



**Welcome to First Christian Church!**

If this is your first time joining us and/or if you have a prayer request, please complete a Welcome/Prayer Card and place in the offering plate or in the offering box. Thank you!

**This Week @ FCC**

Today

9 am – Worship

10 am – Sunday School

Wednesday

7 pm – Kingdom Kids, Youth and Adult

Bible Studies

Saturday

5-7 pm – Compass Christian Academy

Fall Fest/Trunk-or-Treat

**Upcoming Events**

- Thanksgiving Children’s/Youth Choir Rehearsals begin November 7 at 11 am. Performance is Sunday, November 21.



**Prayer Concerns**

**Health Concerns:** DeeAnn Armes, Winnie Kinison, Keith Alsip, Roy McDaniel, Michael Peter, Janet Reeves, Amy Gentry, Jackson Ogden, Avery Potter, Bob Means, Jerry Wicker, John Shum, Dee Wallace, Donna Bozarth, Terri Stewart, Missy Story, Heather Vogel, Brian Clark, Marcia and Roger Raubach, Leah Black, Allison Lawrence, A. J. Farkis, Jan Jansco, Sue Bellamy, Hudson Pace, Barbara Wilmore, Jim Scuder, Virgil Russell, Denny Bush, Mary Wallace, Heather Sloan, Barbara Winnet, Andy Karnes, Buddy Zachary, Ella Curry, Lowell Riegel, Guy Henry, Debi Turner, Charles Martie, Jr., Amanda Brewer, Kelly Burkitt, Nancy Denton, Gina Toms, Shirley Williams, Wendy Russell, Roger Chance, Jerry Wilson

**Other Concerns:** Pace Family, Widows and Widowers of FCC, Compass Christian Academy, Members of the Armed Forces, Southern Illinois Christian Service Camp, Missionaries, Government and Church Leaders

**God’s People Gathered – Last Sunday, October 17**

Worship: 135 / Sunday School: 70

**God’s People Gave – October**

Budget: \$29,595

Offering: \$13,758 (through October 17)

Over (Under): (\$15,837)

**To give online,**

text “Give” to 618-242-4481 or visit [www.fccwf.org/giving](http://www.fccwf.org/giving).

**Thank you! God loves a cheerful giver!**

**One Year Bible Readings**

Lamentations 1-5

Ezekiel 1-10

Psalms 127-129

Hebrews 1-5



*Consider this...* A weekly thought from T.J.

**WHEN WE EVANGELIZE, GOD CHANGES US**

**W**e evangelize because we love God and desire to obey Him, and He is pleased to use evangelism to bring those wandering in the darkness of a sinful world to the Savior who is the light of the. What is amazing still is that when we evangelize, we are transformed more and more into the image and likeness of Christ. Consider it for a moment, and let it sink into your soul. God uses evangelism not only to change others; He also uses it to change us. In the mysterious outworking of His purpose to make us more Christ-like, He uses evangelism to transform us. We know this is true because we know that “all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:28b-29) We see here that, amazingly, God uses our simple act of loving obedience in evangelism (one of many examples of Paul’s idea of “all things”) to accomplish His ultimate good purpose in making us like His Son. It is just as I said earlier. Evangelism, like every other act of loving obedience, is used by God for our transformation.

However, there is a special sense in which evangelism, when practiced faithfully and consistently, has a transformative effect unlike other acts of obedience. Whoa! You may be scratching your head and

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asking, “Does this guy mean that evangelism is like some sort of super sanctifier? Like magic tonic for the soul?” While that is not exactly what I had in mind, it is not far from the mark. The truth is, when we evangelize, we co-labor in a special manner with the Holy Spirit as a sort of spiritual midwife. If you have ever been involved in the delivery of a baby then you know what a significant and special role is played by the delivery doctor and nurses (or, for those of you who prefer them, midwives). You understand that people who deliver babies are special. They have specialized training. They have

extraordinary expectations placed on them. You and I know that we do not look at the Physician’s Assistant at the local clinic, helpful as he or she may be, the same way we look at someone involved in the delivery of our children. It is one thing to take my temperature and prescribe an antibiotic. It is an entirely different matter to facilitate the arrival of my new child! In the spiritual realm this is also true. As a

minister I may teach many Bible studies and lead many worship services, but when I take part in leading someone to profess faith in Jesus Christ there is something extraordinary happening.

The extraordinary is not just happening to the person making the profession of faith. It is happening to me. I am, at that point, participating with the Holy Spirit in calling this person out of darkness and into light. As I speak the words of the gospel, they change me. My faith grows and my reliance upon Christ is deepened. As I proclaim Jesus' lordship and invite others to submit unto Him, my heart is humbled, and my knees are bowed. My entire person is transformed as I handle the Word of Truth. My experience is that when Christians evangelize with humility and love, God is pleased to transform everyone involved in the process, especially the messenger. They are drawn closer to Christ, made more into the image of the One whose beautiful, nail-scarred feet demonstrate the love of God for the world.

Evangelism is like a good night's rest when you are exhausted. It restores your perspective. It is like a meal when you are famished. It restores your strength. ***Believe it or not, evangelism changes us. The change is wrought in our hearts and minds. We become the message.*** Our lives become an invitation to the world to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. Our very existence becomes a call to repentance and faith. When we evangelize, we most clearly manifest that we are not our own, but we have been bought with a price. If anyone is ever to be saved, it will only be through the means of our transformed lives as tools made mighty in the hands of the Master. Our prayer must be that God would change us as we evangelize, so that the world might be changed through us.

## Notes from Today's Message

# The LORD's Day

Sunday, October 24, 2021



### ***Do you want to be right with God and have a fresh start?***

The solution is as simple as **ABCD**:

**A: Admit** that you are a sinner in need of a Savior.

**"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God... The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:23, 6:23)**

**B: Believe** that God's only Son, Jesus, died to pay for your sins and rose from the dead so that you can have a relationship with God and spend eternity in Heaven.

**"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)**

**C: Confess** your faith that Jesus is Lord, repent, and be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins.

**"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)**

**"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)**

**D: Dedicate** yourself to God's Word and His people.

**"They continued...in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in breaking of bread, and in prayers." (Acts 2:42)**



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