

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 11, Issue 2
February, 2025

“¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

LEAD

LEADER

2025 Theme

www.fccgwd.org

WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

This popular Tina Turner song asks an interesting question. Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken? The song describes a relationship that is based on the pleasures of the flesh without any emotional connection. If a heart is going to be broken, why bother feeling anything for the relationship?

Some people feel this way about the church. If the church is just going to disappoint me, why bother being part of the church? Is it really necessary to commit to a church when the people in the church are just going to

let me down? The church is where we connect with fellow believers on a spiritual level, and when we connect with each other in the church, Jesus is right there with us. After all, the church is the bride of Christ. And as the bride of Christ, love has everything to do with our relationships.

I love our church!
Earl Winfrey
Earl@fccgwd.org

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JESUS
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Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD

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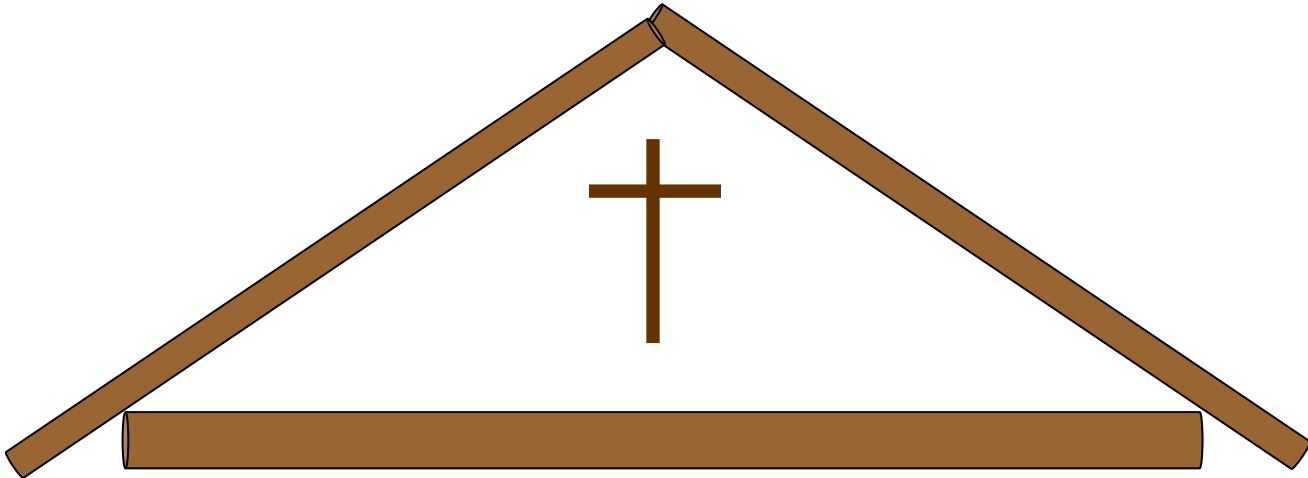
Church Office:

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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

BE FAIR TO ALL, GENEROUS IF APPROPRIATE

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

In our company, we have sometimes failed to reward one person sufficiently for fear of what some other employee might think. The reasoning goes this way: "If we give Bill the bonus he really deserves, Max will hear about it and be upset that he didn't get one." Max was being paid all that he had been promised and had not performed as exceptionally as Bill. If we were being fair to Max, we shouldn't worry about what he thinks of Bill's compensation. To do so is to cheat Bill out of his rightful reward.

Jesus taught this principle clearly in the parable about the landowner who paid the worker he had hired last (who had worked a much shorter time) the same as those who had worked all day. When confronted about this by one who had worked all day, the landowner replied, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong... Take what is yours and go your way. I wish to give to this last man the same as to you. Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?" (Matthew 20:13-15). Be fair to all. Be generous when generosity is merited.

BE A RISK TAKER

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Anyone who thinks Jesus would advocate only a stodgy, ultraconservative business philosophy has never read or understood the parable of the talents as recorded in Matthew 25:14-30. In this famous and forceful story, Jesus describes how a man going away on a journey entrusted sums of money to his workers to handle for him while he was away. He entrusted the most money to the ones with the most ability. Those who invested the funds and multiplied them earned the man's praise. However, the one who buried the funds entrusted to him and returned only the amount he was given received the man's wrath.

The lesson of the parable is that we are to multiply our assets by investing them wisely. Jesus clearly knew that there are risks involved with investing, but the servants who doubled the money entrusted to them are put forth as good examples to us all. The servant who buried the money entrusted to him was called "wicked" and "lazy." He was told that the least he could have done was to put the money on deposit in a bank so it could have earned some interest.

LET YOUR RESULTS SPEAK FOR YOU

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

At one point John the Baptist sent his associates to ask Jesus a key question, the most important one he would ever ask. It is recorded in Luke 7:20, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?" Jesus could have responded indignantly but instead, He let His actions speak for Him. When questioned, we should not respond defensively, we should let our actions speak for us. After all, actions speak louder than words.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



"Core Belief: There is only One God (Part 1)"

Is there a God? (Genesis 1:1-2)

The Bible assumes we already know this - The Bible starts with "In the beginning, God..." It never tries to explain that God exists because there is no need to question the existence of God. Logic demands that there is an intelligent designer, and that designer is not human. Our bodies are way too complicated to be created by chance and the fact that we are always searching for something greater than us gives us evidence that there is something out there.

If God did not exist, why are we always looking for Him? Why do world religions exist? Why do atheists get so mad when you refuse to agree with them? If God did not exist, there would be no reason to deny that He exist, right? The Bible assumes that we already know that God exists, so it moves on to show us what God did

when He created the earth. And while giving us the creation story, the Bible also shows us that there is only God and nothing else.

The creation account in Genesis shows that the one true God created everything and therefore rules everything too. This is contrary to the popular creation myths that existed during the time of the writing where there were multiple gods in competition with each other and at odds with the world as they battled while everything was being created. A quick glance at the 10 plagues in Egypt will show us the many gods the Egyptians worshipped as a result of this polytheistic myth about the creation of the world. Each plague was a shot at one of the manmade gods in Egypt and God was superior every time. There is only one true God, and He is the One who created us.

God exists because we are always looking for Him. We have a craving to find God because we know that somebody had to be first - Even with the big bang theory, there has to be a starting point. Even the gases that supposedly started the process of evolution had to come from somewhere, and nobody is able to explain where they came from. That being the case, which theory makes more sense? We were randomly created as a result of gases that just appeared out of nowhere and through millions of years and changes during the process; we somehow managed to become everything we are today. Or, we were created by an intelligent designer who is in charge of the entire universe. Genesis 1 makes more sense to me.

God cannot be created - No matter how hard people may try, there is no way God can be created because He has always existed, and His power cannot be matched. God is the only being Who can create something out of nothing. The word used for create in Genesis 1 is bara which means to bring into being something new. In the rest of chapter 1, we see God speaking and the world being created. In verse 2, we see that the earth was without form and void. That means God created the earth out of nothing and then He filled it with everything we see today.

Inexpensive Way To Spread God's Word and Prayer

Get some index cards and write Bible verses on them for encouragement. Also, write that whoever is reading the card just got prayed for. (Don't forget to pray!) Then leave them in places where people can see them. Be sure to use Bible verses that are positive and uplifting because the idea is to make somebody smile.





This month's Church myth: "Social Media and Ministry do not play well with each other"

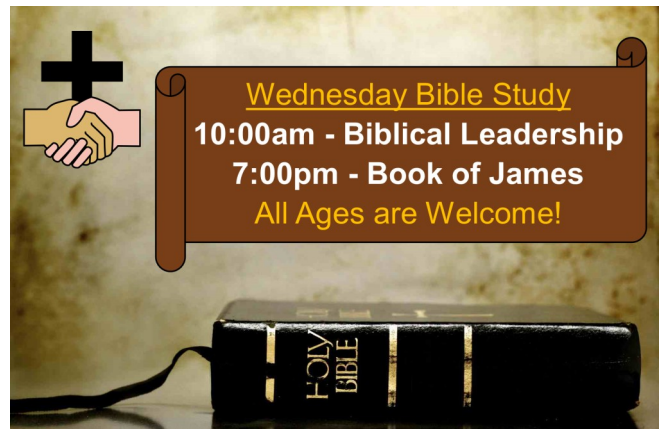
Here we go! This month's myth is going to be part rant, part myth busting because we have what can be referred to as a mixed bag of evidence supporting and debunking the statement made in the title. Before we begin, I want to make sure we have a working definition of social media. It is basically any type of media we use to connect socially, and that includes Facebook, Twitter (X), YouTube, Instagram, and other platforms that I am not familiar with because I am turning 50 years old in April! Social media is a new phenomenon that began in the last decade of the last century although it has been around in various forms earlier than that. We are most familiar with the digital format since that is what dominates our communication methods today.

Social media has become a monster that cannot be controlled and continues to get worse on a daily basis. However, when used properly, it can bring the world together in ways that were not possible a few decades ago. For those of us who work in ministry on a full time basis, social media can be a headache especially when you have people in your circle of influence posting stuff that they would never say face to face. It can also be a temptation for the rest of us to jump in the pool and post stuff that would get us fired if we preached it from the pulpit. Therefore, we must be careful while engaging with social media because anything you post can and will be used against you in the court of public opinion.

For this reason, many churches are still rejecting anything having to do with social media and fail to see how it could be a useful resource. These are the type of churches that will probably not have a website either since they tend to have an Amish approach to the Great Commission, if they are doing anything at all for the Great Commission. Those churches might be stuck in the past, but they might actually be right when it comes to how much we embrace modern technology. At least, they should not be dismissed without hearing what they have to say first. I think we have an obligation to embrace technology as a resource for ministry, but we probably need to take a few steps back to make sure we are not causing more harm than good.

Is it appropriate for a church to use social media for ministry purposes? I don't see why not, but just like anything else, we have to be careful about how far down the road we go with it. Social media in its purist form is an excellent way to reach the masses without having to leave home, but when abused, it can lead to many problems including the misinterpretation of posts that can cause damage to the church and ultimately, the name of Jesus. This is why I say we need to make sure we are careful when posting and only share what we have personally verified using sources that are solid and trustworthy. And when all else fails, post Scripture and encouraging words and you will find a much easier path through the social media intersections on the internet.

Places to go, People to see, Things to do



"Pray for FCC"

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!

Life Lessons Written By Andy Rooney

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in any other way.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Benjamin was the name of Joseph's youngest brother (Gen 44:12)

Winners: Michaela Winfrey/Michael Winfrey/Phillis Jackson



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: Wil Winfrey

This month's question:

What did Jesus say you should do if someone asks you to go with them for a mile?

The Story behind "In Christ Alone" Stuart Townend & Keith Getty



Often attributed as "one of the best modern examples of storytelling conveying the power of the gospel", In Christ Alone was co-written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. Stuart on the lyric side and Getty focusing on the melody and music. What resulted from this new found collaboration was a song that epitomised praise and worship covering the Attributes of God, Actions of God and our response for all Christ has done.

In interview with Christian Music Today, Getty says "I struggled to understand and fully embrace my faith amid an unbelieving, universalist, and multi-religious culture (when growing up in Durham, England). It was a journey to believe in the uniqueness of Christ, the Scriptures and the gospel story. By the time I came through this, my faith was stronger, and I really wanted to write songs for the Church that brought the full, rich, life-giving story of the gospel into believers' hearts and minds.

I then had the privilege of connecting with songwriter Stuart Townend, who had penned the hymn "How Deep the Father's Love for Us." When we first met, there wasn't an immediate personal connection. But we said, "Let's write one song." I knew I wanted the song to be story-driven, so I said, "Let's do a song that tells the whole story of Christ coming to earth—the whole gospel story in one song. Let's have as many verses as we want, and let's just go for it."

A few weeks later Getty sent Stuart some melody ideas, the first of which, penned on the back of electricity bill as a 25 year old, was a magnificent, haunting melody that Stuart loved, and he immediately started writing down some lyrical ideas on what they wanted to say, covering the life, death, resurrection of Christ and the implications of this on our lives. Throughout this process was a deep desire to dig deep into the meaning of God's word and express it in poetic and memorable way, so that the truths of His word would remain in our minds. So that the truth about God and who we are in Him remains central to our lives as believers.

As the lyrics came to life, Stuart became all the more excited because it places our hope, our assurance, our eternal destiny in the right place—on the solid foundation of Christ. He knew in his own life he needed reminding continually not to live by his feelings or his circumstances, but by the unchanging truth of the gospel. It was an undeniable statement of the power of Christ to sustain us in this life.

They finally got together, and after some fine-tuning, In Christ Alone was born. A song abounding in biblical truths...

In Christ alone my hope is found (John 14:6, this line expresses Jesus as the only path to hope.)

He is my light, my strength, my song (All three are in Scripture in terms of our access through God and Jesus: Light – Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 5:8, 1 Peter 2:9, 1 John 1:5-7, 1 John 2:7-11. Strength – Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 22:19, Psalm 28:7-8, Psalm 46:1, Psalm 118:14, Isaiah 12:2, Isaiah 33:2, Isaiah 40:29-31, Habakkuk 3:19, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Ephesians 3:16, Ephesians 6:10, and Philippians 4:13. (New) Song – Psalm 40:3

This cornerstone, this solid ground (Christ is the chief cornerstone that is the foundation for the church (see 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 and Ephesians 2:19-22).)

Continued on page 9...

Commit to God and to Your Spouse

“Submit to one another out of reverence for God.” Ephesians 5:21

You’ve probably never heard of Nicolai Pestretstov, but now you may never forget him. He was 36 years old, a sergeant major in the Russian army, stationed in Angola. His wife had traveled the long distance from home to visit him when, on an August day, South African military units entered the country in quest of black nationalist guerrillas taking sanctuary there. When the South Africans encountered the Russian soldiers, four people were killed and the rest of the Russians fled—except for Sergeant Major Pestretstov.

The South African troops captured Pestretstov, and a military communique explained the situation: “Sergeant Major Nicolai Pestretstov refused to leave the body of his slain wife, who was killed in the assault on the village. He went to the body of his wife and would not leave it, although she was dead.”

What a picture of commitment—and what a series of questions it raises! Robert Fulghum, who tells this story, asks these questions:

Why didn’t he run and save his own hide? What made him go back? Is it possible that he loved her? Is it possible that he wanted to hold her in his arms one last time? Is it possible that he needed to cry and grieve? Is it possible that he felt the stupidity of war? Is it possible that he thought of children, born and unborn? Is it possible that he didn’t care what became of him now? Is it possible? We don’t know. Or at least we don’t know for certain. But we can guess. His actions answer.

What do your actions say about your commitment to your husband? What do your attitudes and your words reveal? Standing by the commitment you made to your spouse—the commitment you made before God and many witnesses—is key to standing by your man.

Picture again Sergeant Major Pestretstov kneeling by the side of his wife’s lifeless body, not wanting to leave the woman to whom he pledged his life even when his very life was at stake. That is a high level of commitment. We are to be as committed. We who are married are to be as committed to our spouse as Christ is to the church he died for. In fact, as Christians, our marriages are to be a witness to the work of Christ’s love and grace. Clearly, marriage is not to be entered into casually.

In light of the importance God places on marriage, Bob and I take the premarital counseling we do very seriously. We never, for instance, encourage two people to get married if one is a Christian and the other is not (2 Corinthians 6:14). A marriage needs to be rooted in each partner’s commitment to love and serve the Lord, or else the union will be divided from the start. In addition, only a Christian marriage will result in a Christian home, a home which glorifies God and acts as His witness to the world.

I can vividly remember an evening Bob and I were sitting on the couch in my living room. He cupped my face in his hands and said, “Emilie, I love you, but I can’t ask you to marry me.” I was stunned. I couldn’t understand why two people who were in love couldn’t get married.

Continued on next page...

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As Bob looked steadfastly into my eyes, I asked, "Why not?" With all the courage he could muster, Bob answered firmly but gently, "Because you are not a Christian." Very innocently I asked Bob, "How do I become a Christian?" From that moment I began to consider whether Jesus might actually be the Messiah my Jewish people had long waited for.

After several months of seeking answers, I prayed one evening at my bedside, "Dear God, if You have a Son and if Your Song is Jesus our Messiah, please reveal Him to me!" I expected a voice to answer me immediately, but God waited a few weeks to reveal himself to me. Then, one Sunday morning, I responded to my pastor's challenge to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior, and that evening I was baptized.

Being obedient to God has meant being blessed by a rich and wonderful marriage that is rooted in His love and dedicated to Him. Furthermore, vowing before God to love Bob through the good times and the bad has reinforced my commitment to him when the times were indeed bad. Had my vows been to Bob alone, they might have been easier to walk away from. But God's witness of our vows and the foundation He gives to Christian couples enables us to stand together whatever comes our way.

Thoughts for Action:

- Today in your journal write down a fresh, new commitment to your God and to your spouse.
- Make a commitment to be willing to "submit to one another" in all things (Eph 5:21)
- Touch your marriage ring (if you wear one). Think back to your wedding day and review your wedding vows. Touch your ring regularly and each time think about those vows.

Additional Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:22-23, Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotion taken from "15 Minutes Alone With God" by Emilie Barnes

...Continued from page 7

Firm through the fiercest drought and storm (References the wise and foolish builder parable in Matthew 7:24-27.)

What heights of love, what depths of peace (Summarized in Romans 5:6-8, Christ's love for us is expressed in sacrifice. Though Christ came the first time not to bring peace, but a sword of division (Matthew 10:34), we may attain Christ's peace through following Him (John 14:27, Romans 5:1, and Galatians 5:22-25).)

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease (Following Jesus leads to fearlessness, much like others who chose to follow God (see Genesis 15:1, Joshua 1:9, Deuteronomy 31:6, 1 Chronicles 28:20, Psalm 23:4, Psalm 27:1, Psalm 34:4, Psalm 56:3-4, Psalm 94:19, Psalm 115:11, Psalm 118:6, Isaiah 35:4, Isaiah 41:10-13, Isaiah 43:1, Isaiah 54:4, John 14:25-27, Romans 8:15, Romans 8:38-39, 2 Timothy 1:7, Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Peter 3:13-14, 1 Peter 5:6-7, and 1 John 4:18). We no longer live for ourselves, but for God, summarized eloquently in 2 Corinthians 5:15 and Galatians 2:20.)

My comforter, my all in all (See Psalm 23:4, Psalm 71:21, Psalm 119:50-52, Psalm 119:76, Psalm 119:82, Isaiah 51:3, Isaiah 57:18, Isaiah 61:2, Isaiah 66:13, Zechariah 1:17, Matthew 5:4, Matthew 11:28-30, and 2 Corinthians 1:3-7.)

Here, in the love of Christ, I stand (Philippians 2:16)


<https://www.bethelripon.com/life-stories/2021/8/31/stuart-townend-amp-keith-getty-the-story-behind-in-christ-alone>




CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2025



| 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 | Mid-Week Bible Study 10am and 7pm (All ages) | Mission of the Month: Greenwood Soup Kitchen | Weekly bulletin will have the most current information | All events subject to change if needed |
| Communion Meditation: <u>1st and 4th Sundays:</u> Jacksons <u>2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays:</u> Winfreys | | | | Leadership meets as needed | | 1 (Matt 5:13-16) Women's Bible Study (1pm) |
| 2 | 3 Rom 3:21-31 | 4 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Rom 10:1-4 | 5 Rom 10:5-13 | 6 Rom 10:14-21 | 7 Gal 3:23-29 | 8 Matt 5:17-20 |
| 9 | 10 Lev 19:1-8 | 11 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Lev 19:9-18 | 12 James 1:1-18 | 13 1 Pet 1:13-25 | 14 1 Peter 3:8-17 | 15 (Matt 5:21-48) Women's Bible Study (1pm) |
| 16 | 17 Jer 9:23-24 | 18 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 23:1-12 | 19 Luke 18:9-14 | 20 (Rom 12:9-21) Newsletter Submissions Due | 21 1 John 2:15-17 | 22 Matt 6:1-18 |
| 23 | 24 Matt 19:16-30 | 25 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Luke 12:13-21 | 26 Luke 12:22-34 | 27 1 Tim 6:1-10 | 28 1 Tim 6:11-21 | |





January/February:

- 26 - The Axe of the Lord (Matt 3)
- 02 - Salt and Light of the World (Matt 5:13-16)
- 09 - Required Righteousness (Matt 5:17-20)
- 16 - Be Perfect (Matt 5:21-48)
- 23 - Secret Service (Matt 6:1-18)

March:

- 02 - Treasure Hunting (Matt 6:19-34)
- 09 - Here Comes the Judge (Matt 7:1-6)
- 16 - The Golden Rule (Matt 7:7-12)
- 23 - Life is Hard (Matt 7:13-14)
- 30 - A Secure Foundation (Matt 7:15-29)

greatexpectations

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Matthew 16:24 ESV)

April:

- 06 - The Sign of a True Disciple (Matt 16)
- 13 - Fair Weather Fans (Matt 21:1-9)
- 20 - Victory in Jesus (Matt 28)

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org



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"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." Col 3:14



Wow! February, the month of love! There's so much that I love, like music, food, friends, family, and so much more! I think the greatest love of all is God's love. God sent his son down to die on the cross for our sins, the ultimate act of love. So, we need to thank God for all the love that he's shown us! Happy Valentines!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. "

John 3:16

Michaela Winfrey

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Strawberry White Chocolate Goopy Bars

Ingredients:

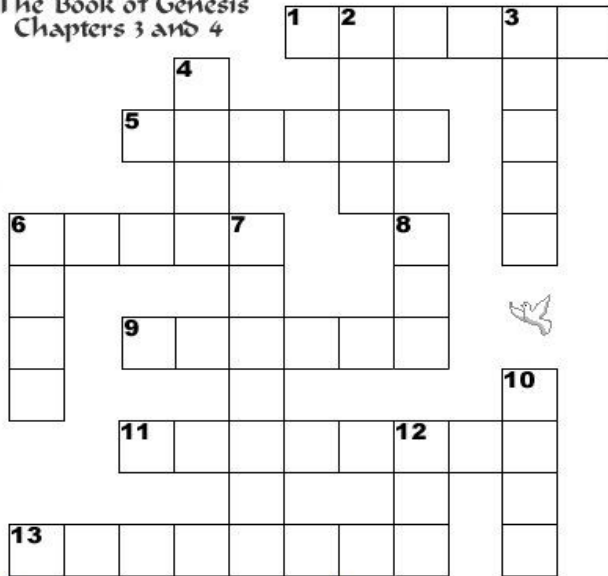
½ cups unsalted butter, softened / 1 15.25-ounce box strawberry cake mix / 1 large egg
1 cup white chocolate chips / About 60% of one 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 and line a 9x9 inch pan with aluminum foil / To a large bowl, add the butter and beat until smooth and creamy / Add the cake mix, egg, and combine, batter will be thick / Add between half and two-thirds of the dough to the pan to form an even, smooth base layer / Evenly sprinkle the white chocolate chips over the dough / Evenly drizzle the sweetened condensed milk / Add the rest of the dough in approximately 1-inch pieces over the sweetened condensed milk, lightly pressing it down. You won't have complete coverage / Bake for about 27 to 30 minutes or until edges are set and the center is mostly set / Allow to cool for at least 2 to 3 hours before cutting

Crossword No.2

The Book of Genesis
Chapters 3 and 4



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more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>

Down

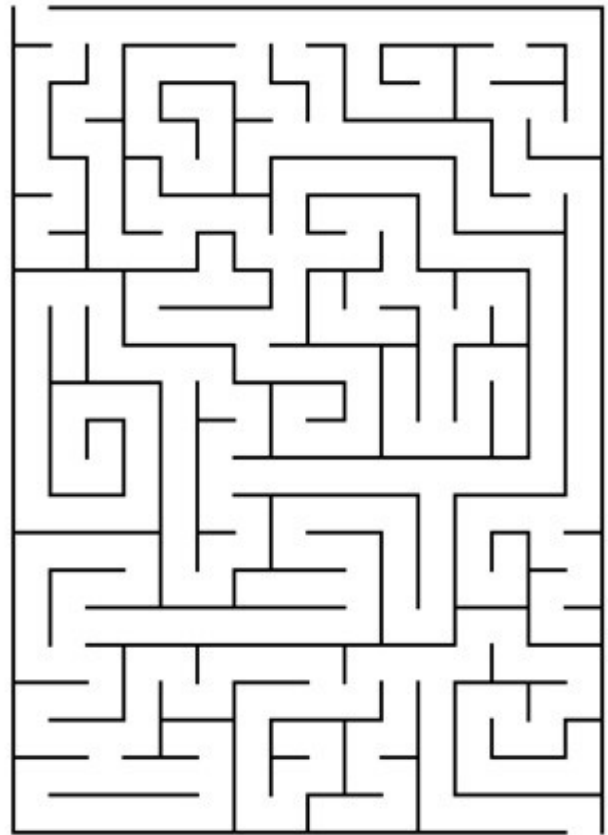
- (2) Adam's second son
- (3) Cain's first son (Gen.4:17)
- (4) Adam's first son
- (6) Adam's third son
- (7) What creature tempted Eve
- (8) Cain lived in this land
- (10) First man
- (12) First woman

Across

- (1) Cain's occupation (Gen.4:2)
- (5) The ____ of Eden
- (6) Adam and Eve's first clothes(Gen.3:21)
- (9) Because of sin the ground was _____ (Gen.3:17)
- (11) Abel's occupation (Gen.4:2)
- (13) Cain became a _____ and a vagabond (Gen.4:12)

Start!

Maze 3



© Tim's Printables

Finish!

