

# Falls Fellowship



*Sunrise at Jekyll Island, GA by Sara Powell.*

## Fire ... is hot!

Everyone would agree that fire is hot. You can test it. Most of us have reaffirmed this from time to time when we've accidentally touched a hot stove. The only way you might find someone who you could tell to touch a hot stove and they won't get burned is someone who has never seen fire. Even then, they will learn fairly quickly fire is hot.

But what if this wasn't an instant lesson? What if you touched a hot stove and didn't get burned until maybe a day later? This is kind of what happened in Genesis 3 when the serpent coaxed Eve into eating from the tree which would give her the knowledge of good and evil. It wasn't long before she got Adam to eat this fruit as well, and the consequences came when God came back to the garden.

I am seeing correlations to this part of the Bible everywhere I go nowadays. Inappropriate actions which have no immediate consequences have become the norm because everyone else is doing them. If no one is being taught these things are wrong, they just proliferate throughout

*See Fire on page 3*

## Go Into All the World

You have heard me talk about my father and how he led me to become a follower of Christ.

My mother was also very influential in my spiritual development. She was the mission-minded one



in the family. She helped me to memorize Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." I have quoted from the King James Version of the Bible because that's how I learned it. The occasion for my learning the Great Commission was my mother's teaching Vacation Bible School. She taught us about missions, our responsibility to share in the Great

*See World on page 4*

## Tithes?

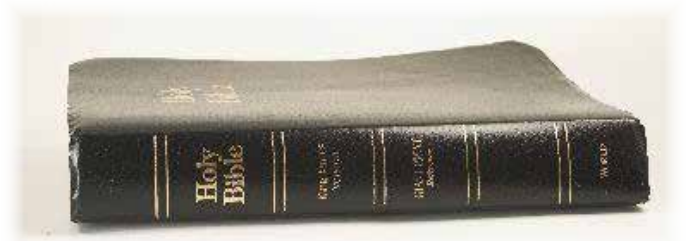
With budget season rapidly approaching, I have thought a lot lately about tithing, why we do it, when, how much. ...? My list of questions keeps going on, but the results of benevolence are obvious. In the role as your Treasurer, you have often heard me say, “Thank you for your generous giving! It helps to pay the bills of the Church when there is money in the bank!”

Recently I was given a publication, *Church Financial Guidebook* published by North Carolina Baptists. This document says, “The correct Biblical concept of money is that God allows us to manage it for him.” (page 1) Every Tuesday the first task I complete is reconciling the Teller’s count sheet to what is entered into the financial software by the Financial Secretary. This is an important responsibility for me as a steward of the money given to the church. I and all the Church leadership take the stewardship of God’s money seriously.

Just like our homes and businesses, the Church requires funds to operate. My next thought is even when I say the money we collect is God’s money, are we just saying that out of some reverence or devotion? The Church Financial Guideline states, “... training for the treasurer to help lead the church and church members to see all money is God’s money. Many people think it is their money, and they give a portion of it to God. The correct Biblical concept of money is that God owns it all and allows us to manage it for him.”

Is that accurate? Let’s see.

What is a tithe? We all have heard the term. We have all perhaps used the word.



A tithe is a specific amount (10 percent of your income) that you give first, and an offering is anything extra you give beyond that.

In the Old Testament, the Israelites were commanded by God to give a tenth of their produce and livestock to support the Levites, who had no inheritance in the land. Tithing was seen as a way to worship and serve God with one’s resources.

New International Version (NIV), Malachi 3:10-12: “Bring the whole tithe (translated as 10 percent, Christian Standard Bible, CSB) into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. 11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the Lord Almighty. 12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the Lord Almighty.

And, Leviticus 27:30 (NIV) says, “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord.”

See a pattern here?

God gives us gifts and a tithe is a sign of our appreciation for those gifts?

However, I can’t help but think Tithing isn’t for God’s benefit. Were these men trying to speak of the Church when they say “Lord Almighty”? I think so. God doesn’t need our money. Instead, maybe tithing is meant for our benefit because sacrificing a portion of our income reminds us to rely on God to meet our needs and also reminds us to praise him for the gifts he gives us daily. Plus, it makes us more aware of the needs of others too.

In fact, supporting the needs of our Pastor and the work of our church is one of the main purposes of tithing. Tithing helps our church actively be the mission-

### August Birthdays

- 2 Mary Young
- 7 Trey Davis
- 12 Sharon Young
- 13 Sunny Hammons
- 18 Sandra Leonard
- 26 Sandra Ray
- 29 Kaleigh Young



oriented church we all know by helping others.

Giving encourages a grateful and generous spirit and can help steer us away from being greedy or loving money too much. Plus, being outrageously generous is a blast! (Gordon Ramsey – Ramsey Solutions.com)

Ronald Reagan called America a shining city on a hill, and so could be said for Falls Baptist Church. We can be a bright beacon for those who believe in the Great Commission and want to rejoice in our Savior, Jesus Christ! Whatever your individual beliefs are, please continue your generosity to Falls Baptist Church. We will continue to do good things from the top of this hill!

— Craig P. Jackson

*Continued from page 1*

## Fire continued ...

society. Things like pornography even have 1st amendment protection! It's hard to believe something like that is what was intended by freedom of speech. You can't watch a movie nowadays, much less walk down the street, without being subjected to hundreds of lewd and obscene words. Mainstream movies seem to think they need to show someone IN the shower for us to understand they are taking a shower. A generation ago, someone walking into a bathroom with the shower running seemed to have conveyed the same information. And a lot of the outfits I see people wearing, many as young as 10 years old, are things that would get them sent home from school.

At some point, as Christians, we must draw a line in the sand and say enough is enough. We need to stop saying something is ok just because society says it is, especially when we can see it is wrong. Even if you are unable to stop something immediately, you can certainly not go along with it. Several of these things seem to have taken hold just in the last generation, which means it should only take one generation to turn away from them. Of course, it will also take just one generation for them to get worse. The choice is ours – are we simply going to accept these things or will we stand against them?

— Alan Watkins

## Event Calendar

August 7 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

August 20 — Called Business Meeting 12 PM

September 10 — Homecoming 11 AM

September 11 — Deacons Meeting 7 PM

## Treasurer's Report

Our financial statement for the month of June 1, 2023 — June 30, 2023.

Tithes - \$9,424.00

Budgeted/expected tithes - \$12,083.33

Actual expenditures - \$7,453.88

Budgeted expenditures - \$12,046.51

— Craig P. Jackson, Treasurer

## Food Donations

We continue to collect food for Tri-Area Ministry each month. Our participation makes an important difference to helping families in need in our area.

Some items needed: Peanut Butter, Jelly, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce, Canned Meat (tuna, chicken), Chef Boyardee, Cereal, Grits, Rice, Dried Beans, Oatmeal, Mac 'n Cheese, Pasta / Noodles, Crackers, Canned Soup.



TRI-AREA MINISTRY  
FOOD PANTRY

## Deacons

Frank Powell, Chairman	919-604-1285
Victoria Neal, Vice Chairman	919-880-1888
Bill Upton	910-358-7303
Tommy Brown	843-446-6540
Johnny Ray	919-740-7099

## World cont' ...

Commission and how our offerings help us to reach the world for Jesus Christ. That was pretty heavy stuff: the nickels and dimes we brought as our offerings to Vacation Bible School helped missions—“Unto the end of the world.”

I've advocated giving to missions in every church I served as pastor. I was even the Missions Director for a Baptist State Convention. I traveled the state advocating for missions and for people to sacrificially give to support our missions causes.

I am grateful Falls listened to me when I've advocated for missions, and you have graciously supported mission offerings. For example, in the two quarters of this year for which we have records, you gave \$10,105.00 for missions and that's just for half the year. Next month we will support giving to the North Carolina Missions offering through which we support the work of Baptist Men who are best known for their work in disaster relief. Then in November we will receive funds for the work of the Baptist Children's Home and, of course, December brings us the opportunity to give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering in support of international missions.

In other ways we support missions. You bring food for the Tri-Area Ministries and our gifts join with others to feed hundreds of people in Wake County. You generously support the Food Drive for the Baptist Children's Home in the Spring and you recently gave backpacks and school supplies for distribution

among children from needy families as they prepare for school.

Thank you for helping us live out the words of the Great Commission: we are taking the message of Christ to the ends of the earth. Amen.

— Tom Jenkins

## Newsletter articles needed

We have had a newsletter each month for the past four years.

But, we need news and articles from all of our committees to let everyone know what you are doing and when you are doing it.

In addition, our mobile app is in use by 92 people in five countries at this writing — China, Japan, Nigeria and Puerto Rico in addition to the United States! It is available for Apple and Android devices and was recently updated, so you need to update your phone to use it. Search for Falls Baptist in your App Store or you can use the link on our website.

Communication is very important, so send your news and articles to Frank at [fbpowell@mac.com](mailto:fbpowell@mac.com). Thanks!



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