

SUNDAY BRIEFING



Easy-belief vs. Lordship

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

In our church services and in our fellowship groups, we sing that "Jesus is our Lord!" Singing about Lordship and living with Christ as Lord are certainly not the same.

These words represent a deep and heavy responsibility that can only be properly discerned by God for how serious we have been with what we said. We can all remember the virgins (Matt. 25:11-12) that spoke to Christ using the word "Lord" and His rejection of their daring to use that term so casually and inappropriately. For certain, we do not desire to have a similar experience as these women so we must weigh the potential danger of what is called "easy-belief." Our goal must be to gain a clear and full appreciation of Lordship. An illustration that we've all heard is the difference between saying we

believe a chair can hold our weight. Yet, until we sit on the chair, our faith is just talk. May our "belief" always include His Lordship in our lives as we depend on Him! Paul so much desired to know that his friends were mature and following Christ as Lord. Yet, "easy-belief" was apparently running freely in Paul's day and he referred to these people as carnal Christians or milk drinkers (1 Cor. 3:1-3). One of their evidenced problems in Corinth was their alignment with specific teachers (Peter, Apollos, Paul), whichever one they considered to be most spiritual and suitable for being their teacher/preacher (v.3-23). Paul's conclusion was that attempting to provide spiritual messages to such immature "so-called believers" was useless. The idea that the people Paul was referring to had allowed contentions and divisions to fester, due to their comparing various

servants of God, was astounding to Paul. To him, their carnality of behavior in these secular attitudes was abhorrent. As we look at the earnest need to function our lives based on ethical principles of Christian discernment, and not merely "model answers" to specific issues, let us develop a hunger for spiritual meat. Let us seek Jesus as Lord to the point that His values and guidance satisfies all our wishes and pushes our faith kilometers beyond any "easy belief." The lost society around us demands the Christian witness that comes only when Jesus is fully our Lord.

UPCOMING

September 11th |
Church Council Meeting

September 25th |
Prayer Fellowship

October 3rd |
Baptism Sunday

Order of Worship

Sunday, September 5th, 2021

Welcome & Prayer | Jim Loui

Worship Through Music | Praise Team

Lord's Supper | Pastor Don Gardner

Announcements & Prayer | Pastor Dillon Le

Scripture Reading | Selene Raimo

Message | Pastor Don Gardner

Worship Through Music | Praise Team

Closing Prayer | Roger Wong

*He drew me up
from the pit of
destruction, out of
the miry bog, and
set my feet upon a
rock, making my
steps secure.*

PSALM 40:2

"Is Your Faith Stable & Solid?"

Pastor Don Gardner

1 John 5:1-15

- I. Victory in Christ over the world v.1-5
- II. Theological understanding of eternal life v.6-14
- III. Sin's impact on our lives v.15-21

Announcements & Prayers

Nursery Services Temporarily Closed - Parents may feel free to use the dedicated Mother/Baby room at the back of the Sanctuary during Worship Service for Nursery-aged children (2 years and younger). We apologize for this inconvenience.

Change in English-Speaking Sunday School Start and End Times - The English-Speaking Sunday School will begin at 11:00 AM and end at 12:15 PM to align with the start and end times for the Chinese-Speaking Worship Service. This will shorten the time between the Service and Sunday School and allow parents to pick up their children by 12:30 PM.

October 3rd Baptisms - Baptism is a testimony of a person's faith in Christ. It is not salvation, but a picture of what Jesus has done in a person's life. He has cleansed and forgiven one's sin as we're given a new life in Him. On October 3rd, we will have baptisms at 10:45am. Please contact us if you're interested in making a public profession of faith in Jesus through water baptism.

Announcements (cont.)

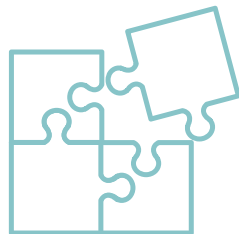
As a reopening committee, we would like to share some updates as we continue to monitor the current COVID situation.

Currently we're still in the "High Transmission" category for Maricopa County.

At this time, the following are the committee's recommendations:

- Postpone the opening of our nursery for the safety of our nursery staff and the babies, infants, and toddlers in our care. This decision is mainly driven by the inability to social distance while caring for these young vulnerable children that cannot be masked.
- The English speaking congregation is meeting back in the FLC for worship service to allow more room for social distancing.
- Chinese speaking Sunday School and worship will meet in the sanctuary worship hall.

We want to thank you for your patience, support, and prayers as we navigate through these challenging times.



Connect With Others

The best way for knowing about who God is and what God does is through the Bible. Though we all could read and study the Bible individually, we learn so much more when we read and study the Bible together in a group. Bible study groups at FCBC PHX offer a variety of options for all ages, with groups that meet during weekdays, evenings, or Sunday morning. Contact us!

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