

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

Volume 8, Issue 4
April, 2022

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!



WHO IS JESUS?

In chemistry, He turned water to wine. In biology, He was born without the normal conception. In physics, He disapproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven. In economics, He disapproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes & 5 loaves of bread. In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

In history, He is the beginning and the end.

In government, He said that he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. In religion, He said no one comes to the Father except through him. So? Who is He? **He is Jesus!**

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JESUS
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I love our church!
Earl Winfrey
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Please keep us informed of any
address changes so we can
keep our records up to date.

What Kind of Church is First Christian Church?

First Christian Church is a non-denominational Elders-led Church located in Greenwood, SC. We are part of the movement to restore the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He lived a sinless life, offered His life for ours on the Cross, and rose on the third day to live forever. We believe that salvation comes through simple obedience to the plan of salvation that is laid out in the pages of the New Testament.



Core Beliefs

A common misconception is that all churches believe and preach the same thing. Unfortunately that isn't the case. In a world that is greatly divided spiritually it is very important to know just exactly what a church believes and practices. We welcome the opportunity to sit with you and discuss these core beliefs in depth.

We believe...

1. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who died for our sins and arose from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
2. That the Bible is the inspired Word of God - "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
3. That every person has worth as a creation of God but "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" **Romans 3:23**
4. That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust and obey Christ as Savior and Lord. **John 3:16**
5. That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. That the Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved.
Ephesians 4:1-16
7. That Jesus Christ will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **1 Thes 4:13-18**
8. That those accepting Christ must repent of sin, confess their faith and be baptized into Him.
Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

For more information about baptism, see our Baptism FAQ located on our website

Biblical Foundation

Like most people I know, I love a buffet! Just walking into the room where there is food from wall to wall is what I consider to be a little slice of heaven. Taking my plate and filling it with different types of food is fun because I get to create a party in my mouth. Physical food is good to eat and the buffet is the best way to offer as much food for a variety of people as they can handle. I decided to take this concept and use it for the spiritual food that keeps us healthy and active for the Lord.

For 2022, I am going to offer an appetizer (Prayer topics), entrée (Daily reading plan), and dessert (Spiritual growth exercise) on this page. Every month, this will be spiritual food that will help you develop good habits for growing closer to the Lord. The reading plan is the harmony of the Gospels that covers the Life of Christ. This reading plan is not as intense as some of the others and will give you a great foundation for learning more about Jesus.

Gospel Harmony Reading Plan (Entrée)
(From R.C. Foster's Life of Christ class)

Prayer Topics (Appetizers)

Week 1 - Pray for a family who just had a baby

Week 2 - Pray for a family who has a student getting ready to graduate high school/college

Week 3 - Pray for the church across the country as Easter will bring visitors from the community

Week 4 - Pray for God to do something great

91. Luke 8:19-21	107. Luke 8:40-56
92. Matthew 13:1-35	108. Matt 9:27-34
93. Mark 4:1-34	109. Matt 13:54-58
94. Luke 8:4-18	110. Mark 6:1-6
95. Matt 13:36-53	111. Matt 9:35-11:1
96. Matthew 8:18-22	112. Mark 6:7-13
97. Luke 9:57-62	113. Luke 9:1-6
98. Matthew 8:23-27	114. Matt 14:1-12
100. Mark 4:35-41	115. Mark 6:14-29
101. Luke 8:22-25	116. Luke 9:7-9
102. Matt 8:28-34	117. Matt 14:13-21
103. Mark 5:1-20	118. Mark 6:30-44
104. Luke 8:26-39	119. Luke 9:10-17
105. Matt 9:18-26	120. John 6:1-14
106. Mark 5:21-43	121. Matt 14:22-33

Spiritual Growth Exercise (Dessert)

April is a great month for me because it is my birthday month along with my father and my son Wil. It is also the month that gets Easter when it arrives late. The formula for setting the date is always confusing to me but sometimes it's in April and sometimes it's March. With Easter arriving in a couple of weeks, this would be a good time to reflect on the life of Christ. If you have never seen a movie about the life of Christ, now would be a good time to do it. There are many choices available so find a movie about Jesus and watch it. When you are done, think about what you knew was accurate and what may have been something added by the writers. What scene hit home for you and what part of Jesus' life did you not realize was in the Bible?

For Easter, those who have been to several years of Easter services should find somebody who has not experienced Easter for that long and help them see the reason why this is a big deal. For those who may have trouble experiencing the wonder of the moment, watching somebody else experience Easter for the first time may help.

Another great opportunity to make a difference is an Easter Egg Hunt. There are several churches having them so why not find one who could use some help?

Mentoring

How to Mentor and How to Be Mentored (Part 2) Relating to Your Mentor

Seek criticism. When you goof up, ask your mentor where you went wrong. Listen carefully, because a good mentor doesn't lecture you at length. A good mentor knows how to hit the nail on the head.

Share your drafts. Allow enough time when writing a report or a proposal to run the draft past your mentor. Even if your mentor only picks up on one or two subtleties – a stronger or gentler word choice, something better left out, a suggestion to drop in a current buzz word or key phrase – it could improve your written message and enhance your reputation as the message moves upward.

Offer assistance. Volunteer to assist when your mentor takes the lead on a project. This allows the mentor to demonstrate to you his or her working style, and it gains you critiques of your work that are integral to the regular functioning of the organization.

Offer critiques. At some point when you have gained confidence, take the lead and offer your critique of a draft report written by your mentor. Demonstrate back to the mentor that you have learned from the mentor's critiques of your work. Done right, it will be seen as constructive criticism – more importantly, as proof that you are a team player who cares enough to make the work of the team the best it can be.

Summarize your learning. When a task or a phase is completed, make a short statement to your mentor in appreciation of the value you have received. Not a gushy stream of "Oh, you're just wonderful; I don't know what I would have done without your help," but rather a concise appraisal of where you stand: "I learned a lot from this project, and I really appreciate what you showed me about how to analyze our client's needs in this kind of situation."

Sense your relationship. Develop a sense of your mentor's comfort level with your relationship. Don't push familiarity. On the other hand, pick up on the mentor's indications that your help and suggestions increasingly are important. A good mentor doesn't expect thanks or praise (or gifts) from you in return for the favor of tutelage. A good mentor is rewarded when you do well.

(Titus 2:1-8) "(1) But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. (2) Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness. (3) Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, (4) and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, (5) to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled. (6) Likewise, urge the younger men to be self-controlled. (7) Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, (8) and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us."

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



When you pass away, of course people are going to miss you. The question is, why are you going to be missed?

We all know of the Great Commission, but do we really know how to proclaim the Gospel to those around us? Here are a few suggestions for how we can go about being the light of the world:

The Times have changed, and so have the people: The hardest part of evangelism is when we have to admit that the old methods don't work as good as they used to. People have become busier than ever, mothers are having to help support the family financially, kids have become bombarded with extracurricular activities, and the list goes on and on. If we continue to try doing the same stuff we have always done, we may not be able to reach those who do not have the time to visit with us face to face.

Technology is not the enemy: The church has always had a reputation for being decades behind society when it comes to technology. The internet has been in existence for many years, and churches are still working on creating websites and podcasts. This is an obvious handicap as there are many people out there who use the internet every day, sometimes more than they watch TV, and yet they very seldom see a positive message about how they need Jesus. Our church website is a resource that can help us gain ground on a society that has gone almost completely paperless. The weekly podcast for the sermons can be a way for people to hear the message before coming to church so they can know what to expect when they get here.

On a personal level, building a website may not be an option, however, you have the next best thing in that Facebook has replaced the telephone in many ways for today's younger generations. If you have friends on Facebook, you have a network you can reach by simply posting a comment about your church. Let them know what's going on at church, and why you are excited about it. You can also write notes for people to read that will show them what you believe, and why you believe it. If you have the administration skills, you could even build a group to help promote the Gospel. People build fan clubs for their favorite singer or actor, why not build a group for the most important person in your life, Jesus?

Everyone has a Story to tell: No matter what your view is on the best way to reach the lost, there is one thing that everyone has in common; everyone has their own personal story of salvation. If you have been baptized into Christ, you are fully equipped to share the Gospel with somebody else. Just simply tell your friends the story of how you came to know Jesus. If your friends can see the difference that Jesus makes in your life, they will be more open to hear what you have to say. Remember that as a Christian, you have an identity that is different from the world, and it is up to you to show that difference in a positive light.

Be creative, be proactive, be passionate about evangelism, but make sure that you never lose your identity as a Christian. There are many ways to share the Gospel without compromising your personal integrity or God's message. Overall, don't waste your time guessing about how to reach your neighbor. Build relationships with those around you, and it will be easier to find out how best to reach them.

"BECAUSE HE LIVES by BILL & GLORIA GAITHER

Anyone who has heard Crowder's version of "Because He Lives", or been ministered to by the renditions of Michael W Smith or Matt Maher, or has launched into that stirring chorus "because he lives, I can face tomorrow/because he lives, all fear is gone" will have little doubt that the song is a modern worship classic - though maybe they might quibble over the word "modern". Indeed the song, written in the 1960s by Bill and Gloria Gaither, is referred to on many websites as a "hymn". As the most important figures in the development of Southern gospel music, the Gaithers have, of course, written numerous songs which have been performed by the majority of Southern gospel big hitters, country acts like the Statler Brothers and Johnny Cash and pop icons like Elvis Presley. But of the 800 plus songs that Bill (music) and Gloria (lyrics) have written, it is "Because He Lives" which has probably impacted the most churches around the world.

Gloria has written about the circumstances which led up to the writing of this timeless worship classic. "I am a wife and a mother. It was in the middle of the upheaval in the '60s that we were expecting our third baby. The drug culture was in full swing, existential thought had obviously saturated every area of our American thought, the cities were seething with racial tension, and the God-is-dead pronouncement had giggled its way all through our educational system.

"On the personal front, Bill and I were going through one of the most difficult times in our lives. Bill had been discouraged and physically exhausted by a bout with mononucleosis, and in that weakened condition had little reserve to fight the psychological battle brought on by some external family problems. Someone whom we had cared about a great deal had hurled some accusations at us and at the Fellowship of Believers and at the whole idea of the existence of God.

"It was on New Year's Eve that I sat alone in the darkness and quiet of our living room, thinking about the world and our country and Bill's discouragement and the family problems - and about our baby yet unborn. Who in their right mind would bring a child into a world like this? I thought. The world is so evil. Influences beyond our control are so strong. What will happen to this child? I can't quite explain what happened at that moment, but suddenly I felt released from it all. The panic that had begun to build inside was gently dispelled by a reassuring presence that engulfed my life and drew my attention.

"Gradually, the fear left and the joy began to return. I knew I could have that baby and face the future with optimism and trust. It was the Resurrection affirming itself in our lives once again. It was LIFE conquering death in the regularity of my day."

https://www.crossrhythms.co.uk/articles/music/Because_He_Lives_The_story_behind_a_worship__Southern_gospel_classic_/59502/p1/

(Romans 6:8-14) "(8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (9) We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. (10) For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. (11) So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. (12) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. (13) Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. (14) For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace."

'RESURRECTION POWER' BY GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING ARTIST CHRIS TOMLIN

Since this month contains Easter Sunday, which commemorates the Lord Jesus' resurrection that occurred three days after He was crucified upon the Cross, it's good to meditate on the power that raised him from the dead. Scripture says we're brought from death to life by the resurrection power of God. For us Christians, it is not just a mere celebration, but it is a real victory.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?' " (Jn 11:25-26)

An amazing song that reminds us of all our Lord has done for us is 'Resurrection Power' by American Contemporary Christian Music artist Chris Tomlin. Originally written by Ryan Ellis. Chris released his version in January, 2018, and it made it into the Hot Christian Songs chart. It's one of Chris Tomlin's and he shares its significance.

The Meaning of Resurrection Power

In an interview with Billboard, Chris said: "'Resurrection Power' is that same power that raised Jesus from the dead, that we have that authority. I don't know about you, but when my feet hit the floor in the morning, I don't have that energy, you have to claim it. It's pretty simplistic, we're God's sons and daughters, and we have that ability, letting God lead us and take that heavy weight off of our shoulders.

"He gives us the know-how to take authority of ourselves, breaking addictions and leaving whatever darkness that we're living in behind. This song is what it's all about, because if we don't believe in the resurrection of Jesus then we don't have anything."

"And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you." (Rom 8:11)

<https://godtv.com/resurrection-power-by-grammy-award-winning-artist-chris-tomlin/>

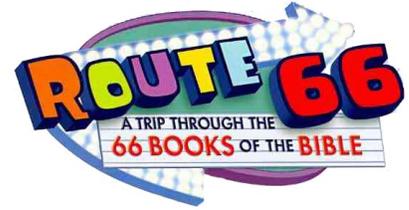
Have Bible, Will Travel (Earl Winfrey)

The best way to find out what the Bible says about anything is to study the Bible so you can find out what it says. That sounds simple, doesn't it? All we have to do is study the Bible and learn what it says, but the problem is that many Christians run in the opposite direction when the teacher shows up. That is bad enough, but what makes it worse is that those same Christians tend to look for answers about the Bible in the most unreliable places instead of going straight to the source for the truth.

It breaks my heart when I see a friend struggling to understand something when it is clearly written in God's Word. It hurts even worse when that person gets the wrong answer and runs with it because he/she failed to dig deep enough for accurate information. The most painful moment would be if that person belongs to the same church where I preach! I am here to help. If you have a question, ask me and I can help you find the answer.

Epistles: Colossians

(Several sources used each month, see Earl for details)



Who wrote the book?

Before Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Colossae, he had never been to their city (Colossians 2:1). This helps explain the personal greetings he included at the end of the letter, a practice he usually reserved for letters to churches he had not visited (for example, Romans). Paul sought to develop personal connections with the people he hoped to teach and serve, rather than just going around from city to city asserting his apostolic authority. The more personal tone at the close of this letter would have been especially significant in creating a connection with the Colossian believers, given the fact that part of Paul's reason for writing involved calling out the heretical teachers who had infiltrated the Colossian church.

In AD 60–61, during his first imprisonment in Rome, Paul penned this letter to the Colossian church after he had received a report that they were struggling with a christological heresy. The report came from Epaphras, likely the leader of the church at Colossae and a convert of Paul's from his more than two-year ministry in Ephesus. Epaphras had come to Rome in part to serve Paul during his imprisonment (Philemon 1:23) but also to confide in him regarding the dangerous teachings the Colossians were hearing. So Paul sent this letter, along with the letters to Philemon and to the Ephesians, with Tychicus, accompanied by Onesimus (Col 4:7; Philemon 1:10–12). Tychicus was a coworker of Paul.

Why is Colossians so important?

The church at Colossae was under attack from false teachers who were denigrating the deity of Jesus; they were teaching that He was not actually God. Though Paul had never been to the church itself, he addressed these issues head-on. The nature of Jesus Christ as Creator and Redeemer was nonnegotiable, so Paul wrote to them that he might bring his wisdom to bear on this difficult and trying situation. It was critical to him that this church know God in His greatness and glory, rather than in the deficient view given them by the false teachers (Col 1:25; 2:1–2).

In this book, the apostle Paul described Jesus with some of the loftiest language in all the New Testament, focusing on Christ's preeminence and sufficiency in all things. Paul presented Christ as the center of the universe, not only as the active Creator but also as the recipient of creation—in His taking on of human flesh. Christ was and is the visible image of the invisible God, containing within Himself the fullness of Deity (Colossians 2:9). Because of His divine nature, Jesus is sovereign, above all things with an authority given Him by the Father. As such, Jesus is also Head over the church. He has reconciled all things to Himself through His death on the cross, making believers alive to God and setting them on the path to right living. This proper view of Christ served as the antidote for the Colossian heresy as well as a building block for Christian life and doctrine both then and now.

Your view of Jesus Christ will impact every area of your life. Many today want only practical instruction and helps for living, eschewing "esoteric" topics such as doctrine and theology because they seem to be out of touch with their day-to-day reality. Paul's view was different. He saw that the christological problems in the Colossian church had practical importance as well. Believers have died with Christ; therefore, we need to die to our sins. We have also been raised with Christ; therefore, we must live well in Him and put on qualities that are motivated by Christian love. And because He is Lord over all, the Christian life is a life of submission to Jesus.



This month's Church myth: "The Great Commission is the responsibility of the Preacher"

This month's church myth reminds me of a conversation I had with an elder at a church where I served several years ago. When discussing the revival we were planning, I mentioned that we should get invitation cards for our members to hand out to their friends so they can encourage them to show up. One of the elders replied that inviting people to church was my job so I should be out in the community trying to spread the word. While the Preacher should be actively inviting people to church as an example for the rest to follow, Jesus never wanted this to be a one man job. How do I know this? He told His Apostles to make disciples. Here is an article I have written before to help explain this concept:

Most everybody is familiar with the purpose of the church known as the Great Commission. However, there seems to be confusion among many Christians about who is responsible for making a Disciple. Some view the responsibility of making a Disciple as a job for the paid staff or clergy if you are part of certain denominations. Others view the job of making a Disciple as the responsibility of everyone at the expense of the paid staff. People who subscribe to that extreme tend to question the value of having a paid staff at the local church available to equip the saints.

Just like many other issues in the church, the answer lies somewhere in the middle. The paid staff can bring the resources that are not readily available to those who have not spent time in a Bible College or Seminary to train for full-time work in God's church. They can help the people of the church grow in knowledge which in turn can give them more confidence when trying to reach their neighbors. The paid staff can also serve as a support for the people as they continue to live out the Great Commission in their lives. Although the paid staff can bring many benefits to the congregation, the people of the church have the advantage when it comes to reaching the lost in the community. The people have grown up in the area, so there is already a familiarity and trust that would take a paid Minister years to develop. Along with that, the Minister is limited by the constraints of time because he has the responsibility of equipping the whole church and even with a small church; this is a "God-sized" task! This being the case, the paid staff and the people of the church need to form a partnership so that the community can be reached.

I attended a workshop where I heard this quote: "You can count the number of apples on the tree but you can't count the trees in an apple." Every apple has seeds that can produce trees that can produce more apples and the cycle continues. That is a good example of Discipleship. Our goal as a church should be to make Disciples so they can make more Disciples. Once we can get to the point where this goal is part of our core, the fruit that God produces will exceed anything we could ever imagine!

“IS DOCTRINE REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?”

“I’ve listened to far too many sermons from far too many trained professionals who used their message to deal with biblical facts or doctrines rather than Christian living. Those certainly have their place, but I’d rather face the judgment having lived out Christian love in service to the Lord while totally misunderstanding doctrine and biblical facts than to face the judgment with a perfect understanding of doctrine and biblical facts but without having lived out the life of Christian love.” (A preacher from the Restoration Movement)

The above quote was surprising to me, but I actually read that in a Facebook Group during a discussion we were having as preachers concerning the sermons we preach. And yes, there is a church that is unfortunately paying this preacher to serve with that kind of attitude towards doctrine. Of course, I understand what he is trying to say, but he is not saying it very well.

Before getting into the Christian love part of the quote, I would like to talk about the doctrine and Biblical facts section. Our job as preachers is to preach the word. That is why we are called heralds. We are presenting the Word of God to the people who need to hear it, so if we are not preaching doctrine and Biblical facts, we are not fulfilling our calling as preachers. Why is it so hard for people to understand this? I blame the preachers like the one I quoted because their attitude is all wrong.

Instead of downplaying doctrine and Biblical facts in order to emphasize Christian love, we should use doctrine and Biblical facts to explain what Christian love is and how we can display it in our lives. For example, how is it that we know love? We know love because God first loved us. Hmm, seems like I have read that somewhere before, could it be... 1 John 4:19? A Biblical fact about the doctrine of love is that we are able to know what love is because God first loved us. He is the example of love because while we were still sinners, Christ died for us, God so loved the world that He gave His only son, and greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. I do believe we have found several Biblical facts that explain the doctrine of Christian love!

What is doctrine? Doctrine simply means teaching so anything that is being taught is doctrine. The question is, what kind of doctrine is it? We have the official doctrines of the church which hopefully are based on the Bible, and that is what we usually refer to when we mention this in the context of preaching and teaching. Denver Sizemore did a great job of tracking down 25 major doctrines in his 2 books “13 Lessons in Christian Doctrine” and “12 More Lessons in Christian Doctrine” which have been taught all over the world.

Doctrine is important because we must teach our people about the Bible if we expect them to learn anything about the Bible. If they do not learn about the Bible, how will they know how to live a Biblically grounded life for the Lord? If you want to display Christian love in your life, you must first learn about Christian love in the Bible so you will know that Jesus told us to love our neighbor as ourselves and to do unto others what we would have them do unto us.

THIS MONTH IN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH HISTORY

In 2016, we began a Church History class for learning our heritage. This was in the newsletter:

We will be starting a Sunday night class that will last until June 26. I am calling it "From Acts to America: The story of God's Church," and it will be an hour long beginning at 6:00pm every Sunday night.

The purpose for this class is to lay a foundation for what will be our "Restoration History" class in the Fall. During that class, we will dig in deep and learn about our heritage so we can further develop our identity as a "Stone-Campbell" movement type of church. And for those who are not familiar with that title, I will make sure you know it well when we have that class in the fall.

The reason why I am starting with a general church history class is because we need to start where Jesus began building His church. Once we learn about where we came from, we will be able to fully understand where we need to go. I have said this before, and I am sure you will hear me say it again, before we can restore the church, we need to find out what part of the church needs restoring. It is a hard road to travel especially when other churches work against you, but the destination is worth the journey because the end result is a church that is modeled after the church in the Bible.

(Perhaps it is time to put these lessons on video for people to share online)

"Pray for FCC"

For 2022, we want to cover our church in prayer on a weekly basis. Along with the many prayers that go up on our behalf, I am declaring every Tuesday to be a day for us to offer up special prayers specifically for our church. Please join us by praying at some point every Tuesday!

One Liners to Make You Laugh

My car is so small, the glove compartment only holds two fingers.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Psalm 117 is the shortest Psalm (Only 2 verses)

Winners: Phillis Jackson/Michael Winfrey/Michaela Winfrey



Be one of the first 3 people to answer correctly and you will be a winner!

Be one of #4-10 to answer and you will receive an honorable mention!

Honorable Mention: Milton Kirkland

This month's question:

How did the sailors discover Jonah was responsible for the storm?

Who's the Older Woman?

"Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children." Titus 2:4

When I was younger I wanted to cross Titus 2:4 out of the Bible. I thought, *I will never be an older woman!* Today I consider it a privilege to be an older woman. To have the opportunity to teach another woman is an honor. It doesn't matter how old we are; we will always be older to someone. I've overheard Chad at nine years old teaching is younger brother Bevan to play a game, read a book, or count his money.

I've learned much from other women. My mother-in-law, Gertie Barnes, has been a beautiful example to me. I watched her love her husband, serve him with a soft spirit, nurse him during his last days, and never tire of the task even when her physical body was exhausted. I thank her today for raising such a fine son who has become my wonderful husband. Actually most of what I learned today I learned from the older women in my life. It's now my joy to teach those very things to other women God puts before me.

I remember a young woman who came to speak with me after one of my seminar workshops. She said, "How do I treat my unsaved husband?" I looked into the beautiful young brown eyes, "Honey, you treat his as if he were saved." I then shared with her the great advice I heard at a luncheon when I was a younger bride. I'll never forget this advice and have used it all my married life: "Tell God the negative and tell your husband the positive." Ruth Graham Bell shared a real truth also. "Women," she said, "you will never change your husband. But God can." Yes, Almighty God can change husband, child, and most of all you.

It usually begins with me first. When I begin to change, the other person begins to change. We're the ones who set the thermostats of our homes. When our spirits are warm, loving, peaceful, and soft, others begin to take on the same feeling.

When Bob would come home from a hot, busy, tiring, summer day at the office, I wanted him to find peace and rest as he walked in the door. I worked hard to plan his first 30 minutes at home in the evening. I'd offer him a cold glass of tea or lemonade and allow him a few minutes to change into something comfy and cool. I'd keep the children somewhat settled until Dad could catch his breath and refocus.

Today's working woman can do the same if hubby arrives home before she does. Leave a soft note that says, "Your cold drink is waiting for you in the refrigerator and there are cookies in the jar."

I'm grateful that God has addressed the older woman, because we are the ones who will pass down much wisdom to future generations. I would not be writing books today had it not been for Florence Littauer who mentored me and encouraged me when I was younger to do something I never thought I could possibly do.

Thoughts for Action

- Be an older woman to someone this week.
- Pray for your husband's needs.
- Tell your husband today one thing you love about him.
- Nurture a teachable spirit in you.

Additional Scripture Reading

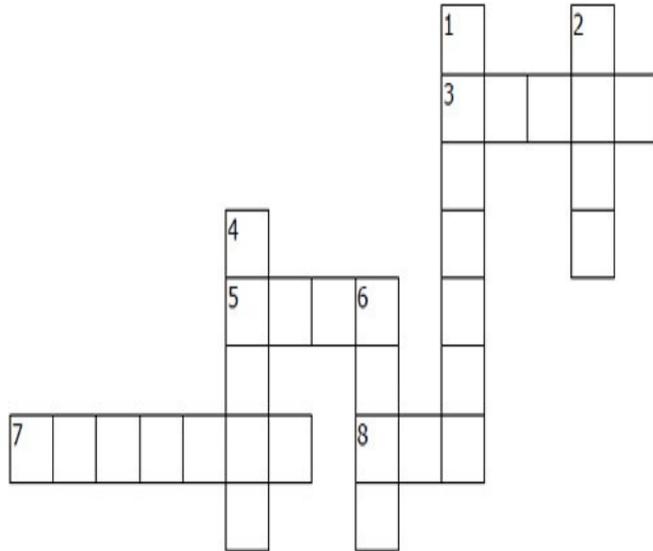
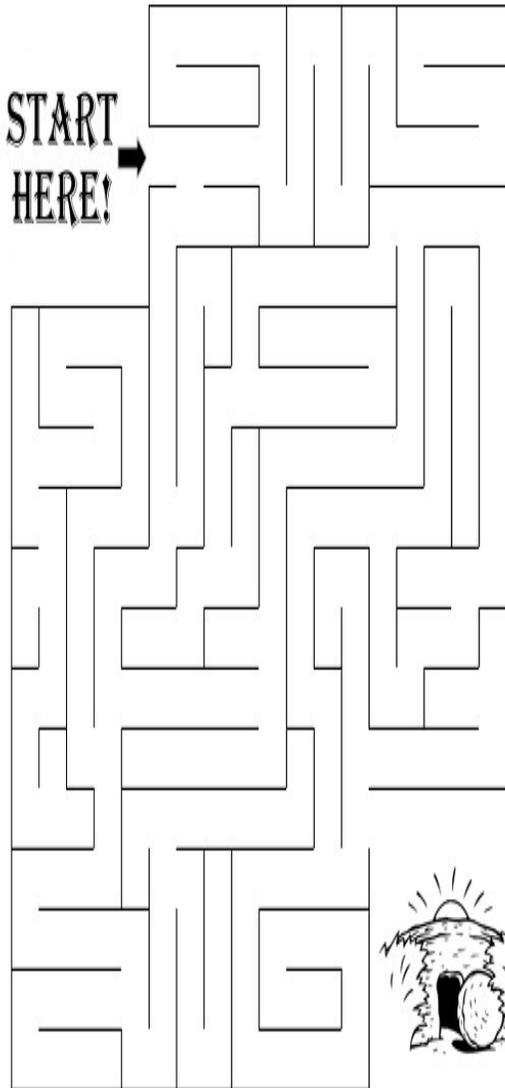
Proverbs 31:26, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12



Surprise! It's Empty!

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:1-12



ACROSS

3. "He is not here, he has _____." Luke 24:6
5. A place where someone, especially an important person, is buried
7. The first or early part of a day
8. A period of twenty-four hours

DOWN

1. To kill someone by tying or nailing them to a cross
2. A period of seven days
4. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building
6. The whole physical structure that forms a person

MORNING	BODY	RISEN	STONE
DAY	CRUCIFY	TOMB	WEEK





CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Prayer - 9:30am Coffee - 9:45am S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	Pray for FCC reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Chris	Mission of the Month: Greater Gwd United Ministry	Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed
					1 2 Tim 2:14-26	2 Heb 5:11-14
3	4 Matt 21:1-11	5 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Mark 11:1-11	6 John 12:1-26	7 Elders mtg (10:00am) John 12:27-50	8 Psalm 118	9 Lk 19:28-40
10 Palm Sunday	11 Isaiah 42	12 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Isaiah 43	13 Isaiah 51	14 Isaiah 52	15 Good Friday Service at First Pres 7pm (Isaiah 53)	16 1 Cor 15
17 Easter Sunday Lunch after Worship	18 Luke 8:1-21	19 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 27:45-66	20 Matthew 28	21 (Mark 16) Newsletter Submissions Due	22 John 19:16-42	23 John 20:10-18
24 Chris Crawford Preaching	25 Luke 24	26 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Exodus 19	27 Luke 9:1-27	28 Luke 9:28-62	29 John 2:1-12	30 Lk 24:13-35

4/10 - Triumphal Entry

4/17 - Resurrection

4/24 - Living Proof: Mary Magdalene

5/01 - Living Proof: The Road to Emmaus

5/08 - Mary, The Mother of Jesus

5/15 - Living Proof: Thomas

5/22 - Living Proof: Peter

5/29 - Ascension

Life of Christ



"⁴⁰ God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead." (Acts 10:40-41 ESV)

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