



MARCH 2020



The following article was written on March 2, 2017 by Pastor Alex Hong. This admonition is even more relevant today as we gear up for another long election season. As followers of Christ our first allegiance must always be to the "country whose maker and builder is God" and not the nation of the "free and the brave."

Trump or Hillary. Republican or Democrat. Conservative, liberal, traditionalist, progressive. Pro-life or pro-choice. Closed borders or open. What comes to your mind when such buzzwords are mentioned around you? We live in a highly polarized and divided society when it comes to politics, religion, race, and sex. And perhaps especially in today's social-media world, we immediately make certain assumptions about a person based on an article shared, tweet sent out, picture posted, or status updated.

We all have fallen into the trap of assuming the worst of others by labeling them "liberals" or "conservatives," "progressives" or "traditionalists." Our assumptions lead to heated (and useless) debates online, often with people we have never met. Others choose to remain silent and disengage altogether because of all the off-putting and polarizing noise. But how are Christians supposed to respond within an argumentative and divisive society? Paul faced a similar situation while writing to a son in the faith named Titus, who lived on the island of Crete, known for its rebellion, greed, deception, immorality, laziness, and unruly living (Titus 1:10–16). Knowing that several churches were being planted there, the apostle reminds Titus to instruct the Christians to live differently, to set themselves apart in such a hostile and debauched people.

First, Paul reminds Christians to be model citizens in regards to their attitude toward and obedience to the government (Titus 3:1). There are times and seasons we must disobey the government when it conflicts with our obedience to God (Acts 5:29). We are never to give ultimate and blind allegiance to the state because our first allegiance must be reserved exclusively for King Jesus. However, Christians should, in principle, give the government honor and respect because the government's authority has been given to them by God himself — whether or not we like a political candidate (Romans 13:1–7). Our behavior should not be marked by rebellion and riots, but by godly submission and obedience.

Not only are Christians to model excellent, Christ-exalting citizenship, but they are "to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people" (Titus 3:1–2). Christians are the most eager and zealous to do good works for others, because we have experienced what God has done for us (Titus 2:11–15). Christians should "speak evil of no one" by avoiding slander (literally "blaspheming") and demonizing a person or a political candidate when we disagree with him (online or in person). We are called to be agents of grace, avoiding quarrels and endless debates, because it often leads to unprofitable discussions and unnecessary hurt feelings. We are to "show perfect courtesy toward all people" not by painting them in the worst possible light, but by showing them "the meekness and gentleness of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:1).

What gives us the motivation to live like this? Paul reminds Christians that the way we will live distinctively in a hostile society is to begin with just how lost we once were (Titus 3:3). In other words, there was a time we lived as if God didn't exist, rebelled against his gracious rule, were deceived, being mastered by our own desires and wants at the expense of others, and lived as if we deserved everything good, while despising the good of others. This heart of sin led to a life of hatred whenever someone kept us from what we wanted. Christians do not respond with unkind attitudes or harsh speech, because we realize we have been saved from that sin — and because we know that would still be us apart from grace. Remembering our dark and hopeless history reminds us to be humble and kind towards those with whom we disagree.

Finally, the key to living distinctly in societies like our own is to rehearse the beauty and majesty of our salvation. It was the goodness and loving kindness (literally, "love of humanity") that appeared in the person of Jesus Christ that motivates this type of love (Titus 3:4). God saved us "not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy" (Titus 3:5). He did not save us because of our political party, or our political activism, or even our upright living. It was the kindness and mercy of God alone that saved us and then made us into the type of people who live, and love, and disagree differently — only through the divine initiative of our patient God, the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Spirit, and the substitutionary death of our Savior.

If our lives testify in any way large or small to the stunning beauty of our rescue, then we will begin to outshine the hostility and argumentative dialogue of our day (Titus 3:4–8). Because of God's mercy, we can show the world a better way.

*In His Name & For His Glory,
Pastor Tim*

If you have an activity or event and need to use the church, please contact Pam to check the church calendar for availability of date. Fill out the activity sheet available on the counter in the office and return to Pam.

Fox River Baptist Vision Statement

We desire that everyone who enters Fox River Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving, familial relationships to make the name of Christ known in our community and world, all for the glory of God and joy of all.

***Fox River Baptist Church
2600 E. Henry Street
Appleton, WI 54915
920-734-6162***

***Website: foxriverbaptist.com
Email: office@foxriverbaptist.com***

***Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon***

Birthdays:

6—Howard Schimke
13-Renson Hoffman
14-Lynn Abitz
18-Doris Olson
20-Anna Dohms



Happy Anniversary

St Joseph's Food Pantry

Each month we will collect non-perishable food items. Place your food items on the table provided in the foyer.



Evening Service

*March 1, 5 pm
March 15, 5 pm
March 29, 5 pm, 5 pm*

*March 8, 5 pm
March 22, 5 pm*



**Evening Service, 5 pm
Sunday, March 29**

Join us for a night of singing hymns, acapella, and sharing testimonies of the goodness of God.

"He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen." Deuteronomy 10:21

Nursery Schedule



Usher Schedule



March 1
Ron Van Asten & Howard Schimke
March 8
Kyle Tubbs & Ryan Smith
March 15
Romy Garzon & Jay Hoffman
March 22
Scott Smith & Ray Rudzinski
March 29
Bob Abitz & Keith Brown

Financial Update

February 2-23, 2020
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2606.00
Received: \$ 2266.00
Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



Celebrating the Sixty Six
FRBC will be reading through the Bible in 2020. There are 3 printed Read through the Bible plans available in the Worship area. Below are other websites available to use.

<https://fivedaybiblereading.com/>
www.esv.org
www.biblegateway.com

If you have events and need bulletin inserts made please send me the information by Tuesday, 9 am, of each week, bulletins are printed Thursday morning

Teddy Bear Toss

Saturday, March 28



Resch Center in Green Bay
Green Bay Gamblers Hockey Game

More Information to come. Check weekly bulletins. Contact Kyle Tubbs for more information.

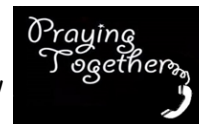


**Saturday,
March 7**

**Don't forget to set all
of your clocks one
hour ahead!**

Praises & Prayers

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for the sharing of prayer request needs and for sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work God does in our lives. Please feel free to share any praise or request at our new prayer request email address:
prayer@foxriverbaptist.com



**Care to be part of the prayer chain? Email or call Renee Brown (920)428-5306
eener654@gmail.com**

**Deaconess of the Month:
Janice Jourdan**