

A black and white photograph of a hand holding a crown of thorns. A nail lies on a surface to the left. The background is dark and textured.

**THE
CROSS**

Luke 22
pages
881-883

**INSTEAD
OF ME**

developing missionaries who
share the love of Christ
with our community & beyond

Beyond These Walls

Please pray for Pastor Michael Pearson of In The Light Church, Baltimore, a church plant we are supporting. Pray his ministries will grow and his church will reach those who do not know the Lord.

We Welcome Kenny & Hope

Please give a warm FBC welcome to Kenny and Hope Tibbetts. Kenny is joining our team as the Associate Pastor to Children and Families.



Kenny has been serving as the student pastor at First Baptist Church of Fort Meade. There he led the student ministry team, recruited and developed volunteers, facilitated fellowship events and preached when the senior pastor was absent.

Kenny and his wife Hope grew up in Manatee County. Hope grew up in this church, and the Tibbetts will continue the family tradition when they welcome their first child in June.

Prior to moving to Fort Meade, Kenny served three years as the student ministry director at North River Church in Parrish and was a history teacher at Buffalo Creek Middle School. Hope also has an education degree and is currently an art teacher.

Kenny earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of South Florida and is working toward his master of divinity degree in preaching and pastoral ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina.

Next Steps

Do you want to know more about FBC's core values, beliefs and mission? Are you ready to take the next step to membership? The next class is on Sunday, April 15. Please call the church office to RSVP - 941-722-7795.

Parents Night Out

Palmetto Kids is providing a Parents Night Out for kids ages 2 years-5th grade on Friday, April 20 from 6-9 pm. Children will enjoy pizza, chips, cookies and a drink while watching a movie in the gym. RSVP is required by Wednesday, April 18. Contact Lynne Mikulec at 941-722-0810 or email her at Lmikulec@fbcpalmetto.com.

Worship Center Update

There are a number of things happening behind the scenes and below the surface for the new Welcome Center. This past week, a crew ran a new supply line along 11th Ave for the Welcome Center fire sprinkler system. Please continue to be in prayer for the safety of the workers and the progress of the plan.

SERVE Saturday

Mark your calendars and get ready for the next SERVE Saturday, April 28.

Easter Parking

We'd like to encourage those who are physically able to park in areas a little further from the church to allow our first time visitors the opportunity to park near the church. Public parking is available in the highlighted areas.



Discussion Questions

- Give an example of a time when you had to take responsibility for something that wasn't your fault.

- What is the most frustrating part about taking responsibility for something that wasn't your fault?

- Why couldn't Pilate and Herod make a decision about Jesus? What may have been their fear?

- Although no guilt was found in Jesus, Pilate still punished Him. Why do you think he did this? What are your thoughts on the type of punishment Jesus received?

- Verse 33 simply states that they crucified Jesus without going into much detail. Discuss and review what you know about the Roman practice of crucifixion.

- Read [2 Corinthians 5:21](#). Why is Jesus' death necessary for our salvation? What did His death accomplish?

2018 Bible Reading Plan

One Year Bible Reading Plan:

WEEK 13

Day 61

[Luke 20](#)

[Ps 51](#)

Day 62

[Luke 21](#)

[Ps 52](#)

Day 63

[Luke 22:1-30](#)

[Ps 53-54](#)

Day 64

[Luke 22:31-71](#)

[Ps 55:1-9](#)

Day 65

[Genesis 39-41](#)

[Ps 55:10-23](#)

Monday - The Thrill of Victory

By Pastor Phillip Hamm

"He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee." Luke 24:6

When I was kid, on cold wintry Saturday afternoons, I would watch ABC's Wide World of Sports. Even if the showcase was a bowling tournament from Topeka, I would tune in to watch the opening sequence. With trumpets blaring the announcer would proclaim "Spanning the globe to bring you a constant variety of sports." They would show clips of victorious athletes enjoying the thrill of victory. But that's not what I was there for. I would stand in front of the t.v., probably a little too close for my mom's comfort, spellbound at what came next. The unearthly sight of Yugoslavian ski jumper Vinko Bogotaj speeding down the track, losing control, and crashing into the stands. It was more excitement than I could bare. Exuberantly I would shout with the voice of the announcer "... and the agony of defeat!"

We love those stories because we all know what it's like to fall down. We all know what it's like to get behind. We all know what it's like to face disappointment. But we **all don't** know what it's like to get back up and win. Because it doesn't happen very often.

Most of us, and the people we know, fall and stay down. We don't go on to win the gold. We crash and burn and smell like smoke the rest of our lives. A series of bad decisions are made and the marriage is over. There's no getting up from that. A thoughtless stupid comment and the career's over. No second chances there. Now that friend doesn't come around anymore, that brother won't speak, and the neighbor rushes into the house before making eye contact.

We don't cheer for the guy who falls because misery loves company. We cheer for the guy who falls because we know he gets another chance. He gets to go back up the mountain and try again and this time he just might nail it. We cheer for him because if we can't get up and try again, we want someone to. We want someone to find victory. We want someone to beat the odds. We want someone to succeed when it looks like it's all over.

I'm pretty sure that's the message of Easter. In a world where we have far more agonies of defeat than thrills of victory, we need someone to beat the odds. We need someone to do what we can't. We need someone to win on our behalf. Speaking spiritually now, we need someone to kill death on our behalf. We need someone to pay a debt to God we can't afford. What we need is a savior. A savior who died and came back to life.

When it looked like it was all over and the world was doomed to forever suffer the consequences of sin – Jesus won. He brought the thrill of victory where we've only experienced the agony of defeat. And He still does.

The resurrection offers us more than just a religious experience. It offers us the ability to get back up and try again. It offers us new life. And it offers us eternal victory.

Tuesday - Sacrifice

By Cathy Slusser

"But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor." Matthew 27:14

In his book, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Philip Yancey challenges readers to abandon their preconceived notions about Jesus and rediscover Him through the writings of the Gospels. He asks us to set aside childhood images of a weak, powerless man and see Jesus as a leader who served, God who came in the flesh of an infant. Humble, yet willing to stand up to religious and political leaders, He protected those who had no power.

Yancey takes readers through Jesus' life from His birth to His death inviting them to see Jesus with new eyes. In his chapter on the crucifixion, Yancey notes that the Gospels devote nearly a third of their length to the last week of Jesus' life. He says, "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John saw death as the central mystery of Jesus." He adds, "Only two of the Gospels mention the events of his birth, and all four offer only a few pages on his resurrection, but each chronicler gives a detailed account of the events leading to Jesus' death." Yancey devotes most of the chapter on a puzzling aspect of Jesus' death.

At any time during that long night of torture and inquisition, Jesus could have halted it, yet, "he himself oversaw the whole long process." Yancey boldly states that the cross was Jesus' goal all along. As a result, "in a span of less than twenty-four hours, Jesus faced as many as six interrogations, some conducted by the Jews and some by the Romans." He adds that through those trials "Jesus' defenselessness stands out. Not a single witness rose to His defense. No leader had the nerve to speak out against injustice. Not even Jesus tried to defend Himself.

Throughout, God the Father said not a word." Yancey notes that all of history would have changed if Jesus had not been willing to offer Himself as our sacrifice. According to the political and religious leaders of the times, Jesus posed a threat to the established powers, but they were only tools in God's Hands to accomplish His purpose. As Yancey states, "The cross redefines God as One who was willing to relinquish power for the sake of love." He concludes, "Power, no matter how well-intentioned, tends to cause suffering. Love, being vulnerable, absorbs it. In a point of convergence on a hill called Calvary, God renounced the one for the sake of the other."

Read [Matthew 27:27-31](#). What does it mean to realize that at any time, Jesus could have stopped this torture, but He willingly suffered for our sake? Put yourself in Jesus' place. Is there someone or something you would die to save? While, God may not call us to a literal death is there something or someone you need to give up in order to help bring others to Christ?

Wednesday - Intolerance

By Kel Cunard

"No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

In our culture today, there are many who would accept that there is a God but recoil at any talk of Jesus. In our pluralistic times, it is politically incorrect to claim that God revealed Himself decisively and exclusively through Christ. It is considered intolerant to say that Jesus is the only way to God.

If we truly believe what we claim to believe, there is nothing intolerant about our narrow view of salvation. *Read John 14:1-7*. If Jesus is just a way, a truth, and an option for life, then He was a liar, a sinner, and a pointless sacrifice on the cross. If Jesus was just another sinful man, then we all await eternity apart from God without any hope of rescue. Jesus said, "For unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." (John 8:24) To say Jesus is just one of many options makes Him no option at all.

**I am the
way, the
truth, and
the life.**

If there are other routes to God, then why did Jesus have to die? If His death only secured one of several options, the cross would be utterly pointless. Jesus's anguished prayer in the garden on the night before He died would have been answered. The cup of God's wrath would have been absorbed by some less costly and gruesome route.

The suffering and death of Christ on the cross illustrates that there was no other way, no other truth, no other route to eternal life. His supreme sacrifice was then confirmed by His resurrection. Once He conquered sin, He defeated death. He is alive today, and none of the other alleged options can make that claim.

If He is the only way for sinful people to be right with a Holy God, then it is not at all intolerant to point the world toward the only route to safety. To do anything less is sheer hatred. For as the apostle Peter said, "There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12)

We cannot determine the world's opinion of our convictions, but we can control the tone of our conversations. It is essential that our attitude does not drive the world away from their only hope. Jesus dealt firmly and lovingly with every sinner He encountered. After all, He died for us while we were still sinners and has showered us with His grace and mercy, so we should show the same love to the world as we present Him as the way, the truth, and the life. Their only way out of darkness is uncompromising truth that is saturated with uncompromising love.

Thursday - ... Behold, the Lamb ..."

By George Volpe

*They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!"
Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief
priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." John 19:15*

We are such fickle people. Today we lift our hands and voices in praise and worship to God. Tomorrow we dishonor and disown Him, denying who is the King of our lives, the true and living God.

In the past I have been angry at the chief priests and rulers of Israel for their treatment of Jesus. I imagined being there so I could somehow righteously stand against their wicked, sinful, unjust hatred. And then I realize that there have been days when my voice was just as evil, and their fists shaking in the air could have been mine.

I see Pilate, the hardened governor of Judea, interrupted in the evening, trying to make quick work of condemning just another man. After many years of disregard for those brought before him, he is stopped in his tracks by the countenance and demeanor of a man such as he has never seen. He knows Jesus is not guilty. But he is unwilling to stand for what is right for fear of the people, so he sends Jesus to Herod, tetrarch of Galilee, who returns Him to Pilate.

I know Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and yet how often have I failed to stand and do what I knew was right. While siding with fear, my own wishes, and other people, I have declared myself "innocent". Yet, I have been just as guilty as Pilate.

Wickedness does not rest. When charges of blasphemy did not work, the people brought charges of treason, which Pilate could not ignore. What is the wickedness that is hounding you? What things will not let you go until you are caught in the snare that promises comfort and ends in shame?

The King of kings stood openly before the world, and they did not know Him. The Creator of the universe did not defend Himself. In perfect obedience He committed Himself to the will of the Father. The Savior of the world let the people He loved violently punish, abuse, and humiliate Him. Though He was perfectly innocent, He accepted it for you and me. His circumstances, His feelings, and His pain did not alter His eternal love and compassion for us. The awful price for the sin of all mankind was paid in full on the cross.

And while the world still shakes a fist at the Savior, He tenderly reaches out in love. There's room at the cross, my friend, for you. *Read [John 19:6-19](#).*

Friday – Why Did Jesus Die?

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.” Galatians 3:13

As we look toward Easter, we pause in sight of the cross to ask the important question listed in the title. In *The Passion of Jesus Christ*, John Piper outlines why Jesus died.

The most important question of the twenty first century is: Why did Jesus come and die? ... When all is said and done, the most crucial question is: Why? Why did Jesus come to die? Not why in the sense of cause, but why in the sense of purpose. What did Christ achieve by his death? Why did he have to suffer so much? What great thing was happening on Calvary for the world?

Piper goes on to list fifty reasons why Jesus came to die, each powerful and deeply rooted in Scripture. Some of the reasons he lists are:

To absorb the wrath of God – Read Galatians 3:13; Romans 3:25; 1 John 4:10.

- *“If God were not just, there would be no demand for his Son to suffer and die. And if God were not loving, there would be no willingness for his Son to suffer and die. But God is just and loving. Therefore his love is willing to meet the demands of his justice.”*

To Show God's Love and Grace – Read Romans 5:7-8; Ephesians 1:7.

- *“The measure of God's love for us is shown by two things. One is the degree of his sacrifice in saving us from the penalty of our sin. The other is the degree of unworthiness that we had when he saved us... There is only one explanation for God's sacrifice for us. It is not us. It is ‘the riches of his grace’ (Ephesians 1:7). It is all free. It is not a response to our worth. It is the overflow of his infinite worth.”*

To Give Eternal Life to All Who Believe in Him – Read John 3:16.

- *“Eternal life is not merely the extension of this life with its mix of pain and pleasure. As hell is the worst outcome of this life, so “eternal life” is the best. It is supreme and ever-increasing happiness where all sin and all sadness will be gone. All that is evil and harmful in this fallen creation will be removed. All that is good—all that will bring true and lasting happiness—will be preserved and purified and intensified.”*

Why did Jesus die? So we don't have to. He died for your sins and mine so that we can have eternal life. Have you surrendered your life to all His death accomplished? Are you inviting and inspiring others to do the same?

Weekend - The Empty Grave

"Lazarus, come out." John 11:43

By Kel Cunard

For centuries, the resurrection of Jesus has been the topic of continual debate. But, how can we be certain the resurrection of Jesus really happened?

- **The Empty Tomb** – His body was placed in a tomb, sealed by the governor, and guarded by Roman soldiers. And yet, it was found to be empty at sunrise on Sunday by women who had seen Jesus buried there.
- **Women Witnesses** – If the resurrection was a grand hoax by Jesus's followers, it would have been outrageous for their primary witnesses to be women in such a patriarchal society.
- **Disciples' Courage** – These men who had been locked away in hiding suddenly became courageous regarding Jesus and His resurrection.
- **James** – Jesus's brother doubted He was the Son of God throughout His life, but later became the leader of the Jerusalem church and was killed for the faith. James believed when he saw his risen brother with his own eyes.
- **Large Crowds** – Jesus appeared to more than 500 eyewitnesses at one time.
- **Followers' Fate** – Many of the eyewitnesses to the risen Christ died as martyrs for their belief. People may promote a lie, but they will not die for something they believe to be untrue. These eyewitnesses were convinced He rose.

Belief in the resurrection boils down to faith, and the same power that defeated death can be alive in your life. Read [John 11](#) and join us this Easter Sunday as we celebrate the risen Christ.

Prepare for Worship

As you prepare your heart for worship on Sunday morning read [Psalm 92](#) and take time to "declare your steadfast love in the morning."

Pray for the World: Cambodia

Of the 42 people groups in Cambodia, 71% are unreached, a mere 3.3% are Christian and 83 % of the population is Buddhist.

Pray for the less-reached. The window of opportunity that now sees many enter the Kingdom may not stay open for much longer.

Pray for: **a) The Buddhist majority.** Buddhism has lost some of its monopolistic grip on the people, but reactionary forces are moving against the clearly noticeable growth of the Church. **b) The Cham, almost entirely Muslim.** The majority practice folk Islam, which incorporates animistic practices into more orthodox Islamic practices; within this is a strong strain of Fojihed Islam, which is rife with pre-Islamic magic and superstitions. **c) The tribal peoples.** Only among the Mnong, Jarai, Krueng and Stieng have significant numbers come to Christ. **d) The six Chinese language groups** constitute nearly 600,000 people who have largely assimilated into Cambodian society, but who are mostly unreached. Pray for Chinese believers from abroad to come as apostles to these people.

(www.operationworld.org)

Phillip Hamm
Senior
Pastor

Scott Perkins
Music &
Worship

Kel Cunard
Executive &
Education

Todd Poppell
Connections
& Students

Nic Bishop
Encounter Worship
& Creative Arts

Deacons of the Week:

Phil Setsma & Bill Rogers

This Week:

Wednesday, Mar 28

No supper, prayer meeting,
children or student events

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Friday, Mar 30 - Good Friday

Church Campus Closed

Sunday, April 1 - Easter

8:00 am Celebration Service

9:15 am Celebration Service
Encounter Service
Kids' Worship

10:45 am Celebration Service

Encounter Service
Kids' Worship

Upcoming Events:

Apr 3: Deacons Meeting

Apr 4: Carpenters for Christ Meeting

Apr 11: GO Team Meeting

Apr 13: WEE World Spring Sing

Apr 15: Next Steps

Children's Volunteers

Week 1: April 1

Preschool Worship: Lydia Armstrong (o), Tisha Bickford, Becky Daymon (e), Tracie Flanigan (e), Michelle George, Stephanie Lenart (o), Floyd McDole (e), Lindsey McIlwaine (o), Bobbie Price, Rachel Rowland, Annette Sandin (o), Mike & Julie Santello, Heidi Severson (e)

Bed Babies: Gayle Ballenger, Nancy Mendenhall, Patty Peace

Kid's Worship: Richard & Sandy Pope, Michael Santello

Weekly at FBC

Sundays:

8:00 am Bible Studies

8:30 am Worship Rehearsal

9:00 am Coffee Fellowship in F.H.

9:15 am Celebration Service

9:15 am Encounter Service

9:15 am Bible Studies

10:45 am Celebration Service

10:45 am Bible Studies

10:45 am Preschool Worship (3 & 4 yrs)

10:45 am Kids Worship (K-5)

6:00 pm High School Youth

Monday-Friday:

7:30 am WEE World

8:30 am Church Office

2:30 pm King's Kids

Wednesdays:

3:00 pm Puppet Rehearsal

5:00 pm Family Supper

6:00 pm Prayer Meeting

6:00 pm AWANA Clubs

6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

6:15 pm Middle School Youth

7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

Thursdays:

6:30 pm Encounter Band Rehearsal


encounter
service

Sundays at
9:15 am


celebration
service

Sundays at
9:15 & 10:45 am



EASTER

Sunday,
April 1

Celebration Service

8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 am

Encounter Service

9:15 & 10:45 am

Kid's Worship (K-5)

9:15 & 10:45 am

There will be no adult or youth Sunday School