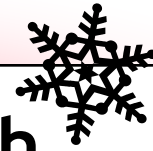
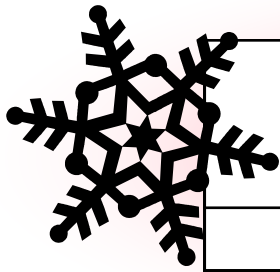


February 2012



First Baptist Church

“To Know Him and Make Him Known”

Monthly Newsletter

Pastor's Paragraph

Class Warfare

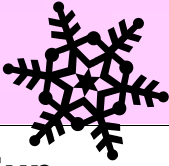
It seems like we hear a lot today about the greedy rich who are not paying their fair share. There seems to be a divide in our country between the have's and the have-not's. And the gap between the two seems to be growing, and the antagonism between the two seems to be intensifying. So, what is a good Christian to do? Does the Bible take a side on the issue? I would like to examine a few Scriptures.

The Old Testament is full of stories of godly heroes. Most of them were rich. Abraham obeyed God, and God blessed him with increased flocks and herds and wealth. The same was true of his son Isaac and his grandson Jacob. Moses was born a Hebrew slave, but raised in the luxurious wealth of Egypt. By faith, he turned away from Egypt's wealth and cast his lot with God's people. David was a shepherd who became a powerful king. Solomon was born into the royal family and was the wealthiest man of his time. All were godly men and positive role models. The Bible does not condemn them for being successful, but it does warn against the inherent dangers that come with power and money.

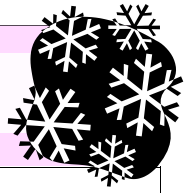
Jesus mentioned the rich several times, and He had some stern warnings for them. Do you remember the rich young ruler in Luke 18? Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give it to the poor. The class warfare instigators would love that passage! But, the key to understand the story is to understand why Jesus told him to give away his wealth. The problem was not that money is evil and being rich is wrong. The problem was that the rich young ruler was spiritually blinded by his wealth. He did not see his need of salvation. The most important issue for him was his eternal destiny, and he would not trust God for salvation until he had let go of his wealth. Jesus knew exactly what he needed. His problem was not greed. He did not need to be more charitable or compassionate. He needed to be saved.




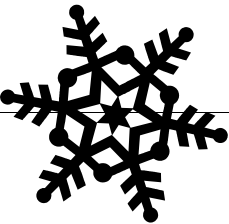
Jesus also told a few parables about rich men. Do you remember the story of the rich fool in Luke 12? The wealthy farmer had a bumper crop, and he decided to build bigger barns. But, God called him a fool because he had not prepared his soul to meet God. He had not laid up treasure in heaven. This was definitely a warning against covetousness (Luke 12:15) but, again, the primary emphasis is spiritual, not material. The problem was not the bumper crop or the new barns. The problem was his attitude (covetousness) and his relationship with God. He had not cultivated his soul.

So, God is not primarily concerned with the balance in your checkbook. But, he is concerned about your soul. Whether you are rich or poor, your first need is salvation. Greed and covetousness is wrong. It is wrong for the rich to put their trust in their wealth, and it is wrong for the poor to covet what the rich man has (remember the 10th commandment?). And, I suppose that we should look at others through God's eyes. We should not be mad at the rich because they are richer than us. We should be concerned for their souls. And, we should not look down on the poor, but have compassion upon them and minister to them, pointing them to the Savior. Class warfare may be a popular motivation today, but the Christian should have no part of it. Jesus did not engage in class warfare, but He encourages us to engage in a higher calling-- spiritual warfare! ~Pastor




February 2012



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 AWANA Store Night!	2	3	4
5 Communion Right Hand Trustee Mtg	6	7 AM Pastors' Mtg/Omaha Deacons' Mtg 7 PM	8 AWANA Boot Camp Night!	9 	10	11
12 Special Meeting 6 PM Choir Begins	13	14 	15 AWANA	16	17 (no school)	18
19 FBBC Chorale 5 PM & Fellowship 	20 (no school) Presidents' Day	21	22 AWANA	23	24	25 
26	27	28	29 AWANA			



February Project: Don, Steve, John, and Pastor, have been working on remodeling the old closet in the downstairs Adult SS classroom. Go take a peek!!

Memory Verse: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up."
I Corinthians 13:4 

December Finances	
Balance Forward 12/1/2011	
Deacon's Fund	\$103.01
Designated Fund	\$398.61
General Fund	\$25,599.39
Checking Account	\$26,101.01
December Income	\$22,858.78
December Expense	\$15,226.27
Net Income (Loss)	\$7,632.51
Balance 12/31/2011	
Deacon's Fund	\$103.01
Designated Fund	\$423.61
General Fund	\$33,206.90
Checking Account	\$33,733.52

Faith Baptist Bible College
Ankeny, Iowa

HOPE ... featuring the Faith Chorale
.....
Join us Sunday, February 19, 2012
5:00 p.m., with refreshments to follow!