

Sunday Worship



"Could God be an Optimistic Realist?"

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

I know, the term "Optimistic Realist" is purely an invented term that pretty much sounds like it contains words that conflict with each other. Yet, as I look at Yahweh God, I can see that He may well have that same way of looking at mankind that matches this term.

As God dealt with His chosen people (Israel) throughout the Old Testament days, it is obvious that He provided much more redemption and complete forgiveness than did they deserve. Consistently, Israel was given instructions for living and, as a body of people, they made the decision to allow their own thinking to guide them away from Him. At times, they followed the leadership of a Godly man but they regularly abandoned that behavior of dependency within a fairly short period of time. Yet in His gracious and loving way, God revealed His "hope and optimism" by steadily being the God of multiple opportunities toward these people.

For myself, the God that I serve certainly knows me well enough to be realistic in His expectations for my tomorrow. Whether I wear the hat of a pastor or a layman in our church, I sin everyday and I dream of being a better man than I am. Nobody likes to confess that they are weak or a failure in living up to the dreams and ideals that they have. Yet, when I am honest with myself, I am not the strong Christian witness for others that I would like to be. When God looks at this servant, myself, He sees a person that sometimes has small successes and more often is in need of God's assistance to get through everyday challenges.

Yes, I believe God is an "Optimistic Realist" toward us all. As he knows me well, my sinful nature and poor character are no surprise to what he understands. Yet, as He was toward the Israel of old, God looks beyond my inadequacies and failures to provide daily opportunities for me to redeem myself. The good news in this is that His "Optimistic Realist" nature presents us hope and challenge even as He knows us so well. It is within His Optimism and Realism that we must be honest with ourselves regarding our sinful nature and appreciative of His grace. For the true Christian, humility is not an option but a necessity.

FCBC Order of Worship

Sunday, February 20th, 2022

Join us for worship services on campus or online

English at 9:30AM | Chinese at 11:00AM

Livestream available: fbcphx.org/sermons

Welcome & Music | Faith Ong

Scripture Reading | Tiffany Le

Message | Pastor Dillon Le

Prayer | Closing

Our Beliefs Impact Our Actions

Acts 4:23-37

Pastor Dillon Le

1. God is faithful (v. 23-26)
2. The Holy Spirit is powerful (v. 27-31)
3. Jesus is good news (v. 32-37)

Announcements

Churchwide Prayer Meeting | February 23rd | Wednesday | 8:00pm-9:30pm

Join us every month as our church gathers together to pray, Deacon Jim Loui will be leading. 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.

FCBC Prayer Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 812 5361 6688

Passcode: 85018

2022 FCBC Yard Sale | February 26th | 8:00am-12:00pm

Our FCBC Yard Sale is on Saturday, February 26th, from 8am-12pm. Donate your gently used items to Room B-1 (Choir Room) on Sundays, February 13th & 20th. All proceeds will be used for missions. Please contact Pastor Dillon with any questions. (Dillon.Le@fbcphx.org)

*He makes me lie down in
green pastures;
He leads me beside quiet
waters.*

*He restores my soul;
He guides me in the
paths of righteousness
For His name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I fear no evil, for You are
with me;
Your rod and Your staff,
they comfort me.*

Psalm 23:2-4