Easter Sunday 🕏 April 9, 2023

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

Sign up for this Wednesday's **Smoked Chicken** meal in the hall. Adventure Club starts in the gym at 6:20 p.m. Youth begins at 6:30. Adult Bible Study begins at 6:45.

Lunch, Laughs, and Fellowship

Scheduled for Thursday, **April 13**, at 11:15 a.m. Let Cindy Wise know if you are participating this month.

New Women's Sunday School Class

Tamera Smith will begin a new Women's Sunday School class using the book *Choosing Gratitude: Your Journey to Joy*. **Class begins April 16**. Check amazon.com or other outlet to get your copy!

Quarterly Members' Meeting, Evening Worship, & After Church Fellowship!

Our regular meeting will be on Sunday, **April 16**, before our Evening Worship Service that starts at 6:00 p.m. The exact time of the meeting will be announced later. Evening Worship will be followed by an After Church Fellowship, so please bring snacks to share!

Senior Saints' Lunch

On Tuesday, **April 18**, the Senior Saints plan to take a trolley tour of Savannah and have lunch at Spanky's on River Street. This trip is open to anyone who would like to come. The Old Town Trolley tour is \$15 (we got the price down!) and lunch at Spanky's is also extra. Sign up in the hall, and meet at the church at 9:00 a.m.

Women of Light Spring Banquet

The Women of Light Spring Banquet is Friday, **April 21**, at 6:00 p.m. The dinner will be catered, and tickets are \$12. You can buy one from Amy Keller, or in the office. (Make checks out to FABC and put "Banquet" in the memo.) Invite your friends! A sign up list is in the hall.

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FABC Elders

Bob Dimmitt Senior Pastor 912-398-4363 bob@fabchurch.com Tom Keller
Assoc. Pastor/Senior Adults
912-308-3767
tom@fabchurch.com

Church Phone: 912-355-0949 office@fabchurch.com www.fabchurch.com

Easter Sunday \$\footnote{\pi} April 9, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship Matthew 28:1-6 Pew Bible p. 835

Hymn #137, bulletin p. 5

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Prayer of General Confession

Tom Keller Ephesians 2:4-5 Pew Bible p. 976

Hymn, bulletin p. 6

"Resurrection Hymn (See What a Morning)"

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 15:12-28 Bob Dimmitt Pew Bible p. 961

Hymn, bulletin pp. 7-9

"It Was Finished Upon that Cross"

Message
Bob Dimmitt
Are We to Be Pitied?
Easter 2023
I Corinthians 15, Pew Bible pp. 961-962

Communion

Hymn, bulletin pp. 10-11

"Benediction"

A.M. Notes

Are We to Be Pitied? 1 Corinthians 15 Easter 2023

They were denying that there was a future resurrection of the dead. Yet, there is no evidence that the Corinthians denied the reality of Christ's resurrection.

If they consistently deny the future resurrection of believers, this will inevitably lead to a denial of the resurrection of Christ, and then the gospel.

Paul assumes an intimate, indissoluble, covenantal relation between the believer and Christ. Thus if Christ is raised, then the believer must also be raised; if the believer is not raised, then Christ is not raised.

Paul makes 4 points (verses 12-19)

First, if Christ is not raised then faith and preaching are without basis.

Second, if Christ is not raised, then the apostles are distorters of the truth.

Third, if Christ is not raised then God is implicated as well. God is accused of not doing what he said he did.

Fourth, if Christ is not raised then: you are still in your sins and dead believers are forever lost.

Paul is assuming 3 truths (verses 20-28):

First, as God's Son, the Last Adam, Christ has inaugurated a new creation, evidenced in his death, resurrection, and gift of the Spirit.

Second, Paul assumes an indissoluble union between the resurrection of Christ and the bodily resurrection of believers.

Third, God has set in motion an "inevitable chain of events" that will only be completed when all of God's enemies are destroyed, including death itself. That is why Christ's resurrection *demands* our resurrection since if we are not raised bodily from the grave, then death is never truly defeated and God can never be "all in all."

The resurrection body is not merely the re-animation or resuscitation of a dead body, rather it is a body adapted to the new conditions of the future.

<u>Christ's resurrection body becomes the pattern of our resurrection body—a</u> "spiritual" body—that is, supernatural and glorified.

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Gideon Speaker

A representative from the Gideon organization will give a short presentation in the evening service on Sunday, **April 30**. Pray about how you might help this ministry.

Home Fellowships!

We plan to have Home Fellowships the evening of **May 28**. Let Dawn know if you would like to host a group. We need at least 4 homes. Hosts are responsible for drinks and paper products. (You may use paper products from the church kitchen if you like.) Guests, please bring snacks and finger foods. A short devotional will be given by someone assigned by our elders. These are great times of fun and fellowship!



https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/fabchurchga

If you haven't joined yet, please do!



Important Upcoming Dates

April:

9	Easter Breakfast	8:30 a.m.
9	Easter Worship	10:00 a.m.
13	Lunch, Laughs, and Fellowship	11:30 a.m.
16	Quarterly Members' Meeting	TBA
16	Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.
16	After Church PM Fellowship	7:00 p.m.
18	Senior Saints' Lunch	10:00 a.m.
21	Women of Light Banquet	6:00 p.m.

May:

6 Mother & Daughter Tea TBA

June:

D3 High School Camp

10-23	D3 Flight School Camp	
26-30	Vacation Bible School	9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

July:

24-27 Older Children's Camp TBA

EASTER HYMN



See, What a Morning (Resurrection Hymn)



It Was Finished Upon That Cross

Words and Music by JONNY ROBINSON, RICH THOMPSON & NIGEL HENDROFF







on the Cross of Cal-va-ry. He de-clares His work is fin-ished, He has spo-ken this



hope to me. Though the sun had ceased its shin-ing, though the war ap-peared as lost,



Christ has tri-umphed o-ver e-vil, it was fin-ished u - pon that Cross.



Now the curse, it has been bro-ken,



Je-sus paid the price for me. Full, the par-don He has of-fered. Great, the wel-come that

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I re-ceive. Bold-ly I ap-proach my Fa - ther, clothed in Je - sus' right - eous-ness.



There is no more guilt to car-ry, it was fin-ished u - pon that Cross.





Death was once my great op-pon-ent, fear once had a hold on me. But the Son who

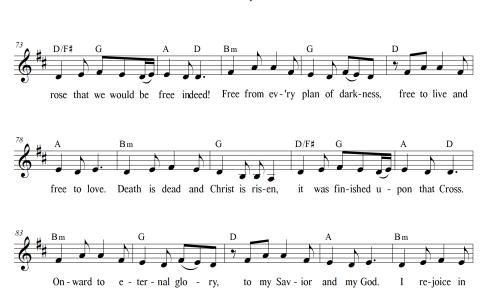


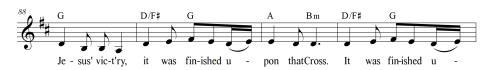


Death was once my great op-pon-ent, fear once had a



hold on me. But the Son who died to save us rose that we would be free in-deed! Yes, He













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Benediction, p. 2



Articles

The Resurrection Answers Three Big Questions

by Sean McDowell, Ph.D.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is either one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted on the minds of human beings—or it is the most remarkable fact of history." My father has often shared these words to me in person, and he's written them in his books. The older I get, the more I realize they're unmistakably true. There's no middle ground with the resurrection of Jesus. Either it is a colossal fabrication or the most important event in history.

When people are thinking about the resurrection they ask; is it true? What does it mean? Why should I care? I have a modest goal: to persuade you of the monumental importance of the resurrection of Jesus. Thus, I consider three massive questions that the resurrection, if it is true, answers.

I. Does God Exist?

If Jesus has risen from the grave, and truly conquered death 2,000 years ago, then this seems to be powerful evidence for the existence of God. After all, a resurrection would require an enormous amount of power and an enormous amount of knowledge. Nature does not have the resources to account for a resurrection any more than a feather can account for a dent in a car. There must be a supernatural explanation.

Commenting on Jesus' claims to deity, Gary Habermas observes, "But were these claims true? To verify them, the Gospels assert that Jesus performed miracles as signs of his credibility. We are even told that he identified his resurrection and predicted in advance that this event would be the ultimate vindication of his message and his own claim to deity. The sum of these teachings comprised Jesus's personal belief in Christian theism. It makes sense that Jesus was in the best position to interpret the meaning of this event. And he claimed that God's action in his resurrection would verify his teachings. We need to entertain at least the possibility that Jesus was correct: that this unique historical event combined with Jesus's unique claims might indicate that his theistic worldview was corroborated."

If Jesus rose from the grave, then it seems to provide a positive answer to one of the most pressing issues humans ask—does God exist?

2. Which Religion Is True?

If the resurrection actually took place in historical space-time, then all other religions and philosophies for coping with life fall short. This doesn't mean other religions are entirely false in everything they teach. Many religions offer profound insights about life. But it does mean that on core issues—the nature of God, salvation and the afterlife—Christianity is uniquely true. And on the flip side, as Paul observes, if the resurrection is not true, then Christianity is utterly false (1 Cor 15:14, 17).

Jesus encouraged people to believe in him because of both his teachings and his miracles (e.g. John 5:36-40; Luke 10:13-15). He seemed to view miracles as provid-

ing a divine seal on his own ministry. For instance, Jesus reportedly told the Jewish leaders that his miracles were proof that he was the Son of God (John 10:36-38). On another occasion, Jesus pointed to his resurrection as the greatest sign that would confirm his identity (Matthew 16:1-4). Again, Gary Habermas observes:

"In what the Book of Acts presents as its initial sermon, Peter reportedly declared that Jesus's miracles, and especially the resurrection, were the chief indication that God had approved Jesus's teachings (Acts 2:23-32)...By citing an early creed that utilizes at least three Christological titles, Paul proclaimed that the resurrection was God's confirmation of Jesus Christ (Rom 1:3-4)...the resurrection would have been taken as God's approval of Jesus's message."

3. Is There Life After Death?

How could we really know if there is life after death? In the 1990 science-fiction thriller Flatliners, some medical students want to know if there is life after death. Instead of studying religion or philosophy, they decide to flatline one another's hearts, resuscitate themselves back to life, and then give a report on what happens in the afterlife. While morbid, their thinking does make sense—if we want to know what's on the other side of life, we should ask someone who has been there and come back.

If the resurrection is true, then Jesus has actually returned from the dead and can confirm that there is life after death. In John 14:3, Jesus says to his disciples, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also" (ESV). In other words, Jesus can testify about life after death because he has died, and then returned to life as a witness. Thus, if the resurrection is true, then life continues after death, just as Jesus taught.

Can you see how important the resurrection is? Again, either it is a colossal fabrication, or it is the most important event in history. There's no middle ground. If you haven't really considered the evidence, then today should be the day.

he resurrection of Christ has determined our existence for all time and eternity. We do not merely live out our length of days and then have the hope of resurrection as an addendum; rather, Christ's resurrection has set in motion a chain of inexorable events that absolutely determines our present and our future. Christ is the firstfruits of those who are his, who will be raised at his coming. That ought both to reform the way we currently live and to reshape our worship into seasons of unbridled rejoicing.

Gordon Fee

Missionary of the Week

Mario & Elizabeta Kushner Virovitica, Croatia

Mario and his wife, Elizabeta, minister to revitalize a church in Virovitica, Croatia. He is a graduate of the seminary where Kris Brackett teaches. He sent some prayer points to share this week.

After the flooding we've had in the rainy season, we have spent around \$3.000 to remedy the problem. It seems the issue has been resolved now, but we will have to wait for the fall (autumn) to be sure.

We have started having short Sunday morning services in the nursing



home. In the past 3 months, there were days when nobody came, but also days when 4 or 5 employees have been standing by the chapel door and listening to the singing and the sermon, or days when 1 or 2 or 3 seniors came in and stayed for the entire service. Maybe around 20 people in total have been present for either a part or whole of the service. With some, we had good talks after the service.

As usually, we need prayers for:

- our sleep and rest, as Tena still does not sleep through the night (it's a good night if we get 5 hrs of sleep), and Elizabeta has to work long hours
- the current church members, that they'd be serious about their Christian walk
- the three new believers, that they'd grow and be firm as we prepare for their baptism
- the tracts we distribute, that new people would come to the church and be saved
- a mature family or two to move to Virovitica, as we need serious co-workers willing to serve
- our nursing home ministry

As difficult as it is to trust God in adversity, there are other times when it may be even more difficult to trust Him; such as when circumstances are going well. During times of prosperity we are prone to put our trust in those blessings or in ourselves as the providers of those blessings. At these moments we show our trust by acknowledging God as the provider of those blessings. It is the Lord that provides the regular paycheck, and the full refrigerator. We should express heartfelt acknowledgment and genuine gratitude to God in our prayers of thanksgiving to the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 7:14

What Is the Gospel?

What is the gospel? I'll put it in a sentence.

The gospel is the news that Jesus Christ, the Righteous One, died for our sins and rose again, eternally triumphant over all his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy.

That's the gospel.

You Can't Outgrow the Gospel

You never, never, never outgrow your need for the gospel. Don't ever think of the gospel as, "That's the way you get saved, and then you get strong by leaving it and doing something else."

No! We are strengthened by God through the gospel every day, till the day we drop.

You never outgrow the need to preach to yourself the gospel.

John Piper

ver since the fall of Man in the Garden there has lurked a suspicion of God in the human heart; that God, if there is one, is bound to be against us, forbidding us natural pleasures and repressing us psychologically and restraining us from developing our full human potential. The result is the alienation of the human spirit from God, and in extreme cases the denial of anything that smacks of God, even to the extent of denying that humans have a spirit, and attempting to believe that humans are nothing but matter. —at the same time our awareness of our real guilt and shame of our actual personal sins adds to the sense (and rightly so) that God, if He exists, must be against our sins. - How can this alienation and hostility be removed? In the incarnation of the Son of God and His death on the cross.

Excerpt from Being Truly Human

Nursery April 9 Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Beth Lewis, Jeanie Groover

Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker **Preschoolers:**

Barbara Mason, Dawn Stanford

Nursery April 16 Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler, Kay Stanford **Toddlers:**

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris

Preschoolers:

Ashley Leoni, Elinor Morris

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If you have any questions concerning the message from today, or are interested in obtaining information about church membership, please see any of the pastors after the service,

drop a note in the offering plate indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.



Video and audio recordings of the messages are available for listening or downloading from

www.fabchurch.com/sermons

This Week at FABC				
Today				
Breakfast Buffet	8:30 a.m.			
Morning Worship with Communion	10:00 a.m.			
Tuesday				
Joy Class	9:00 a.m.			
Men's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.			
Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m.			
Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.			
Wednesday				
Supper: Smoked Chicken	5:30 p.m.			
Adventure Club (in gym)	6:20 p.m.			
Youth (in Fellowship Hall)	6:30 p.m.			
Bible Study (in Sanctuary)	6:45 p.m.			
Thursday				
Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.			
Lunch, Laughs, & Fellowship	11:15 a.m.			
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.			
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.			

Lockup Deacons for April: Joe Morris, Jim Schraeder



Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Kay Stanford, Saundra Bridges

Adult

Babies

"Systematic Theology" Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"Young Marrieds" Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"John" Piano Overflow: Steve Jackson
"Forgiveness" Organ Overflow: Tamera Smith

Room 3:

Children and Students

Toddlers Room 24: Lynn Ernst, Kelly Zittrouer Pre-K Emily Wise, Kamee Roberson/ Room 25: Michael and Ruth Kleinpeter K, 1st and 2nd Grade Room 28: John and Pam Humphrey 3rd-6th Grade Boys Room 202: Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills 3rd-6th Grade Girls Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton Room 204: Youth Guvs Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion Room 206: Youth Girls Room 206: Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach