



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Nickelsville

11606 Nickelsville Highway, Nickelsville VA 24271

Summer 2022

Issues 7-9

“Our Ever-Changing World” 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Near the close of his ministry Paul wrote to a much younger Timothy whom he dearly loved. It seems the aged apostle was receiving divine insight from our Lord himself when he shared, “Don’t be naïve. There are difficult times ahead. As the end approaches, people are going to be self-absorbed, money-hungry, self-promoting, stuck-up, profane, contemptuous of parents, crude, coarse, dog-eat-dog, unbending, slanderers, impulsively, wild, savage, cynical, treacherous, ruthless, bloated windbags, addicted to lust, and allergic to God. They’ll make a show of religion, but behind the scenes they’re animals. Stay clear of these people.” (vv. 1-5, The Message).

When we look at passages like these we’re prone to focus on one or more of these attributes of “demonic minded people” and overlook what God was really telling us to watch out for, which is the tremendous shift in culture we’re facing and surrounded by.

With this in mind I’m reminded of the opening statement in Peter Jackson’s film adaptation of Tolkien’s, *The Lord of the Rings*, that says, “The world is changing. I feel it in the water. I feel it in the air.” With that said, I must ask, how much has life in our country changed in the last twenty years? Or, what cultural shifts are you witnessing that disturb you?

Now you might be somewhat skeptical of these questions or you might not think they’re relevant in our 21 century world but if we’re truly followers of Jesus who want to impact our world and further the Kingdom of Christ, these are questions we cannot afford to overlook.

In his book, *Disappearing Church*, Mark Sayers addresses a number of “seismic shifts” that many Christians and churches seem to be ignoring, if not overlooking, altogether. Let me mention five of these just now.

First, we’ve moved away from being a society of people whose focus was clearly on the highest good and are now focusing on individual freedom and happiness. In other words, the filters we once used to process everything have changed dramatically. In past years the ethical values and behavioral standards of society were based on God’s Word which is absolute truth. Thus one’s theology and philosophy for life were based on God’s revelation of himself as contained in his Word. Fast forward to our day wherein value is measured by and assigned to nothing more than human feelings. When faith in a God who has clearly revealed himself to us, in his word, is replaced by feelings morality is thrown out the window.

Second, anything that threatens one’s freedom, happiness, and self-Please see “ Our Ever-Changing World” on Pg. 2

A "BIG HELLO" To To all Our Church Family From First Baptist Church

- Aug. 2nd—Baptist Women 6:30 PM
- Aug. 2nd— Deacons Meeting 6:30 PM
- Aug. 16th—Church Council 7:00 PM
- Aug. 23rd—Dinner Church 4:30-6:30 PM
- Sept.4th—Business Meeting 6:00 PM
- Sept. 6th—Baptist Women 6:30 PM
- Sept. 27th—Dinner Church 4:30-6:30 PM



September 5th, 2022

Pastor: Steve J. Collins
Church Offices: 276-479-3222
Pastor’s E-mail: fbcnickva@gmail.com
Home Phone: 276-467-2389
Cell Phone: 276-393-2741
Secretary: Sandy Collins
Cell Phone: 276-393-7388
Secretary’s E-mail: secfbcva@gmail.com
Church Fax: 276-479-4222
Family Life Center: 276-479-6222
Web Page: fbcnick.org

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“Our Ever-Changing World”

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expression are discredited or dismissed as quickly as possible. If you are apprehensive about this, let me give you something to consider - In July of 2019, Financer Jeffrey Epstein was arrested on charges of sex-trafficking and conspiracy to engage in sex-trafficking. His charges were so heinous he was refused bail. Shortly after his incarceration he supposedly took his own life, or at least that's what a New York City medical examiner determined. A year later, his ex-girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, was arrested, charged, and convicted of her role in Epstein's sex-trafficking operation. She was sentenced to 20 years in prison. And with that the entire story seems to have faded into the background as far as the press and authorities are concerned. Why? Because his social circle of friends included many people in high positions around the world. As such, anything that threatened their freedom, happiness, and self-expressions of depraved individualism were quickly cast aside by a society without restrictions.

You might think I've gone too far but the reality is that we've entered a time wherein God's people, and the church, are looked upon as being nothing more than throw-backs from an ancient world that no longer exists. So what do we do? How do we react? We must “be the church” rather than simply “doing church” or “playing church.” What's the difference? Many people see no difference between “church-goers” and the rest of the world. How so? Let's not forget that the Southern Baptist Convention recently released the names of more than 700 convicted sex-offenders within their ranks. And the bad part is the fact these offences were swept under the rug by those in the highest positions of leadership in the SBC. Do you see the contrast? What's the answer? We don't point people to leaders, we do point people to Jesus. And whether we like it or not all of us are accountable to God and society. And might I add, if that doesn't humble us ... nothing will!

Third, the idea that that our western world will experience utopia through progress, technology, and education. Again, the mindset that there is a God who transcends time and eternity is unfathomable to the post-modern mindset which says, “we've come so far - my gosh, we put a man on the moon back in 1969. Since then we've continued without looking backward. We're living the dream. The ‘Dick Tracy’ days we longed for are now a reality. History is being replaced by technology and education. Just look at the eastern world that's so dominated, displaced, and divided by religion. They're slaughtering one another over there. We've been deceived and held back by such idiotic ideas. Let's move forward without religion!”

Yes, this is the culture we're attempting to reach with the good news of the gospel and because it is we want to make sure we present the gospel unashamedly and very clearly. Jesus Christ came to this world to change lives and he does this one heart and mind at a time. As such, we need to focus on people rather than politics. Let's make sure we keep the main thing the main thing.

Fourth, ethical standards are prioritized around the quest for individual freedom and self-expression. How so? One of the most important shifts in culture is in regard to the question of gender. Sex and gender are now looked upon as being different things. One writer put it this way, “Sex is a bodily reality and gender is how we give social expression to that reality.” Strangely enough such thinking creates a deadly dichotomy for individuals and society at large. It's like saying, “You have a body and then you have

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New Children's Playground Coming to Our Church & Community



At our last business meeting we set aside a committee to look into the purchase of a children's playground for our community. As such, they were to locate, price, and come back to the church with a recommendation. When they had all of this in place it was determined that the church could handle the final approval at a regular meeting of the church.

Those who served on this committee were: Ashley Clark, Donna Hufnagle, Whitney McConnell, Linda Sikorski, and Sandy Collins.

On Wednesday, July 20th after our time of bible study the committee reported that they had located a “Jungle Gym” playground from Playground Boss located in McKinney, Texas for a quoted price of \$19,944.00. This particular playground will require a use zone of 32 by 32 feet, offering 8 play activities, with a child capacity of 34 children. They recommended that the church proceed with the purchase of this unit. After several questions were answered by the committee the vote of the church was unanimous to proceed with the purchase.

We will be responsible for installing the playground ourselves and also adding the proper mulch to insure the safety of children who will be playing.

In addition, we've also another donation to purchase a commercial park bench. These benches are approximately \$800.00 each.

If you would like to donate toward the purchase of this playground or additional benches please feel free to drop off or send your donations to the church office at 11606 Nickelville Hwy., Nickelsville, VA 24271. You can also drop your donation into the church offering plates during our regular times of worship. Or if you would like to make an online donation the link below will work for you also.



[Online Giving Portal.htm](#)

“Our Ever-Changing World”

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a person but the two never touch or interact with one another. They're completely different realms. So don't force your values on me or try to hold me to your ethical standards. How often are we reminded of this? Every day that live. How do we address such issues? With grace, love, peace, joy and the understanding that we have the Word of God and Spirit of God to give us guidance in new and exciting ways to meet and connect with the lost where they are.

And last, there are forms of external authority that need to be rejected and personal authenticity is celebrated as the ultimate thing. The focus is now on being a “better you” and for the first time in history church is envisioned to be nothing more than a tool for personal fulfillment. Or as Mark Clark said, “Rather than saying, ‘I'm part of a church for the good of society or for the good of others,’ people select churches based on their own fulfillment.” Thus church involvement and service are envisioned to be nothing more than a quick-fix for one's personal needs and addictions.

Lesslie Newbigin made this important point sometime back by saying, “I want to reject the idea that the west is becoming a secular society without God. Here's what it's becoming. Rather a pagan society filled with idols and false gods.” What do these idols resemble? Self, money, sex, power, family, comfort, beauty, and status.

Yes, we are living in an “ever-changing world” but before we write everyone and everything off as being a lost cause we should recall the words of Maltbie Babcock, who in the last stanza of his great hymn *This Is My Father's World* said, “This is our Father's world, O let me ne'er forget, That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world, The battle is not done; Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.”

Let us always remember, we will never connect with people in a place or position that we think they should occupy. We must meet people where they are, in the messiness of their lives. Yes, ministry is messy and smelly because real ministry involves sinners who occupy the cesspool of humanity.

In closing, let me say - looking at these cultural shifts we are now facing can seem overwhelming; however, we must remember, Jesus himself made his entrance into this same world that he might rescue us and give us a brand new identity as children of God. How important is this? The late J.I. Packer once said, “Divine sonship is the highest privilege the gospel affords.” And so it is. With these thoughts in mind I offer a challenge: This is not a day when we, as the people of God, need to withdraw from society and batten down the hatches. It is a time for us to go forth boldly proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ who came not to condemn the world but to save the world through his death, burial, and glorious resurrection. He is coming and he's coming quickly! Let's make sure we share hope with our world that desperately needs him!



Our Mission Outreach Activities

Throughout our spring and summer months we've been busy reaching out to help our neighbors in our community and beyond.

We kicked off our missions endeavors by serving hot-dogs and all of the trimmings in Church Hill, TN the first Saturday in May at the Deerfield Community Yard Sale. Then on Memorial Day weekend we again engaged in community outreach as we again served and shared the love of Christ with those attending Nickelsville Days. The people at both events were overwhelmed by the generosity and love of our people. They couldn't believe we were actually giving everything away in the name of Jesus.

We kicked off our missions endeavors with our Youth / Adult Missions Week (Monday, June 6th - Friday, June 10th). We had a great number of youth and adults who reached out helping our neighbors in numerous construction projects in Nickelsville, Hiltons, Midway, Coeburn, Wise, and Pound Virginia. As always, the ladies of our church fed us extremely well during week of engagement.

After this we had a few days of rest to prepare for our Annual Vacation Bible School which was spectacular.



We've also hosted “Dinner Church” every 4th Tuesday evening from 4:30 - 6:30 PM. Our crowd and participation continues to grow with each event we host.

In recent weeks we've had many people in Buchanan and Tazewell counties assisting the residents there in chaplaincy, feeding and recovery efforts due to the recent flooding they experienced.

And last week, the Good Morning Lord Class from our church hosted their “Recycled Teens” group complete with a Hawaiian Luau. It was a great time of fun, fellowship, and food.

All I can say is - to God be the glory! He is much at work in his world! And we're blessed to partner with him and others where he is working to connect with the lost, hurting, and displaced.

Quite often I have pastors who ask, “Why are you and your people so engaged in missions outreach to others?” My response is, “No, the real question is, Why are you and your people not?”

Worship Opportunities
SUNDAY MORNING

8:45 AM - Early Worship

10:00 AM - Life Groups (all ages)

11:00 AM Morning Worship (Streamed Live)

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Choir practice 5:45 PM

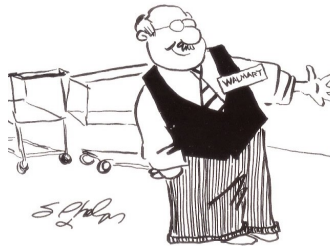
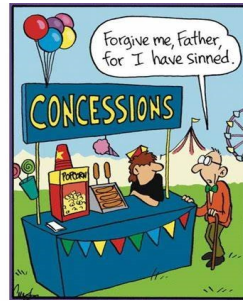
Bible Study @ 7:00 PM

VBS 2022

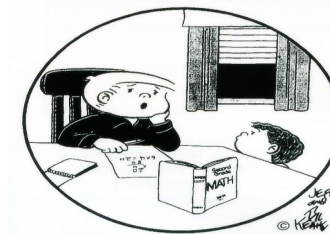
We had a great VBS and a special thanks for all the workers.



"Holy Humor"



40 years of ministry prepared Pastor Lou for his retirement years.
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Jeff & Bill Keane



"The Bible tells us to study math. It says, 'Go forth and multiply.'"

"I did, but I think He's busy workin' with somebody else."

Laugh and be Happy