

# First Presbyterian News

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First Pres. Family,

## **Biblical Sufficiency: 2 Tim. 3:17 (a devotional from Ligonier.org)**

We are considering the doctrine of Scripture affirmed by the Protestant Reformers, which is encapsulated in the Latin phrase sola Scriptura. According to the Reformation—and biblical—principle of sola Scriptura, Scripture is the only infallible rule of faith for the church. Because the Word of God is the only theopneustos—God-breathed—special revelation that we possess today (2 Tim. 3:16), then no rule of faith can supersede Scripture. There is no higher court to which we can appeal for faith and practice, for there is nowhere else besides Scripture where we can surely find God's voice today. That God's Word is inspired does not mean that He dictated it or that He overrode the personalities, gifts, and stylistic choices of the human authors through whom the written Word of God has come to us. It does mean that He worked in and through these authors such that their words are His words.

Sola Scriptura also leads us to the doctrine of biblical sufficiency. To say that Scripture is sufficient is to say that the Bible contains all that we need for determining what we must believe and how we are to live before God. Scripture must be interpreted if we are to understand what we are to believe and how we are to act, but the sufficiency of Scripture indicates that we need no other source of special revelation for faith and life in addition to the Bible.

Passages such as 2 Timothy 3:17 affirm the sufficiency of Scripture. Having affirmed that God's Word is profitable for "teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (v. 16), Paul explains that Scripture is enough to make us "complete, equipped for every good work." Scripture in its totality is all that is needed so that we will be completely prepared to serve the Lord. A good work is anything that is pleasing to God, so this text covers everything from determining sound doctrine to knowing the deeds the Lord requires of us as proof of our faith in Him (see James 2:14–26). Being equipped for every good work requires understanding the doctrinal foundations of God-pleasing actions and the actions themselves, as is seen in how the New Testament Epistles typically move from presenting doctrine that must be believed to practical application and moral instruction. John Calvin comments on today's passage that to be complete means to be "one in whom there is nothing defective." To avoid being defective with respect to faith and life, we must study Scripture and put its teachings into practice.

We are tempted to look for God's will in places other than the one place He has revealed it—His Word. As we ponder the will of God for our lives, we must be careful to follow the guidance of Scripture. It is sufficient to give us the principles we need to know to please God wherever we are and whatever we are called to do.

(<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/biblical-sufficiency>)

In Christ,

~ Pastor John McCarthy





## Worship Schedule for the Summer

### July 7 - 7th Sunday after Pentecost

**Sermon Title: Guest Speaker**

### July 14 - 8th Sunday after Pentecost

**Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 20**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 23; Luke 9:1-17**

### July 21 - 9th Sunday after Pentecost

**Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 21**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 24; Luke 9:18-27 (28-36)**

### July 28—10th Sunday after Pentecost

**Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 22**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 14; Luke 9:37-45**

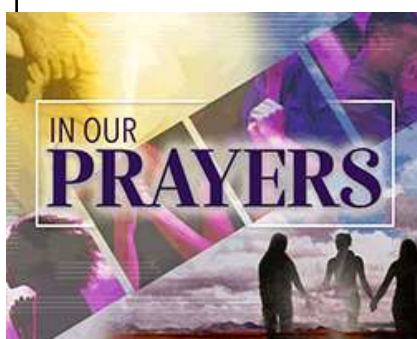
### August 4 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost

**Sermon Title: "A Walk Through Luke", pt 23**  
**Scriptures: Psalm 51:1-12; Luke 9:46-62**



**Women's Bible Study**— The next Bible Study will be Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 am—at The Busy Bean. The new discussion is the story of the creation (Genesis 1-3). Come out and join the discussion.

**Evangelism Study** - Taking a break for the summer.



**Prayer List** - Kim Albert restarting treatment. Terence McDonald having shoulder replacement surgery. Rowena Smith's daughter, Joan diagnosed with cancer. Don Cherry at Scout camp. Pattie Grubbs having medical tests. Michael Rhyne, fell, hit head, in ICU for a time. Danny Hazelwood fell and broke 4 ribs. Grace T. Seat's family after her passing. Barney Newberry receiving chemo; Mark Foster had more testing for cancer; Carol Foster was traveling. Karen Henderson's niece's husband, David diagnosed with cancer. Jennifer's dad, Kenner Markins receiving cancer treatments. Prayers for all father's; Randy Holmes had triple by-pass surgery. Rain!

**Praise** - Maelyn Fraser Freshour—honored for soccer achievement. Matthew and Teresa on the birth of their baby girl. Praises too for their safe arrival to VA. So grateful for the church family and all who help support the church and the community.

**Prayers continue:** Many in our congregation are struggling or dealing with health issues. Let's continue to pray for them.







... let us  
run with  
perseverance  
the race  
marked out  
for us.

Hebrews 12:1

I recently heard a story about a 61-year-old farmer, Cliff Young, in Australia who entered an 544-mile ultra-marathon. He was treated with skepticism with his request to enter. He had grown up poor on a sheep farm, they didn't have horses, so he often had to run to round up the sheep before a storm, sometimes running for three days. So, he figured he could run for five or six days.

Reluctantly, the committee allowed him to enter. Many laughed at him as he showed up in coveralls and work boots. He ran very slowly and more like a shuffle, making him dead last at the end of the first day.

Several unfortunate circumstances, some would say "bad day" events occurred the first day: 1) He missed some turns and got lost. 2) Knowing he was so far behind he decided to continue running into the night. His crew fell asleep as

he was running so late; so no food was ready. He opened a can of beans, ate them, then crashed into bed asleep. 3) His crew manager, Wally, mistakenly set his alarm clock for the wrong time, as he didn't use his glasses. When the alarm rang, Wally fell back to sleep for a bit, when he awoke he panicked and frantically woke up Cliff hollering that he'd overslept. Cliff quickly got ready and was on the path thinking all the runners were ahead of him, but after several hours of not seeing the sun come up, he asked Wally what time it was. It was then that they realized Wally had mistakenly set his alarm for 2am instead of 6:00 am.

Cliff only had 2 hours of sleep that first night. Runners thought that a minimum of six hours of sleep was essential to have sufficient strength. Each of the following days he started earlier and stopped later than other runners. Amazingly Young beat the previous record by 2 days. When he was awarded the monetary prize, he stated he didn't realize there was a prize. So, he split the winnings with the other five runners who completed the race, leaving none for himself.

In the telling of the story, the speaker stated the reason he won, was due to "nothing going right" on the first day. Because of many of those problems, he adjusted and worked harder.

In many ways our life here on earth is like a race. We can feel challenged and become frustrated and wonder if we will make it. Paul teaches us: "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1 KJV

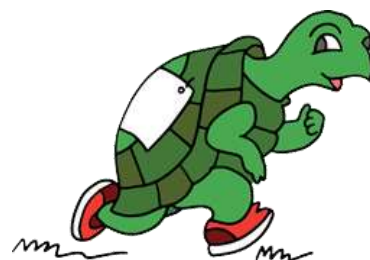
Let us do as the Savior said and "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; ...and you will find rest for your souls." Matthew 11:29 NKJV

We all experience bad days, have experiences that can bring us down, but if we will be resilient and positive like Cliff Young, we can and will recognize the help of the Holy Ghost and be led down the straight and narrow path back to Christ.



Like the tortoise and the hare fairy tale story, Cliff surprised all of Australia. He became an example of "Aussie Grit".

What type of race are we running? Life is going to give us challenges; how we will handle them?

May we yoke ourselves with Christ, and run the race with patience, so He can carry our burdens making the challenges feel lighter. ~ Sherolyn





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	July 1	July 2	July 3 No Choir tonight	July 4 - Office Closed 	July 5 - Office closed	July 6
		Pastor John on Vacation			Pastor John on Vacation	
7 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	8	9	10 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	11 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	12 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	13
	Pastor John on Vacation					
14 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	15	16	17 10:30 am—WBS at Busy Bean 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	18 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	19 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	20 9-12 NA
21- 5 Cents a Meal collection 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	22	23 	24 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	25 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	26 - Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	27
28 9:30 am - Sun Sch 10:15 am - Fellowship 11:00 am Worship	29 -	30	31 12:00 - AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	August 1 7:00 pm - Al-Anon 8:00 pm - AA	August 2- Office Closed 12:00 PM AA	August 3



- 1 Ted VanBenschoten
- 8 Beth Roller
- 10 Ernest 'Avon' Traynham
- 12 Donna Garrett
- 13 Kit Hooper
- 15 Ginny Troy
- 16 Ashton Cranford
- 18 Steven Crutchfield
- 21 Marilyn Lee

- 21 James Edmunds
- 26 Bob Nelson\*
- Jo Dixon
- 27 Mac Lacy
- Michael Thackston
- 28 Joanna Hughes
- 29 Kathryn McAbee
- 30 Jessica Nelson

We want to recognize everyone. If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.

\* In Memory

## Since our last Newsletter, our Session on November 19th, discussed:

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. News of the congregation was shared.
3. Minutes of the May 19<sup>th</sup> Stated Session Meeting were approved.
4. Membership Roll –
  - a. Grace Temple Seat went to be with the Lord on May 29, 2024.
  - b. Will send follow-up letters to those who have not responded.
5. Don Cherry presented the updated Temporary Pastoral Contract for Pastor John McCarthy proposed by the PNC. The renewal contract was approved by the Session.
6. Property – A walk-through of the church building was conducted with Pastor John. A list of the observations will be compiled and prioritized as immediate, short term and long term.
7. Budget & Finance –
  - a. Financial reports for May 2024 were reviewed.
  - b. We have been approached about the possibility of selling a portion of the lower east gravel parking lot. If a formal proposal is received, it will require approval by the congregation and Presbytery.
8. Church Communications and Technology – Discussed a quote for upgrading the sound system.
9. Worship – Next communion date is Sunday, August 18, 2024.
10. Outreach –
  - a. Local Missions – The first Family Movie Night hosted by the Deacons will be held at the picnic shelter at 7:00 pm, Sunday, June 23rd.
  - b. International Mission – Received a block grant check from the Presbytery Justice and Mercy Commission for \$2125 for the Persecution Project.
11. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.
12. Next Stated Session meeting will be on Sunday, August 18, 2024, at 12:30 pm.



**Choir** - Each Wednesday at 6 pm. (Except July 3rd)

**Cents-a-Meal collection** - Sunday, July 21

**Women's Bible Study** - Wednesday, July 17 at 10:30 am at The Busy Bean.

**Greeting Card Ministry** - Taking a break in July. Next meeting will be August 6 at 10:30 am.

**Evangelism Study** - Taking a break for summer.

**Deacons and Elders** - Not meeting in July

**Free**

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## **Family Movie Night**

at First Presbyterian Church Picnic Shelter

800 N Main St. So. Boston, VA

434.572.3581

Email: [pastor@1stpres.cc](mailto:pastor@1stpres.cc)

or [secretary@1stpres.cc](mailto:secretary@1stpres.cc)

We're on FB



**Fourth Sunday at 7:00 pm**

July 28: Moana

August 25: Homeward Bound 1:

The Incredible Journey

**Free Snacks and Drinks Provided**



Bring your blankets, chairs, pillows, snuggles to get comfy and enjoy!

**“Growing God’s Presence”**



**In case of rain, movie will be shown in Fellowship Hall downstairs.**

If anyone is interested in helping contact Joni, Kim, or Robin.

First Presbyterian Church  
800 North Main Street  
South Boston, VA 24592

Here is your July 2024 Newsletter