

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

Delight yourself in
the LORD and He
will give you the
desires of your heart.

Psalm 37:4

If you could have anything in the world, what would you choose? Come on now... be honest! I asked this question to some teenagers last week while on a mission trip to Chile (South America). After thinking for a few moments, one guy said, "a plane so that I can fly anywhere in the world." One girl said, "my old home in Asheville." Another boy said, "Bill Gates' bank account."

Another girl said, "A vacation in the Bahamas." I said "A Ferrari Enzo (that's a car!)." Everyone dreamed **BIG!!**

So, what would *you* choose?

After verbalizing our desires, I asked if that's what everyone *really* wanted or if those items merely *represented* what we wanted; i.e., what if no one else on earth existed, would you really want a plane? Lots of money? an expensive car? Probably not. In fact, what we probably want are the things those items represent - freedom; a place to belong; contentment; beauty and relaxation; exhilaration and awe.

So, if we delight ourselves in the LORD, is He saying that He will give us the plane, money, house, car, or vacation? Is that the promise God makes in Psalm 37:4? Probably not. But He is promising to give us the *real* desires behind our worldly representations - belonging, acceptance, freedom, contentment, and experiential awe.

But God doesn't want to limit them to temporal objects; no, He is far too loving and gracious to do that. Planes and cars breakdown. Money loses its value or is stolen. Vacations can be ruined by relational discord or bad weather.

So God doesn't 'attach' His blessings to material items. Rather, He gives us Himself, a person. Above Him there is no greater gift available, no higher value, no bank account or home worth more than Himself.

So, if you're thinking, "I'd rather have the cash!" That may be true... for now. But that's like a child choosing a crayon scribble over a Picasso because the child doesn't have a clue about art, or value, or worth... but later they will & they will wish they had chosen the Picasso!

Truth be told, if someone were to ask us what we'd really like, and we knew the truth about God, we'd choose Him hands down over every other option. He's just that incredible.. that amazing. The wise man or woman chooses the highest, most soul-satisfying object in which to delight - and that 'object' is always God. I hope you'll "delight yourself" in Him today.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Sunday Night

Bible Study
6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Night

Open Gym, Dining Out, etc.
6:30 - 8:00pm

Charlotte Bobcats

Bobcats Arena
February 22

Sr. High Beach Retreat

Panama City Beach, Fl.
July 7 - 12

Children's Ministry

Imagebearers

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

Kids Night Out (Pajama Party)

Infant to 5th grade
February 22
6:30 - 9:30pm

Easter Egg Hunt

Ages 3 - 5th grade
Saturday, March 22nd
10:30 - 11:30am
Bible Story & Refreshments, too!

Parent's Answer Book

A comprehensive resource from today's most respected parenting expert

Dr. James Dobson,
2003, Tyndale House

My children love to do things for themselves, but they make such messes that it's easier me to do things for them. I just don't have the patience to see them fumble with stuff. Do you think I'm wrong to step in and do things for them?

I think you *are* wrong, even though I understand how you feel. I heard a story about a mother who was sick in bed with the flu. Her darling daughter wanted so much to be a good nurse. She fluffed the pillows and brought a magazine to read. And then she even showed up with a surprise cup of tea. "Why, you're such a sweetheart," the mother said as she drank the tea. "I didn't know you even knew how to make tea."

"Oh, yes," the little girl replied. "I learned by watching you. I put the tea leaves in the pan, and then I put in the water, and I boiled it, and then I strained it into a cup. But, I couldn't find a strainer, so I used the flyswatter instead."

"You what?" the mother screamed.

And the little girl said, "Oh, don't worry, Mom. I didn't use the new flyswatter. I used the old one."

Well, when kids try their hardest and they get it all wrong in spite of themselves, what's a parent to do? What mothers and fathers often do is prevent their children from carrying any responsibility that could result in a mess or a mistake. It's just easier to do everything for them than to clean up afterward. But I urge parents not to fall into the trap.

Your child needs her mistakes. That's how she learns. So go along with the game every now and then... even if the tea you drink tastes a little strange.

Volleyball News

Thank you ALL for your support of our Christian sports ministry! We have said from Day One that we put Jesus Christ first in this league, and we pray that our actions, words, and thoughts are always toward that goal. And we thank YOU for doing the same as you encourage all of your young folks and display great examples of sportsmanship.

When we put God first like this, we ALL win!

The Volleyball Committee

Important Dates

Team Pictures

Tues, 2/12

Teams 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10 - 12

Fri, 2/15

Teams 3, 6, 9, 13

Ice Cream Social

You and your family are invited to share a banana split with us this **Friday, February 15th!**

Division I (after 6:30 game)

Division II (after 7:30 game)

Division III (after 8:30 game)

Isaiah 40:31

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will SOAR on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not grow faint.

To keep sports fun for your child:

- Emphasize skill development, not winning
- Maintain realistic expectations
- Stay positive. Avoid criticizing your child's play.
- Keep in mind that if sports become work, they're no longer fun.



Need one more reason to keep it fun? Young people report a variety of reasons for dropping out of sports, but the one reason that stands out is this: "It just wasn't fun anymore."

Source: Hedstrom a & Gould, 2004

What does "knowing your role" look like?

If you're a FAN (which most parents are):

- Be a positive and encouraging supporter
- Cheer for good plays on both teams
- Avoid shouting out instructions, the coach can do that
- Avoid offering opinions on the officiating
- It's your job to help your child keep it all in perspective. That means keeping everything in perspective for yourself, too.



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Sunday Morning

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Sunday Evening

6:00 Care Groups

Image Bearers

Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters

Game Schedule