

# NEWSLETTER



*Jesus lives and reigns supreme; and, his kingdom still remaining,  
I shall also be with him, ever living, ever reigning.  
God has promised; be it must: Jesus is my hope and trust.  
Christian F. Gellert, 1757*



## LIVING FOR BODILY HAPPINESS

By Darwin Jordan

*<sup>17</sup>Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, <sup>19</sup>whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup>who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.*

Philippians 3:17-21

## The False Worship of the Body

Here Paul talks about those “whose god is their appetite” (v. 19). What a sad picture of people bowing face down before their own desires and crying out, “You are my God. I adore you and serve you!”

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## SUNDAYS

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.  
Evening Worship, 6:00 p.m.

These people's bodily desires created the rules by which they lived. Their desires *were* their rules. With this attitude what makes right. If it feels good, do it, because feeling good is god.

So what is the antidote to this poison? Deny and turn away from bodily desire? No doubt, but Paul does not go there in this passage. In fact, he surprises us.

## **The True Glory of the Body**

Instead of setting our minds 'on earthly things' [v. 19], we focus on our heavenly citizenship. When the Savior from our heavenly homeland comes, what will he do for us?

He will transform our *bodies*. *Paul's antidote to bodily desires on earth is bodily glory in heaven*. God is not unaware of our bodily needs and passions. He created them. In themselves they are good. In our sinfulness we abuse them and end up abusing one another and ourselves with rampaging desires.

But His final destiny for His people is bodily perfection. Our bodies will conform to the very glory of Christ's body itself. All sickness, weakness, injury, pain and aging will be gone. All loneliness and grief and rejection and heartbreak will be gone. In their place we will have consummate happiness at every turn, in every experience, every communication, every relationship, every action, every thought, every move.

There is no hope for final bodily happiness in rebellion. If we make desire our king we destroy that happiness. In making Christ our king we secure our bodily happiness.

## **We turn away from False Worship in favor of True Glory**

The worst move in this reality is to set our minds on "earthly things" (v. 19). This doesn't mean "things around us." We can't exit the creation. "Earthly things" represents all that opposes God's will - destructive desires that hold out the promise of satisfaction but fly in the face of God's purposes.

We keep a clear vision by trusting in His infinite goodness. We trust this future promise that enables us to face up to our erratic passions that sometimes fly in every direction like a blind man swinging a sword in a crowded room. By his grace we can bring them in line because we trust His goodness. We trust His future for us. We trust the grace that is coming down the pike for us. Obeying Him is good for us now and later.

He will not leave our bodies in the grave. He will not leave our bodies in their "humble state" if we are alive when He comes. He has glory in mind for our bodies. His desire for us is so intense He even took on flesh and suffered in it so that we might have this glory and happiness. *It would be foolish not to put ourselves into the hands of a God like that.*



At its September meeting,  
the FPC Session voted to call  
**Rev. Darwin Jordan as Assistant Minister  
of Preaching and Leadership,**  
pending the approval of Grace Presbytery.

Pastor Darwin has served as  
our church's stated pulpit supply  
in his role as Interim Senior Minister  
since August 2023.

The Lord has richly blessed  
our congregation through his ministry  
among us, and we are grateful that  
Darwin and Kaye feel at home  
in Hattiesburg!

## FPC'S JOY MISSION: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are currently in our seasonal church-wide mission ministry to children from unreached people groups who have not perhaps heard the gospel story of the love of God. This ministry, **Operation Christmas Child (OCC)**, is one of the ministry opportunities under Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse. When the parent organization receives our shoeboxes, a gospel booklet in the children's language is placed in each box. This is of ultimate importance to our mission.



At FPC our OCC shoebox ministry is our JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself) mission. Keeping JOY in focus, we operate through 3 phases—**Pray, Prepare, Pack**. Pray for all the children who will be receiving the shoeboxes. Prepare by buying items to fill 1000+ boxes. There is a display set up in the mission corner near Taylor Hall. On the display board, there are many gift ideas to fill the boxes. Also an Amazon Wish List (QR code below) has been set up for ordering on line. Just hit the link and purchase your items. There are two designated collection containers set up in the hallways on either side of the sanctuary for the placement of the items.

Pack is the third phase. On November 14, 15, 16 (10am-6pm) and November 17 (2pm-6pm) there will be a come and go packing party in the gym. We look forward to seeing all of you there. It is a great time of food, fun, and fellowship!

Lastly, the cost for each box for shipping and handling is \$10. If you are able to help with this expense personally or through your business, this would be of tremendous help. You can make a check out to the church and designate it for Operation Christmas Child postage.

Thank you all for your support throughout the years. God has a heart for children. Jesus' words from Luke 18:16b, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." May God abundantly use our church in His desire to reach children with the gospel. What a JOY!!!

Love in Christ,  
Lacretta Shurden (601-577-0901)  
Debera Shaw (662-871-6020)





## CHURCHWIDE FALL PICNIC & FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, October 20  
4:45 p.m.

We will gather in the area behind the church office building for a meal together, games for the children, fellowship and singing! More details soon on signing up to bring food and drink to the picnic.

## PREACHING SCHEDULE

October 6 & 13	Darwin Jordan (a.m. and p.m.)
20	Josh Kines (a.m.); Fall Picnic (p.m.)
27	Davis Morgan (a.m.); Matthew Wiggins (p.m.)

## CHURCH WORKDAY

Saturday, October 26  
8:00 a.m.

The deacons are hosting a workday at the church and at other locations in our community where we have the opportunity to serve.

All are welcome!

Contact Weston Locastro or Joe Gibbons for more information.

