



First Baptist Church

“To Know Him and Make Him Known”

July 2019

Pastor's Paragraph

The Sword of the Lord

God's Word is so powerful. Sometimes one word contains immeasurable truth. According to my extensive research (a quick BibleGateway search!), the word "sword" is used 406 times in the Holy Scriptures. Most of the time, it describes the literal weapon used by one army to attack and kill an enemy. However, God also frequently speaks of His spiritual weapons. In fact, the first sword mentioned in the Bible was a flaming sword in the hand of an angelic Cherub guarding the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:24) Interestingly, there are many times in the Bible where a heavenly being wields a sword. Do you remember the story of Balaam and his donkey? The donkey was the first to see the Angel of the Lord standing in the path holding a sword. Joshua also encountered the Angel of the Lord who was armed with a sword. I won't bore you with theological detail, but it is my understanding that the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament was Jesus! When David sinned, God gave him his choice of three different punishments. David chose the Sword of the Lord, hoping that the Lord would show more mercy than any other punishment. God sent the angel to strike the people, and "Then David lifted his eyes and saw the angel of the Lord standing between earth and heaven, having in his hand a drawn sword stretched out over Jerusalem. (1 Chronicles 21:16). In the book of Revelation, John sees a glorious vision of the resurrected Jesus. This time, Jesus is not holding a sword in His hand. He is holding seven stars in His hand. He does, however have a two-edged sword in His mouth! "He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength." (Revelation 1:16) The same is true when Christ returns to earth as King of Kings. (Revelation 19:15)

Quite frequently, the Sword of the Lord is described in poetic terms and used as motivation to trust the Lord and His strength. Gideon's mini-army lifted up the battle cry, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." (Judges 7:20) Moses used vivid imagery to sing of the sword of the Lord, "If I whet My glittering sword . . . I will render vengeance to My enemies . . . And My sword shall devour flesh." (Deuteronomy 32:41-42) And, again, Moses pronounced his final blessings upon the people of Israel, "Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord, the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty!" (Deuteronomy 33:29) God has a glittering sword of majesty! The prophet Isaiah prophesies God's glorious victory over our enemy, the Devil, "In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent," (Isaiah 27:1) The ultimate spiritual battle is won by the sword of the Lord that is severe, great and strong! From the Cherub at Eden to the return of Christ on His white horse, the Bible is filled with reminders that there is spiritual warfare being waged all around us. Our enemies seek our destruction, but God wields His sword, and He has armed His heavenly hosts for battle.

And, God has not left us unarmed. He has bestowed upon us the armor of God. This includes our own sword, the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." (Ephesians 6:17) The Christian life is a life of battle. It requires constant vigilance and readiness. The enemy is real, and the threat is severe. However, God's infallible weapon is in our hand. All we have to do is read it, study it, and obey it. The glittering majestic sword of the Lord and all the heavenly hosts He commands will do the rest! -Pastor

JULY



2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1 7 PM Prayer	2	3	4 HAPPY 4 TH JULY	5	6 Trustees' Meeting 8 AM
7 Communion Missionary Richard Meyer	8 7 PM Prayer 	9 Deacons' Mtg 7 PM	10	11	12	13
14	15 7 PM Prayer 	WCBC Junior Camp (4th-6th Grades) [Mon-Sat]				
	Sports Challenge: VBS Super Camp! July 30-August 3rd/Ages 5-12					20
	WCBC High School Camp (9th-12th Grades) [Mon-Sat]					
21 Quarterly Meeting 6 PM Camp Cookies are due	22 7 PM Prayer 	23	24	25	26	27
	WCBC Junior High Camp (7th-9th grades) [Mon-Sat]					
28	29 7 PM Prayer	30	31			

WCBC

Please pray for a great summer at Whispering Cedars Baptist Camp! The theme is: "More Than Conquerors"; Romans 8:37 ". . . we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us."

Jr. Camp Speaker: Evangelist Timothy Silcott, ventriloquist

Jr. High and Sr. High Speaker: Chuck Kittrell, National recruiter for BJU.

Junior Camp- July 8-12 (4th-6th grades)

H.S. Camp-July 15-20 (9th-12th grades)

Jr. High Camp- July 22-27 (7th-9th grades)



Cookies for Camp!

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those interested in making cookies to send out to the Jr. High Campers the week of July 22nd.

They always greatly appreciate your cookie donations! Thank you!



Quarterly Business Meeting
Sunday, July 28th
6:00 PM

Sports Challenge Set-Up!

We will be setting up for the week of Sports challenge after church on Sunday, July 14th. We are looking forward to having Jake & Erin Ondrak and their youth to help us again this year!

May Finances

Balance Forward 5/1/2019

Deacon's Fund	\$801.04
Designated Fund	\$1,379.41
Hispanic Ministry	\$308.00
General Fund	\$32,729.63
Checking Account	\$35,218.08

May Income	\$13,030.33
May Expenses	\$11,770.30
Net Increase	\$1,260.03

Year-to-date Income	\$79,053.06
Year-to-date Expense	\$67,975.29
Net Increase	\$11,077.77

Balance 5/30/2019

Deacon's Fund	\$801.04
Designated Fund	\$3,774.98
General Fund	\$31,594.09
Hispanic Ministry	\$308.00
Checking Account	\$36,478.11