

Fresh Oil



November 2011

Dear Fellow Servants,

Today we are celebrating the 145th anniversary of the founding of First Baptist Church. Incredibly, by God's wonderful grace, the gospel witness which began almost a century and a half ago continues today. Earlier this month I celebrated an anniversary, too. On November 8th I celebrated the 29th anniversary of the day I gave my life to Christ (the date now shared since 2002 by the birth of Michael). I didn't fully appreciate back then in 1982 the amazing transformation that the Lord would accomplish in my heart to lead me to Himself and change the course of my life forever. I want us to look at 2 key verses that explain this transformation. The first one is 2 Corinthians 5:17:

***Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature;
The old things passed away; behold, new things have come.***

The word for "new" in this verse means something that is brand new. It is not new in time, as being recent, but rather new in form, or quality. It is that which is unaccustomed or unused. It also carries with the idea of being "fresh." What we were when we lived before asking Christ to be our Saviour is in stark contrast to the life we are living now as believers in Him. As we live each day to serve and please our Lord the "freshness" of the day of our salvation manifests for us. Sometimes the Lord uses a particular worship song or Scripture to reinforce our never-ending newness in Him. If you're feeling a little 'stale' today, why not ask Him for a boost?

The second verse I want to share with you is Galatians 2:20:

***"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who
live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live
In the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved
Me, and delivered Himself up for me."***

The word for "love" in this verse is the strongest word for love and means 'to love unconditionally.' What that means is that God's love for me is not based on my performance but on His character, which is perfect. The righteousness of Christ was credited to my account back on Nov. 8, 1982. Although I have not been perfect during that time, nevertheless, His forgiveness has washed my slate clean and He views me as a son. Wow! He took from being a slave to sin to a son of righteousness when He took my place on the cross of Calvary. There is absolutely no greater demonstration of love than that!

If you have never asked Christ to be your Saviour and Lord, why not do that today on this anniversary Sunday? Just confess to Him that you are a sinner and then ask Him to

... I have been anointed with fresh oil

PSALM 92:10



come into your life and be your Saviour. That's what I did 29 years ago, and I have never been the same!

Your fellow servant,

Pastor Brian