



TIDINGS

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Special points of interest:

- National Day of Prayer, *May 3, 2018*
- Ascension, *May 10, 2018*
- Mother's Day, *May 13, 2018*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 19, 2018*
- Pentecost, *May 20, 2018*
- Trinity Sunday, *May 27, 2018*
- Memorial Day, *May 28, 2018*

It Takes Grace...

"I always wished I would grow up to be somebody. Maybe I should have been a little more specific."
[Lily Tomlin]

Everybody wants to be somebody, but how do we know who that somebody is? The influences of the world are happy to answer that for us...and then sell us what we need to make it happen. No mystery at all, according to the modern western world – your identity is almost always determined by what you look like, what you do, what you have, and/or who you know.

And every time we buy into this value system, our life is a bit more focused on "I have to have..." "I ought to..." and "How do I get people to like me?"

To the degree we play their game, it becomes a cycle that can only give temporary results. It really is too bad, when you think about it. Jesus has offered us a much better option. Rather than

basing our identity on what we have, how we perform, or the people we know, Jesus has called us into the mystery of the ages – that we might experience the terrific realization that our true identity is only found in Him (not in ourselves). Remember Paul's description of this powerful mystery?

"To them (believers in Christ), God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is, Christ in you, the hope of glory" [Colossians 1:27].

Pastor Rob has written an excellent article in this newsletter regarding our youth and specifically the identity of our seniors as they graduate this month. I hope every youth (and especially their parents) take time to read it. We all, though, are susceptible to losing or not knowing our identities, regardless of our

age.

If you or I are taken in by the need to find our identity in things of this world, there is relief available. (By relief, I mean freedom and peace.) If we might take time to discover who we are in Christ, and who He is in us, we will rest in our true freedom and peace.

Lord, show us the ways we have bought into the world's system of possessions, performance, and people to determine our worth and identity. The world has no right to place demands on us. What You call us to do instead, will always be more fulfilling – for us and others. Lead us then, into this mystery that comes with understanding who we are in You and You in us. We want the real thing. We want to be that somebody. Amen.

Blessings to you all,
RevLon

Soaring Great Banquet Season Comes to a Close

It has been a truly rewarding Spring Banquet Season! YES and Chrysalis weekends, two jail weekends, two prison weekends, and three in-house weekends! As we close out with the last two this month (Women's #182 and #183), we can only praise God that He has continued to bless this ministry all these years. I

wonder if those who were involved early on with a handful of Walks every year ever envisioned decades later still having the impact of full weekends with the opportunity for lives to be changed in very dramatic ways. Thousands have now attended as guests in addition to huge numbers of inmates across western Ken-

tucky – all invited to sit at table and come closer to Jesus. Thanks to everyone at FPC who gave of their time, energy, resources, and even those who joyfully gave up classroom or kitchen space for the sake of the guests who were in our midst.

Keep Learning

Jim Warner, the author of *Cold Case Christianity*, and a cold case detective said that, “The more I thought I knew, the less teachable I became. My educational self-confidence led to a form of self-reliance in many aspects of my life, including the foundational world view I constructed along the way.” He was an argumentative atheist determined to pick apart anyone who would claim Christianity as the Way to Christ and the way to live as a world view. He has now realized the truth after investigating the facts as he would do any case he was trying to solve. He is now one of the top apologetics speakers because of his method and transformational story. He argues that as soon as students enter college that they have not done the hard work of knowing and growing in their faith enough to defend it when they come against the opposition that many find in college. Jim came to this conclusion after his conversion and having been a youth pastor realized that the majority of his students had abandoned their faith before graduating college. Why? Because they had not been taught how to voice their doubts and determine whether there were answers to those doubts. Check out his books and his website at <http://coldcasechristianity.com/>.

As we prepare to see another group graduate from high school that have spent most of their middle and high school years in our youth group, my question to them is “Are you ready?”. And the tough question I have to ask myself is “Have I helped them get ready for what’s ahead?” It’s no secret that the current education system in our country has had an impact on the attack on Christianity and their attempt to separate a person’s faith from their educational environment. And that will intensify in college. But they are not the sole reason that our students are abandoning their faith. Please hear me as I say this with compassion and love, the reason that I believe students are abandoning their faith is that the family has abandoned their responsibility in raising them to have a world view that points them to have faith in God in the first place. If as much time and energy was put into and

encouraged by parents to learn about God as they have been encouraged to excel in athletics, academics and the arts then they would be better prepared in my opinion. Their schedules don’t allow them time to learn about God’s word or how to pray or how to serve and love. They are so stressed out that they can’t find peace in the One who created them to live a full life. And if you’re a parent that has encouraged them in their faith journey then don’t allow this to convict you. But my regret as a parent is that I didn’t do more to help Brad in his faith journey when I had the chance. But here is my hope and prayers for Abby Brown, Madison Cummings, Allie Downey, Emily Fischels, Emilee Higgs and Cody Jervis. Keep learning and seeking to know the God that created you and gifted you with a unique gift that you and only you can accomplish. Read His word and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you grow in understanding and knowledge. And use whatever avenues it takes to help you learn, whether it be audio, video, small groups or whatever it takes to help you learn. And surround yourself with people who are seeking after God and helping you do the same. Remember the saying, “Show me your friends and I’ll show you your future.” You are going to do what those around you do and that can lead to positive changes in your life or negative ones. Seek times to be quiet and still with God and pray. Be thankful for all He has given you and be honest in how you have left His way, repent and know that He forgives and is seeking to transform you into His image. And be confident in knowing that He will provide for you all that you need if you seek Him and love Him with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Be generous to those around you! Not just materially but with your time and attention. Be a good listener and remember that most folks don’t always want advice as much as they want to be heard. Don’t seek to find a career that will only make you more money but seek one that you know you will enjoy doing and will bless your family and those who you work with and for. And if you know college isn’t right for you that’s okay too because we need skilled crafts people and those that can work in the trades too. Your worth is not in your degree and how much you make or don’t make. Our value can’t be measured by standards that elevate or diminish a person’s worth. Our faith tells

us that everyone has worth because they are made in the image of God period. So know that you are loved and you have the gift to reflect God’s love, creativity, character and justice to the world around you! And thanks for all the memories and blessings that you have given me personally. I have the best job I’ve ever had because of people like you that have shown me how I wish I had followed God at your age. You know everything you need to know to succeed in life just allow God to continue to be the author of your story.

Congratulations Abby, Madison, Allie, Emily, Emilee and Cody we are so proud of you and love you!

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-16, “And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

Don’t just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good. Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically. Rejoice in our confident hope. Be patient in trouble, and keep on praying. When God’s people are in need, be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!”

In Christ’s Love,

Rob

Romans 12

March Finance & Administration Committee Report

		YTD	
Income	\$20,758.39	YTD Income	\$62,717.52
Expenses	(\$25,872.53)	YTD Expense	(\$85,669.74)
	(\$5,114.14)	YTD Net	(\$22,952.22)
		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$18,518.13	Income	\$51,216.58
Expenses	(\$22,563.52)	Expense	(\$65,211.38)
	(\$4,045.39)	Net	(\$13,994.80)
		YTD Designated	
Income	\$2,240.26	Income	\$11,500.94
Expenses	(\$3,309.01)	Expense	(\$20,458.36)
	(\$1,068.75)		(\$8,957.42)

OF CHARLATANS AND ITCHING EARS

The Charlatan is the person who uses Christianity as a means of personal enrichment, Paul charged Timothy to be on guard against him. "If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain" (1 Timothy 6:3-5). The Charlatan is only interested in the Christian faith to the extent that it can fill his pocket. He uses his leadership position to benefit from others.

The Tickler is the false teacher who cares nothing for what God wants and everything for what men want. He is the man pleaser rather than the God pleaser. Paul thought him as the ear tick-

ler: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but have itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2 Timothy 4:3-4). The Tickler craves popularity and praise from the world. To maintain his followers' respect, he preaches only the parts of the Bible they deem acceptable. Therefore, he speaks much of happiness but little of sin, much of Heaven, but nothing of Hell. He gives them only what they want to hear. He preaches a partial gospel which is no gospel at all.

Over the past few months I have been listening to preachers who have preached a word and not The Word. They have twisted the truth using Hebrew and Greek words to embellish their story to gain the delight of their audience. They have taken parts of scripture and sculpted them into an account of imaginary or real people and events told for

entertainment. They act as peddlers of custom crafted error who masquerade as teachers of truth. They are charlatans and ticklers who seem like champions but disseminate perversion of the Truth. Their tactics are studied, clever, and effective. They give you a toothy smile and a vacuous content. They preach an empty gospel to a packed house. They toss aside the Bible's content in order to obsess about matters that are trivial or novel. They violate Deuteronomy 4:2 and Revelation 22:18-19.

Where saithe thou this hath occurred? Right in our own backyard. Here in Hopkins County. People are being misled and churches are being disrupted. We must test every spirit to determine if they originate with the Holy Spirit or with a demonic spirit for many false prophets have gone out into the world. Be on guard.

On the Inside, Pete.



"If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit..."

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6PM Session	2 5:15 Grill Master's Cook off—Youth Fundraiser 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3 Women's Great Banquet #182	4	5
6	7 6PM Great Ban- quet Mtgs	8	9	10 Western Kentucky Correctional Com- plex Great Banquet #20	11	12
13 	14 6PM Great Ban- quet Mtg	15	16	17 Women's Great Banquet #183	18	19
20 	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

May		18 th	John Ewing
2 nd	Merry Brooks	19 th	Monty Crawford
4 th	Tem Major	25 th	Chrissy Barker
8 th	Chesley Wilson	28 th	Alan Johnson
14 th	Rob & Denis Wilson (A)	29 th	Pat Bonney
15 th	Calvin Griffith		
16 th	Emily Fischels		
	Rick & Susanna Lee		
	Linda Shanks		
	Steve Arnold		

May
Birthdays &
Anniversaries