

The Witness

Volume XXIII, Issue I

Newsletter

January 2025

Let God's Peace Serve as an Umpire For Your Mind and Emotions!

Sometimes someone else says just what needs to be said. As this month's thoughts, I offer this devotional thought from Rick Renner.

'Have you ever had one of those days when there was so much confusion whirling around your head that you felt like screaming, "STOP"?'

From time to time, everyone has that kind of a day. And when you do, your temptation is probably either to get in the flesh and react to someone in an ugly way or to get depressed, go to bed, and forget about it all. However, you know that neither choice will help you solve the problems you are facing.

Rather than throw in the towel and give way to these emotions that want to get the best of you, why not stop right now and make a decision to let the Word of God rule you today? When I say "rule" you, I'm talking about God's supernatural peace dominating and governing every emotion and situation that confronts you. If you don't make this decision and follow through with it, worry, fear, insecurity, doubt, and a whole host of other emotions will assuredly try to take control. And there is no worse roller-

coaster ride than when you are being knocked all over the place by emotions that are out of control!

Instead, let the peace of God rule in your heart, as Paul wrote in Colossians 3:15. He said, "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." I especially want you to notice the word "rule" in this verse. It is from the Greek word *brabeuo*, which in ancient times was used to describe the umpire or referee who moderated and judged the athletic competitions that were so popular in the ancient world.

Paul uses this word to tell us that the peace of God can work like an umpire or referee in our hearts, minds, and emotions. When detrimental emotions attempt to exert control over us or try to throw us into an emotional frenzy, we can stop it from happening by making the choice to let God's peace rise up from deep inside us like an umpire or referee to moderate our emotions. As we do, we will be kept under the control of that divine peace as it rules in our hearts. When this divine umpire called "peace" steps into the game, it suddenly begins to call the shots and make all the decisions instead of fretfulness, anxiety, and worry.

Colossians 3:15 could be translated:

ed:

"Let the peace of God call the shots in your life...."

"Let the peace of God be the umpire in your life and actions...."

"Let the peace of God act as referee in your emotions and your decisions...."

Even though it's true that everyone has hard days and difficult weeks, you don't have to surrender to those emotions that try to steal your joy, disturb your relationships, and rob you of your victory. When you feel overwhelmed by problems or emotions that are hitting you from every direction, just stop a moment and deliberately set your heart and mind on Jesus and the Word of God. As you do this, the wonderful, conquering, dominating supernatural peace of God will rise up from your spirit and take control!

Pastor Danny

At-A-Glance:

November's Gifts: \$23,538.⁰⁰
2024 Gifts: \$230,375.⁶²
2024 Budget: \$287,270.⁰⁰

January Outreach – Let's consider 2025

January marks a new start. Let's get ready to plan a full slate of 2025 outreach and fellowship activities. By the time you read this, we will be seeking to set a date

for a townhall/planning church fellowship. Likely January 22 or 29. We will solicit input on which date would work best. We will likely plan to have sandwiches or other light lunch after church.

We will pass out a 2025 plan that is initially based upon 2024. You will have an opportunity to have input, change, delete, and add to this schedule.

We will also have time for other types of input. This is your time to be aware of and shape FBC 2025. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

Pastor Danny

This month, our youth group embraced the joy of Christmas in wonderful ways! We spread holiday cheer through caroling, sharing the message of Christ's love with our community through music and smiles. We also gathered for a Christmas party, enjoying fun, fellowship, and plenty of holiday treats.

Throughout December, we focused on what it means to make room for Jesus in our lives. Amid the busyness of the season, it's easy to let the noise crowd out the peace of Christ. But just as there was room in the stable for our Savior's birth, we're reminded to open our hearts to Him, even when life feels full.

Thank you for supporting our youth as they grow in their faith and live it out in meaningful ways. May we all be inspired to make room for Jesus this Christmas and beyond. Please continue to pray for us!

Happy New Year!

Dennis and Sam Wagner

FBC Yantis

**TUESDAY PRAYER MEETING,
LADIES' BIBLE STUDY, &
MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

RESUME

TUESDAY JANUARY 7TH



**JESUS KIDS &
AUTHENTIC
YOUTH**



RESUME

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8TH

Pray for these ministries in 2025!



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**Lottie Moon Offering Collected So Far:
\$1,475.59**

There is still time to give! Gifts accepted thru January.

Senior Adult Ministry

WOW.....Did 2024 fly by or what!?! We had a lot of awesome things happen in 2024 and look forward to an exciting 2025.

We will be going to Lakeview Baptist Assembly for our Spring and Fall Senior Adult Rallies which are always a great time of fun, food and fellowship. FBC Yantis continues to have the largest group at each Rally.

Also this year the FBC Cooking Video will be held on a Quarterly basis beginning 20 February. Be sure and put the dates on your calendar.

Thanks
Bro Steve

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