportunity to learn skills, compete, increase confidence, and have fun, they're able to go with the flow, have fun, and relax. Overall, they show a sense of humor and a sense of good sportsmanship. They're able to learn from their mistakes. However, if they see the game as a pressure-filled event, with winning as the only acceptable outcome, most of their energies will be spent trying not to make mistakes. If they make mistakes (which is inevitable in youth sports), they'll use lots of energy

making excuses, blaming others, complaining about officials, etc.

How do kids develop their attitudes? As the saying goes, "The acorn doesn't fall far from the tree." As parents, we have to be aware that our behaviors often set the tone for our kids' attitudes toward youth sports. As adults, we often tend to focus on the "end product", rather than the "process". When an adult arrives at game's end, and sees the kids coming off the field, what is the first word out of his/her mouth? It's usually, "Who won?" or "Did you score any goals (get any hits, etc)?" With our emphasis on the end product, we run the risk of teaching our kids to focus on outcome rather than process (skill improvement). Mistakes are no longer viewed as opportunities to learn. They are

seen as occasions of failure.

Research has shown that elite athletes focus on tasks, not trophies. That is, they focus on the process of their skill development.

As parents, if we're looking to develop a positive attitude in our kids, we would do well to watch our own behaviors at athletic events. Do we give positive encouragement, or critical judgmental remarks? Do we show a calm demeanor, or heated overreactions to mistakes? Do we praise participation, or game statistics? Next time you go to a game, remember, your attitude is showing, and your kids are watching.

*Dr. Darrell Burnett
Clinical & Sport Psychologist
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LOVE is a better master than duty.
Albert Einstein

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child
in the way he
should go, and
when he is old
he will not
turn from it.

God's Word

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Teach your children to cultivate a relationship with God by reading His Word regularly. The Bible is a wonderful gift from God. Hebrews 4:12 says, "For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." You can help your children develop a love for the Bible even from a younger age.

Ages 0-4 God gave us the Bible. As your children start with the simplest board books, give them simple Bible storybooks, too. Let them see your "grown-up" Bible and those of older siblings, explaining what these are and how you enjoy them.

Ages 5-6 Once your children know the Bible is God's book, they need to learn why He gave it to them. Let them know that through the Bible they can find out about the God who loves them and about His plan for them. Refer to the Bible in a variety of ways so that your children can see that it has a number of purposes.

Ages 7-9 Help children begin to see the difference between reading and studying the Bible. Explain that we read to help us grow in our relationship with God; after all, spending time with His book is

spending time with Him. Studying the Bible is about finding out what to do in specific situations and learning to do things God's way.

Ages 10-12 Your children shouldn't be surprised when those who want to undermine Christianity attack Jesus. After all, He's the cornerstone of the Christian faith! Your children will face those who say that Jesus never lived or that He wasn't really God. You can help prepare them for this by making sure their faith in Him is solidly grounded. The better they know the Bible, the more solid their foundation will be.

Finding a place to park...

We thank God when our parking lot is full on Saturday morning!

If you are unable to find a parking space, First Baptist across the street has given us permission to park in their parking lot.

Please do not park in the 'no parking zones' (marked in yellow) and only park in handicap spots when appropriate.

Thanks for your help!



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:30 Worship Service

Call us at 704.263.4275

www.fpcstanley.org