





From the Preacher's Desk - "I am Charlie Brown"

In the opening of "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" Charlie and Lucy can be seen playing outside. Lucy is innocently fiddling with a football, but for those who know the old Peanuts strips and television specials, she isn't going to stay innocent for long. Lucy asks Charlie if he wants to kick the football, to which Charlie quickly responds, "HA! You'll pull it away and I'll land flat on my back and kill myself." For once, we think, Charlie might be smarter than he looks, maybe this time he won't fall victim to one of Lucy's schemes.

Lucy quickly responds, "But Charlie Brown, it's Thanksgiving," and she tells Charlie that one of the most important traditions during thanksgiving is the big football game, and within that, the most important part of the game is the kickoff. Lucy was convincing Charlie Brown that he could be a part of that special moment, that he could feel important. Lucy even says, "Come on Charlie Brown, it's a big honor for you!"

For those who have watched the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving special, then you know what happens next. Charlie turns, walks away from the ball, convinces himself that maybe Lucy has changed and what an honor it all is, and then he runs with all his might, with the determination to kick that ball clear to the moon. And at the last second, to no one's surprise, except Charlie, Lucy pulls the ball away, and he goes flying flat on his back!

I wasn't purposefully thinking of this episode the morning that I wrote this article. I was looking for a different one. The past two months have been hard on Catherine and me. As most of you know, Kaylee can get sick easily. We joke that she can even catch a cold from a character on tv! This is something that we have been dealing with ever since she was a baby. Now that she's six, we are taking the necessary steps to help her overcome this unfortunate immune issue. In just a few hours we have an appointment with her doctor to talk about removing her tonsils, which persistently stay the size of golf balls!

Because Kaylee is so quick to get sick, we at the Olmos house deal with viruses, colds, and infections constantly, and this has only gotten worse since the start of school. Since November we have been dealing with sickness after sickness, and you can imagine how that begins to influence mom and dad. As I type these words, I can't seem to keep a nagging cough from burning my chest, but after each little attack. I utter the mantra, "I don't have time to be sick!"

Back to Charlie Brown. I was sitting at my desk, thinking of what to write for this week's bulletin article, when suddenly I saw a picture. It was Charlie Brown with his head down and the phrase, "The harder I try, the worse I get." And I could not pick a better phrase, to sum up how Catherine and I feel right now. It seems like the harder we try to get the girls better, the worse they get, and the more things add up, and the more we drown in the day-to-day. However, we push forward, doing our best not to show our two girls the struggles that we are facing.

After seeing that picture I wanted to watch the episode it was taken from, and that's what brought me to "A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" and Lucy once again making Charlie look like a dummy. I thought to myself, as I watched the scene unfold, "You would think that Charlie would've learned his lesson by now, especially with Lucy!" But a true fan knows that he never learns his lesson and he constantly finds himself falling for her antics.

I think we are all a little like Charlie Brown. We know that sin is present in this world. We know that certain things might tempt us, turning us down the road of unrighteousness. You would think, with all that the Bible says about sin, separation from God, and eternal death, we would learn our lesson and stay away from the Lucy's of the world, but we don't. 1 Peter 5:8 says the devil, "prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour," and Genesis 3:1 describes that same deceiver, as "more crafty than any other beast of the field..."

I think what Charlie Brown needs to do is remember what it felt like to be deceived by Lucy and allow that to affect his life moving forward. We too need to remind ourselves that the world constantly deceives us, that it might make all sorts of promises, or even make us feel wanted and important, but in the end, it moves the football, and we end up flat on our backs. And we find ourselves wondering, why did I fall for this again?

As for me and my family, I know that we will get through all the struggles, but I am not naïve, I also know that sickness will creep itself back into our home. Why did I let it discourage me this time because I'm human. But I also know that if I pray for the strength to overcome it now, and avoid it next time, God will answer that prayer. With that, I ask for prayers on behalf of all the Olmos girls. Prayers that they get better, stay better, and for the strength not to give into the discouragement, but to remember what the scriptures say, "We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).



This coming Saturday, January 28, we will attempt



to get the youth room back in working order. We have been working on this renovation for quite some time, and it would be great to have a usable space again. Anyone who would like to volunteer and helping with this effort, be at the church this

Saturday at 10 a.m. I look forward to seeing you there!

If you would like to be a part of our Camp Hensel Easter Youth Retreat this year, the sign-up is now available! Easter weekend this year is April 7-9. The cost for campers is \$70, and the cost for adult volunteers is \$55. 🐋 To register follow the link below:

https://forms.gle/Qm5U6rMh5tSFaQsk7

The last day to sign-up is Sunday, March 19. If you have any questions, please see me.

Upcoming Events:

- Jan 28 Youth Room Workday
- Youth Devo Jan 29
- Feb 4 Game Day
- Feb 11 Praise and Harmony Songfest
- Sweetheart Banquet Feb 18





NICHOLS STREET CHURCH OF CHRIS 1200 Nichols, Bay City, TX

SONGFEST

SAT, FEBRUARY 11TH @ 3-5PM

PRAISE &

ARN

"Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing steadfastly in prayer;"

Romans 12:12



Gloria Mares' procedure has been rescheduled for February 15...Asher Welch's procedure has been scheduled for February 6...Jude Elliott, cousin of Daisy Welch, is in critical condition with cardiac failure...Craig Smith, twin brother of Kim Smith, has been moved to an assisted care facility in Wichita, Kansas.