Sunday Worship

"Divisions"

BY PASTOR DON GARDNER

Paul's words to the Corinthian Church were pretty bold but were intended for the "good." <u>He</u> <u>couldn't allow that church to continue harming itself (the people) without his taking the action of</u> <u>speaking to them about issues.</u> Last Sunday, we began looking at the church and we will try to learn more from them in the future. Not all of us have the identical struggles of their church body but we all do need to be honest enough with ourselves to admit that we may, at times, say or do things that we should resist. Preaching, in some ways, is a weak way of presenting God's truth because people only listen and change if their Spirit is in tune with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Hearing (Preaching) or even studying God's Word (Bible Study) is only going to help us when we hunger after righteousness. That was the problem of the Corinthians as they had heard Paul's message but struggled to LEARN from it. The words below are from the Bible (God's Word) and from my sermon of last week.

ISSUE 2: WHAT ABOUT DIVISIONS IN THE CHURCH? (I COR.1:10-17 & 3:1-8)

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? 4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Apparently, divisions and broken relationships were rampant within the Corinthian church. In a sense, to find that people from different backgrounds, beliefs, and cultural experiences interpret their understanding of the Christian faith differently should not be a surprise. Indeed, I find that people from different parts of the same country are not even the same in our values and interests. Yet, as the church is a family, recognizing the importance of unity within the group should be expected! Yet, <u>division reflects how terribly human the church at Corinth was.</u> Chapter 3:1-8 describes the key to it all in saying that Paul saw their church as one made up of children! He could see their prejudices and immature decisions when they dealt with deeper Christian problems. Even when popularity was focused on himself, Paul called that wrong! May Christ alone be your model/mentor as you listen to the Holy Spirit for your behavior toward others.

FCBC Order of Worship Sunday, March 6th, 2022

Join us for worship services on campus or online English at 9:30AM | Chinese at 11:00AM Livestream available: <u>fcbcphx.org/sermons</u> Welcome & Music | Deacon Jim Loui Announcement | Donna Lee Lord's Supper | Pastor Don Gardner Scripture Reading | Karen Loui Message | Pastor Dillon Le Prayer | Closing

"God's Love in Longsuffering "

Lamentations 3:13–27 Pastor Dillon Le

- 1. God understands suffering (v.13-18)
- 2. There is purpose in pain (v. 19-21)
- 3. We grow as we wait on God (v. 22-27)

Announcements

• Sunday Services for the EC will return to the Church's Auditorium beginning this week.

- We certainly are thankful to have Gabrielle Liu back assisting us with so many of our church's administrative needs. Please note that you can contact Pastor Don, Pastor Dillon, or Gabrielle through the office or via our email address at: <u>office@fcbcphx.org</u>
- **THE UKRANIAN TRAGEDY**: As you watch the tragedy unfold in Ukraine, take heart knowing your IMB (International Mission Board of SBC) missionaries are serving those in need alongside local Baptist partners – providing emergency food relief, shelter, and clothing to displaced families. As a faithful IMB partner, I want to make sure you are aware of our response in this rapidly escalating crisis. Through Send Relief, the Southern Baptist compassion ministry, we began responding in Ukraine before the invasion. Relief efforts have now expanded to serve the thousands displaced in surrounding countries. You can <u>watch a video</u> update from our Send Relief Vice President, Jason Cox, on the ground in Poland. Send Relief will soon deploy an assessment team of volunteers from North Carolina Baptist Men, Ohio Baptist Convention and Southern Baptists of Texas Convention who will use their expertise to assess major needs. As the crisis continues, we will adjust to changing conditions.

Please pray & give. If you or anyone you know are interested in supporting Ukrainian relief financially, you may give online through <u>imb.org/Ukraine</u>. 100% of your gifts will serve Ukrainians in need.

15 Jesus understands every weakness of ours, because he was tempted in every way that we are. But he did not sin! 16 So whenever we are in need, we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God. There we will be treated with undeserved kindness, and we will find help.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (CEV)

Announcements

• Church Council | March 12 (Saturday) at 9:00am

Please pray for the church leadership as they meet at our church administration building.

• FCBC Spring Cleaning & Workday

On March 19th From 8:30am to 1:00pm, let's serve together as we beautify our church. Sign up in the FLC on March 6th & 13th.

• Church Annual Picnic | March 20th

FCBC Church Picnic will be held on Sunday, March 20th, at 12:30pm. Please plan to stay after worship to enjoy some food and fun fellowship! More details to follow.

• Ordination Service | March 20th

The ordination service for Pastor Dillon Le will be held on March 20th, at 2:00pm, please stay after church annual picnic and attend the ordination service. Please pray for leaders involved.

• FCBC Monthly Prayer Meeting March 26th (Saturday) at 9:00am

Zoom: <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84727005337</u>

• FCBC Service Project: Easter Basket & Food Drive

From February 27th to March 27th, please prayerfully consider donating brand new Easter items for families in need through the Phoenix Rescue Mission. Please drop off Easter baskets, boxes, plastic eggs, & non-perishable food in FLC Room 102 by March 27th. Thank you for partnering with us to spread the joy of Easter!

• Upcoming Preaching Schedule:

March 6: Pastor Dillon Le---EC Rev. Sun Wei Zhong---CC March 13: Pastor Don Gardner---EC/CC March 20: Pastor Don Gardner---EC/CC March 27: Deacon Emmitt Phok---EC Brother Ding Xiao Ning---CC