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PERMIT NO. 9



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Words of Encouragement...

➤ (Ephesians 1:3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing...."

With all of the disruption and uncertainty of the past couple of months, it would do us well to remind ourselves of some certainties that God tells us we can count on. The Holy Spirit reminds us in Ephesians chapter 1 that our relationship with Jesus Christ provides us with every other possible spiritual blessing. That is an amazing thing to think about. It's even more amazing to understand and operate in!

In the fields of design and engineering, "redundancy" is the act of building in safeguards to compensate for possible failure of the primary system. The backup systems that are designed as a redundancy may never be used. In fact, engineers hope they are never actually used. But if they are needed, they are there in place, just in case...just waiting.

Think about the redundancy our Heavenly Father has built into the Christian life. He saves us, writes our name down in Heaven's book, we are adopted, and born again. He promises that He will never leave us, that nothing can ever snatch us from His hand, and that the life we now possess is everlasting. He indwells us, overshadows us, goes before us, comes behind us, and undergirds us. He has provided the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures, and the church (brothers and sisters to accompany us on our journey). He tells us we are saved, are His children, have become "sons of God," and that we shall "dwell in the House of the Lord forever."

The Father fully plans for us to arrive at His home safely, doesn't He?

I'm not suggesting that any aspect of God's plan could possibly fail, such that He would need a back-up plan "just in case" -- to design redundancy. But, how loving and considerate He is to provide *so much* for us, so that we might have peace of mind about our relationship with Him here on earth and our eternal well-being.

Even though the Apostle Paul did not use the word "redundancy" in Eph 1, he went to great lengths to convey to us who we are in Christ, using various expressions for what the Lord has done for all who are the redeemed. Here are some of those blessings that are "immeasurably more than all we could possibly ask or imagine":

He chose us. (Eph 1:4) Jesus said, "You did not choose me, but I chose you...." (Jn 15:16).

He predestined us. (Eph 1:5) He has been making plans for us from the beginning. That's how special we are to Him. (See Matt 25:34 & Jn 14:3)

He bestowed grace upon us. (Eph 1:6) Not content with just picking us out of the gutter, releasing us from prison, and raising us from the dead (Col 2:13), He proceeded to clean us up, dress us in robes of righteousness (2 Cor 5:21), and make us children of God (Rom 8:16). The blessings of His grace just keep coming and shall never cease. Wow! Think about that!

He redeemed us through His blood. (Eph 1:7) "You were not redeemed with perishable things like silver and gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ!" (1 Pet 1:17-19)

He forgave us our trespasses. (Eph 1:7) Our sins are buried in the deepest ocean, separated from us as far as the east is from the west, forgotten by the Father (Ps. 103:12). There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus! (Rom 8:1)

He revealed His will to us. (Eph 1:9) He has big plans for us, earthly as well as heavenly. It is not His custom to give us the entire scenario in advance, but to shine the headlights a certain piece into the distance so we can see the direction we are to travel for the time being.

Article continued inside ➤

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

May 3rd: Church services resumed in the Sanctuary

May 10th: Mother's Day

May 17th: Senior Sunday honoring our graduates

May 25th: Memorial Day, Church Office Closed

June 3rd: Deacons' Meeting

June 7th: Missions Committee Meeting

June 10th: Business Meeting, Children's Ministry Team

Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting

June 21st: Father's Day, The Lord's Supper, No Children's

Church, No Evening Services

July: Begin School Supplies Drive

July 1st: No Fellowship Meal or Evening Services

July 3rd: Church Office Closed

July 4th: Independence Day

July 5th: No Children's Church

July 8th: Business Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting

July 12th: Missions Committee Meeting

July 18th: Serve Event-Christmas in July

August: Distribute School Supplies

Aug. 2nd: Missions Committee Meeting, No Evening Services, Youth
Ministry Team Meeting

Aug. 5th: Deacons' Meeting

Aug. 9th: Children's Ministry Team Meeting

Aug. 12th: Business Meeting, Maintenance Committee Meeting

Aug. 15th: Youth Passport Weekend

Aug. 16th: Back 2 Church Sunday, Lord's Supper, Kids Back 2 School
Bash, Prayer Walk

Aug. 17th: Bangs Schools start

Aug. 30th: Fifth Sunday Breakfast, Sunday School Teacher Training,
Mission Dignity Special Offering, no Children's Church



Be advised all events above are subject to change. Watch for updates!
Please note these Children's activities have been postponed to a later date:
Children's Spring Musical, PreTeen Camp @ HOTBE, Vacation Bible School

Happy Independence Day, Saturday, July 4th!

Words of Encouragement Continued

He gave us an inheritance. (Eph 1:11) We are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ (Rom 8:17). Our heavenly home is "an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Pet 1:4).

He sealed us. (Eph 1:13) We couldn't fall out if we wanted to. We are sealed for all eternity.

The thing to bear in mind is that when we came to God – and that not of our own doing – He loved us and called us and drew us to Himself. Something miraculous and irrevocable happened at that moment. We were born again. We were adopted into God's family. Neither of these processes can ever be undone. Our salvation is His doing, not ours. He is not only the Designer, Implementer and Installer of our salvation; He is also the One who maintains it.

Rest in the Lord. His love, His forgiveness, His salvation, and His promises are all for now...and eternity. They are certain – and they are sure. And they are particularly encouraging in uncertain times.

May you rest in the assurance and comfort of the redundancy of God's blessings.

Bro. Pepper

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS

"I know that you can do anything and no plan of yours can be thwarted."—Job (Job 42:2, CSB)

During this COVID-19, it is easy to lose track of Who is in control. Is it the government? Is it the virus? Is it myself? The answer to the question of who is in control, is God. God is the one in control.

One of my favorite characters in the Bible is Job. I love the story of Job. A man that had everything--not on his own merit, but because of his faithfulness to the LORD. There came a time of testing and through it all--he lost it all. If we stopped right there, the story seems bleak. However, the story doesn't stop there. Even when his "friends" tried to get him to own up to some sort of wrongdoing, Job remained faithful to the LORD.

Another aspect of Job that I love is that Job expresses raw emotions. Job questions God out of frustration with his life situation. The beauty is that God allowed him to vent. HOWEVER, when Job was done, God set him down and questioned Job. It is after Job realizes that He—God—is still in control that he says the words written above: "I know that you can do anything and no plan of yours can be thwarted." Job goes on to say, "Surely I spoke about things I did not understand, things too wondrous for me to know."

So, here is the point: We have no idea what God is doing with COVID-19 and the situations we are in. We can get frustrated. God can take it. We can question God. God can take it. BUT, let us not forget the reality that no plan of God can be thwarted. God was in control when He allowed Satan to test Job and He is in control today.

Stay encouraged church family! We love you and miss you all!!

Seth

Summer 2020:

Because of COVID-19, all our summer activities (Camp, Super Summer, and our Mission trip to Seattle) have been cancelled. However, as the state and local authorities release more guidance on meeting together in groups, we will plan opportunities for the students to meet throughout the summer!

Parents be sure to follow our FBC Bangs Student Facebook page and Instagram for info.



CHILDREN'S NEWS



Hello FBC Family!!!

I miss each of you and I love you dearly!

A lot has changed since our last newsletter. I believe God was preparing our hearts for this time. Read this message from our January Newsletter.

Each new year brings the excitement of new goals, bigger dreams, fresh starts and complete awe of what God has brought us through and wonder in where He is taking us this year! Let's agree together to unite as a body of believers who will allow God to do extraordinary things through Bangs FBC.

I believe that God has strategically placed each of us in our areas of ministry, work, families, etc. Our daily mission field and calling is in our homes, offices, job sites, classrooms, communities and church! Each of us plays a vital role in Kingdom work! Esther 4:14 says "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" Like Esther, Joseph, Joshua, Caleb and many other Heroes of Faith, perhaps we have come to our royal position for such a time as this! I believe that our role as a mom, dad or church member is just as critical as Esther's role as queen. Our families and communities are counting on US!!! I pray each of us will have courageous faith as we actively join together to worship, serve and bear one another's burdens! May the world know that we are His disciples by our love for one another! May God use us this year in extraordinary and mighty ways as we love God and love people with our whole heart!

Isn't that amazing! If you would have told anyone in January how life would be in April, no one would have believed you! Yet, here we are! Regardless of all the whats and whys of this situation, we know that God is in control and is not surprised by one detail of our day.

The best question we can ask God is "How do you want to use me today?" or "What can I do to be your hands and feet?" Perhaps we have come to our royal position for such a time as this and our role is so vital! The church has definitely left the building and we are currently deployed on one of the greatest missions of our lifetime! I pray that you will take advantage of this time to disciple and lead your family in FAITH. Be GRATEFUL! PRAY, BELIEVE and TRUST in Him ALWAYS! Choose JOY! LOVE God and LOVE People with all your HEART!

You are the true First Responders and the front lines of Kingdom Ministry! The joy of the Lord is your strength! Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong. Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 Wash your hands and say your prayers, because Jesus and germs are everywhere,

I love you dearly,

JOY 😊

Summer 2020:

All Kid's activities including the Spring Musical, VBS and Preteen Camp have been postponed. Details to come as soon as possible!

