

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

I've been reading in the Book of Genesis lately and I truly enjoy thinking about God and His creation. Genesis chapter 1 tells us so many interesting facts about God through His creative works. Here are just a few...

- 1) God alone created the material world. The Bible begins, "In the beginning God..." so God was in the beginning and God alone. **Nothing** else was present - not even space. I've heard 'nothing' described this way: You start with a black canvas filled with the earth, moon, sun and stars - this is the *something* of creation. Now, get rid of everything until you're left with the black canvas. Then get rid of the blackness. Ok, now throw away the canvas - that's the nothing God created from - it truly blows my mind!!

And, since God alone is self-existent and eternal, He alone is to be worshiped. He stands head & shoulders above everything else because everything owes Him its existence.



- 2) God is Personal. Being Personal means He is a person rather than an object or mere force. So He thinks, speaks, plans, acts, and has relationships with others. Because He's personal, we can have a relationship with Him (through Jesus Christ) in which He speaks to us through His Word and to whom we can communicate through prayer. He thinks/plans. Therefore, we can trust His infinite wisdom to guide and lead us in our daily lives, because if He can plan, create, and sustain the universe, surely He can take care of 'little ole' me!
- 3) God *speaks* creation into existence ("let there be... and there was") so He must be extremely powerful! So powerful in fact that He uses His words to bring things into existence (heavens, earth, sun, moon, stars, animals, humans, etc) from nothing. God didn't start with a big lump of dirt and then fashion things out of it (no, that's what we do!); rather God started with absolutely nothing and then spoke it into existence - WOW!

Therefore, God's Word is powerful. And, as powerful, His word should find its way into our lives through daily Bible reading. Think this through with me for just a minute. From Genesis 1, God's Word brings life, blessing, purpose, direction, meaning, vitality, power. This is the same Word we have in the Bible. Therefore, for life, meaning, direction, purpose, vitality, etc, we should be utilizing God's Word in our lives - not like a club we hit people with but as the very thing that will change us, renew us, make us alive, give us wisdom, declare how we might be saved from Sin and Death, give us reasons to have joy in the midst of adversity, and to humble us before the magnificence of Almighty God.

Does the Word of God have a place in your life? If not, I would encourage you to "hide it in your heart" (Psalm 119:11) through regular reading and thinking about God and His Word. Well, as you can see, there is a lot to Genesis 1 (and we barely got going), so read on for yourself and discover how truly GREAT God really is!!

Praying for Your Growth in Grace,
Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

Youth Group

Middle & High School

Carowinds

August 19th

Sign-up by August 16th

Camping Trip

September 4th - 7th

Mt. Mitchell

Mark DeVries

September 19th

Stonebridge Church, Charlotte
Nationally known speaker

Children's Ministry

Pre-School (ages 3 - 5)

School Age (rising 1st - 6th grades)

Son Rock Kids Camp

Tues., Aug 11th

Peter Helps A Lame Man

Pre-School 10:00 - 11:30am

School Age 1:00 - 3:00pm

Baseball / Softball Finale this Saturday, Aug. 15th

9:00 - 10:15am Teams 1 - 5	<i>Braves</i> 49'ers	<i>Mustangs</i> Orioles	<i>Angels</i>
10:30 - 11:45am Teams 6 - 10	<i>Royals</i> Jesus Champs	<i>Dirt Dobbers</i> BBG Powerhouse	<i>Heaven Eleven</i>

We're excited to announce that our Keynote Speaker for this year's finale is our Pastor of Discipleship, Dave Nelson!

Along with our guest speaker, there will be trophy presentations and each team will be given a chance to recite their team verse. **Bring your cameras!**

Players should wear uniforms ... No cleats.

Meet in the FPC Gym



Anne Abernathy Photography

What Now?

Dear Parents -

Throughout the season, your coach has led devotions and prayer time with the team, teaching the players about Jesus. At our Finale, everyone will be given an opportunity to respond to what they've heard. What would it mean for you should your child make a commitment to Christ? As parents, we all want the best for our child. We're here to help. Come join us **Wednesday, August 26th**, at 6:30pm and find out how you can promote healthy spiritual growth for your child.

Activities for the whole family!

No Reservations Required!

Information available at the Finale.

THANK YOU!
for participating with us!

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, love each other deeply, because Love covers over a multitude of sins.



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

FPC SOAR Basketball & Cheerleading

© Registration is Saturday, September 12th
10:30am - 12:00pm

© Youth Basketball

Co-Ed Ages 6 - 14 \$35

Cheerleading

Girls Ages 6 - 12 \$35

© Registration Forms available in the Church Office or visit us online at www.fpcstanley.org

© Season runs through Nov 21st

