



FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

Spring, 2012

But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I perceived their end. (Psalms 73:16-17 KJV)

Today

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24 NIV) Today is a very important day, so don't take it lightly. What you do today could affect your entire life. Remember what it says: "Today when you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled." (Hebrews 3:15 NLT) Do what He tells you to do today and don't resist. Be very careful because you could miss out on an opportunity of a lifetime. Tomorrow is not promised to anyone.

Naomi asked [Ruth], where did you gather all this grain today? Whose field have you been working in? May God bless the man who took an interest in you! So Ruth told Naomi that she had been working in a field

belonging to a man named Boaz. (Ruth 2:19 GNB)

You see when you hear his voice today it could lead you to your spouse as it did for Ruth. Opportunities are all around us today. Put yourself in a position to receive it. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house. (Luke 19:5) Zacchaeus climbed up a tree and created an opportunity and Jesus went home with him that day. If you miss an opportunity all you will have is speculation of what it could have been. Therefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? (Matthew 6:30)

Today is all that is promised to us. In Jesus model prayer He said for us to say give us this day our daily bread. Today may not be looking very favorably for you right now but don't count out how the outcome will be. Moses said unto the people, Fear you not, standstill, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. (Exodus 14:13) The Lord would like to deliver you from some stuff today. Both thieves on the cross were having a pretty bad day. They had been sentenced to death but the one on the right accepted Jesus at the end of his life and Jesus said, "Today you will be with me in paradise." Jesus is still at work in our lives today for he says, "At an acceptable time I listened to you, in a day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is the acceptable time. Behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Corinthians 6:2).



The opinions expressed herein does not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Friendship Baptist Church.



God Bless America & Our Troops

Westend Scene

Friendship Baptist Church ushered in the New Year with Watch Night Services. Those who wanted to kick of the night early with invited to dine in the cafeteria before the services began at 10 p.m.. Our hats off to the Kitchen Crew and to the Trustees and

Brotherhood for patrolling the grounds and making sure everyone got a park. The services were opened up by the FBC Praise Team, followed by the Mass Choir singing "You're next in line for a Miracle". The altar was open for Altar Call and the floor was opened up for testimonials for those

who wanted to reflect on the year 2011 and how the Lord had blessed them. The Mass Choir went into Praise and Worship and Pastor Lewis preached the Watch Night sermon, "On the other side of Yonder." Afterward, everyone fellowshiped and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

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Job Promotion

You don't have to hook and crook to make it. Forget all the frills, brown nosing, backstabbing, throat cutting, tail biting, spying, and the other stuff trying to get ahead. Just do the right thing. God blesses those who do the right things. If you do wrong to get what you want you will never be happy. It will always be on your mind and bother you if you have a conscious. The most stress free life you can have is when you have no guilt to deal with.

The boss will recognize you for your honesty and integrity sooner or later. The very ones who try and railroad you will be the ones who will fail. It may seem like they are getting by but fret not as it says in Psalms 37:1-5, 'Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall

soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the lord, and do good; so shall thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shall be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of your heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.'

So wait on your promotion and when it comes, you will find out it will be much greater than if you had rushed it. Jesus was betrayed by Judas who was one of the disciples for thirty pieces of silver. Judas' act of betrayal was wrong but it was in the will of God. The scriptures were fulfilled and now Jesus sits on the throne making intercessions for us. So all the things others may do to you, they may mean it for evil but God can turn

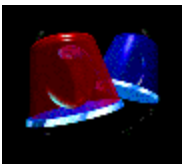
it around for your good.

In Daniel Chapter 3, the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon because of their loyalty and commitment to their God. They wouldn't bow down and worship Nebuchadnezzar's god of Gold. Certain Chaldeans told the king that these men did not follow his decree and the king was displeased and ordered if they didn't bow they would be thrown into the fiery furnace. The men would not compromise and stood on God's deliverance. The king ordered the furnace seven times hotter so much so that it killed those who threw Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in but the son of God was in the midst of them. Because of these men Nebuchadnezzar threw his golden image away and made a decree condemning anyone going against the true God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.



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Community News



Upon leaving the church after ushering in the New Year around 12:30 a.m., anxious to get home and relax before bed, I entered onto I-359 where traffic was backed up. Up ahead I could see flashing blue lights and the first thing to enter my head was there probably was

an accident up ahead. All the traffic was forced over to the two outer lanes and the closer I got to the blue lights I could see there was not an accident and was relieved to discover that but as I looked over to my right, I saw a sign that read "Checking License". Although I had my license and registration, it kind of annoyed me in that they chose the interstate for a road

block. They delayed our commute home for at least thirty minutes to an hour. The state troopers came prepared because they had a patty wagon and personnel available to haul people off to jail. I don't knock the state troopers for doing their job, but couldn't you find another place to do it other than the interstate at 12 o'clock at night. Needless to say, those of us who are not use to staying up pass 12 mid-

night had a little problem the next day when we had to get up and go back to church. Talking about waking up on the wrong side of the bed was an understatement. I wish our law enforcement would have been a little more considerate of our time and efforts on that night and would reconsider the next time you decide to set up a road block on a major interstate unless you are looking for a criminal who has broken the law and not us law abiding citizens.

Living for the City

Good Times was a show that depicted good times and bad times living in the City of Chicago. John in Revelations 21 and 22 talked about three cities of good and bad times. First he talks about the Holy City {Good Times} that new Jerusalem where there will be no more tears, no more death, no sorrow, crying, or pain. The Glory of God is the light and the foundations of the wall of the city are garnished with all manner of precious stones, jasper and the like. The gates are pearl and the streets are gold and there is no temple for the Lord God Almighty because the Lamb is the temple. The city has no need of the sun or

moon to shine it, for the Lamb is the light and the ones written in the Lamb's book of life shall walk in the light of it. {Good Times}. There is a pure river of life, crystal clear, flowing out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. The tree of life bares twelve manner of fruits and yield every month and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. {Good Times}.

Secondly, John talks about that place for those who are not found written in the book of life. {Bad Times}. These are the ones John described the fearful, unbelievers, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolaters, and liars shall

have their part in the lake which burn with fire and brimstone. Isaiah 5:14 says, "Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoice, shall descend into it. {Bad Times}.

Then he talked about that city where we live, he that is unjust, let him be unjust still, and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still, and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still, and he that is holy let him be holy still. Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have a right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city. For truly, we

who are in this tent do give out cries of weariness, for the weight of care which is on us; not because we do desire to be free from the body, but so that we may have our new body and death may be overcome by life. 1 Corinthians 5:4. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me. 2 Peter 1:13-14.

Are you living for that Holy City? Many are not thinking about the Holy City but are only living for the city here and now, the good times. The Good Times is living your life so that if the unthinkable happens today you will be free in Christ Jesus tomorrow.

Ain't we lucky we got 'em. Good Times.

The Aftermath of Sin

How do Christians handle the aftermath of sin? I'm talking about when we really mess up and there is no easy fix. Things may never be the same again. You feel horrible. It makes you want to go into hiding. Sometimes the sin is not even out in the open but just the thought of what could be could cause stress and anxiety. Just living day to day with the guilt and shame can affect those you come in contact with. It's a battle, a struggle, a weakness deep down you know you need to overcome. You need help.

We look at David

who was loved dearly by God from the heart. A devout man of God who was caught up in adultery and battle with the sins he had committed. He did a good job in keeping it from those he knew, but deep down he knew God saw it all. David said, "When I refused to confess my sin, I was weak and miserable, and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. (Psalm 32:3-4 NLT). David said this was the worse

time of his life. He was trying to deal with the aftermath on his own. 24/7 he was miserable and he couldn't sleep.

This is usually the result of trying to carry the burdens of sin. You try to fight it but the temptation is too strong. You find yourself making excuses for your inability to stop. All of his schemes failed to rectify his situation. David said I was the one who stole Uriah's wife and had him killed. I was the one who took that man's pet ewe lamb and dressed it and killed it selfishly. Sin had blinded me. David

has a remedy for what to do when we are dealing with the aftermath of sin.

David's struggles can help our struggles. He said, "Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the LORD." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone." (Psalm 32:5 NLT). Confession is good for the soul. Just as David did, do likewise. Pour all your sins out to the Lord and stop trying to hide them from Him. A matter of fact David said his strength was gone because of the discipline of God. God is waiting on us to repent so the healing can begin.

Full of Leaves

People will try and get over on you. Therefore, we always have to be on our P's and Q's. They will try and sell themselves as though they are legitimate. They can be really slick.

Carlo Ponzi was an Italian immigrant who bilked millions of dollars out of thousands of hopeful investors in the 1920s, in what has since become known as a Ponzi Scheme. These types of people are very cunning and they are good at what they do. Some have been at it so long that it just comes naturally to

them. Many persons have lost all their assets due to these ponzi schemes. Similarly as being taken to the cleaners in the real world, there are those pretenders in the spiritual world.

The bible says "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? By their fruit you will know them. Matthew 7:16, 20. They don't possess the type of fruit they are perpetrating. They want to act like they have your best interest at heart, but beware. Oh they

got it going on teaching, preaching and knowing just what to say to tantalize the ears. Jesus said, "For you are like white-washed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness." Matthew 23:27b.

Matthew wrote, "It was early in the morning and Jesus was hungry and on his way to another city when he noticed the fig tree that had no figs on it, but it was full of leaves." Matthew 21:18-19a. Jesus is tired of unproductivity. You full of

leaves and He wants some fruit. What can He do with leaves? Don't try to fool people. You will never get ahead because the Lord can't be spiritually bilked. People will leave when there are only leaves coming from the word. People want to eat from the spiritual fruit of the word. A word that is truly from God will draw you to Him, not drive you away. Woe is me! For I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleaning of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the first ripe fruit. Micah 7:1.

We have to eat to sustain life and when there is no food to eat, we have to go to where the food is.

Poor Rich Folk

She gave all of her living, everything she had to live off. She didn't worry about her bills, or how she was going to eat; she just gave in faith. She didn't say I'll give one coin and keep the other coin for something else, but she gave both. One thing about this woman was that she gave it proudly as though she was giving like those who had much. She stood out among the rest in what she gave.

What would our reaction be? We tend to look at the abundance that is put into the tithes box. Our conversations would be, "Child did you see that woman put those two pennies into the tithes box. She

knew better than that. What can the Lord do with two pennies?" We need to change our way of looking at things and look at it through spiritual eyes.

The scripture says, Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor

widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on. Mark 12:41-44.

To give from our hearts capture the attention of the Lord more than our casual giving. The bible teaches us when we give, to give cheerfully and not grudgingly. It says that if there is something standing in the way of our giving to go and get that straightened out first and then come and give. When we realize we don't own anything and everything we have belongs to Him,

we will have a different attitude about our giving.

The rich man thought he had reached all the requirements to enter in, but Jesus said go and sell all you have, give to the poor, and follow Me, you'll have treasure in heaven, but he couldn't find it in his heart to fulfill His request. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. Mark 10:17-22.



What are we up too?

Prayer and Praise Services. Bible Study classes are every Wednesday night at 6 p.m. Youth Study is at the Activity Center

Friendship on Facebook. √ us Out!!!

Connect with other church members and even members who may be overseas or in other parts of the globe. You can also connect with people from other churches and faith or the unchurched.

Calendar of Events

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| 1/10/2012 | 6:00pm | Quarterly Meeting |
| February | 10:45am | Black History Month Sunday Program |
| 3/11/2012 | 10:45pm | Youth Day |
| 4/9/2012 | | Easter |

"Everyone's Welcome Aboard the Ship"



Primary Business Address
3416 8th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Phone: 205-759-5044
Pastor's Home: 205-343-1865
Fax: 205-759-5439
Activity Center: 205-759-5028

Church Parking

Parking designated as Phoenix House Parking Only should not be utilized for FBC functions. Please honor their requests by not parking in those spaces in and around the Phoenix House property. Thank you. Church parking consists of the parking lot A across from Phoenix House, the parking lot B across from the church, the parking lot C across the street from the Activity Center on 8th street, the parking lot D between the Education Building and Activity Center off 7th street, and parking lot E across the street on 7th Street in the Indian Rivers parking lot.



Now, they're trying to tell us where to park.

