

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

Rather than write a 'normal' article this week, I thought I'd respond to several quotes by well-known people. (If you're interested in viewing the source of these quotes, you can check them out at www.CPYU.org under the heading "Research& Trends "and then clicking "Youth Culture Hot Quotes".)

1. "I'm an atheist. But I absolutely love religions and the rituals. Even though I don't believe in God. We celebrate pretty much every religion in our family with the kids. They love it, and when they say, 'Are we Jewish?' or 'Are we Catholic?' I say, 'Well, I'm not, but you can choose when you're 18. But isn't this fun that we do seders and the Advent calendar?" - Actress Jodie Foster, Entertainment Weekly, September 7, 2007, p. 41

Where to begin? She's an atheist but likes religion. She believes it's 'fun' to participate in someone's religious practices even though she denies its very foundation. Ms. Foster fails to grasp how detrimental and confusing these mixed signals are for her children as well as the effect upon her/their eternal salvation. My hope for Ms. Foster is that her eyes would be opened to the truth and beauty of Jesus, and for her children to find their greatest joy in the salvation of God in Christ rather than the illusion of empty ritualism.

2. "I was raised agnostic, so we never practiced religion, but my parents were very strict." - Actor Zac Efron (Disney Channel's High School Musical), Rolling Stone, August 23, 2007, p. 41.

Zac Efron is the teenage heart-throb from the movie *High School Musical*. If you've not watched the movie, it has a wonderful message about just being yourself. Zac seems to be a very likeable guy and has a tremendous following among younger teens. In this quote, Zac is commenting on his values and upbringing and how he turned out so 'nice.' The world needs more nice people for sure but does 'nice' measure up to God's standards? Do 'nice' people get into Heaven? What does Zac mean by 'agnostic'? Let's answer these questions beginning with the latter... agnostic means *without knowledge*. Zac is saying that his parents raised him to believe that no one knows who/what "God" is. In other words, if Zac is a true agnostic, he believes no one has any true knowledge about God... that we're left to just guess. However, Jesus has come from God and has explained God to us (John 1:18). I'll take the other two questions together: 'Nice' does not measure up to God's standards because God says that no one except Jesus merits salvation. So, unless Zac repents and believes in Jesus Christ, he will not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Pray, therefore, that God will visit him with the *news* of the gospel so that he will have both the *information* of salvation & the *joy* it brings.

Why these quotes? Well, they represent much of modern day America's *faulty* view of religion: 1) it's only as good as it makes *me* feel; 2) use what you want and throw out the rest; 3) be 'nice' - that's enough; 4) don't take it all so seriously, b/c in the end, no one really knows.

I hope this article gets you thinking about some of these issues. If I can assist you in thinking through them, I'm at your service!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

Imagebearers

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm
1st - 5th grade

Youth Group

Sundays 6:00 - 7:30pm
Middle & High School



Youth Sports Nutrition

Suzanne Nelson, Sc.D., RD
www.MomsTeam.com

The most appropriate diet for the youth athlete is one that:

- Is **high** in nutrient-dense complex carbohydrates
- Contains **moderate** amounts of protein, salt, sugars, and sodium
- Is **low** in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol; and
- Provides sufficient calories

Such a diet can be achieved by planning intake to include a variety of foods from each of the five major food groups in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) [Food Guide Pyramid](#). Especially for children, the pyramid serves as a visual guide for choosing foods and planning healthful meals.



As parent, you should promote the three basic principles that are key to a high-performance diet:

Variety. Because no single food or [supplement](#) contains all the nutrients your child needs for optimum health, growth and performance, eating foods from each of the five food groups daily, as well as different foods from within each group, is essential.

Moderation. Your child should not eat too little or too much of any one food or nutrient.

Balance. Calorie intake and energy expenditure should be balanced to maintain a healthy weight and body composition. Balance ordinarily results from practicing moderation and variety, requires that your child consume appropriate amounts of essential nutrients.

Psalm 9:9

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.



Basketball Finale
Sat., Dec 1st
10:00am
Mark your calendars!



Photos are compliments of James Guffey

Jesus Loves Me

Great Songs of Faith
Tyndale House Publishers, 1995

Anna Warner and her sister, Susan, grew up near West Point Military Academy, where they became known for their leading Sunday School services for the young men there. After the death of their father, a New York lawyer, the sisters supported themselves with their various literary endeavors. Susan became known as a best-selling novelist. Anna also wrote novels and published two collections of poems. She wrote this simple hymn in 1860 to be included in one of her sister's novels. In the story, it was a poem of comfort spoken to a dying child. Today, millions of voices around the world sing these words: "Yes, Jesus loves me!" Once, when asked to summarize the essential truths of the Christian faith, the great Swiss theologian Karl Barth gave this simple answer: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so." This profound yet simple truth is certainly worth singing about!

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.
Jesus loves me! He who died
Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
Let His little child come in.
Jesus loves me! He will stay
Close beside me all the way;
Thou hast bled and died for me,
I will henceforth live for Thee.

ANNA BARTLETT WARNER (1820-1915)



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
6:00 Care Groups
Image Bearers
Youth Group

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