

THE FIRST WORD for October 20, 2024



First Baptist Church Eden

A Place of Grace to
Believe, Belong, and Become

101 Burleson Street (325) 869-3681

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday Small Groups 9:30 am

Sunday Worship 10:45 am

Pastor: John Curry (432) 923-2163 edenpastor@frontier.com

Worship Ministry Leader: Mike Turner conchospringsgolf@yahoo.com

Youth Ministry Leader: Loren Briggs (325) 656-3234 loren3484@hotmail.com

Children's Ministry Leader: Pam Young (432) 413-3205 Pamela Young jeunejoven@gmail.com

Adult Ministry Leader: Teresa Escue (325) 450-7279 edenfbsec@frontier.com

**FBC Eden exists to bring glory to God by becoming a "3E community":
Embracing God in worship, Encouraging one another in love to become
fully-devoted disciples, and Engaging the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

October 20: Tail Gate Party after morning worship

Annual Members Meeting

October 27: 3:00 pm Nursing Home

4:00 pm Deacons Meeting

October 28: Fun Day Monday

October 31: Scare on the Square

November 3 & 4: Prayer Vigil

As you walk through the breezeway to the Fellowship Hall, notice the memory verse chart. Our CFC kids are memorizing a verse each month. The current month's verse is listed below the chart.

FOR THE RECORD ...

Worship 101

Small Groups..... 63

Wednesday Night..... 62

**Thanks again to Tina
Briley for her article for
this week's First Word.**

Today's Message:

Listen Up

Psalm 46:10

Proverbs 20:5

An Epidemic of Sin

Several years ago before we ever heard the word Covid, there was a pretty significant flu epidemic. That was the year Lysol became a verb. The school provided every teacher with Lysol wipes and cans of Lysol spray, and we were directed to "Lysol" everything. Kids became very cautious and would constantly ask, "Did you Lysol this?" Everywhere I looked, there were huge bottles of sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, and kids sneezing into their elbows. All in an effort to stop or at least slow the spread of the flu.

It's that time of year again. Stores are stocking up on sanitizer, pharmacies and television commercials are promoting flu vaccines, and schools are disinfecting on a regular basis. I've often wondered what would happen if we took such extreme measures to avoid sin. After all, sin is a much more widespread illness, and it definitely has a more tragic end result.

Some Christians live their lives as if their actions don't matter because they're covered by the blood of Jesus, as if he is some kind of sanitizing agent that prevents sin from affecting them. Just as we make a concerted effort to resist the flu, we should strive just as diligently to "Resist the devil [so] he will flee from you," James 4:7. Easy to say, but how do we do it?

Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." In fact, when Jesus resisted Satan in the desert, he used the very word of God to refute Satan's claims. The Psalmist said, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you," Psalm 119:11. Committing God's word to memory is a great place to start and a strong defense against temptation.

A good verse to start with is Deuteronomy 6:4-5. "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Why is that a good one? Think about it. If you speak those words every morning when you wake up, throughout the day (especially when tempted) and at night before you go to sleep, it will change your focus. God's word needs to constantly be on our hearts, minds, and tongues.

Avoiding sin is not as easy as spraying things with Lysol, but it can be done. As children of God, we have his spirit to strengthen, encourage, and train us. God said, "I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life."

As you prepare and take precautions for the upcoming flu season, don't forget to also arm yourself with the word of God to protect you from the flaming arrows of the evil one. After all, if scripture was good enough for Jesus to use in battle with the enemy, it will surely be a good weapon for us too.