

Volleyball Committee Member
Rillas Coach

Heaven on Earth by Chris Graham

"Nickelback" is a hard rock music group that has been pretty popular for some years now. The lyrics to many of their songs border on crass and crude---for example, in their latest song "Rockstar," the words speak of having drug dealers on speed dial and parties at the Playboy mansion. Hardly the kind of material that could be part of a Christian's daily devotion or prayer life!

Recently, though, one of their songs was pointed out to me as being different from their usual material. Sure enough, I listened to "If Everyone Cared" and was actually moved by it. It's a simple love song when you get right down to it---with two driving guitars and a deep bass you can vibrate your car windows with if you turn it up loud enough. The chorus is the best part:

"If everyone cared and nobody cried,
If everyone loved and nobody lied,
If everyone shared and swallowed their pride,
Then we'd see the day when nobody died."

The writer may have been thinking about if the world just loved as strong as he loved his lady, then we'd have world peace. Or it may have been written as an anti-war song---I don't know. But when I listened to it, I heard a glimpse of heaven. Huh?

I told my team (the Rillas) about this a few weeks ago. In the book of Revelation, John speaks of a day when there will be no pain, no crying, no sorrow. What little we do know about heaven is that it will be perfect---no sin, no problems, no dying. We will be worshipping our Lord and will be filled with incredible love and adoration for Him, and it will be totally, totally wonderful!

But---we don't have to wait to enjoy some of those heavenly attributes! Every Christian should care, love, and have a willingness to share and "swallow their pride"---RIGHT NOW. By doing those things, we become more like our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ---and enjoy a taste of heaven on earth. And we also know our souls are never going to die, because those who have Jesus as their Lord and Savior will live eternally with Him!

It's neat to look back through the Bible and see cases where God used non-believers and "bad" people to accomplish his plans. Pharoah in Egypt....the Romans conquering Israeland as Easter approaches we recall Pilate, washing his hands during the trial of Jesus...and the soldiers who whipped him, spat on him, and nailed him to the cross. All were used by God to carry out His perfect plan of salvation.

I don't know and probably will never know if "Nickelback" is a group of Christian young men---that's not for me to decide or judge. I can say with 99% assurance, though, that they would not label themselves as a Southern Gospel group. And yet---in one song, on a CD that came out nearly two years ago---they shared some great and true thoughts that reflect the fruit of living for Jesus...whether they intended it or not.

I pray WITH you to look for ways to share your Christian love with those around you, and to look forward to that day when we join Jesus in heaven. And maybe most of all, pray for strong faith that helps you see that God's hand is in all parts of your life---especially when dealing with "bad" people, who definitely need lots of our love and prayers!

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
- **Steven Curtis Chapman Concert**
Sunday, March 18th
4:30- ?
Cost - \$10
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade
- **Soccer Registration**
Saturday March 31st
10:00am—12:00pm
Ages 4.5—11

And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away. And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

(Revelation 21:4-5)



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Do I Need Church? *by Debbie Harper, SOAR Coordinator*

Have you ever asked yourself, "Why do I need to go to church? I'm a 'good' person and I can pray or read my Bible on my own." Well... I have.

I grew up going to church. It was a tradition in our house. It was a given. My grandmother and uncle lived with us, and we also took an aunt *every* time we went to church. With us kids, that totaled 8 people! Even as I'm writing this, I admire my Mom.

She could have said, "I'm too tired. I've worked four 12-hour shifts and I've got tons to do around the house." But... she didn't.

She could have said, "It's impossible for me to get everyone up, fed and ready in order to make it on time. I hate to go in late." But... she didn't.

Volleyball News

Finale FAQ

When should my child be here?

Players should be here 15 minutes early in order to warm up before their finale begins.

Is there anything I can bring?

Yes, thanks for asking! Each family should bring a snack and/or a drink. Homemade snacks, chips, cookies, fruit, etc. are always a hit!

What can I expect? Each division will have a round-robin style tournament. After the tournament, we have a special guest speaker. He'll be followed by the presentation of team verses and trophies.

The 13-14 division will have a slightly different format as we'll be hosting 2 teams from the Lake Norman Volleyball Club.

She knew how important church was... for her well-being and for ours. I believe she took refuge there, being surrounded by people who loved her. I know she believed it was important for us to come to know more about Jesus, God's Son.

But when I went to college, away from home, away from my mom... I found myself saying, "I don't *need* to go to Church. I can pray and read my Bible by myself... and, I'll start tomorrow." But--you guessed it--I never really did that.

After college, my husband and I felt a desire to find a church home. It might not surprise you to know that we were introduced to this church through the Sports Ministry. I can see God's hand in

all that, and I'm incredibly thankful He didn't give up on me.

Being a Christian doesn't mean life will be easy. That's why a loving church family is *SO* critical to our well-being. God tells us in Hebrews 10 to "not give up meeting together...but let us encourage one another".

My mom is in Heaven now, and I know exactly what she found in her church. The same as I find here: Love, Acceptance, and Peace. All stemming from being around my Christian brothers and sisters as we worship together, encourage one another and learn more about Christ.



John 14:6

*Jesus answered,
"I am the way and
the truth and the
life. No one
comes to the
Father except
through me."*

Finale Info

15—HS Division

Friday, March 23rd @ 7pm

Finale expected to last 2-3 hrs

13—14 Division

Saturday, March 24th @ 9am

Finale expected to last 4 hrs*

10—12 Division

Saturday, March 24th @ 2pm

Finale expected to last 2-3 hrs



Parents' Answer Book *Dr. James Dobson*

Q. My wife & I are keenly aware of how difficult how it is to be good parents, and at times, we feel very inadequate to do the job. How does a mom or dad know what's best for a child from day to day? The most dedicated parents go through times when they fear they aren't responding properly to their children. They wonder if they're over-reacting or under-reacting, being too strict or too lenient. They suspect that they're making major mistakes that will haunt them later on. Fortunately, parents don't have to do everything right. We all make thousands of little mistakes - and a few big ones - that we wish we could reverse. But somehow, most kids roll with these plunders and come out just fine anyway.

Let me give you what I consider to be the key to good parenting. It is to learn how to get behind the eyes of your child, seeing what he sees and feeling what he feels. When you know his frame of mind, your response becomes obvious. For example, when he's lonely, he needs your company. When he's defiant, he needs your help in controlling impulses. When he's afraid, he needs the security of your embrace. When he's happy, he needs to share his laughter and joy with those he loves. Raising healthy children, then, is not so much a science as it is a highly developed art, and most of us have the natural intuitive faculties to learn it.

Take the time to observe those kids who live in your house. If you tune in closely to what they say and do, the feelings behind those behaviors will soon become apparent. Then your reaction to what you've seen will lead to more confident parenthood.

**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 Schedule
Parent's Corner