

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

American society – or at least the media – is trying promote the idea, “Each religion sees part of the truth, but none can see the whole truth.” In this article, I want to argue against this tide of *pluralism* (the belief that all religions are equally valid).

The pluralistic argument is usually phrased this way: Several blind men were walking along and came upon an elephant that allowed them to touch and feel it. “This creature is long and flexible like a snake” said the first blind man, holding the elephant’s trunk. “Not at all – it is thick and round like a tree trunk,” said the second blind man, holding the elephant’s leg. “No, it is large and flat,” said the third blind man, touching the elephant’s side. Each blind man could only feel part of the elephant – none could envision the entire elephant. In the same way, it is argued, the religions of the world each have a grasp on *part* of the truth about spiritual reality, but none can see the whole elephant or claim to have a comprehensive vision of the truth.



HOWEVER, this story is told from the viewpoint of *someone who sees the whole picture!* Therefore, they are claiming exclusive and exhaustive knowledge about the spiritual reality they claim no one can have. Therefore, they claim to be superior to every other religious category they critique.

So, if they claim every religion is both ignorant and truthful BUT claim their religious belief is clear and true; they contradict themselves in their arrogance, because they have claimed a knowledge about spiritual reality that they deny to everyone else.

So, is there such a thing as objective truth concerning spirituality or are we forced to throw our hands up in despair and say, “Who knows?”

Well, John 1:18 says, “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only [Jesus], who is at the Father’s side, has made Him known.” What we see in John’s Gospel is that 1) no one has ever seen God and therefore cannot make Truth claims about Him unless He reveals Himself; 2) Jesus has been with God from all eternity past as His only begotten Son; 3) Jesus has come into the world from His Heavenly vantage point; and 4) Jesus has made known to us what God is like and how we can be restored to Him (through faith in Christ).

All religions are not the same, because only Christianity has the SON-of-God-come-into-the-world declaring the Truth about God. Jesus is trustworthy, loving, and only He among all the world’s religious leaders was without sin. Therefore, only Jesus is able to pay for His people’s sins and reconcile them to God.

What are we to do with this information? 1) Recognize that all religions are not equal and, therefore, cannot save. 2) Listen and act upon ALL that Jesus says about God the Father since Jesus alone has seen Him; and 3) Receive and rest on Jesus Christ alone to cleanse you and make you acceptable to God through His sacrifice on the cross for you!

God’s Blessings to You, Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Sunday Nights

Bible Study
6:00 - 7:30pm

Wednesday Nights

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

Middle School Retreat

Ridgehaven, Brevard N.C.
May 16th - 18th

Children’s Ministry

Imagebearers

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

Summer Sports Camp

Daily, June 9th - 13th

9:00am - 12:15pm

Ages 6 - 12

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Cheerleading

You and Your Son

Here, Charles Swindoll is speaking to fathers: Your boy must be very aware that *you love him*. He will never be too old for that. When is the last time you took him in your arms and held him close so no one else could hear, and you whispered to him how happy you are to have him as your son?

A show of emotion ... is the sign of a great man! Great dads, you see, raise great sons. This anonymous poem says it all.

*Exert from the book You and Your Child by Charles Swindoll
Thomas Nelson Publishers (1990)*

*There are little eyes upon you,
And they are watching night and day;
There are little ears that quickly
Take in every word you say.*

*There are little hands all eager
To do everything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.*

*You're the little fellow's idol;
You're the wisest of the wise;
In his little mind, about you
No suspicions ever rise.*

*He believes in you devotedly;
Holds that all you say and do,
He will say and do in your way
When he's grown up just like you.*

*There's a wide-eyed little fellow
Who believes you're always right;
And his ears are always open,
As he watches day and night.*

*You are setting an example
Every day in all you do;
For the little boy who's waiting
To grow up to be just like you.*

Soccer News

Thanks for all you do as parents to make soccer fun for your child!

Snack time, which often includes both a drink and a snack, is after the game. Please bring a drink (sports drink or water) for your child during the game.

Most players long for snack time after the game! Thank you for helping us keep the fields clean by putting trash in the trashcans.

The Throw In

A throw-in is a method of restarting play. A goal can not be directly scored from a throw-in.

A throw-in is awarded:

- When the ball passes over the touch line (side line)
- From the point where it crossed the touch line
- To the opponents of the player who last touched the ball.



Adapted from The Official Soccer Site

The Thrower:

- Faces the field of play
- Has part of both feet touching the ground
- Uses both hands

•Delivers the ball from behind and over his head

The thrower may not touch the ball again until it is touched by another player.

The ball is in play immediately as it enters the field of play.

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.



TEAM PICTURES

NEXT SATURDAY (April 26th)



Special thanks to Malcolm Mize for photos!

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

6:00 Youth Group

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters

Game Schedule