

MAY 19, 2021



SoundFourth!

Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church



This Wednesday night, we are making a large decision. You see, **the Choir Room Renovation is moving forward!** This is wonderful news, but in order to make our vision for the future a reality I need you all to be there for rehearsal this Wednesday so that we can vote on what floor we want in the Choir Room!

In addition, we are beginning rehearsals for our Celebration of Freedom on June 27th! **YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS EVENT!** We have some good music and it promises to be a great event! So if you have not yet come back to rehearsals, don't wait! Now is a great time!

CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

Upcoming Repertoire

God Doesn't Need You

Upcoming Calendar

A Word From the Director

Prayer Requests



Upcoming Repertoire

Sunday, May 23

- How Lovely, Lord
- Lord, Send Me Anywhere

Sunday, May 30

- The Lord Almighty Reigns
- Find Us Faithful
- May the Love of the Lord Rest Upon Your Soul

Sunday, June 6

- Great is the Lord
- Amazing Grace

Sunday June 13

- How Firm a Foundation
- Grace to You

Sunday June 20

- A Passion for Thee

Sunday, June 27

- My Faith Looks Up to Thee

"Magnify God's Name with Worship"

Upcoming Calendar

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost) - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, May 26 - Rehearsal (6:30pm - Sanctuary)

Sunday, May 30 (Trinity Sunday/Memorial Day) - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, June 2 - Rehearsal (6:30pm - Sanctuary)

Thursday, June 3 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, June 6 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, June 9 - Rehearsal (6:30pm - Sanctuary)

Thursday, June 10 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, June 13 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, June 16 - Rehearsal (6:30pm - Sanctuary)

Thursday, June 17 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, June 20 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, June 23 - Rehearsal (6:30pm - Sanctuary)

Thursday, June 24 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, June 27 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Sunday, June 27 - Celebration of Freedom (6:00pm - Chancel)

Wednesday, June 30 - No Rehearsal

Thursday, July 1 - No Trinity Thursday Night Worship

Sunday, July 4 - No Choir in Service

Wednesday, July 7 - No Rehearsal

Thursday, July 8 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, July 11 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, July 14 - No Rehearsal

Thursday, July 15 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, July 18 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, July 21 - No Rehearsal

Thursday, July 22 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, July 25 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, July 28 - No Rehearsal

Thursday, July 29 - Trinity Thursday Night Worship (7pm Ryberg Hall Lawn)

Sunday, August 1 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, August 4 - No Rehearsal

Sunday, August 8 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, August 11 - No Rehearsal

Sunday, August 15 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, August 18 - Fall Business Meeting (6:30pm - Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, August 22 - Sing in Service (10:35am - Choir Room)

Wednesday, August 25 - Rehearsal (6:30pm - Choir Room)



God Doesn't Need You

by J.D. Greear



I've found that many, if not most, committed Christians spend a lot of their Christian life feeling overwhelmed by guilt over what they are not doing for the kingdom of God. It's not that they are simply giving Jesus nominal allegiance. No, they live sacrificially; they give to the mission of God; they are intensely busy for the kingdom. And yet, many of these warriors for Christ quickly go from sold out to burned out. After a zealous start, they end up feeling paralyzed by the needs of the world. So they toggle between summers of feverish activity and winters of guilt and fatigue.

I know, because I've been there myself. No matter what I gave, there was always more that was needed: one more child to free from the sex trade ... one more unreached people group to target ... one more person to tell about Jesus. We read Jesus' words about His yoke as being easy and His burden light, and we genuinely have no idea what He's talking about. For many of us, discipleship feels like drudgery.

The burden of such a conviction nearly crushed me. The more I considered the enormous scope of God's mission in the world, the less I felt motivated to do. It seemed that I had so little to offer in light of such great need—so why even try? Who wants to try to empty the ocean with a thimble?

My despair drove me to the Scriptures, and that despair eventually gave way to one of the most surprising insights I've ever had, one that has radically redefined how I see my service to Christ. This discovery turned drudgery and guilt into freedom and joy—and ironically, has led to more generous living than any resolve to "be radical" ever did.

Let me warn you: it is completely counterintuitive. Brace yourself! Here it is: God doesn't need you! Never has. Never will. For anything. Ever.

It turns out I had vastly overestimated what I had to contribute. I didn't have "more" I needed to give; I actually had nothing God needed to begin with. Nothing.

God is not looking for "helpers" to assist Him in saving the world. Yes, He still calls us to give ourselves generously to that mission and to be sacrificially generous with our neighbors. But not because He's short on money, talent, or time. "And if I ever did need anything," He says, "I wouldn't tell you!" (see Ps. 50:12).

God has never commanded us to go save the world for Him; He calls us to follow Him as he saves the world through us. So instead of asking the question, "What needs to be done in the world?" we must ask, "What is the Spirit of God leading me to do?" Just as Jesus told His Apostles to wait on the coming of the Holy Spirit before they went out to the world, we are to look to the Holy Spirit for His direction in His Word as to what God would have us do.

For more great Christian resources, visit www.ligonier.org

"This is what you heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:4b-5, 8b

A Word from the Director

So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. Now the one planting and the one watering are one in purpose, and each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God's coworkers. You are God's field, God's building. For no one can lay any other foundation than what has been laid down. That foundation is Jesus Christ."

~I Corinthians 3:7-9, 11~



For some of us who might be gardening hobbyists or enthusiasts, this is the time of year that we know is so important to growing so many different plants and vegetables, and end every single plant requires love and attention. We are tasked, as gardeners, with the planting, caring for, and feeding of these plants; but ultimately, their fate is out of our hands. Often, our plants are plagued by diseases, blights, bugs, and bad weather.

Likewise, we can all understand the idea of a building's foundation. We could build a house as grand or as modest as we would like with as much love and dedication as we can, but if the foundation is neglected then the entire house is doomed to fail from the start.

Our passage above points out the fact that the Corinthian church had been debating the greatness or the two men they held as leaders - Paul and Apollos. Some said Paul was the greater, and some Apollos; but Paul has something entirely different to tell the Corinthian church and us - we are not needed. The growth of the church in Corinth was not due to the

work of Paul or Apollos, but rather was a result of the gracious and good work of God in the lives of the believers.

Paul importantly points out, as did J.D. in our earlier article, that there is a certain role for us as believers to play in the development of our spiritual lives as well as in the souls of others. We are called to be diligent. We are called to be witnesses. We are called to do the will of God in our lives so as to give Him the glory for all the good in our lives. Where we so often fall short, however, is in the fact that we think that it is because of just our work or effort that we would see spiritual results. This attitude comes as no surprise to any of us, however, as it is common to think this way in our world - the right coach will win us a title, the correct gamble will get us the money or job we want, or the right hobby or after-school activity will get our child into that prestigious school. We are taught that we should work harder and give more in order to "make it." But what we quickly find out, however, is that our spiritual welfare is not up to us. Just like with our gardens, all we can do is plant and give the rest to God. We have to rely on the one true foundation of our lives, Jesus Christ.

As we move forward as a people of God, let us never forget that our role, as J.D. previously informed us, is to be diligent and stay vigilant in seeking the will of God for ourselves as individuals and as a church. When we do that and leave the rest to God, we will soon find that He is the One who is doing the "doing" in our heavenly relationship so that "in all our ways we can acknowledge Him" and in doing so He will make our paths straight.

In His Service, Braxton

Prayers



Prayers

- Suzanne Carter - Dog sick
- Faye Downs - Daughter had surgery
- Carolyn Crumpler - Recovering at home
- Jimmy Jones - Recovering at home
- Pope Hardee - Lewy Body Dementia
- Church transition & Pastor Search Committee
- Pray for our deacons as they study church renewal with Dr. Cogdill.



Haven't returned to choir yet? We miss you!



You're invited! 

Know someone who loves to sing? Invite them!

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

~ COLOSSIANS 3:16 ~