

In a World that is **CONSTANTLY**  
Changing, the Gospel Remains

# CONSTANT

Romans 3:21-5:11  
pages 941-942

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



## Discussion Questions – *Romans 3:21-5:11*

- Share a time you when the more you kept trying the worse the situation became.
- What motivates us to attempt to fix things all by ourselves?
- Discuss the pros and cons of working to solve problems alone.
- How does this attitude affect us spiritually? What are the consequences?
- What does the word 'propitiation' mean? (Romans 3:25) What does God's wrath look like?
- How have race issues affected you? How have they affected your friends? What solutions have you considered to help build a bridge in our own community between races?
- What solution does Paul give? (Romans 5:8-9) How does what he mentions help?
- What role does a Christian play in the tension that exists in our country between races? What embarrasses you about how some Christians are reacting? What have you seen that makes you proud?

# Monday

By Kenny Tibbetts

## Scripture

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.” Ephesians 2: 1-3

## Pause

1. What do you think Paul means when he says that we were “dead?”
2. What are three things dead people cannot do?
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you remember what spiritual “deadness” apart from Jesus feels like?

## Pursue

Take a few moments to read the remainder of Ephesians chapter two. Pay close attention to the relationship between faith and salvation.

## Pray

Pray God would work in the life of this church. Pray we would be a church fully reliant on God’s grace and providence. Pray First Baptist Church of Palmetto would boast only in Christ.

## Tuesday – Our Only Hope

By George Volpe

*“But even if you should suffer for  
righteousness' sake, you will be blessed.”*

*1 Peter 3:14*

Self-preservation is a natural instinct in all living things. But in man's case, more often than not, we take this principle beyond preservation. We accumulate to excess in so many ways and live primarily for our own benefit. We learn early on that we are our best cheerleaders, and most people are not willing to sacrifice for us. In fact, most people will politely ignore us. So, in order for us to live a life that will satisfy, we think we have to get busy satisfying our own desires. That's our only hope—we think.

But even though there's more than one thing wrong with that reasoning, the primary issue as I see it is that in spite of all the well-meaning attempts of those around us, we learn by their life not to hope in God, but in ourselves. We think it is our hard work that got us where we are. Or a lucky break. Or our intelligence, wisdom, strength, or whatever.

When our hope is horizontal, we have a hard time lifting our souls to God. Worship becomes difficult and insincere, and talking to God is something Bible characters did a long time ago. Sometimes we won't even lift our voices in praise. Sacrifice is what you expect others to do for you. If you don't care for yourself, who else will? No wonder there is so much trouble and unrest in the souls of people everywhere.

We move and breathe in a world we did not create. We had no part in creating our life, and yet here we are. We live as though this world always was, and it just happened. Wrong. We live in a miracle! Everything around us is the creation of God, the work of His wisdom and power. Everything, including us. Nothing would exist if God had not brought it about. And somehow, we still think our hope in life and in eternity rests in ourselves. That's not even reasonable.

We need to take a long hard look at what we're doing and where we're headed. Never mind the words we've learned to say that sound so pious we all seem like pastoral assistants. The world has lost hope. That's why so many are so ripe to lash out at anything. The world needs to know Jesus through our lives, our words, and our attitudes.

Our hope is and always will be in Jesus Christ. He is the author of life and all that we have. He is our provider, our strength, our healer, our comforter, and His will is the purpose for our lives now and in eternity.

Read [1 Peter 3](#).

# Wednesday

*By Kenny Tibbetts*

## Scripture

“But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. “

Ephesians 2: 4-7

## Pause

1. In verse four, what does Paul identify as God’s motivation for saving people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In this description of salvation, what are we responsible for?

## Pursue

Stop for a moment and try to imagine “the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness”. Spend a minute or two focused only on Heaven.

## Pray

Pray in thankfulness to God for His sovereignty. Thank God that He has saved you and given you eternal life. Thank God that through Christ’s sacrifice on the cross we may have life from death.

## Thursday – The Public Propitiation

By David Dickmann

*“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.”*

*Romans 3:23-25*

After having declared all people guilty and under God’s wrath, the apostle Paul states the Gospel. It was a message he knew personally. He who was a great persecutor of the church was awakened to the depth of his sin and guilt by a personal appearance of Jesus.

We need to ask ourselves, “How bad am I? How deep is my guilt?” One way to know is to ask, “How much did it cost to pay for my sin?” The answer is, the life of the eternal Son of God who became the man, Jesus. This high price of redemption is a measure of how bad we really are, how far short we fall, and how guilty we are before the Holy God. It is also a measure of God’s love for sinners.

When I was a new Christian, I attended a Bible study one evening and the passage was Hebrews chapter 9.

*“But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent ( not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.” Hebrews 9:11-14*

That night the teacher asked, “If the Son of God came down and offered Himself as a sacrifice, then rose and ascended into Heaven with His own blood as the offering for sin, how could you think that salvation could come through your so-called good works?”

The word “propitiation” in Romans 3:25 is translated “mercy seat” in Young’s literal translation. The mercy seat was the place in the temple where the high priest offered the blood of an animal sacrifice to cover the guilt of the sin of the people.

There is no more earthly mercy seat, but there is a heavenly one; a mercy seat where the blood of Jesus was offered once for all time to cover sin for all who receive that offering by faith.

# Friday

By Kenny Tibbetts

## Scripture

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Ephesians 2: 8-10

## Pause

1. Why doesn't God require, or even allow you and I to participate in our own salvation through good works?
2. What is the relationship between works and salvation described in verse ten?

## Pursue

We are not saved by our works. We do good works because of the salvation we have received freely. Make a list of two or three things you might do today to serve God and your neighbor in response to what Jesus has given you freely.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

## Pray

Pray for God to humble your heart. Pray that you would stop any striving to earn God's love and rest in the love he has already shown you in Jesus.

# Weekend – Constant

*By Phillip Hamm*

A chemical reaction occurs when the molecular structure of a substance is changed. For example, every time you strike a match, burn a candle, build a fire, or light a grill, you see the combustion reaction. Every time you see rust on an old piece of iron it's an example of an oxidation. Anytime you hard boil an egg, the hydrogen sulfide produced by heating the egg white can react with iron from the egg yolk to form a grayish-green ring around the yolk. Each time a chemical reaction occurs it permanently changes the object it's occurring on.

This is how Jesus works as well. The Bible is clear that following Jesus causes a permanent change in us. It's not a change we cause in ourselves, but it's a change that is noticeable and life altering.

Christ chooses to change people at different speeds and in different ways. But, much like a chemical reaction, we are always a different person after Jesus takes over.

In preparation for worship on Sunday, read [Romans 6:1-14](#).

## Announcements

### 2020/2021 FBCP Budget

- Copies of the budget have been available for FBC members at the church office Monday-Thursday, 9 am - 3 pm.
- A Q & A opportunity took place on **Sunday, June 14** at the conclusion of the last worship service.
- A ballot vote with no further discussion will take place on **Sunday, June 21** for FBC members in each worship service.

### Ladies Bible Studies

#### **Mind, Body & Soul Ladies Weekly Group**

RESTART beginning Monday, June 15 at 9:30 am

[Registration is Required](#)

Let's consider God's desire for our lives as we petition Him for good health, a healthy weight goal and the ability to love who we are - where we are. Are you ready? Let's get started!!

Due to COVID 19 we must know you are planning to join us for this study. Finalize your registration here or call the church office at 941-722-7795.

Childcare is available with advanced registration ONLY. Let us know your specific need by calling the church office.

## Vacation Bible School

This year's VBS will be a bit different due to COVID restrictions. [Registration is easy and it's required!!](#) A one-day VBS event will be offered for each group from 9 am – 12:30 pm:

Wednesday, July 15 – Kindergarten & 1st grade

Thursday, July 16 – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades

Friday, July 17 – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades.

For more information, contact Lynne Mikulec at 941-722-0810 or [lmikulec@fbcpalmetto.com](mailto:lmikulec@fbcpalmetto.com).

## Next Steps

Do you want to know more about FBC Palmetto, our vision, mission, purpose, our beliefs? Are you interested in becoming a member of the church family? Join us Wednesday, July 1 at 6 pm in the Loft for a class that will answer all your questions. Call the church office to sign up at 941-722-7795.

## Our Reopening Plan

We share your frustration in this crazy season, and we desperately look forward to worshipping together again. However, we also know the wisest thing to do is pursue that goal in a gradual and phased process. I have confidence in the other pastors, and the wisdom they bring to this plan. With that said, this is new territory for us. Thank you for your patience as we prayerfully and wisely attempt to slowly reopen our church for public worship.

### Phase 2 (Current)

This phase includes FOUR smaller, shorter live worship services on campus. Each service will be limited to 50% seating capacity. The rest of the building will be closed and inaccessible during this phase. No childcare, Bible studies, small groups, etc. will meet on campus on Sunday mornings during this phase. Online worship will continue to be offered for those who are more comfortable worshipping from home. For more specific details please click here to read the entire reopening plan.

8:30 – 9:15 Celebration

9:15 – 10:00 Encounter

10:00 – 10:45 Celebration

10:45 – 11:30 Encounter

## **Phase 2.2 (Beginning June 28)**

This phase moves closer to our normal schedule of Sunday's live worship services on campus. Each service continues to be limited to 50% seating capacity. The rest of the building remains closed during this phase.

Bible studies, small groups, etc. will not meet on campus on Sunday mornings during this phase. Online worship will continue to be offered for those who are more comfortable worshipping from home.

- 9:15 & 10:45 am Celebration Services in the Worship Center
- 9:15 & 10:45 am Encounter Services in the Gym
- 9:15 & 10:45 am Birth through PreK Palmetto Kid's Ministry is available. Enter through the Children's Wing of the Welcome Center.
- Elementary aged children will continue to worship with their families in the Worship Center or the Gym.

## **Phase 3 (TBD)**

We will return to a normal schedule of events. Dates for this phase have not been set.

## **Stay Connected**

Remember your neighbors, continue to share Jesus and help them wherever possible. If their needs exceed your ability to assist, give the church office a call and we will do our best to help you help them.

- Invite your friends and neighbors to watch live services on Sunday at 9:15 or 10:45 am. We recommend staying consistent with our state officials' guidelines of limiting the number who gather at one time.
- Have Bible studies in your home utilizing resources from RightNowMedia
- Reach out by phone to another church member or visitor to ask how they are doing.

Please continue to financially support your church and local charities as they experience an increase in requests for assistance from members and the local community.

You can give by using online giving, through the FBCP App, or mailing a check to:  
First Baptist Church 1020 4th St. W. Palmetto, FL 34221

You can communicate with us at 941-722-7795 or e-mail through the church website: [www.fbcpalmetto.com](http://www.fbcpalmetto.com).

# FBC Media Outlets



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