



Offerings

The mail in and drop off offerings are so appreciated to help our budget's bottom line. If at anytime you would like a phone call, text or e-mail to verify the church has received them, please give the church office a shout or an e-mail at douglassumc@att.net

We did receive notice that our SBA (Small Business Administration) PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) Loan of \$5656 has been forgiven.

Huge thanks to the Duane Little family for the Memorial donation to the church.

The Trust Oil monies amounted to \$110.

The Dillons Program gave us a return of \$60 this quarter.

Pastor Notes:

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets,^[a] ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. (1st Thessalonians 5: 16-22.

In the midst of trouble, we need to keep our focus on Jesus. We not only need to keep our focus in our daily lives but also as being the church. When we are facing tough times, what are we focusing on? When you are in the midst of prosperity, what are we focusing on? When we are confronted with a choice between two things that claim to be truth, what are we focusing on?

Paul was writing to the church at Thessalonica during some difficult times. Paul constantly asking them what are you focusing on. In this letter Paul gives us some things to reflect on and reminders of things we need to focus on as we strive to be the disciples of Christ in our lives but also as the church.

I want to share with you six areas to focus on in our lives and being people of the church. Losing focus in these areas can make life more difficult. It reminds me of baseball. The batter needs to be focused on the ball and if he is not, it might cost the team the game.

this issue Keeping Our Focus

The church was facing a lot of persecution. Just living life was very hard. It would have been easy to be depressed about life in general. It would have been easy to think that God had abandoned them because of what they were facing. In despite of all the trouble they were facing Paul in verses 16 says, "Rejoice **Always**"! The verb tense of the word indicates a continuous action. The consequence of having received God's salvation should be an attitude of joy. Joy is not dictated by circumstances. Joy does not come from outward conditions. Joy is something that comes from inside of us because of our spiritual riches in Christ. Joy comes from the assurance of what we have in Christ! When things get tough, we need to focus on the joy we have in Christ!



Open Hearts
Open Minds
Open Doors

Office Updates

A huge shout out to Frances and Lori for helping Ev transition as the new church secretary/bookkeeper. They are always only a phone call or text away to help her with any questions. Austin has been most helpful with any of the technology issues and questions.

We did have to get a new printer. The old printer quit us.

Lori spent many hours finding us the best deal and also having it delivered free. The end cost was about \$550. And Austin was here immediately helping getting it all networked and up and running.

In addition to printing it also copies and scans.

Thanks so much for such a warm welcome into your congregation. I so appreciate meeting and getting to know you better. I hope I can be a positive touch in our continued ministry.

Next in verse 17 pray without ceasing. Joyful believers will also be prayerful believers. Those who live their Christian lives in joyful dependency on God will continually recognize their own insufficiency and therefore constantly be in an attitude of prayer. (MacArthur Commentary) When we are struggling and facing difficult situations, what do you do? What is the first thing you think to do? I hope it is to pray. Prayer is often the means by which obstacles are removed which stand in the way of our joy.

In verse 18 it states give thanks in all circumstances. How many of us are thankful when bad things happen in life? That is almost a crazy thought, isn't it? All of us have been hit hard since COVID-19 what were you doing during that time we were quarantined. Were you asking why God or were you giving thanks in all circumstances? Constant joy with constant prayer will develop an attitude of constant thanksgiving. We can always focus on Romans 8:28 which states, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Upcoming Events:

National Night Out on Aug 3rd

First Day of School on Aug 19 & 20

Pot Luck Lunch to Honor Brook on Aug 29th

In verse 19 which states "do not quench the Spirit." Something was happening in the church that was causing the spirit to be quenched. What does quench mean. It means to extinguish a fire. When Paul was speaking to the church, he was comparing the Holy Spirit to a fire that can be put out. We must focus on the Holy Spirit so that we do not quench the Spirit's appearances of the Holy Spirit that were a part of the foundation of the church.

So, with this being said let's focus on the Word of God which talks about Jesus of his life, death, and resurrection. For the next seven weeks I am going to do a sermon series from a book called *Win the Day* by Mark Batterson's and how we can focus on today and not the past. In the book it states, "yesterday is history and today is a mystery.

Let's see what God has in store for us and let's see what God is calling us to do in our daily lives but also as a church.

Scripture Readings

08/01-Change Your Life, Change Your Story
Genesis 50: 19-21

08/08-First Step of Faith
Exodus 14: 1-14

08/15- Accomplishing Anything
Matthew 12:43-45

08/22-How You Do Anything is How You Will Do Everything
Matthew 12:43-45

08/29-A Step or a Leap of Faith
Mark 4: 35-39

Brain cells, hair cells and skin cells all die constantly but stinkin' FAT CELLS must have accepted Jesus as their Savior because they seem to have eternal life!

