



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAY / 2024

SUMMER DATES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 23 - 27

ECUADOR MISSION TRIP

JUNE 27 - JULY 6

YOUTH CAMP

JULY 15 - 20

KIDS CAMP

JULY 23 - 26

The days are getting longer, grass and trees are green again, and many kids (and teachers!) are counting down the days until summer break. For most people, summer is a chance to slow down, enjoy a more relaxed pace, and maybe take a vacation. Our church is intentionally taking a number of Sunday evenings off through the next few months. Despite everything being a bit more “chill” in the summer, we do have a few activities and events we are looking forward to as a church.

Kicking off the summer activities, we will have an Olympic Games Family Night on May 29. We will have dinner and ice cream at 6:00 p.m. followed by a variety of team games and activities. This night will be a great start to summer – make plans to attend and be involved in the fun!

Next up (June 23-27) will be Vacation Bible School! VBS is always a great time for our church to enjoy the fellowship of working hard together while blessing our kids and our community. Be on the lookout for more information about how you can serve and be praying that God would use the fun and teaching of VBS to reveal the truth of the Gospel to kids in our church and community.

Right after VBS, a team will be traveling to Ecuador to serve alongside Steve and Carol Thompson at Camp Chacauco. Please pray for the logistics, those traveling, and those already working to spread the Gospel in Ecuador.

July 15-20, we will be sending our youth to camp. Each year, we send more and more students to camp, and we are excited about another

record breaking year! Our students have a blast and grow in their relationships with one another, their leaders, and with God. Pray for Garth and the leaders going and pray that the Lord would work in the hearts of our teenagers while they are at camp.

To wrap up the summer, our kids will be heading to camp. Again, this is a time of fun, relationship building, and growth for our older elementary kids. Pray for Pastor Matt and the leaders and that God would use camp to bring our kids closer to Him.

Summer is almost here and we hope that you will support as many of these activities as you can - financially, through prayer, or through service. We look forward to seeing how God will grow the people in our church through these next few months.

Does God Really Love the World?

Jake Beattie | Pastor

On Sunday evenings we have been doing a series on Psalms. We have not been preaching through them sequentially, but rather letting some preachers pick their favorite Psalm and preach on it. If you have not attended or listened to any, I highly recommend you do as there have been some fantastic sermons. This series has encouraged me to read more psalms lately. I recently read Psalm 5. Psalm 5:5 says, “The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.”

Wow, did you know the Bible says flat out that God hates all evildoers? That is a strong statement. If you continue searching the Bible to see what else it says on this topic you will find this is not an isolated verse. There are many other places that says similar things (Ps 11:5, Prov 15:8, 15:9, 15:26, 6:18, Rev 2:6). This statement leads us to ask the question, who are the evildoers that God hates? Romans 3:23 tells us “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” The Bible is clear that all people have sinned, which makes all people evildoers.

A few weeks ago I preached from John chapter 3 and verse 16 which we are all familiar with tells us that “God so loved the world that he gave his only son...” Based on the context of John 3:16 I made the point that John is clearly making a reference to people by the word “world.” So which is it? Does God love the world? Or does God hate it?

We need to be careful to not try and explain away one of these views in favor of the other. The Bible clearly teaches both so how do we reconcile them? It’s tempting to read 1 John 4:16 which tells us “God is love” and to dismiss the harsh verses I mentioned above. There are some people who believe that because God is love, that must mean he will ultimately forgive everyone. They say it doesn’t make sense for God to send anyone to hell. This is wrong. This ignores the

passages of the Bible that make it abundantly clear that God hates evildoers.

Perhaps one of the most helpful passages in understanding this is Romans 5:18-19 which tells us,

“Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”

Adam brought condemnation for all men. Because of Adam and Eve sinning in the garden of Eden we are all condemned sinners, evildoers whom God hates. But just as Adam brought condemnation, Jesus brings justification. What amazing news!

We see that Adam’s sin brings condemnation for all people, and that Jesus now brings righteousness, but we must remember it is not for all people. The Bible is very clear that only those who trust in Jesus are made righteous. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” The *him* in this verse is referring to Jesus. When we believe in Jesus as the Son of God, the Savior, then he takes our sin - paid for at the cross - and in return we receive the righteousness that is his. That is an incredible exchange.

We may not be able to wrap our minds around how God can hate evildoers (all of us) and at the same time love the world so much that he would send his only Son. But the Bible is clear that both of those realities are true. While everyone is condemned, whoever believes in Jesus will not perish, but have eternal life.

Come & See or Go & Tell? Yes!

Chris Harrod | Director of Missions

I have been reading through the book of Isaiah the past couple months, and it has been so good! One interesting thing I've noticed when reading it is how much focus God places on the nations surrounding Israel. There are multiple chapters dedicated to judgment on other nations that have rejected and mocked God. God also warns Israel about running to other nations for security and alliances rather than to God. But God also provides a vision for the people of Israel, where one day all of these nations will come to Jerusalem because of Israel, to see God's glory and to worship him. In chapter 2, Isaiah describes this arrival of the nations like a stream flowing towards the temple. In chapter 11, Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah will be like a banner for the nations to see and follow. In chapter 56, God even says his house will be a house of prayer for all the nations to come to, not just for Israel.

On the surface, this seems like the complete opposite strategy we see elsewhere, specifically in the book of Acts! In much of Acts, the new church is making disciples while traveling all over the world to share the resurrected Jesus. So which method should we follow? Should we be the light for unbelievers to come, see, and stream towards in order to worship God, or should we be going outside our normal sphere to share God's glory to all different kinds of places and peoples? Well, the answer is yes!

The Bible makes clear that our obedience to Jesus in the day-to-day, as well as intentionally sharing the Gospel with people of different faiths and in different locations are both needed to draw people to Jesus. Jesus says that all will know we are Jesus' disciples by how we love each other (John 13:35). Peter encourages believing wives to love and serve their unbelieving husbands, so that "they may be won over without a word by the way their

wives live" (1 Peter 3:1). Moses tells Israel that when they settle in the Promised Land, the nations will inquire about God and his people because Israel is carefully following God's Law (Deuteronomy 4).

At the same time, the Bible also clearly calls us to be outward focused, striving to extend the Gospel's reach in our lives and in the world. In reaction to the Messiah's coming, Isaiah prophesies that Israel will "make his works known among the peoples" and will declare "Let this be known throughout the earth" (Isaiah 12:4-5). We also see in Isaiah where it's declared "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald...who proclaims salvation" (Isaiah 52).

Isaiah 66:23 is God's conclusion for us: "All humanity will come to worship me." Let's pray that our church would be a light reflecting God's glory, that everyone would see the Spirit's work in us and worship God; and let's pray that we would be a witness to Jesus, so that all nations would know Jesus and come to worship him with us.

