

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

What's your view of God? In other words, when you think of God, is there a 'type' of person you imagine God to be. For instance, some people think God is a Grandfather. Grandfather God is old and gray with a long beard and sits his grandchildren on his lap, laughs a lot, and gives them whatever they like. People who think of God in this manner think fondly of Him but don't fear Him.

Some people think of God as a Cosmic Killjoy – a Barney Fife policeman who shows up at parties and ruins all the fun. People who think of God in this way avoid him at all costs. I think if God were like this, I'd avoid him too!

Another view of God is that of a distant Watchmaker. He's created an extraordinary universe but isn't available for personal relationships. He's made everything run to perfection and to stay orderly and uniform but once He 'wound' it up, there was no reason to hang around. People who view God this way admire His creation but find no reason to get to know Him or to talk to Him because He's absent from their everyday lives.

But who is God? What does He want us to think about Him? Well, for starters, I don't think we can caricature Him – you know, make Him a one-dimensional character with puffed-up features whom we ignore or make fun of.

God is who He is and we cannot change Him. In fact, God cannot change Himself! I don't know if you've thought of that but God cannot change – and for good reason! Since He is perfect, to change means to become less-than-perfect (and God can never do that). He is always the same – yesterday, today, and forever.

So, how can we come to a right understanding of who He is and what He requires of us. Simply, He reveals Himself in Creation and in His Word, the Bible. Most of us look at Creation and enjoy sunrises, sunsets, mountains, oceans, and stars.



And when we do, we often admire God for making it. But many of us fail to read God's Word as much as we 'read' Creation. Why?

I think we, like Adam and Eve before us, know there's something wrong between us. We've not lived according to His standards, we've messed up, we've sinned, and sometimes, we don't even care that we've messed up and now God's on the scene making a big deal about it. So, it's easier to just ignore the whole thing than deal with it.

But I beg you, one of the most important things God reveals about Himself in the Bible is that He is "gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." In other words, although we have totally wrecked our relationship with Him as well as His Creation, He forgives us and restores us through His Son Jesus Christ.

I hope as you go through this sports season that you will begin to ask God to reveal Himself to you and as He does, you will be open to what He has to say.

Blessings,
Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

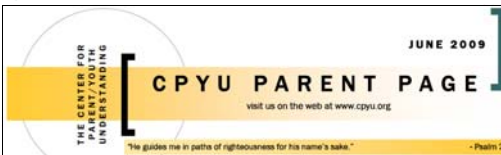
Summer Happenings

Children's Ministry

Summer Weekly Schedule will be available at the Finale.

Vacation Bible School

July 26 - July 30, 2009
Ages 3 - 6th grade
6:30pm - 8:30pm
Mark your calendars!



If you grew up attending Sunday School as a child, you most likely memorized two of the most well-known Scripture passages. Every Sunday School child was able to recite John 3:16 from memory. Most also learned the comforting words of David in Psalm 23. The danger with these verses becoming so familiar is that we might forget just how edgy and earth-shattering they are.

Think for a minute about Psalm 23 and its imagery of shepherds and sheep. Shepherds lead, care for, and protect their sheep. They take them to pleasant places that sustain life. Shepherds lead their sheep into lush green pastures and to the banks of flowing streams where water for drinking is plentiful.

The Scriptures and this Psalm teach us that the Lord is our shepherd. His guidance should be trusted as he takes us along "paths of righteousness." These paths are the places that lead to a journey full of life as it is intended to be lived and experienced. They are the right paths that get us where we need to be as redeemed followers of Christ who live the way and the will of the Good Shepherd. Thank God that he has not left us to our own devices to find our way through life.

Likewise, we have a parental responsibility to serve as "under shepherds" who exert great time and energy in leading our kids onto these right paths. With so many other voices calling them to "come and follow," the example of our words and our footsteps are vital to our kids' spiritual growth. As we walk in paths of righteousness ourselves, we serve to encourage our kids to do the same.

Baseball News

Special TBall Rules

- A 10 foot diameter half circle will be on the playing field from back of home plate. The ball must be past this circle to be fair. If not, then it is a strike.
- Strikes only will be called.
- A foul ball on the 3rd strike is an out.
- If the batter hits part of the ball and the tee falls over, it is a fair ball.
- Any infielder in possession of ball can call time, if they are inside baseline.
- Player can play a total of 2 innings at 1st or pitcher.

Special Coach Pitch Rules

- Strikes only will be called.
- If coach catches ball, then it is ruled a live ball. Coach will drop ball if he catches it.
- No bunting allowed.
- No infield fly rule.

Special Rules - All Divisions

- No Stealing Bases

Inclement Weather



A broadcast message will be posted on the church telephone system by 5:00pm on game days with inclement weather. After 5:00pm, your coach will contact you directly for cancellations.



- Fire zone in front of the gym
- Stanley Total Living Center

Thank You!

Photos

You may notice action photos included in the SOARing newsletter or posted on our website. We hope these pictures capture true emotion and illustrate the fun the kids are having.

Names or other personal information are never included with these photos. However, if you would rather we did not post your picture or your child's, please let us know by calling the church office.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not men.

SOAR League Verse



Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Sunday School
- 11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

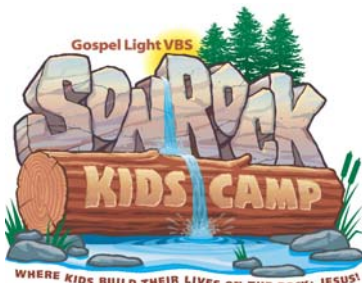
- 6:30 Family Worship

On the first Sunday night each month, we'll have a family meal at 6pm & worship at 7pm

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at www.fpcstanley.org

- Team Rosters
- Game Schedule
- Parent's Corner



The Children's Ministry Team at FPC is excited to announce remaining summer plans for Pre-School (ages 3-5) and School Age (rising 1st grade through 6th grade). Bring your children for games, snacks, activities and to learn that they are accepted by Jesus!

Information and Registration forms are available at the church office.

	<u>Camp Session</u>	<u>Pre-School Age</u>	<u>School Age</u>
Sat., July 18	"Peter's Confession of Christ"	3:30 - 5:00pm	1:00 - 3:00pm
Tues., July 21	"Peter Denies Jesus"	10:00 - 11:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm
Sun., July 26 - Thurs., July 30	Vacation Bible School	6:30 - 8:30pm	6:30 - 8:30pm
Tues., Aug 4	Pool Party	tbd	tbd
Tues., Aug 11	"Peter Helps A Lame Man"	10:00 - 11:30am	1:00 - 3:00pm