

# *Los Altos Church of Christ*

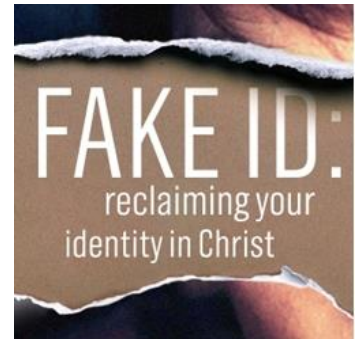
*"...being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2*

Volume XLII, Issue 25

July 14, 2021

## **This Sunday...Photo ID**

Paul passionately tells the church in Ephesus that they are loved by God. Our identity in Christ means that we can be free from the pressure of what others think. We tend to put our identity in how we look, specifically in how others see us but when we understand who we are in Christ, and how God sees us, then others lose the power to label us.



**Wednesday Night Fellowship**... Dinner at Terrie's 6:30...video 7:00, "God's Heart For You."

**PRAYERS** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7*

**Continue to pray** for Lu...Jocelyn's mother...Christine's mother...the Gordon family...John and Jennifer... Walter Grove... Tim's recovery... Roger Townsend... Berry... Jeff's mother... Jene's hand... Allen Sawyers...The Britton Family ... Barbara... Gwen and her son Caleb... Emmy Creswick... City of Children... Healing Hands International... Japhet's work in Zimbabwe...and New Hope Uganda.

## **Thought for the week...**

*Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7*

*Let's admit it. Most of us would like for spiritual growth to be easy. We want our ability to withstand temptation to require little effort. We want the Holy Spirit to do the work and God to protect us from too much stress and strain. Thankfully, God does empower us through his Holy Spirit. However, he does remind us that for the Spirit to work powerfully in our lives, we must intentionally submit our wills to God and we must resist the devil. If we will put up a fight against him and his temptations, he will flee from us. Let's do our part, trusting that God will more than uphold his promises!*

*- Heartlight*

## **Trophies**

By Tim Archer

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross*

*Till my trophies at last I lay down*

*I will cling to the old rugged cross*

*And exchange it someday for a crown*

These words to the hymn "The Old Rugged Cross" used to catch my attention when I was young. I would think a lot about how hard it would be to lay my trophies down. I had trophies for basketball, for football, and for baseball. Some of them were championship trophies, others were merely for participation. But they meant a lot to me. I didn't really look forward to laying them down. Recently, while going through some of the things that are still in the house where I grew up, I saw those old trophies. They don't mean much to me anymore. They'll undoubtedly end up in the trash soon. Somehow "laying them down" doesn't seem as hard as I once thought it would be.

Of course, the hymn isn't really talking about those kinds of trophies. It's talking about all of life's accomplishments and achievements. It's talking about laying down everything I've done and everything I've been.

The apostle Paul knew about that. In Philippians 3, he goes through a list of "trophies," a résumé of sorts, listing the things he could brag about regarding his life and his heritage. Then he says,

*But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ (Philippians 3:7).*

Paul isn't just talking about baseball trophies from his childhood. He's talking about being willing to turn his back on everything for the sake of Christ. He goes on to say,

*I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:8-11).*

I know that just as my childhood trophies have lost their value to me, I'll one day look at all the things that seem so important to me now and see that they are like trash compared to knowing Christ. On that day, I'll lay my trophies down and receive what God has to give me: life without end.