

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

Everyone loves trophies. Getting one makes you feel like a million bucks. We like being recognized by coaches and peers for superior ability and athletic prowess. My poor parents still have a closet full of trophies from my "glory" days – baseball, basketball, running, etc. are all well represented. Most athletes strive to win & some want to win at all costs.

The Apostle Paul wanted to win – not necessarily a trophy but certainly a prize. When writing to a church in the city of Corinth, he wrote, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



Paul didn't want to play half-hearted, and he didn't want to win an earthly prize that gets left at his parent's house whenever he moved. No, he played to win and wanted the prize that lasts forever. But was he talking about a real "running race"? No, Paul was actually making a spiritual illustration. The prize Paul wanted was eternal life and he was going to do everything in his power to receive it.

So what did Paul have to do? Paul had to actively receive the grace of God. That means that he had to lay aside everything else but Jesus for his salvation. He had to accept God's forgiveness of his sins because of what Jesus did on the cross rather than anything he personally did or said. He had to recognize his complete spiritual bankruptcy before God and receive all that God offered him in Christ. Basically, he had to trust Christ to make him right with God rather than trying to make himself right with God.

Then... he would inherit the prize that lasts forever – a prize than can never spoil or fade, that cannot be taken away, and that never loses its appeal. Each of us values something as important, and since you're reading this, sports and children are probably important to you. A 'win' for your child's team may also be important and this is only natural. We like when our children play well AND get the victory. However, that satisfied feeling lasts only until the start of the next game, right?

Why not seek the prize that honors God the most by enjoying His ability to completely satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts? When I think about how important those trophies were to me when I was young but how little they mean to me now, I wonder what I'm seeking in life now that will fade later. Why run a race that doesn't matter when you can run in such a way as to get a prize worth more than a World Championship and lasts a lot longer? Jesus is the only answer!

Hoping you'll seek the prize of Christ,
Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:30—7:30
Middle & High School
- **Mission Minded Kids**
Sundays 6:30—7:30pm
Ages 3-5
- **League Day**
August 13, 2006
- **Carowinds**
August 23, 2006

For info, contact Pastor Scott
at 704.263.4275



Please join us for League Day

August 13th

8:30 or 11:00 Service

Ask your coach for details

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

www.pcanet.org

First Presbyterian belongs to the PCA denomination. The PCA has a strong commitment to evangelism, missionary work at home and abroad, and to Christian education. From its inception (1973) the church has determined its purpose to be "faithful to the Scriptures, true to the reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission." Here is a list of our beliefs:

- We believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the revelation of God's truth and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.
- We believe in the Holy Trinity. There is one God, who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that all are sinners and totally unable to save themselves from God's displeasure, except by His mercy.
- We believe that salvation is by God alone as He sovereignly chooses those He will save. We believe His choice is based on His grace, not on any human individual merit, or foreseen faith.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who through His perfect life and sacrificial death atoned for the sins of all who will trust in Him, alone, for salvation.
- We believe that God is gracious and faithful to His people not simply as individuals but as families in successive generations according to His Covenant promises.
- We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells God's people and gives them the strength and wisdom to trust Christ and follow Him.
- We believe that Jesus will return, bodily and visibly, to judge all mankind and to receive His people to Himself.
- We believe that all aspects of our lives are to be lived to the glory of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Parents' Answer Book

Dr. James Dobson

Q. 278 Give me the short answer to the question: How can I best survive the tumultuous years of my three teenagers?

1. Keep the family schedule simple.
2. Get plenty of rest.
3. Eat nutritious meals.
4. Keep your teenager involved in nonstop, wholesome activities.
5. Stay on your knees.

When fatigue and ill health lead adults to act like hot-tempered teenagers, anything can happen at home.

Photos

You may have noticed the action photos included in the *SOARING* newsletter or posted on our website. These candid photos have been taken by a parent greatly gifted in photography. Mr. Guffey is able to put us "right there in the moment" with his talent. His pictures capture true emotion and illustrate the fun the kids are having.

We want to assure you that we do not include names or other personal information with these photos.

If you would rather we did not post your picture, or your child's, please let us know by calling the church office at 704.263.4275.



Photo by James Guffey

More photos at
www.fpcstanley.org

Psalm 119:160

All your words
are true; all
your righteous
laws are eternal.

Basketball
Registration

September 9th
10am - 12pm

Ages 6-15

First
Presbyterian
Church
Stanley, North Carolina

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

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedules
Parent's Corner