



September 10, 2023

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ♦ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

Announcements

Deacon Nominations Needed

Submit nominations to any elder or deacon no later than **today, September 10.**

Joy Class

The Joy Class resumes their weekly Tuesday meeting in the church Fellowship Hall this Tuesday, **September 12**, at 9:00 a.m. All ladies are welcome to join them for fellowship!

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, **September 12**, at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night

This Wednesday, **September 13**, the menu is **Fried Chicken**. Supper is at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club is at 6:20 p.m., Youth is at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study is at 6:45 p.m. Sign up in the hall for the meal!

After Church Fellowship

An After Church Fellowship is scheduled for next Sunday evening, **September 17**, at 7:00 p.m., after Evening Worship at 6:00. Bring snacks and finger foods to share!

Senior Saints' Lunch Trip

On Tuesday, **September 19**, The Senior Saints will travel to Charleston, South Carolina. There will be lunch and ice cream at the Salty Dog Café and the Salty Dog Ice Cream Shop. Then they will take a trolley tour of the Charleston Tea Garden (tickets \$15). Sign up in the hall, and meet at the church at 8:30 a.m.

Ghost Pirates Tickets

If you would like tickets to the **November 16** hockey game, sign the list in the hall! We need a final count by **Wednesday, October 11**. Tickets are \$22. By the way, the Ghost Pirates are an affiliate of the Vegas Golden Knights, the 2023 Stanley Cup Champions. The Golden Knights will be honored at this game.

Senior Saints Christmas Trip

Tom has planned the **Fall Christmas Trip to Myrtle Beach**. The trip will be **December 4-6**, and will include two nights, two breakfasts, two dinners, and two shows. The cost is \$315 if you want a room by yourself, otherwise, it is only \$226 per person. There is a sign up sheet in the hall. Sign up by **November 5** so he knows how many rooms to reserve.

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

September 10, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 100

Pew Bible pp. 500-501

Hymn #8, bulletin p. 6

"All People that on Earth Do Dwell"

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Jackson

Hebrews 7:24-25

Pew Bible pp. 1004-1005

Hymn #333, bulletin p. 7

"May the Mind of Christ, My Savior"

Scripture Reading

Psalm 96

Dean McCraw

Pew Bible p. 499

Hymn, bulletin p. 8-9

"The Precious Blood"

Message

Bob Dimmitt

Two Baptisms

Matthew #10

Matthew 3:5-10, Pew Bible p. 808

Hymn, below

"Doxology"

Owens tune

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen

A.M. Notes

Two Baptisms Matthew #10 Matthew 3:5-10

The call to turn away from sin and turn to God is not only because sin makes you unhappy and can create a mess in your life. It is because of coming _____

Verse 7 mentions the Pharisees and Sadducees- *see notes on pages 4 & 5*

Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees - this pictures an axe man who has gripped the ax and placed the blade against the root to ensure an accurate cut, readying himself to sever the root with a powerful swing.

They were coming out to see what was going on, they were not coming out to get baptized.

Messianic investigations - stage one: observation; no questions.

"We have Abraham as our father" is most likely an allusion to Isaiah 51:1-2

Fruit speaks of actions and words that express genuine repentance.

Matthew 3:11-12

A Hebrew slave could carry one's sandals but not engage in the task of removing them.

1 Corinthians 12:13 and Isaiah 66:15-16

Pharisees and Sadducees

Biblical scholars estimate that there were about 6,000 Pharisees, 4,000 Essenes, and substantially fewer Sadducees. At the time of Jesus, there were approximately 4 million people living in Palestine.

Both sects of Pharisees and Sadducees, among a host of other Jewish sects, arose around 430 BCE during the reign of the Hasmoneans in resistance to their reign. With respect to the total Jewish population in Palestine, both the Pharisees and the Sadducees were insignificant. Regardless of their relatively small numbers, they were very influential. Both sects were devoutly Jewish. They shared these beliefs:

- There was only one true God, the God of Abraham as revealed in Hebrew Scripture.
- This God created the universe and everything in it.
- This God selected the people of Israel as his chosen people.
- This God would protect them if they obeyed his law but punish them if they did not.

Despite these agreements, Sadducees and Pharisees had significant differences in the areas of religion and politics.

Sadducees' Beliefs

It is difficult to discover the beliefs of Sadducees. Not one written work exists that was authored by a Sadducee. The only way to begin an investigation is to look at who they were and to rely on secondary sources such as Josephus and the New Testament for a description of their beliefs.

During the time of Jesus, the Sadducees were the political elite of Palestine.

- They were Jewish aristocrats, mostly from Jerusalem, wealthy and politically, and socially and religiously influential.
- Some biblical scholars identify Sadducees as a political party, although not strictly in the modern, Western sense.
- Because of their aristocratic position, Sadducees were generally conciliatory toward the Roman occupiers.
- Most Sadducees were priests, but not all priests belonged to this sect.
- Sadducees were closely connected to the Temple in Jerusalem.
- The Sanhedrin, the Jewish governing council in Jerusalem, consisted predominantly of Sadducees.
- Sadducees believed only the Torah was sacred.
- Probably due to their connection with the Temple and with the priestly class, Sadducees emphasized strict adherence to the law of Moses and strict adherence to Temple worship and sacrifices.
- Their devotion to the temple made the Sadducees suspicious of every other Jewish sect, including Jesus' followers, who would bring Roman interference into temple practices.
- There was no resurrection of the dead and no afterlife.

Pharisees' Beliefs

Palestine, at the time the Pharisaic sect originated, was heavily influenced by Greek culture and religion. For many Jews, this was an abomination against the one God. Pharisees resisted this Greek-inspired culture in Palestine. We get an idea of the self-identity of Pharisees in the name itself. Pharisee means “separated one.”

- Josephus wrote that Pharisees began as a sect devoted to strict observance of the “Will of God” as delineated in the Laws of Moses
- In order to conduct this strict observance, Pharisees devised a set of behavior prescriptions to follow, conveyed generationally in an oral tradition.
- Pharisees became fastidious in defining what behaviors were acceptable under the Laws of Moses, attempting to define away any ambiguity.
- By defining the acceptable practice in every possible situation, Pharisees believed that the Will of God would be followed.
- Pharisees avoided people who did not follow their purity practices.
- In governing their actions, Pharisees added these oral tradition behavior prescriptions to the written Law of Moses, the five books of the Torah.
- In about 200 BCE, these oral rules and regulations became written as the *Mishnah*, the core of the *Talmud*, the sacred texts of Judaism.
- The dead would be resurrected at the end of time.

The Differences Between Pharisees and Sadducees

Pharisees were a relatively closed society of like-minded people devoted to religious purity. They were not a politically powerful group in Palestine like the Sadducees. The Pharisees were less devoted to temple worship and sacrifices, more concerned with observing their oral traditions and the Law of Moses by adhering to their behavior prescriptions to cover every possibility.

Sadducees were a political elite heavily involved in political affairs, including collaborating with the Romans.

Pharisees were not any kind of elite, although some Pharisees were wealthy.

Sadducees were priests involved with the Temple, its festivals, and its sacrifices.

Pharisees were a separatist group, homogenous in belief and practice.

These differences were trivial compared to the differences between the two sects regarding the resurrection of the dead and an afterlife. ♦

Self-knowledge is both a simple gift and a hard-won achievement. It's very difficult to see our motives and even harder to see them for what they are. Though this is generally true it is particularly true when we get angry. Part of the problem comes because our anger feels so “righteous”—bad anger is very self-righteous. Our passionate desire to think well of ourselves, to assert and defend ourselves continually, gets in the way of seeing and facing our motives. This is where we must ask ourselves searching questions so we can uncover expectations that underlie our anger. The right questions will reveal our heart—what we crave, what we trust, what we hate, and what we love. Often our anger not only says we are going astray but who it is that is the center of our universe.

David Powlison, *Good and Angry*

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510 - c. 1561

G G D Em Bm Em D G G D Em C G D

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice;
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed: With - out our aid He did us make;
 3. O en - ter then His gates with praise, Ap - proach with joy His courts un - to:
 4. For why? the Lord our God is good, His mer - cy is for - ev - er sure;

8 Em D/F# G D G/B C D7/A G D/F# G Em D Am G/B D D7 G

Him serve with fear, His praise forth - tell, Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
 We are His fold, He doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
 Praise, laud and bless His name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
 His truth at all times firm - ly stood, And shall from age to age en - dure.

CCLI Song # 82096

© Words: Public Domain | Music: Public Domain

For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 2358754

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

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

KATE B. WILKINSON, 1859-1928

ST. LEONARDS

A. CYRIL BARHAM-GOULD, 1891-1953



1. May the mind of Christ, my Sav-ior, Live in me from day to day,
 2. May the Word of God dwell rich-ly In my heart from hour to hour,
 3. May the peace of God, my Fa-ther, Rule my life in ev-'ry-thing,
 4. May the love of Je-sus fill me, As the wa-ters fill the sea;
 5. May I run the race be-fore me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
 6. May His beau-ty rest up-on me As I seek the lost to win,

By His love and pow'r con-trol-ling All I do and say.
 So that all may see I tri-umph On-ly thru His pow'r.
 That I may be calm to com-fort Sick and sor-row-ing.
 Him ex-alt-ing, self-a-bas-ing- This is vic-to-ry.
 Look-ing on-ly un-to Je-sus As I on-ward go.
 And may they for-get the chan-nel, See-ing on-ly Him.



Important Upcoming Dates

September:

17 After Church Fellowship 7:00 p.m.

October:

15 Quarterly Members' Meeting TBA
 15 Ice Cream Social 7:00 p.m.
 25 Fall Festival
 28 Homecoming Work Day 8:00 a.m.

November:

5 Homecoming
 10-11 Women's Retreat
 16 Ghost Pirates hockey game
 26 Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, & Carols 6:00 p.m.

The Precious Blood

Music and Words by
Peter Gagnon

$\text{♩} = 63$



1. Be - fore the cross I kneel and see the
(2. And) who am I that I should know this



mea - sure of my sin, how
treasure of such worth, my



You be - came a curse for me, though You were in - no - cent. The
Sav - ior's pure a - ton - ing blood, shed for the wrath I'd earned. For



mag - ni - tude of Your great love was shown in full de - gree, when
sin has stained my ev - ery deed. my ev - ery word and thought. What



right - eous blood, the crim - son spill, rained down from Cal - va - ry. _____
won - drous love that makes me one, Your price - less blood has bought.

§



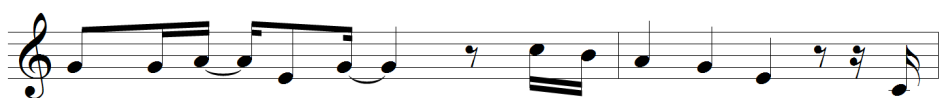
Oh, the pre - cious blood that

CCLI Song # 4804297

© 2005 Sovereign Grace Worship

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com

CCLI License # 2358754



flowed from Mer - cy's side, washed a - way my sin when



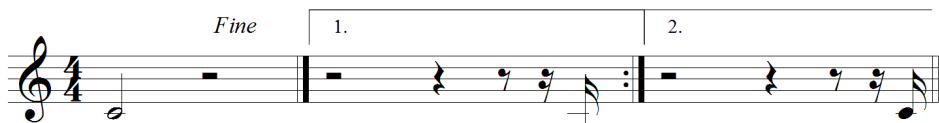
Christ my Sa - vior died. Oh, the pre - cious blood of



Christ the cru - ci - fied, _____ it



speaks for me__ be - fore Your throne, where I stand jus - ti -



fied.

1.

2.

2. And

A



crown of thorns, pierced hands and feet, a bod - y bruised, and



Mer-cy's plea.

A

Mer-cy's plea. _____

Oh, the

Articles

Did Authoritative Male Headship Exist in the Garden of Eden Before the Fall?

By Le Ann Trees

There is a lot of debate going on currently regarding male and female roles in marriage and the church. Increasingly, some Christians are arguing that there was no authority structure in Adam and Eve's relationship in the garden of Eden prior to their fall into sin.

According to this line of thinking, if there was no relationship order before the fall, then authoritative male headship was not God's *original* design but rather part of the *post-fall* curse. The conclusion of those who argue this way is that husbands and wives are to equally submit to each other, and all those verses in the NT about wifely submission and women not being able to teach authoritatively in the church must mean something else. Is this actually true? No. Here's why.

In Genesis 2 God made a conditional covenant with Adam before Eve was created; and we also learn that God made Eve, an image-bearer of God, to be a helper to Adam.

In Genesis 2 we learn that God made Adam first and then made Eve from the rib of Adam for the specific purpose of being a helper to Adam. Additionally, before God created her, God gave Adam the direct command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, along with specific sanctions if Adam failed to pass the test of fidelity to his sovereign King. God also gave Adam authority to name the animals before Eve existed.

As Denny Burk points out in an article for The Gospel Coalition, one of the key arguments against authoritative male headship is based on an interpretation of Genesis 3:16 that denies the reality of order in marriage before the fall. Yet, Adam's headship before the fall is on display in the following circumstances: Adam—not Eve—was given the responsibility to keep God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. In Genesis 2:16-17, God made a conditional covenant with Adam to test his fidelity to his Creator. Eve had not been created at the time God commanded Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Adam was the covenant head who represented all of humanity, and by his disobedience he brought condemnation on himself and all his posterity. Similarly, Jesus was the covenant head who, by his fully obedient life and perfect sacrificial death, secured salvation and eternal life for all who trust in him.

Adam exercised authority over the animals by naming them (Gen. 2:19). Similarly he called the helper God gave to him "Woman" (Gen. 2:23). Post-fall, Adam would give his wife the name Eve, "because she was the mother of all living" (Gen. 3:20), showing his faith in God's promise to provide a savior for mankind.

Even though Eve sinned first, God placed the fault on Adam, as he was the one who bore the responsibility to keep God's command in Genesis 2:16-19.

The fact that the serpent approached Eve and not Adam is an indication of Satan's attempt to overthrow God's design for the order of creation: *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"* (Gen. 3:1)

According to theologian Meredith Kline in *Kingdom Prologue: Genesis Foundations for a Covenantal Worldview*, Various factors may have entered into the tempter's strategy of approaching the woman rather than Adam. Certainly in maneuvering Adam out of the position of primary response Satan was defying and subverting the structure of authority God had appointed for the human family. Moreover, there would be greater contradiction of this same divine institution if Eve could be induced to lead the family head into sin than if it happened the other way around.

Kline continues regarding Satan's attack against the social structure God had ordained: Satan's challenge to God's authority compelled man to choose between two masters. It was part of Satan's falsifying of the situation that he projected for himself the image of lordly benefactor. While he was getting the woman to separate in theory between God's interests and her own and to act in a spirit of self-interest over against the (insinuated) inconsiderateness of God, Satan managed to strike the pose of one who was himself concerned for man's best interests. At every turn he forced onto man this choice between authorities. By approaching the woman and ignoring the man's headship he presented a different interpretation of the social structure from that given in God's covenant law, so compelling the woman and man to choose which authority they would submit to.

In a report on women serving in the ministry of the church that was adopted by the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of America, a study committee also addresses the reversal of roles taking place in Genesis 3 that God had established in Genesis 2, about which the apostle Paul writes in his first letter to Timothy.

In 1 Timothy 2:14, Paul draws attention to a second role reversal in Genesis 2. Eve is deceived by the serpent, because, in part, Adam failed to play his role as husband and covenant keeper. Though Adam was created first (1 Tim. 2:13) and was personally given the command/prohibition by God before Eve was created (Gen. 2:15-17), Adam listened to his wife's voice instead of God's command. Moses explicitly explains: "*Then [God] said to Adam, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, "You shall not eat from it"; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it all the days of your life'"*" (Gen. 3:17). Paul's whole discussion in 1 Timothy 2:11-15 is squarely based on Genesis 1-3. Eve was deceived, but Adam is responsible because he failed in his role as covenant keeper and federal head. Adam listened to Eve, even when she contradicted the word God had personally spoken to him. Eve was deceived, but Adam disobeyed an explicit command. His was high-handed sin.

If Adam and Eve were equal in their roles and responsibilities in the garden prior to the fall, then Eve would have been held equally responsible as Adam in keeping the covenant, but this was not the case. As the study committee notes, it is Adam who was held responsible for breaking the covenant, not Eve, because he was the federal head (Gen. 3:17-19, cf. Hos. 6:7).

Adam and Eve no longer existed in true righteousness and holiness as they did before the fall. As Claire Smith points out in her book *God's Good Design: What the Bible Really Says about Men and Women*, the prior ordered relationship that already perfectly existed between Adam and Eve in Genesis 2 is altered post-fall, with the husband and wife both having sinful natures. Genesis 3:16 "does not represent the institution of male headship and wifely submission, but the distortion of it. The battle of the sexes has begun." The consequences of Adam's sin of listening to his wife instead of obeying God's command and Eve's sin of usurping Adam's authority result in a continuing struggle going forward for harmony in the marital relationship.

It has been wrongly taught that, in light of Genesis 3:16b, post-fall headship includes forcing women to submit to their husbands. In her essay “The Desire of the Woman: A Response to Susan Foh’s Interpretation,” author Rachel Miller rightly challenges Foh’s assertion in an influential Westminster Theological Journal article titled “What Is the Woman’s Desire?” that “the tyrannous rule of the husband seems an appropriate punishment for the woman’s sin” and that a post-fall husband “must master” his wife. Miller points out the sinful license for abuse such statements encourage.

Genesis 3:16 is descriptive, not prescriptive. The verse is referring to the difficulties of the curse, just like man sweating from his face in Genesis 3:19. The entire world is under a curse due to Adam’s disobedience, and we all experience the ramifications of the fall to varying extents in not only the sin and misery present in our relationships but also the havoc that permeates the natural creation around us. Both aspects of Genesis 3:16b tend towards abuse, and the law “to love” orders us to do neither of them—women are not to dominate, and men are not to be tyrants. Indeed, the distortion of male-female roles in marriage is one part of the curse that Christ came to take away (Rom. 5:12-21; 8:19-23).

Since Scripture teaches that a wife is called to submit to her husband’s authority and be respectful of him, it most definitely exposes the wife to potential abuse—emotional and/or physical—by her sin-fallen husband. Such abuse is a grievous misuse/distortion of the husband’s leadership responsibility. Indeed, the potential for abuse exists in all relationships because of our sinful natures (Eph. 5:1-6:9).

When Paul tells wives to submit to their husbands in Ephesians 5:24, he does not mean that wives must endure abuse, neglect, or mistreatment of any kind by their husbands. That kind of behavior is sinful per se and is not to be left uncorrected. Rather, Paul is reminding the church that a wife is under the authoritative leadership, not tyrannical rule, of her husband (Eph. 5:23). Indeed, in Ephesians 5:2 Paul tells us all to “*walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*”

Some Christian women have been wrongly taught that they have to tolerate any kind of treatment from their husbands in order to be biblically submissive and respectful, and this instruction must be fervently repudiated by the church. If a husband directs his wife to do anything that goes against her conscience, she always “must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Because women—and men as well—are vulnerable to abuse in a marriage, they need to be under the proper oversight of faithful church leadership and civil authorities that God has provided for their care and protection.

In a healthy Christian marriage, the husband and wife should lovingly and sacrificially put each other first before themselves, as fellow members of the body of Christ. Faithful headship involves creating an environment of openness and communication in which the husband honors his wife and values her opinions, all the while recognizing her equal status as a co-heir in Christ and the gifts God has given her. Still, the husband has the final say as the authoritative head of the household, and he also bears responsibility for the entire family before God.

For a woman to teach or exercise authority over men in church would be to mimic the role reversal in Genesis 3. This is why Paul reminds the church that women are to receive God’s word in the formal church service quietly instead of proclaiming it authoritatively: *The women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church.* (1 Cor. 14:34-35)

The apostle Paul specifically points back to the order of pre-fall creation in Genesis 2 when he writes to Timothy regarding order in the church: *Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet. For Adam was formed first, then Eve; and Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.* (1 Tim. 2:11-14)

Upholding women as God's image-bearers, equal to men in worth in God's sight, is good and right. Yet, we must not allow ourselves to be pulled out to sea in the rip tide of powerful shifting cultural standards and give in to the temptation to disregard biblical teaching on authoritative male headship before the fall. While some people may not like what the Bible has to say about men's and women's roles in marriage and the church, in his sovereign will God established a particular order for male and female in the garden of Eden that has not changed post-fall. When it comes to God-ordained roles for men and women in marriage and the church today, our Lord has given us clarity regarding his order of creation in the book of Genesis in many NT passages, including Ephesians 5, 1 Corinthians 11 and 14, 1 Timothy 2, Titus 2, and 1 Peter 3.

To attempt to rework and redefine what God has clearly stated in Scripture is strikingly similar to what Eve did in the garden. Kline addresses Eve's shift from submitting to the authority of God's word to assuming self-rule instead:

[Eve's] new theology was evidenced in her assumption of a critical stance over against the word of God. In reaching a decision on the relative merits and conflicting legal and prophetic words of God and the devil, she did so on the basis of her newly liberated powers of reason, functioning autonomously without a pre-commitment to the absolute authority of the Creator as the God of truth. Presumptively assuming divine right, she redefined the special, exceptional tree as a tree the same as all others, pleasant to the eyes and good for food (Gen. 3:6a; cf. 2:9), and assigned to it a new name. By her fiat it was no longer to be the forbidden tree but the desirable tree—desirable (should the truth be told) to satisfy the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life.

Similarly, we may have our own ideas of what we think is right, but the only thing that matters is what God says is true and right. It is to his will that we must submit in all things: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* (Rom. 12:2)

While it is tempting to follow not only the world but also fellow believers who are teaching what people may want to believe is true, Christians must hold fast to what the Bible actually says—no matter how unpopular that teaching may be—for it is good. ♦

If there is no God and we live in a strictly material, evolving universe, violence and suffering are just a part of the natural world with no inherent morality attached to them. In this case violence would not be evil; it would simply be a part of the evolutionary process. Without God compassion for others is nothing but chemical changes in the brain. Suffering is meaningless, violence is meaningless. There is no such thing as good or evil.

Bob Dimmitt

Missionary of the Week

Jerry Fields
RCE - Madrid, Spain

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

As we start off the 2023-2024 Evangelical Christian Academy school year, I want to share 3 major prayer requests with you.

1. Our school, ECA, has two very important camp events each year. Elementary camp (grades 1-5) happens at the end of the school year so that the elementary students can have a time of spiritual reinforcement just before the students are away (many away from spiritual input also) for the summer. Please pray that our returning elementary students have not drifted (too far) away from the Lord over the summer. Pray also for a fresh and receptive start this year.

However, Secondary Camp (grades 6-12) happens just at the start of the new school year to help establish community and set the spiritual tone for the entire year. It is especially helpful to any new students to acquaint them with their peers and to foster inclusion and building relationships around time spent worshipping God together, studying His Word, and interacting with each other for 3 full days and nights. Our theme for worship and study this year was Abide in Christ as found in John 15.

As I mentioned, we start off the year with camp. Our first day of school was this past Tuesday so students could be given their schedules, books, and instructions. We left for camp on the bus early Wednesday morning and returned to school late Friday afternoon fairly exhausted but fully filled with fresh teaching from the Lord. Students were challenged to believe, to obey, to abide, to show fruit, and be filled with Christ's joy. We finished up Friday's section with John 15:9-11.

Please pray with us that the record number of students and lower number of staff will allow Jesus (the vine), and the Father (the vinedresser) to mold and shape us to be the people He wants us to be. We (the staff), fewer in number, are feeling much like Gideon's army must have felt. We have been lessened, (reduced in number), so that only God can receive any glory for anything done this year. Pray for us! Pray for strength! Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we strive to lead and teach these students His Word and the truth within each of the academic disciplines. Pray that Christ would impact the families and community through the efforts of the teachers. Pray that we would be an effective witness to the truth of the gospel of Jesus.

2. The second major area that I need prayer for is God's leading and guidance for my own future. I am getting old enough for full social security benefits pretty soon. At the moment, I plan on returning to the US sometime after the 2023-24 school year. I am asking God to show me what He wants me to do and in what capacity that may be. Will you join me in asking Him for wisdom, guidance, and direction for whatever future years I may have?

Along with the decision to return to the US is the idea of closing up well here in Spain. I have already offered my technology services for at least another year past the time I actually do leave. I have often done many things from afar either during the summer months or Christmas. I will continue to be available to ECA as long as I can. But there are other areas that will need to be closed up. Please pray with me as I begin to figure out what exactly needs to be done and how to best dispose of the things I own here. AND, there is a big Praise mixed in here that I haven't mentioned yet. I learned a few days



ago that just after Christmas there will be a new staff person coming who has expressed interest in learning my responsibilities and will begin training. This is a huge praise and answers what we have been praying for several years now!

3. My third big request is more of a practical need. My 21 year old car may have finally given up on me. A group of us were coming home from Madrid last Saturday night (a week ago) and the car just quit while going down the interstate. God did provide a great place to pull over, so praise for that! Several different dash lights all came on. After about 10-15 min, and after we called another friend to come and give rides home, we were able to finally get it cranked again. However, there was almost no power to the wheels. Even with the engine revving up, the car would hardly move. Come to find out, the indicator lights on the dash showed the car "thought" we were on icy road conditions and caused the lack of power to the wheels on purpose to try and regain steering and acceleration control. All this is controlled by sensors and computers. The mechanic thought he knew what was wrong, but that replacement part made no change. At the moment he is at a loss and is only guessing. But at least he is honest enough to say the car may not be worth the price to fix it. I could use prayer and wisdom about now. God could "heal" my car if He chooses, I believe that. But I also know I can't afford another.

I am really looking forward to interacting with the students in and out of my classes this year. I have a very full schedule teaching technology to grades 2, 3, 4, & 5. Science to grades 6, 7, 8, & 9 and tech support for everyone and everything. Add to the list, grade 6 sponsor. How many hours are there in a day? I may need a few more!! This is not even mentioning any extra after school activities I may become involved in.

Please don't forget to pray!

Love you all,

Filled with hope because of the resurrection,

Jerry Fields

Nursery September 10

Babies:

Lynn Ernst, Beth Lewis,
Jeanie Groover

Toddlers:

Michael & Karrie Walker

Preschoolers:

Logan & Stacey Kelly

Nursery September 17

Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler,
Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Deborah Focht, Tricia Morris

Preschoolers:

Brittany Hall, Elinor Morris

Right Now Media

If you would like a free subscription to Right Now Media use this link:

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

or scan this QR code:



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

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 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: Fried Chicken	5:30 p.m.
Adventure Club	6:20 p.m.
Youth	6:30 p.m.
Bible Study	6:45 p.m.

Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study	6:15 p.m.
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.

Lockup Deacons for September

Joe Morris, Jim Schraeder

Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

"Systematic Theology"	Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
"Young Marrieds"	Gym Overhang: Tom Keller
"Malachi"	Piano Overflow: Steve Posner

Children and Students

Babies	Room 3:	Kay Stanford, Sandra Bridges
Toddlers	Room 24:	Eleanor Bowden, Linnea Posner
Pre-K	Room 25:	Michael & 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	Room 204:	Mary Ann Fowler, Amy Horton
Youth Guys	Room 206:	Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion
Youth Girls	Room 206:	Jessica Dimmitt, Avalon DeLoach