

First Edition

February 2018



First Baptist Church of San Mateo 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas San Mateo, CA 94403 650-345-1965 www.fbcsanmateo.org

Where are you in the matter of *LOVE*?

By Pastor Marc Heinz

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 13, the Apostle Paul proclaims the excellence and superiority of love and at the end of the chapter in verse 13 he writes: “*but now faith, hope, love abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.*”

As I reflected on this beautiful section of Scripture I was reminded yet again of the central or preeminent role that love is intended to play in the lives of God’s people. There is simply no getting around the fact that love should be a defining characteristic in the life of the believer. Now the more I thought about this chapter, especially verse 13, it occurred to me that these three words; faith, hope and love represent the basics or fundamental guiding principles of the Christian life.

In our world today, faith is a word that expresses confidence or a belief in someone or something, but it’s not necessarily a strongly held conviction, nor are people dependent on that in which they place their faith. But for the Christian, the object of our faith is Almighty God, Creator of Heaven and Earth. The word faith is not only descriptive of our ongoing, dynamic relationship with God, but it also expresses our dependence on Him.

Faith is all about relationship and it is the very foundation on which our lives in Christ are built.

To the world, the word hope speaks of something that is desired that may or may not occur. However, when the word hope appears in the New Testament, it’s always centered on God and the basis for our hope is found in the gracious work of God in Jesus Christ. Therefore, our hope is based on some-

thing that is solid, and it should bring the expectation of something good. Hope allows us to be confident and certain in an uncertain world. Hope is the assurance that the One we love and in Whom we place our faith is alive and we can be certain that we will spend eternity with Him.

Scripture makes it very plain that a distinguishing characteristic of a true follower of Jesus Christ is love for God and love for others, even those who are difficult. I believe that you can’t have hope or faith until you first love as God commands. In 1 John 4:7-22 we read:

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. We have come to know and have believed the love, which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this, love is perfected with us,

so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love. We love, because He first loved us. If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”

In John’s day, love was either a philosophical concept or a positive attraction to someone or something. There were four different words used by the Greeks to describe love. Now when the early Christians wanted to describe what they experienced in Jesus’ love they took the weakest of these Greek words - agape, and ascribed a new meaning to it. This word’s meaning is fully developed in 1 John. But in essence, it means a commitment to care, regardless of reciprocity or reception. I would guess that this definition of love is much different than the way many Christians today would define love. Because love Jesus’ style demands that we care for those who hurt us or treat us badly. Our love is to be modeled after Jesus, who loved those who mocked Him, spit on Him and even killed Him. On the cross Jesus was the epitome of Christian love.

Love is the centerpiece for all Christian existence and experience. And in 1 John we are told to receive God’s love and then pass it on, as widely and effectively as we can.
(Continued on page 2)

("Where are you," continued) fectively as possible. In a sense, love is to be cyclical in nature. If we would simply recognize God's great love for us and live in that reality it would change everything!

If you let it, God's love will not only change you but it will transform your relationships. It will shape you and mold you. It will be evident in your speech and all your dealings with other people. But it all begins by developing a personal relationship with God and allowing Him and His Word to shape your life. It's making love for God your priority.

In Revelation 2 the church at Ephesus is described. The Ephesian church was an active church, busy in the service of God and people. It was famous for its hard work, diligence and conscientiousness. It is the kind of church most of us would love to be a part of. Yet, in Revelation 2:4 it was charged by Jesus with losing it's first love: God. And this was so significant that they were in jeopardy of losing everything they had.

We dare not be naïve and think that we can allow anyone or anything other than God to be our priority and not face the same consequences that the church at Ephesus did. Folks, gaining or losing that first love is the key to life and death.

So when you examine the basic fundamentals of your life, what do you see? Are you on track? Is your heart undivided? Is the Lord truly your first love? Are you growing in faith, hope and love? Let's be people who not only understand the basics of the Christian life, let's be people who want to put them into practice each and every day! Amen?

"Let the glory of the LORD endure forever. Let the LORD be glad in His works; He looks at the earth, and it trembles.; He touches the mountains, and they smoke.

"I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

"Let my meditation be pleasing to Him; As for me, I shall be glad in the LORD. . . . Bless the LORD, O my soul. Praise the LORD."

Psalm 104:31-35



Sign Up Now
**BASS CHURCH
WORKERS
CONVENTION**
March 1-3
Hosted at Redwood
Chapel
19300 Redwood Rd.
Castro Valley, CA

**FBC has provided this opportunity
free of charge to you.
Information from BASS**

FBC of San Mateo has registered and is covering the cost for those who attend the conference. Please use www.bassconvention.org to register. Here is the code you need to get your Express Pass.

AYTJJ

**Carpooling information
will be coming soon.**



**Teen Challenge Is Coming to
First Baptist Church
February 4, 2018**

Breakfast - 8:45 a.m.



Combined Service - 10 a.m.

FBC Youth Winter Retreat 2018 (January 3-6, 2018)

By Doug Andrews

In January, we took our youth to the Sierras to spend time together away from the busyness and distractions of Bay Area life. We had the great opportunity to spend quality time with God through prayer, worship, Bible study, and fun games/adventures each day.

We studied through Romans 5-8 helping our students to really understand how to read God's word for themselves and through it how God guides us in our daily lives. In this passage we examined how Jesus' death and resurrection really accomplishes everything we need. We now have access to God and all the power and help we must have to overcome sin and trials every day. During our Bible study time, we always try to give our students time to per-

sonally interact with God and His word. We have seen the real results that as kids spend time with God, He speaks to them in so many ways and answers their hearts questions. In our busy and complicated world, it is so easy for kids to get caught up in the mindset that a full life is a fulfilled life. But giving them time to be alone with God begins to show them that there is a better way to live, which is with Him in real and deep relationship.

We also had fun playing games, going on daily adventures together, and just hanging out. God is so amazing and we saw Him work in wonderful ways as He spoke and revealed Himself to students.

The Amazing Result of Righteous Anger

By Doris Waddell

I've been re-reading the "Treasure of Hymn Histories" by Alfred Smith, published first in 1981, but many of the hymns were written about were written long before that, and Alfred Smith spent years interviewing the writers, learning the amazing inspiration that resulted in the hymns.

The one that captured my attention was "He Lives." What prompted its writing was the righteous anger of "Rev. Alfred Ackley as he was getting ready for the service in his Presbyterian Church in California.

The year was 1932 and radio was the great communicator. "And he heard the announcer say, 'We now join . . . for a special program originating in New York City.'" The speaker was a well known preacher "who was known for his liberal thinking." Here's what he said: "Good morning - it's Easter. You know, folks, it really doesn't make any difference to me if Christ be risen or not. As far as I'm concerned, His body could be as dust in some Palestine tomb. The main thing is, His Truth goes marching on."

Rev. Ackley's response was anger - very righteous anger, shouting so loud his wife was concerned. But that morning and evening services he preached - well - as he told his wife, "I gave them a second barrel." And his wife lovingly calmed him down by suggesting, "You do what you can do best." And "He Lives" was the result.

I thank God for this hymn that is being sung even in 2018, the beautiful response to righteous anger.

"I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today; I know that He is living, whatever men may say; I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer, And just the time I need Him He's always near.

Chorus: "He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart."

There are two more verses, but more than likely, we'll be singing this hymn soon. Maybe this would be a good time to start practicing. What do you think?



Paul's Prayer for the Ephesian Church:

"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might." Ephesians 1:18-19

OUR MISSIONARIES AT WORK

Thank you for your prayer and support. We are so grateful for you! Thank you for praying for our winter conference in Washington, DC. About 20 of us from Sacramento joined 750 international students from over 80 nations from December 28th to January 1st. It was a fantastic time of encouragement from God's word.

Now that we are back, our students seem very motivated to welcome the new international students coming for the new semester. The photo shows our welcome table at one of the community colleges. Four of the six students behind the table went to the conference. We have given out around 170 gifts to new international students on 10 different campuses in our area this month. We invited these new students to come to our International Students Dinner last Friday night where they heard the testimony of a student from Ireland that has

From Alan and Audrey
come to Christ.

This Friday night we will go bowling with many of the new students. Please pray that we can build good relationships with the new students and continue to share the Good News with them.

The young woman second from the right in the photo, Van from Vietnam, came to Christ a couple of years ago and has been meeting Audrey weekly for discipleship. She just finished college and is going to Cru Intern Training this weekend. After that she will begin raising her financial and prayer support. When her support team is complete, she will join our ministry team as an intern and she will help us full time to win, build and send international students for Christ. Please pray for the Lord to bless Van with a wonderful support team just as you have been a wonderful support team for Audrey and me. Thank you!



FBC Youth

FBC YOUTH Service- Sunday Mornings 11:00 - 12:15 pm

Games, fun, worship, and our next teaching direction for our Sunday youth group meeting is going to focus on Exploring God's word and integrating knowing Christ into our daily lives.

College/Career Fellowship - Sundays 12:30-2:00 pm

Part 3 of our "True University Series" - Who is Jesus? As always, we have great discussions together about the topic we are discussing but are relating it to our own personal relationship in knowing Jesus. Lunch provided.

FBC YOUTH Mid-Week - Combined CAD and TNT (High/Jr.

High) - Tuesday Nights 7:15 - 9:00 pm Our teaching direction for our mid-week youth group meeting focusing on "Walking with the Lord" in our lives.



Men's Breakfast
February 3, 8:30 a.m.
In the Chapel
ALL MEN are welcome.




Have you ever considered honoring a loved one by providing a bouquet of flowers for the sanctuary? Several dates are available. Sign up in the notebook on the counter in the narthex. We ask and appreciate a \$40 gift for each arrangement.

The office staff will order your bouquet to be delivered -- so convenient, and so appreciated by your loved ones.



- . 1: Michael Geitner
Barbara Shelton
- Feb. 17: David Shong
- Feb. 18: Candace Heinz
- Feb. 26: Ron Thomas
- Feb. 28: Skip Hoard

February 2018

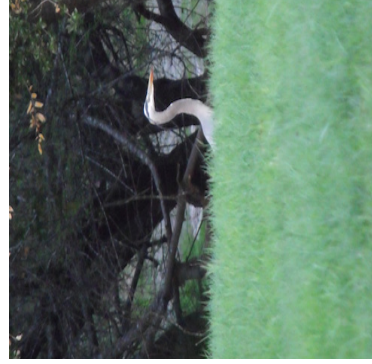
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 8:30am Men's Breakfast
	SUNDAY MORNINGS: 9:30am Bible Studies for Children and Adults Contemporary Style Worship 11:00am Bible Studies for Adults and All Youth Classical Style Worship After Church: College/Career Study & Fellowship					
4 Teen Challenge Breakfast at 8:45 am Combined Service 10:00 am Communion	5	6 7pm FBC Youth	7 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	8	9	10
11 12:30pm Children's Ministry Meeting	12	13 7pm FBC Youth	14 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	15	16	17
18	19  Church Office Closed	20 7pm FBC Youth	21 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	22	23 6:30pm Movie Night	24
25	26	27 7pm FBC Youth	28 6:30pm Bible Study 6:30pm AWANA	All Events Are Subject to Change.		

FBC Women's Winter Retreat March 16, 17, 18



Title:
“Encountering God”

Beautiful surroundings



**Wonderful food and fellowship
And a fun time for all!**

To register, see Sandy Murray or Sheryn Cockett.

Registration begins Feb. 11th. Deadline is Sunday, March 11.



First Baptist Church
 2801 Alameda de las Pulgas
 San Mateo, California 94403

Daily Bible Readings

The following Bible readings are provided by biblegateway.com for our use.

February

Thurs.	1	Leviticus 7-9
Fri.	2	Leviticus 10-12
Sat.	3	Leviticus 13-15
Sun.	4	Leviticus 16-18
Mon.	5	Leviticus 19-21
Tues.	6	Leviticus 22-24
Wed.	7	Leviticus 25-27
Thurs.	8	Numbers 1-3
Fri.	9	Numbers 4-6
Sat.	10	Numbers 7-9
Sun.	11	Numbers 10-12
Mon.	12	Numbers 13-15
Tues.	13	Numbers 16-18
Wed.	14	Numbers 19-21
Thurs.	15	Numbers 22-24
Fri.	16	Numbers 25-27
Sat.	17	Numbers 28-30
Sun.	18	Numbers 31-33
Mon.	19	Numbers 34-36
Tues.	20	Deuteronomy 1-3
Wed.	21	Deuteronomy 4-6
Thurs.	22	Deuteronomy 7-9
Fri.	23	Deuteronomy 10-12
Sat.	24	Deuteronomy 13-15
Sun.	25	Deuteronomy 16-18
Mon.	26	Deuteronomy 19-21
Tues.	27	Deuteronomy 22-24
Wed.	28	Deuteronomy 25-27



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FRIDAY
 February 22nd
 6:30 P.M.

Popcorn, hotdogs,
 and drinks are
 provided.

Bring a
 dessert or
 salad to share

Movie begins at
 7:00 P.M.

When her Amish sister dies suddenly, a big city journalist moves her five young Amish neices and nephews to the city and finds that tradition and progress come into sharp conflict.