

# The Challenger

## Ministerial Staff

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NO. 2

But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life (Luke 21:18-19).

Jesus gives this statement in the midst of His end-times sermon to His disciples about how bad things were going to get before His return. They were thinking any ol' moment Jesus was going to storm the establishment and set up His long-awaited kingdom on Earth with them at His elbow; so He felt obligated to share with them all the unpleasant events that had to transpire before that day. It wasn't a terribly happy talk, but then He gave this comforting statement, “Not a hair on your head will perish.”

I'm sure there are plenty of health-and-wealth/name it-claim-it theologians who love that verse. “See? Jesus promised here that He won't let anything bad happen to you!”

It's a bit hard to hang onto that interpretation too strongly, however, when we see that in the verse immediately preceding His statement, Jesus promised that believers would be persecuted and even put to death for His sake. It's also a little bit of a damper when every single one of His disciples He was speaking to save one who ended up in exile and one who committed suicide got brutally murdered for the sake of his faith in Jesus. Obviously, Jesus was talking about something else besides, “I won't let anything bad happen to you.” (Like perhaps the perseverance of the saints? “Stand firm and you will win eternal life with Me. No opposition can rob you of it.”)

“Fred, I know that's not what Jesus was saying. Those health and wealth guys are just fuddie duddies trying to get money for their ministries on TV.”

We say we know better but I worry about what our actions have showed God regarding what we truly believe. Let loose one scary virus. Show our culture to be the unreliable temporary entity that it really is. Threaten our finances. Put an anti-religious freedom government into power. How do we react? Is God seeing from us the same mentality that once drove Christians to sell everything they had to move onto hostile foreign mission fields? Is He seeing Christians ready to be persecuted and possibly killed for their faith because they're going to stand for Him, His ways, and His mission, no matter what? Is He seeing a Church that would pray for boldness rather than deliverance when their leaders were beaten for refusing to stay silent about the Gospel (Acts 4)? Or is He seeing we actually believe, “Jesus won't let anything bad happen to you, your safety and well-being are His number one concern”? Once we were a unit of Christian soldiers marching as to war, I'm not sure that's what 2020 showed us to still be. Perhaps I should change my salutation from what I'm always hearing in our culture everywhere I go. Rather than repeating the manta, “Stay safe,” I should start departing with the exhortation, “Stand firm.”

In His Grip,  
Pastor Fred

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## Quarterly Update

Please join us Sunday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, after the morning worship service. Lunch will be provided.



**Family Bible Connection**  
**Wednesday Nights**  
**6-7 pm**  
**In the Activity Center**  
**Everyone is welcome!**

**Hope Pregnancy Center** Tuesdays from 2:00-5:00 pm

**Men's Fellowship** Tuesdays 9:00 am

**Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship** Tuesdays 9:30 am

**Men's Bible Studies** Mondays at 6:30 pm and Fridays 8:30 am

**Youth Group** Wednesdays 7:15 pm

**Twice Fed** resumes February 14<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM in Activity Center

**Teachers' Bible School** Sundays at 6:00 pm following Twice Fed

**Senior Adult Lunch** will be Friday, 02/19, 11:30 am at the Pate's house. This will be a potluck. Please bring a main dish and side/dessert to share.



**Food Box Distribution** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. If you are in need or know of someone who may be helped by receiving a box, please share this information. For more information please see Freddie Campbell.



**Saturday, 02/06**  
**11AM-7PM**  
**Youth Snow Tubing**  
 Cost: \$10.00 which includes snow park and either Panda Express or Chipolte.

### **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!!!**

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving! We are changing our online giving option from EasyTithe to FaithLife. If you use online giving, please go to <https://faithlife.com/9412946/give> and follow the prompts to set up an account. You can also click on the link on [www.fbcwinslow.org](http://www.fbcwinslow.org) to set up a new account. This new system will not only cost less, but also integrates directly with our church accounting software. You will have several options to set up reoccurring giving, help cover the cost of the system by clicking the box, and use Text-To-Give. You can set up Text-To-Give at (928)361-9036 and follow the prompts.

### **Mark your calendar!!**



- 02/01 6:00 PM Men's Potluck
- 02/01 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 02/02 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 02/02 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 02/02 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 02/03 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 02/03 7:15 PM Wednesday Youth Night
- 02/05 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 02/06 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM Youth Snow Tubing
- 02/07 12:00 PM Quarterly Update and Luncheon
- 02/07 Deacons' Meeting following the Quarterly Update
- 02/08 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 02/09 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 02/09 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 02/09 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 02/10 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 02/10 7:15 PM Wednesday Youth Night
- 02/11 3:00-5:00 PM Food Box Distribution
- 02/11 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting
- 02/12 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 02/14 Valentine's Day
- 02/14 5:30 PM Twice Fed Resumes
- 02/14 6:00 PM Teachers' Bible School
- 02/15 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 02/15 Church Office Closed for President's Day
- 02/16 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 02/16 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 02/16 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 02/17 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 02/17 7:15 PM Wednesday Youth Night
- 02/19 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 02/19 11:30 AM Senior Adult Lunch
- 02/21 5:30 PM Twice Fed
- 02/21 6:00 PM Teachers' Bible School
- 02/22 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 02/23 9:00 AM Men's Fellowship
- 02/23 9:30 AM Ladies' Bible Study & Fellowship
- 02/23 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 02/24 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 02/24 7:15 PM Wednesday Youth Night
- 02/25 3:00-5:00 PM Food Box Distribution
- 02/26 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 02/28 5:30 PM Twice Fed
- 02/28 6:00 PM Teachers' Bible School

