

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

I like to play golf although I don't play much anymore. I also like to watch golf. Golf is one of the most difficult sports around - swinging a long club at a really small ball, nestled down on the ground... why, it can make a grown man [or pastor] cuss some-times! Ha! I guess that's why I like to watch golf on TV (no, not for the cussing... for the high level of play demonstrated.) And some of my favorites are, of course, Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, and Phil Mickelson. I also like Jack Nicklaus & Arnold Palmer.

Speaking of Arnold Palmer, I am reminded of a story concerning Arnie and an Arab Sheik. Arnold Palmer was once overseas playing a celebrity golf tournament in an Arab country. After the tournament, a rich Arab Sheik wanted to give Mr. Palmer a gift for playing so well and for visiting their desert country. Being the consummate professional and humble guy, Arnold told the Sheik that no gift was necessary - Arnold was just glad to be there! However, the Sheik pressed him for a gift idea so, Mr. Palmer decided on something minor, "A golf club, then. Thank you."

The day passed without a gift being delivered but Mr. Palmer didn't really notice. However, the next day, a carrier delivered a large envelope to Mr. Palmer saying that it was the Sheik's gift. "I thought the Sheik was giving me a golf club" Mr. Palmer mused to himself.

Then he opened the envelope. It wasn't a golf club, well, like what Mr. Palmer had asked for - like a driver or 4-iron or putter. Rather, it was the deed to a golf club like Royal Palms Golf & Country Club! The Sheik had given Mr. Palmer a multi-million dollar resort because he thought that's what Arnold Palmer wanted. What a wonderful misunderstanding!!

Mr. Palmer declined the extravagant gift, of course, but with thankfulness and appreciation for the Sheik's generosity. Arnold Palmer had under-appreciated the Sheik's ability, generosity, and willingness to give.. and not just give, but give **BIG!** The Sheik's glory was wrapped up in displaying his wealth and graciousness, because he was rich. Giving away a country club was like saying, "Look how rich I am. No one else can afford to do this."

Spiritual Point? In the Bible, God says that He is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." The Sheik did more than Arnold Palmer asked or imagined. God can do immeasurably more than that. God's amazing power and gracious heart should embolden us to pray **GREAT BIG PRAYERS**. His glory is wrapped up in what he is able to do, AND in the fact that He is willing to bring His eternal purposes into reality through the prayers of puny, dust-made people like us. Amazing!

What have your prayers been lately? What have you asked God for? Have they been really, really small like mine? Let's grow together. God's Word encourages us to break out of our small thoughts and begin to dream big! "O LORD, convert those who stand against you, so that the world will stand amazed at the extent of your power and grace!" "O LORD, subdue my sinful heart and turn it into one like Jesus - a heart that weeps over the lost, helps the needy, and rejoices in doing good." "O LORD, fill the earth with Your glory and grace and bring peace to the nations through faith in Jesus Christ."

Maybe it's just me, but I think God would love to answer these kind of prayers. He could say, "Look how powerful and merciful I am! No one else can bring peace to this situation except Me!"

Believe God's power and pray some big prayers today!

Looking forward to hearing what GREAT things God does through your bold prayers!
Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade
- **Operation Christmas Child** November 22nd
- **Live Christmas Scenes**
December 21st & 22nd





Photos by James Guffey

Basketball News

Finale

Saturday, Dec. 2nd

Ages 6 - 9
(Teams #1 - #6)
9:30 - 11:00am

Ages 10 - 16
(Teams #7 - #16)
2:00 - 4:00pm

League Day

Thanks for coming! We were blessed to have you worship with us.

Basketball Terms

Alley-Oop Pass - A pass thrown with a high arc near the basket so a teammate can make a leaping catch and score in a single motion.

Bank Shot - A shot in which hits off the backboard and then rebounds into the basket.

Box Out - Establish and maintain a rebounding position between the basket and your opponent.

Double Team - When two defenders move to guard one offensive player.

English - A special spin that is put on the basketball to help soften the shot.

Fast Break - The act of moving the ball quickly downcourt by an offensive team in hopes of getting ahead of the defense to score.

Fish-Hook Cut - A change-of-direction cut that takes the shape of a fish hook and is used as a pressure release.

Give & Go - An offensive maneuver, sometimes called an inside cut, whereby a player passes to a teammate and cuts for the basket.



Romans 4:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Dr. Dobson Answers Your Questions

Q. My child has a visual-perceptual problem that makes it hard for him to read. I understand his difficulty. But he brings home F's and D's in most of his classes, and I know that will limit his opportunities in life. What should be the attitude of a parent toward a child who fails year after year?

A. Obviously, tutorial assistance and special instruction should be provided, if possible. Beyond that, however, I would strongly suggest that academic achievement be de-emphasized at home.

Requiring a visually handicapped child or a slow learner to compete academically is like forcing a polio victim to run the 100-yard dash. Imagine a mother and father standing disapprovingly at the end of the track, berating their crippled child as he hobbles across the finish line in last place.

"Why don't you run faster, son?" his mother asks with obvious displeasure.

"I don't think you really care whether you win or lose," says his embarrassed father.

How can this lad explain that his legs will not carry him as fast as

those of his peers? All he knows is that the other sprinters run past him to the cheering of the crowd. But who would expect a crippled child to win a race against healthy peers? No one, simply because his handicap is obvious. Everyone can see it. Unfortunately, the child with a learning deficit is not so well understood. His academic failure is more difficult to under-

Every child is of equal worth in the sight of God

stand and may be attributed to laziness, mischievousness or deliberate defiance. Consequently he experiences pressures to do the impossible. And one of the most serious threats to emotional health occurs when a child faces demands that he cannot satisfy.

Let me restate the preceding viewpoint in its most concise terms: I believe in academic excellence. I want to maximize every ounce of intellectual potential that a child possess. I don't believe in letting him behave irresponsibly simply be-

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cause he doesn't choose to work. Without question, there is a lasting benefit to be derived from educational discipline.

But, on the other hand, some things in life are more important than academic excellence, and self-esteem is one of them. A child can survive, if he must, without knowing a noun from a verb. But if he doesn't have some measure of self-confidence and personal respect, he won't have a chance in life.

I want to assert my conviction that the child who is unequipped to prosper in the traditional educational setting is not inferior to his peers. He possesses the same degree of human worth and dignity as the intellectual superstar. It is a foolish cultural distortion that causes us to evaluate the worth of children according to the abilities and physical features they may (or may not) possess.

Every child is of equal worth in the sight of God, and that is good enough for me. Thus, if my little boy or girl can't be successful in one environment, we'll just look for another. Any loving parent would do the same.



Happy Thanksgiving

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

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Game Schedule
Parent's Corner