

Sunday Worship



"The Purity of Preaching"...let us be selective!

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

Just because someone calls it a "sermon," is it? Would Jesus, John, Peter, Moses, Joshua, Micah, or others of Scripture agree that the words presented on a given Sunday are truly "God directed" thoughts and teachings? Is there ever a danger that a man standing in a pulpit is presenting his own ideas, prejudices, social thoughts, or culturally accepted views with a desire to influence his listeners for selfish or prideful reasons? Do we, as the living church of Christ, ever find ourselves listening to a speaker that may himself be confused about his responsibility toward His church family? Is not true worship something incorporating multiple elements including the expansion of God's Scripture for our life's application?

By definition, "a sermon is a presentation, usually by a minister, on a topic/subject related to moral or ethical matters often tied to concepts presented in Scripture." This definition is found in various dictionaries but may well be fairly associated to secular understanding and not really be in line with what an evangelical Christian might find acceptable. Indeed, different denominations and ethnic groups vary in what they accept as "appropriate sermon content." We all have different backgrounds, cultures, and experiences in life and these form our willingness to receive what we believe to be valuable or appropriate sermons.

There is not one "standard" for whether a sermon is good or bad, interesting or boring, useful or a waste of time. Yet, there should be an understanding that the intent of the sermon is to grow the lives of a church body in their spiritual walk. I was reading today about a viewpoint that said "**different Christians have opposing thoughts toward the resurrection of Christ.**" As I read, I was appalled to imagine that a person, calling himself/herself a Christian, could be comfortable thinking of oneself as a Christian without a full appreciation for Christ's resurrection! Yet, the article would lead a person to note that this was the message of a "so-called preacher" who simply denied the resurrection's importance. **From** this simple minded pastor, **myself**, when we allow the values, understandings, and expectations of our world to take precedence over the inspired Word of God, the content of our words is more of a personal talk than a sermon. This type of talk does not lead to worship of our Lord.

FCBC Order of Worship

Sunday, January 23rd, 2022

Live worship services on campus

English at 9:30AM

Chinese at 11:00AM

Livestream available: fcbcpbx.org/sermons

Welcome & Music | Ashley Yap

Message | Deacon Emmitt Phok

Music | Response Song

Prayer | Closing

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

JOHN 14:27

Title: Anxiety Is Nothing to Worry About

Philippians 4:6-7

Deacon Emmitt Phok

1. Admit the Problem
2. Take the Prescription
3. Process the Prayer
4. Embrace the Promise

Announcements

Churchwide Prayer Meeting | January 29th

Begin the new year by being filled up through prayer! Our theme will be "prayers for the new year."

FCBC Prayer Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81253616688>

Meeting ID: 812 5361 6688

Passcode: 85018

Please contact Heather (Heather.Chiang.Ong@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining the Prayer Committee or would like to share during a meeting.