A Publication of Faith Fellowship Church

Faith News

Fall Ministries 2017 September - November

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The Importance of Knowing What We Believe And Why by Pastor John

You have heard me use the term: The Essentials of the Historic Christian Faith several times recently from the pulpit. I would like to take this opportunity to share what that means.

The essentials of the faith are a condensation of the major creeds found both within and outside the Bible itself. When times of crisis or differences in understanding arose in the early church, they would call church councils that would decide what the scriptures taught about certain subjects. The councils resulted in creeds that progressed from the early forms of the Apostles Creed to the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. The unity of these creeds can be found in the statement: One Bible, two testaments, three confessions, four councils, and five centuries. From that point, there are divergents with the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic churches accepting other councils and drawing from other sources.

From here we can boil down the essentials to these generally accepted statements: 1. Human depravity, 2. Christ's virgin birth, 3. Christ's sinlessness, 4. Christ's deity, 5. Christ's humanity, 6. God's unity, 7. God's triunity, 8. The necessity of God's grace, 9. The necessity of faith, 10. Christ's atoning death, 11. Christ's bodily resurrection, 12. Christ's bodily ascension, 13. Christ's present High Priestly service, and 14. Christ's second coming, final judgment and reign.

In this we get:

1. The inerrancy of the Bible; 2. The depravity of man; 3. Christ's virgin birth; 4. Christ's sinless life; 5. Chris's deity and humanity; 6. God's unity; 7. God's trinity; 8. The death the burial; 9. The Resurrection; 10. The ascension; 11. The second coming; 12. The final judgment

These essentials form the foundation for what we believe, and have believed since the time of Jesus. They followed the dictum: In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things charity. That is to say, they stood in unity with those things that were essential, with the non-essentials, they would have preferences but would not break fellowship over disagreements, and above always, the love of Christ had to prevail, charity.

There are three major reasons for identifying the essentials: First, they give us something to be in unity on. Secondly, they help us identify "Christian" cults, groups that believe some of what we believe but deny one or more of the essentials. Third, they give us a guide when it is necessary to divide. Division over truth is far better than unity in error.

Why do we call them essentials? We call them essentials because we believe them to be essential, either for salvation, or for proper adherence to scripture. For instance, arguably, one cannot be saved if they deny the deity, humanity, or sinlessness of Christ. Can they, however be saved if they reject the idea of eternal damnation of the lost? Some would argue yes, while generally, I would argue that some of the essentials can have wiggle room. It is imperative, however that those that deal with the person and work of Christ, Biblically, must be believed and declared to obtain salvation.

In a world where everything is questioned and boundaries are fluid and constantly changing, it is important, as keepers of the faith, that we know what and why we believe what we believe. What we believe was handed to us directly from Jesus, through the Apostles, the early Fathers, and the saints that went before. It is imperative that we care for and hand down the essentials of the faith to those that follow us.

Getaway for Couples Feb. 23-25

weekend to remember

Register at: familylifeministries.org/ weekend-to-remember/

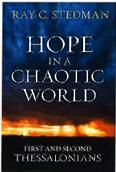
Use group name FFCFamily to get \$100 off.

get away. come together.

Questions: See Pastor Josh

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES

Join Pastor John Wednesdays mornings at 10 a.m. for a continued Walk Through the Bible study. Great discussion! Begins 9/6



It's a challenge to live in a world filled with so many problems and temptations. But know that you are not alone. The believers in first-century Thessalonica faced many of the same issues we do. They were persecuted, discouraged, and tempted to compromise with the culture around them. The apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to encourage their hearts and plead with them to remain faithful to what they had been taught. Now, Ray Stedman walks you through 1 and 2 Thessalonians to encourage you to hold firm to Christ's teachings until He comes again

Pastor John will resume this study on Wednesday, September 6 at 6:15 p.m.





PHILLIP BETHANCOURT & ANDREW T WALKE

BERLC

tected. Now, religious liberty is often seen as a threat to an increasingly secularized culture. Join us for this six-week study to explore why religious liberty matters to the church, what is the Scriptural basis for it and how we can equip ourselves to more effectively interact with the secular world.

What happens when religious liberty declines in

enjoyed near universal consensus and was not con-

sidered partisan. First Amendment protections of religious freedom used to be prioritized and pro-

a culture? In previous times, religious liberty

Study begins Monday morning September 18 @ 9:30 a.m. See Patti Thielen for more information or sign-up in the commons.



Seamless covers the people, places, and promises of the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of Scripture. Whether you've grown up hearing Bible stories or you're exploring Scripture for the first time, the full story of the Bible can be overwhelming.

Experience the Bible as a whole as you gain clarity and confidence in your understanding of Scripture. Discover a biblical context that reshapes and brings to life stories from the Old and New Testaments.

Sunday School Class "Divas Digging Deeper" will begin this study on October 15. Taught by Lisa Baab.

Cost of book will be approximately \$13

Sunday School classes offered, Sunday's at 9:30 a.m.

Bill's Brothers - Men's class

Senior Ambassadors - Over 50 class, but all are always welcome.

Women at the Well - Ladies class

Friendship Class - Co-ed adult class currently study: Hebrews

Co-ed Class - current study: Daniel

Young Adult Class - current study book: Jaded. Rediscovering Hope in Reality. What happens when idealism intersects with reality?

Diva's Digging Deeper - Ladies class. Current study: Believing Jesus by Lisa Haper

High School, Middle School and classes for kids ages birth-5th gr.

In Due Season

http://shortdailydevotions.com/galatians-69-in-due-season/

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

(Galatians 6:9 ESV)

In agriculture, there are about four months between planting and harvesting. During this time the farmer waters and fertilizes, but doesn't yet get to enjoy the benefits of his harvest. This can be similar in our lives, and Paul knew this first hand. He had spent time in Galatia sharing the Gospel of Christ and a church was born. However, it seemed only to hear later that they were close to departing from the very faith by which they'd been saved. But Paul would not grow tired of doing good, and knew that he would reap the benefit of his continual love for the church in the future.

You may be a parent loving the child who has decided to leave all the values you taught him, or her. Paul encourages you not to be weary and keep loving and praying for them. Maybe your parents aren't followers of Jesus and reject any idea of becoming one. Paul encourages you not to become weary and continue loving and praying for them.

It is easy to do good and not give up when we can reap immediate rewards. But, there is a spiritual reward we will reap in heaven, if not on this earth, that we can look forward to as Paul did with the many churches he fathered. Don't be discouraged if you feel like your good deeds are going unnoticed.

Paul wrote that we should not give up, for in due season we will reap. What an encouragement!



WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY CHURCH MEALS, AWANA & BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday @ 5 pm, starting September 6 through May, we serve dinner. This is not an 'Awana' meal, but a church-wide & community meal. A time to join together mid-week to fellowship and eat together. This meal serves a great purpose in allowing those who work and those who don't, to relax and gather for a meal. Take an evening to come together in fellowship before we 'go' and serve, or attend a Bible study.

We encourage all of you to come out and get to know each other better. Sit at a different table each week and have great conversations with families you might not know.

AWANA - Each Wednesday @ 6 pm <u>A</u>pproved <u>W</u>orkman <u>A</u>re <u>N</u>ot <u>A</u>shamed

Awana clubs are for kids ages 3 through 6th grade.

A club where kids learn God's Word and hide it in their

hearts. A club where leaders of all ages develop relationships with kids that are not their own. A club where kids learn how to be a team; playing fun games where they earn points as a team, not as individuals. If you have children in these age groups, don't miss out on this great experience.

I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalm 119:11



And they
devoted
themselves to
the apostles'
teaching and
the fellowship,
to the breaking
of bread and the
prayers.
Acts 2:42

Bible Study each Wednesday morning & evening!

Join Pastor John each Wednesday at 10 am for a continued 'Walk through the Bible" study. Meets in the Chapel

Each Wednesday evening at 6:15 (following the evening meal & clean-up) Pastor John will continue in the study of "Hope in a Chaotic World". Even though this is a continuation of the spring study, you can join in at any time. Also meets in the Chapel.



HOW CAN I SERVE?

Join a weekday or Sunday ministry team to as we continue to welcome new visitors. Check out all the areas of serving opportunities. We'll provide the training; you provide the servant's heart. Here are some of the areas needed during this current fall season:

Guest Services Ushers, Greeters

Facilities General cleaning & lawn care

Hospitality kitchen coordinator

Wednesdays Serving & cleanup for our weekly meal.

Worship Sound, slides, recording, singers & instrumentalists

IT Computer, TV & screen updates
CARE Hospital and/or in home visits

Contact the church office at ffc@goffc.org or 598-6734 to get plugged in.



FOR THE KIDS!

KINGDOM KIDS 252 KIDS

In September, the 252 KIDS theme will be Friendship: using your words and actions to show others you care. The memory verse will be: "A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes." Proverbs 17:17 NIRV

God desires a relationship with us. That's why He created us in the first place. When we sinned and broke that relationship, God continued to pursue us. God sacrificed His only Son to make it possible for us to have a relationship with Him again.

Jesus demonstrated friendship in the most generous way possible. He showed us the greatest love when He laid down His life for His friends. He went to the cross, not on principle or for a cause, but because of love and wanting to be with us forever.



Friendship is a reflection of the character of God.



In October, the Kingdom Kids theme will be Stewardship: taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. The memory verse will be: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." Luke 16:10A, NIV

In Psalm 24:1, we read, the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, (NIV). In other words, whatever we have isn't really ours. God created the entire world—the land and sea, planets and galaxies, animals and people. And when people create, those people do so because of the gift and talents that God gave them. It's

our job to take care of what God has loaned us for a time to use in order to bring Him glory.

Jesus put stewardship into action. He used the time He had on earth wisely, never wasting a moment, but always working towards God's plan. He used what He had—from bread and fish, to dirt and spit—to perform miracles, helping people see and eat. Everything Jesus did showed us how we can take care of God's stuff by using it the way that points people to God and fulfills the mission God has for our lives.

KINGDOM KIDS FIRST LOOK!

September is Super Kids month! All kids want to be Super Kids, and they can be when they realize that God is always with them. Because God is with them, they can be brave. Because God is with them, they can be strong. Because God is with them, they can be courageous. Because God is with them, they can be wise.



We will start our Super Kid month with the story of Elijah and

the fire. The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be brave." Then, the children will meet one of the strongest women in the Bible, Esther. The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be strong. In week three, preschoolers will meet another

woman from the Bible, Rahab, and learn how her trusting God kept two spies safe. The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be courageous." We'll finish the month with the story of Joshua and how he knocked down a city wall by just walking around it! The story focus is "when God is with me, I can be wise."

In October, we know things are going to happen in our preschoolers' lives where they will need God's help—times when

their lives will zig one way and then zag another. We want them



to grow up believing that God loves them and can help them anywhere, with anything, no matter how hard it may be. He can even help them help others!

We will start the month learning about the life of David and how even when it zigged and zagged, God was there to help him. We will begin with David as a boy in a field with his sheep. In week two, we will see that David had proved that he was brave and strong by protecting his sheep and defeating Goliath so King Saul asked him to lead his troops into battle. In week three, preschoolers will hear about David's good friend, Jonathan. David and Jonathan shared so many experiences and were close friends. It was VERY hard when they had to say good-bye to one another. We will end the month learning how David praised God after He helped him. David danced and played music to show thanks to God for all His help.

SUNday FUNday Folders - Parents! Have you seen your child's folder? Kingdom Kids are given a 'take home' folder

for lessons, announcements & other important papers to be sent home. Inside the folder explains the point system. After Sunday School, kids move to the Kingdom Kids Store & Café where they can spend the points they've accumulated. They spend about 15 minuets in there playing games, buying a snack or buying a fun toy with their points. Points can be earned in many ways.

Check out their folder! Talk about what they learned using the parent cue.





Operation Christmas Child - Shoebox Items, submitted by Linda Widener

During the fall months, we will be collecting toys, clothing items, school supplies and games. If you are shopping for your children or grandchildren, please keep the 'Shoebox kids' in mind. I am encouraging parents to purchase items when their child is with them and to share the importance of giving to someone to further God's kingdom.

We have placed a collection bin for these items in the Commons area. Just look for the poster!

Needs for the fall months: Lots of everything listed above! If you see something on sale, please consider donating to our Shoebox mission. If you would like to donate to our cause, please notify Linda Widener at your earliest convenience. Also, a donation jar has been placed at the Kingdom Kids check-in area.

Remember, our goal is to pack 100 boxes in 2017!! Thank you!

DEADLINE TO BRING COMPLETED SHOEBOXES IN- November 19

Remember to include \$9 to help with shipping OR purchase a label online and track your box.

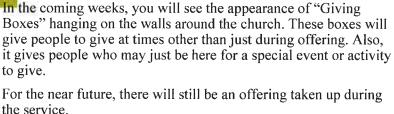


Kingdom Kids will be having a packing party during Sunday School on 11/12 using items that have been donated all year.

Deadline to donate items - November 12

what's new?

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Remember! You can also give online by going to: http://goffc.org/programs/tithes-and-offerings/

COMPLETED
BOXES DUE:
NOVEMBER 19

DONATIONS
DUE BY
NOVEMBER 12

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give.
And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure.
"For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.""

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NLT)

Counseling available on site here at Faith Fellowship.

AL-ANON group meets each Wednesday morning from 10-11 a.m. in room 204

(upper level)



AL-ANON for families & friends of alcoholics

Contact the office for more information or contact the group leader Sandy: 574-4810 sboehle4@gmail.com

IMPACT Counseling

Affordable • Professional

Christian

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call:

Jeanne Mesker, M.A., LPCC

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor

Providing help for the hurting in an affordable confidential setting.

Professional clinical counseling from a Christian perspective.

Sliding scale fees are determined by family income. (no insurance accepted)



SEE YOU AT THE POLE

FIX OUR EYES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

SEE YOU AT THE POLES 2017

Wednesday September 27 before school!

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2)

This challenge was written to a group of believers who were losing their drive, their energy, their zeal, and their passion. They had allowed their focus to drift toward themselves rather than on Christ. Distractions were weighing them down and making them ineffective in their walk with JESUS.

Does this sound like our culture today? Relevant to where we are as a nation? Distracted? Losing focus? Weighed down? Apathetic with no real spiritual passion?

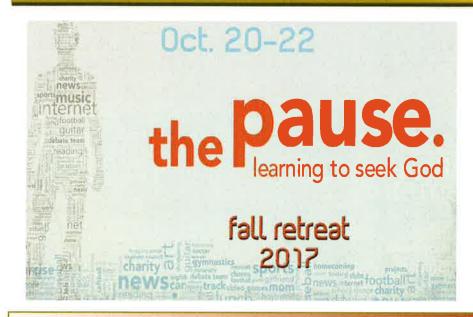
So what do we do? How do we respond? What about your generation? Your campus? What about you? Do we need a fresh passion for Christ? To rally around a renewed focus?

Are you ready to "throw off everything that hinders" and "run with perseverance" for Christ?

To Fix Our Eyes; mean placing the focus of our hearts only on Christ. This will require getting rid of everything and anything that will slow us down as we run our life's race for Him.

God is painting a big story on a huge canvas and YOU are right in the middle of His work. There is no one any more significant in His plan than YOU! He desires to use YOU for His glory! There is no better place to begin than surrendering yourself completely to Him and calling your friends to pray with you for awakening and revival—right where you are, right now. God has placed you in this generation for His purpose!

FALL RETREAT



Where: Lakeview Villages
Seymour, Indiana
Cost: \$55 in September
\$65 in October
\$200 family Max.

To sign up, pick up a registration packet in the youth room or see Pastor Josh.

*Payment must be turned in with form.
Scholarships available.

FLIPSIDE FALL SERIES

Join us Sunday nights as we discover God's crazy love for us in this video series, from the book, Crazy Love, from author and pastor, Francis Chan. flipside
fall
lesson
series

flipside

sunday nights
at 6 pm!

control

con

^{*}For more detailed information on FlipSide events and times. Pick up a copy of the Parent Inside Fall Newsletter!

E GROUPS

Life Groups are the heart and soul of FFC. It is where the body of Christ can gather together throughout the week and literally do life together! Through reflection on God's Word, fellowship, prayer and so much more, Life Groups allow each member to stay connected, feel loved and grow in Christ! Join one today!



CURRENT LIFE GROUPS!

Delhi Life Group:

Meets each Wednesday at 6 p.m.

Colerain Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Thursday at 7 p.m.

Engleman Life Group:

Meets once a month at 6 p.m. (dates vary, usually 1st Tuesday)

Bridgetown #1 Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Tuesday at 7 p.m.

FFC Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Sundays at Noon

* For more information on meeting times and places, please contact the

FFC office or stop by the guest services area and pick up a list of

groups currently meeting!

Bridgetown #2 Life Group:

Meets 1 and 3 Thursday at 7 p.m.

Young Adult Life Group:

Meets Wednesdays

& LEADER

John D. Wodetzki

Senior Pastor pastorjohn@goffc.org

Josh Taylor

Family Pastor joshtaylor@goffc.org

Jon Bush

Associate Pastor jonbush@goffc.org

Ashley McDonough

Worship Leader ashley@goffc.org

Mike Peppers

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Karen Green

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Tom Foozer

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Brian Baab

Lead Elder brianbaab@goffc.org

Rob Wibbelsman

Lead Deacon robwibbelsman@goffc.org

Scott Houser

Men's Ministries scotthouser@goffc.org **Cheryl Ferguson**

Children's Ministries cherylferguson@goffc.org

Linda Widener

Children's Ministries lindawidener@goffc.org

Lani Peppers

Guest Services lanipeppers@goffc.org

Patti Thielen

Women's Ministries pattithielen@goffc.org





Looking for a Kitchen Coordinator. If you are interested in hearing more about this volunteer position, contact the office.

SERMON SERIES



I Believe

The early church established statements of belief to be recited by believers as a way of summarizing many of the doctrinal truths expressed in Scripture. These statements of faith were called creeds. This nine-week sermon series dissects the foundational beliefs in the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." *This series will continue through September*.

UPCOMING SERIES...



Pieces

This six-week series serves as a snapshot of the book of Job, providing comfort and encouragement to those experiencing a difficult circumstance. Have you ever felt broken? Have you ever wondered why? Job's story is often our story. Yet, even in the midst of pain and suffering, we can trust in the power of our creator.



In The World

This four-week sermon series guide uses the story of Daniel, a youth who was transplanted from what was supposed to be a God-fearing nation to a godless one, to answer the question: "Is it possible to be relevant without sacrificing the truths of the gospel?" Applicable for both youth and adults, this series connects Daniel's story to our own to examine how believers can be in the world but not of it. These messages discuss topics like identity, purity, prayer, and courage to show how Christians can live victorious and influential lives as citizens from a different kingdom.



Sundays at 9:30 a.m. for Sunday School • 10:45 a.m. Worship

JOIN US IN PERSON

FFC has been serving the West Side of Cincinnati for almost 200 years, and are glad you are here.

Share this newsletter with a friend or family member!

MONTHLY CALENDARS OF EVENTS

Monthly printable calendars are available on our website at: http://www.goffc.org/calendar/ (right click on the calendar, save image as, then print)

JOIN US ONLINE

Can't join us in person? Our services are streamed online using our YouTube channel, Faith Fellowship Church Cincinnati

Miss a service? You can listen to past messages on our website. http://www.goffc.org/sunday-sermons/

Sharing the journey







