

# First Baptist Church Gaston



## Gather. Grow. Go.

### *2025 Preaching Plan*

*Written by:*

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First Baptist Church of Gaston's Senior Pastor

Publicly released on January 2nd, 2025

This edition of the Preaching Plan by Rev. R. Brady Henderson is  
dedicated in honor of Deacon Ted Boldt

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## ***A Word from Pastor Brady on the 2025 Preaching Plan:***

Dear beloved Church member of FBC Gaston,

Really and truly it is so hard for me to believe that this is my fourth personal edition of the preaching plan here at First Baptist Church of Gaston. In February of this year I'll be able to celebrate my fourth anniversary as the Senior Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Gaston, South Carolina. Very soon, I'll be starting my fifth year as your Pastor. I can't tell you how much I have enjoyed being your Pastor the last 4 years, going on 5 years. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity you've given me to serve as your Pastor.

I have spent countless hours working on this preaching plan since early August of 2024. I have spent 3-4 hours daily for the last 5 months working on this plan. My envision for this plan is that you will grow in Christ by looking and reading the planned sermons before they are preached. I encourage you to read each passage of scripture before the Sunday or Wednesday that it is preached and to study the text prior to each service.

For those that may not be familiar with what 'planning your preaching' is, I want you to know that it is still led by the Holy Spirit. Every preacher of God's Word is different. Some preachers plan week to week, monthly, or annually. For me, God lays on my heart books of the Bible to preach through usually a year in advance.

As you get ready to flip through the pages of the preaching plan, I want to remind you that all of this is tentative. While I believe God has laid on my heart the messages to preach, all of this is subject to change if the Lord tells me to change it. I am 100% responsible to God for my preaching. So while this is where I feel Him leading now, if He changes it, I will comply with Him.

The purpose of the 2025 preaching plan is to show you that there is a game plan behind the preaching ministry of the FBCG pulpit. I do not and will not ever take the blessing of being your Pastor lightly. When I preach, I aim to preach straight from the Bible. Taking everything directly out of the text. I believe in and seek to follow the idea of Expository Preaching. Which is taking what is in the text and bringing it out for us. Looking at what it meant to the original recipients and how it applies to our lives today. I don't preach my thoughts, agenda (don't have one), or opinions. I am to go verse-by-verse, line-by-line, and preach the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

In this document you will find many things. You will find the different sermon series that we plan on having throughout the year. You will find the sermon title, sermon text, and 3-5 sentences of a sermon synopsis. The point of this synopsis is to show you where the sermon is headed.

I do not plan my preaching just for me, I do it for you as a Church member as well as to give aid to my fellow brothers in the fraternity of the ministry. For you as a Church member, I hope you will use this resource to study before the services. You have the sermon title, text and a synopsis! It's up to you to read the text and study it on your own before coming to Church. I am praying that the Holy Spirit will use this in your life for you to get as much out of the sermon as possible. The sermon time starts before you get to Church (in your personal study time) and should continue when you leave (as you live out the sermon). You are much more likely to live out the sermons (living out the Biblical text) when you study beforehand. Don't just count on a 40 minute sermon to last you all week. You've got to study all week long. Not just the sermon texts, but also reading the Bible. That's another thing you will find in this year's printed copy of the preaching plan, is three options for daily Bible reading.

For fellow preachers of God's Word and fellow Churches, feel free to use anything in this plan that will give God Glory in your own ministry. My only request is that you give God all the praise, honor and glory that He deserves in your preaching EVERY time that you step into that pulpit.

After much thought and prayer, I am dedicating this edition of the preaching plan to of course, to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is who I am doing all what I do for. But for this particular edition of the plan, I've decided to dedicate it to Deacon Ted Boldt. Many of you know that in August of 2024, Jesus called Ted Boldt home to be with Him. While I dearly miss Deacon Ted, as many of you do, I know that He is currently worshipping our Lord. And if we know Jesus, we will one day get to see Ted again.

I chose to dedicate this edition of the preaching plan to Deacon Ted Boldt because he was a man of integrity, kindness, and loved to serve. The thing about Ted that I truly admire is that he did not seek to do things in front of others, instead he sought to do things for others that no one else knew. He embodied what it looks like to be a selfless follower of Christ who loved Jesus, his family, and his Church.

I was very blessed to have been able to spend countless hours with Deacon Ted on the boat, in his home, in my home, and visiting together. I'll never forget what most would consider 'small' when Ted bought me a cherry coke and a bag of Cheez-its at Staples in Columbia while we were out visiting. But the best part about Ted Boldt, he knew Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior. I love and miss Ted very much. Because of this, I have decided to dedicate this edition of the preaching plan to and in honor of, Deacon Ted Boldt.



I hope you enjoy this edition of the preaching plan,

Sincerely,

Rev. R. Brady Henderson

## **Cumulative Preaching Calendar Schedule**

### **January:**

*Sunday, January 5th, 2025*

*'The Selfless Christian!'*

*John 3:30*

*Wednesday, January 8th, 2025*

*Pastor Steve Kittrell Preaching*

*Sunday, January 12th, 2025*

*'A Glimpse of God's Glory!'*

*Mark 9:2-13*

*Wednesday, January 15th, 2025*

*'What NOT to say to Jesus!'*

*Mark 9:14-29*

*Sunday, January 19th, 2025*

*'Worried about the Wrong Things!'*

*Mark 9:30-37*

*Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025*

*'Where Does your Loyalty Lie?'*

*Mark 9:38-41*

*Sunday, January 26th, 2025*

*'The Severity of Our Sin!'*

*Mark 9:42-50*

*Wednesday, January 29th, 2025*

*'A Discussion on Divorce!'*

*Mark 10:1-12*

### **February:**

*Sunday, February 2nd, 2025*

*'The Importance of Children in the Kingdom of God!'*

*Mark 10:13-16*

*Wednesday, February 5th, 2025*

*'All in!'*

*Mark 10:17-31*

*Sunday, February 9th, 2025*

*'It's not about You!'*

*Mark 10:32-45*

*Wednesday, February 12th, 2025*

*'See, Stop, Supply!'*

*Mark 10:46-52*

*Sunday, February 16th, 2025*

*'Here Comes the King!'*

*Mark 11:1-11*

*Wednesday, February 19th, 2025*

*'The Rarity of Righteous Anger!'*

*Mark 11:12-26*

*Sunday, February 23rd, 2025*

*'Why Does Jesus Have Authority?'*

*Mark 11:27-33*

*Wednesday, February 26th, 2025*

*'Jesus Teaching Either Instructs, or it Hardens!'*

*Mark 12:1-12*

**March:**

*Sunday, March 2nd, 2025*

*'Should I obey the Government?'*

*Mark 12:13-17*

*Wednesday, March 5th, 2025*

*Pastor Steve Preaching*

*Mark 12:18-27*

*Sunday, March 9th, 2025*

*'The Great Commandment and the Great Clowns!'*

*Mark 12:28-40*

*Wednesday, March 12th, 2025*

*'The Purpose of Financial Giving!'*

*Mark 12:41-44*

*Sunday, March 16th, 2025*

*'What Does Jesus Say about the End of Times?' Part 1*

*Mark 13:1-23*

*Wednesday, March 19th, 2025*

*'What Does Jesus Say about the End of Times?' Part 2*

*Mark 13:24-37*

*Sunday, March 23rd, 2025*

*Pastor Steve Preaching*

*Wednesday, March 26th, 2025*

*'The Atrocity and Alabaster Flask!'*

*Mark 14:1-11*

*Sunday, March 30th, 2025*

*'A Snake in the Grass!'*

*Mark 14:12-21*

*April:*

*Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025*

*'The First Lord's Supper!'*

*Mark 14:22-31*

*Sunday, April 6th, 2025*

*'The Agony, Arrest and the Anonymous!'*

*Mark 14:32-52*

*Wednesday, April 9th, 2025*

*'One Takes the Blame!'*

*Mark 14:53-65*

*Sunday, April 13th, 2025*



***'Wishy Washy Christianity!'***

***Mark 14:66-72***

***Wednesday, April 16th, 2025***

***'We are Barabbas!'***

***Mark 15:1-20***

***Sunday, April 20th, 2025, Sunrise Service at 7 AM***

***'The Most Important Events in the History of All Humanity!'***

***Mark 15:21-47***

***Sunday, April 20th, at 11 AM***

***'Reality of the Resurrection!'***

***Mark 16:1-20***

***Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

***Sunday, April 27th, 2025***

***'Overview of Ezra!'***

***Ezra***

***Wednesday, April 30th, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

***May:***

***Sunday, May 4th, 2025***

***'When God moves Government!'***

***Ezra 1:1-11***

***Wednesday, May 7th, 2025***

***'Running for his Life!'***

***1st Samuel 20:1-25***

***Sunday, May 11th, 2025***

***Mother's Day Panel***

***Wednesday, May 14th, 2025***

***'The Bond of a Brother and the Bother of Bitterness!'***

*1st Samuel 20:26-42*

*Sunday, May 18th, 2025*

*'A List of the Faithful!'*

*Ezra 2:1-70*

*Wednesday, May 21st, 2025*

*'Homeless, Hungry, and Nutty!'*

*1st Samuel 21:1-15*

*Sunday, May 25th, 2025*

*'We Build in order to Worship!'*

*Ezra 3:1-7*

*Wednesday, May 28th, 2025*

*'A Short Safe Haven!'*

*1st Samuel 22:1-5*

**June:**

*Sunday, June 1st, 2025*

*'Don't Let Buildings Distract or Dictate our Mission!'*

*Ezra 3:8-13*

*Wednesday, June 4th, 2025*

*'The Nightmare at Nob!'*

*1st Samuel 22:6-23*

*Sunday, June 8th, 2025*

*Pastor Steve Preaching*

*Ezra 4:1-6*

*Wednesday, June 11th, 2025*

*Pastor Steve will be preaching.*

*1st Samuel 23:1-14*

*Sunday, June 15th, 2025*

*Father's Day Panel*

*Wednesday, June 18th, 2025*

*'A Close Call!'*  
*1st Samuel 23:15-29*

*Sunday, June 22nd, 2025*  
*'Unknown Opposition!'*  
*Ezra 4:7-16*

*Wednesday, June 25th, 2025*  
*Vacation Bible School*

*Sunday, June 29th, 2025*  
*'The Work May Cease, but it's not Finished!'*  
*Ezra 4:17-24*

**July:**

*Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025*  
*There will be no Midweek Worship services or on-campus activities.*

*Sunday, July 6th, 2025*  
*'The Highest Authority!'*  
*Ezra 5:1-5*

*Wednesday, July 9th, 2025*  
*'Kill Em' with Kindness.'*  
*1st Samuel 24:1-22*

*Sunday, July 13th, 2025*  
*'Past Sins Can Create a Present Dilemma!'*  
*Ezra 5:6-17*

*Wednesday, July 16th, 2025*  
*'How to React when Someone Dies?'*  
*1st Samuel 25:1*

*Sunday, July 20th, 2025*  
*'God CAN and often DOES use Government Leaders!'*  
*Ezra 6:1-12*

*Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025*

***'More Disrespect Towards David!'***  
*1st Samuel 25:2-22*

***Sunday, July 27th, 2025***  
***'God uses Good Men!'***  
*Ezra 6:13-18*

***Wednesday, July 30th, 2025***  
***'Murder and a Marriage!'***  
*1st Samuel 25:23-44*

**August:**

***Sunday, August 3rd, 2025***  
***'Joy to the World!'***  
*Ezra 6:19-23*

***Wednesday, August 6th, 2025***  
***'David Spares Saul's Life, Again!'***  
*1st Samuel 26:1-16*

***Sunday, August 10th, 2025***  
***'The Role of Pastors!'***  
*Ezra 7:1-28*

***Wednesday, August 13th, 2025***  
***'False Repentance!'***  
*1st Samuel 26:17-25*

***Sunday, August 17th, 2025***  
***'The Faithful Few!'***  
*Ezra 8:1-14*

***Wednesday, August 20th, 2025***  
***'David's Ascension!'***  
*1st Samuel 27:1-12*

***Sunday, August 24th, 2025***  
***'Navigating the Grey Areas!'***  
*Ezra 8:15-20*

*Wednesday, August 27th, 2025*  
*Night 1 of our Three Night Revival.*

*Sunday, August 31st, 2025*  
*201st Homecoming Sunday*

**September:**

*Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025*  
*RA/GA/Mission Friends/Acteen Recognition Night*

*Sunday, September 7th, 2025*  
*'Pray for God's Protection!'*  
*Ezra 8:21-23*

*Wednesday, September 10th, 2025*  
*'Disguised, Desperate, and Destroyed!'*  
*1st Samuel 28:1-25*

*Sunday, September 14th, 2025*  
*'Monetary Giving Matters!'*  
*Ezra 8:24-36*

*Wednesday, September 17th, 2025*  
*'The Welcome Wears Off!'*  
*1st Samuel 29:1-11*

*Sunday, September 21st, 2025*  
*'Pray About the Problem!'*  
*Ezra 9:1-15*

*Wednesday, September 24th, 2025*  
*'Strength in the Lord!'*  
*1st Samuel 30:1-31*

*Sunday, September 28th, 2025*  
*Missions Sunday*

**October:**

*Wednesday, October 1st, 2025*

*'Saul's Suicide!'*

*1st Samuel 31:1-13*

*Sunday, October 5th, 2025*

*'The Freeing of Repentance!'*

*Ezra 10:1-17*

*Wednesday, October 8th, 2025*

*'The News of an Amalekite!'*

*2nd Samuel 1:1-16*

*Sunday, October 12th, 2025*

*'The Pain of Obedience!'*

*Ezra 10:18-44*

*Wednesday, October 15th, 2025*

*'Public and Personal Grief!'*

*2nd Samuel 1:17-27*

*Sunday, October 19th, 2025*

*'The Landscape of the New Testament Church!'*

*1st Peter 1:1-2*

*Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025*

*'The Time has Come!'*

*2nd Samuel 2:1-7*

*Sunday, October 26th, 2025*

*'Thankful for Salvation!'*

*1st Peter 1:3-12*

*Wednesday, October 29th, 2025*

*'Power Hungry Men!'*

*2nd Samuel 2:8-11*

**November:**

*Sunday, November 2nd, 2025*

***'Called to be Different!'***

***1st Peter 1:13-21***

***Wednesday, November 5th, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

***2nd Samuel 2:12-32***

***Sunday, November 9th, 2025***

***'You are Stronger than you Think!'***

***1st Peter 1:22-25***

***Wednesday, November 12th, 2025***

***'Family Drama!'***

***2nd Samuel 3:1-25***

***Sunday, November 16th, 2025***

***'Don't be Foolish, Fellowship with the Church!'***

***1st Peter 2:1-10***

***Wednesday, November 19th, 2025***

***'Jealousy Kills!'***

***2nd Samuel 3:26-39***

***Sunday, November 23rd, 2025***

***'Live What you Preach!'***

***1st Peter 2:11-12***

***Tuesday, November 25th, 2025***

***Thanksgiving Meal***

***Sunday, November 30th, 2025***

***'Glorifying Christ as a Citizen and as an Employee!'***

***1st Peter 2:13-25***

**December:**

***Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025***

***'Fear Not, your Prayers are Heard!'***

***Luke 1:13***

***Sunday, December 7th, 2025***

*'Fear Not, for you have found Favor with God!'*  
*Luke 1:30*

*Wednesday, December 10th, 2025*

*The Children's Choir will be presenting their Christmas Musical. Don't miss this.*

*Sunday, December 14th, 2025*

*'Fear Not, Good News is Here!'*  
*Luke 2:10*

*Wednesday, December 17th, 2025*

*Pastor Brady and First Lady Hannah will be sharing the Christmas Story with the Children and our annual Church-wide drop-in will take place afterwards in the Fellowship hall.*

*Sunday, December 21st, 2025*

*'Fear Not, Follow God's Plan!'*  
*Matthew 1:20*

*Wednesday, December 24th, 2025*

*A Special Christmas Eve Service*

*Sunday, December 28th, 2025*

*Pastor Steve Preaching*

*Wednesday, December 31st, 2025*

*No Church services or on campus activities*



## *2025 Word of the Year*



*Stand Alone Sermon*

*Vision Casting Sunday, 2025*

*Sunday, January 5th, 2025*

*'The Selfless Christian!'*

*John 3:30*

On vision casting Sunday we will focus on our word of the year, SelfLESS. During this sermon we will begin the new year by focusing on how as believers in Christ we are to live a life that is centered on Christ and His mission for us, and not ourselves. In this sermon we will learn that it's not about our preferences, personal agenda, or opinions but it's about how Christ can **INCREASE** in our lives and we can **DECREASE**.



*Series Overview*  
*Mark Sermon Series in 2025*

**'NOW'**

**Series Stats:**

- We began our 'NOW' sermon series through the book of Mark on the Sunday after Easter in 2024.
- I purposefully began this sermon series on the Sunday after Easter with the intention that we would spend a year studying Mark's Gospel, and officially wrap it up on Easter Sunday of 2025.
  - *As of now, that is still the goal that I hope we will achieve. In order to do that, we must study Mark during our Sunday AND Midweek services. So, we won't resume our series in 1st Samuel until later this year.*
- You won't want to miss it as we conclude the book of Mark and see all that the Lord has in store through us in His Word.
  - Keep in mind that Chapters 12-16 of Mark deal with the last week of the life of Jesus.
    - *So, this Easter Season we will be spending a lot of time on the last days of Jesus! Possibly unlike any other time you have done so before.*

*Sunday, January 12th, 2025*

*Sermon #32: 'A Glimpse of God's Glory!'*

*Mark 9:2-13*

(Matthew 17:1-13 and Luke 9:28-36 parallels this passage)

Mark 9:2-13 is one of the most powerful passages that we find in Mark's Gospel. In this passage, Jesus allows the disciples to see a small glimpse of God's own glory by seeing the true identity and deity of Jesus Christ. You can't have an encounter with Jesus and stay the same! This second Sunday of January we will see God's Glory on display at the transfiguration of Jesus!

*Wednesday, January 15th, 2025*

***Sermon #33: 'What NOT to say to Jesus!'***

***Mark 9:14-29***

(Matthew 17:14-20 and Luke 9:37-43a parallels this passage)

In this passage of scripture another family finds themselves with a need that only Jesus can touch. What we learn here is what we should ***NOT*** say to Jesus. Notice in Mark 9:22, a man says to Jesus 'if you can'. Those three words are not something we should utter to the God of the universe, who can do anything.

*Sunday, January 19th, 2025*

***Sermon #34: 'Worried about the Wrong Things!'***

***Mark 9:30-37***

(Matthew 17:22-23, Matthew 18:1-5, Luke 9:43b-48 parallels this passage)

As we've gone through the book in Mark, I've noticed more and more how similar I really am to the disciples. In this text, Jesus predicts His death and resurrection for the second time in Mark's Gospel in verses 30-32. Then as Jesus and His disciples travel to Capernaum, He overhears the disciples arguing over which of them is the greatest. How often do we worry about the things that have no eternal significance? How often do we worry about our own egos instead of being a servant of Christ in His Kingdom?

*Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025*

***Sermon #35: 'Where Does your Loyalty Lie?'***

***Mark 9:38-41***

(Matthew 18:6-14 and Luke 9:49-50 parallels this passage)

In this passage of scripture John asks Jesus what they should do with someone who was ministering in the name of Jesus but wasn't necessarily a part of 'their' specific group. Here, Jesus teaches His disciples and us a very valuable lesson on the matter of loyalty and allegiance towards Christ.

*Sunday, January 26th, 2025*

***Sermon #36: 'The Severity of Our Sin!'***

***Mark 9:42-50***

(Matthew 18:6-14 and Luke 9:49-50 parallels this passage)

Romans 3:23 tells us that all are sinners and fall short of the Glory of God. In this text Jesus uses hyperbole (intentional overstatement) to show the severity and seriousness of our sin and how it

separates us from God. If there is something in our live that is continually leading us to sin, we need to take the proper steps and get it out of our lives.

***Wednesday, January 29th, 2025***

***Sermon #37: 'A Discussion on Divorce!'***

***Mark 10:1-12***

(Matthew 19:1-12 parallels this passage)

Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees as He enters the region of Judea. This time, they confront Him on the matter of Divorce. Even 2,000 years ago, divorce was a huge issue and one that many folks then, and now, have questions about. In this sermon we will look at what Jesus said about divorce and how what He said should form our opinion on something that society has normalized. Back in the fall of 2023 when I preached through Malachi I addressed 'A Matter of Marriage!' from Malachi 2:10-17. You can watch that sermon here:

[https://youtu.be/rPNceD\\_0Bqw?si=Djlq\\_PifDB\\_C4OB](https://youtu.be/rPNceD_0Bqw?si=Djlq_PifDB_C4OB)

***Sunday, February 2nd, 2025***

***Sermon #38: 'The Importance of Children in the Kingdom of God!'***

***Mark 10:13-16***

(Matthew 19:13-15 and Luke 18:15-17 parallel this passage)

In the ancient world Children were viewed as a hindrance and an annoyance to adults. The disciples here, rebuke Jesus welcoming the Children unto Himself because they do not understand, to Jesus, Children were just as important as adults and equally worthy of love. Do we feel and act the same way?

***Wednesday, February 5th, 2025***

***Sermon #39: 'All in!'***

***Mark 10:17-31***

(Matthew 19:16-30 and Luke 18:18-30 parallel this passage)

Mark's account of the 'rich young ruler' is the briefest of the synoptic Gospels. Luke and Matthew don't contradict Mark, they supplement his information that is given here. In this passage the main point that Jesus is trying to make is clear. If you are going to follow Jesus, it will cost you everything to truly follow Him. The rich young ruler was confronted with this and rejected it. What will we do?

***Sunday, February 9th, 2025***

***Sermon #40: 'It's not about You!'***

***Mark 10:32-45***

(Matthew 20:17-28 and Luke 8:31-34 parallel this passage)

For the third time in Mark's Gospel, Jesus predicts His own death. It's important to note that in each of Jesus' own predictions of his death and resurrection, it is followed by a personal instruction of our Lord in the area of discipleship. Here, Jesus seeks to show James and John that it's not about who sits where and what it looks on the outside, but the spiritual matter of the heart. The servant nature of a person matters to Jesus. In this sermon, we will learn that it's not all about us.

***Wednesday, February 12th, 2025***

***Sermon #41: 'See, Stop, Supply!'***

***Mark 10:46-52***

(Matthew 20:29-34 and Luke 18:35-43 parallel this passage)

In this sermon we will look at the well known story of 'Blind Bartimaeus'. In this passage of scripture, we find that Jesus stopped to help Bartimaeus despite many people in verse 48 telling Bartimaeus to be quiet. Jesus saw a need, He stopped for the need, and then supplied the remedy for that need that only He could feel.

***Sunday, February 16th, 2025***

***Sermon #42: 'Here Comes the King!'***

***Mark 11:1-11***

(Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:29-44, and John 12:12-19 parallel this passage)

All of the Gospel writers include the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Mark 11 is the point in Mark's Gospel where he transitions from the ministry of Jesus, and goes to the passion week events. Starting in this sermon, we will begin to study the events of Passion week from Mark's Gospel, as we prepare our hearts for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

***Wednesday, February 19th, 2025***

***Sermon #43: 'The Rarity of Righteous Anger!'***

***Mark 11:12-26***

(Matthew 21:12-13 and Luke 19:45-48 parallel this passage up until Mark 11:18)

On Monday of Holy Week Jesus did several things that will be discussed in this sermon. First, Jesus cursed the fig tree, then He went into the temple and turned over tables. Jesus did not appreciate, and neither should we, that oftentimes His house is made into 'a den of robbers'. After this according to Mark's Gospel, Jesus then explains the situation of the fig tree.

***Sunday, February 23rd, 2025***

***Sermon #44: ‘Why Does Jesus Have Authority?’******Mark 11:27-33***

(Matthew 21:23-27 and Luke 20:1-8 parallel this passage)

On what I believe to still be Monday of Holy Week, the Pharisees and religious leaders are not happy with Jesus. All throughout Mark’s Gospel we have seen that when Jesus does incredible things, the religious leaders are not far behind. In this text, they challenge the authority of Jesus and we get to see Jesus respond to them, again. The religious thermostat is certainly heating up between Jesus and the religious leaders. So, why does Jesus have authority to do the things He was and is doing? We will find out in this sermon!

***Wednesday, February 26th, 2025******Sermon #45: ‘Jesus Teaching Either Instructs, or it Hardens!’******Mark 12:1-12***

(Matthew 21:28-22:14 and Luke 20:9-19 parallel this passage)

All of the synoptic Gospel writers include this passage and it is well known as the ‘parable of the tenants’. In this parable, Jesus shares the reality of how His religious opponents and what they really think about Him. In this sermon, we will look at how when it comes to the teachings of Jesus, we fall into one of two categories. Either the teaching of Jesus instructs us in our lives, or, it hardens our hearts, as it did with the religious leaders here.

***Sunday, March 2nd, 2025******Sermon #46: ‘Should I obey the Government?’******Mark 12:13-17***

(Matthew 22:15-22 and Luke 20:20-26 parallel this passage)

A foundational question in the life of a Believer of Christ is ‘Should I listen and obey the government?’. In this passage, Jesus is confronted by more Pharisees and they seek to trap him concerning a question about listening and obeying the Government. Jesus says in Mark 12:17, ‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’, in this sermon, we will unpack what it means to Biblically follow the words that Jesus spoke here. In this sermon, we will answer the question, ‘Should I Obey The Government?’, you won’t want to miss this sermon.

***Wednesday, March 5th, 2025******Pastor Steve Preaching******Mark 12:18-27***

(Matthew 22:23-33 and Luke 20:27-40 parallel this passage)

Pastor Steve will be preaching this text. In his sermon, he will faithfully exegete this text.

***Sunday, March 9th, 2025***

***Sermon #47: 'The Great Commandment and the Great Clowns!'***

***Mark 12:28-40***

(Matthew 22:34-46, Matthew 23:1-36, and Luke 20:41-47 parallel this passage)

In this sermon, we will look at how Jesus delivers the greatest commandment, publicly raises a 'controversial' question, and then gives a warning about great 'theological' minds who acted as clowns. Meaning, the scribes. You won't want to miss this sermon as we look at the greatest commandment and the great clowns of society then, and even in society now.

***Wednesday, March 12th, 2025***

***Sermon #48: 'The Purpose of Financial Giving!'***

***Mark 12:41-44***

(Luke 21:1-4 and this passage here in Mark, are the only Gospel writers to mention the widow's offering here.)

The widow's mite, or offering, is a well known narrative in scripture, though it only occurs in Luke's Gospel account and here in Mark. In this sermon we will look at how when it comes to our financial giving, God is much more concerned about our heart and willingness, than the amount. This widow knew two important things about financial giving. She knew what to give, and she knew why to give to the Lord.

***Sunday, March 16th, 2025***

***Sermon #49: 'What Does Jesus Say about the End of Times?' Part 1***

***Mark 13:1-23***

(Matthew 24:1-28 and Luke 21:5-24 parallel this passage)

In Mark chapter 13 Jesus begins talking about the 'End of Times'. This is a topic that many people have questions about. This will be a 2-part sermon where we look at and study specifically what Jesus said about the end of times and how it applies to our life, and that we must be ready!

***Wednesday, March 19th, 2025***

***Sermon #50: 'What Does Jesus Say about the End of Times?' Part 2***

***Mark 13:24-37***

(Matthew 24:29-25:30 and Luke 21:25-36 parallel this passage)

This sermon will be part 2 of ‘What Does Jesus Say about the End of Times?’. In this sermon we will continue to look at the specific things that Jesus said concerning the end times. We will be challenged but may we also find clarity in what the Word of God says about the end of times.

***Sunday, March 23rd, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

We will take a short break in our ‘NOW’ sermon series as Pastor Steve preaches whatever the Lord has laid on his heart.

***Wednesday, March 26th, 2025***

***Sermon #51: ‘The Atrocity and Alabaster Flask!’***

***Mark 14:1-11***

(Matthew 26:1-16 and Luke 21:37-22:6 parallel this passage)

In this sermon we will see the striking comparison between Judas, the Chief Priests, and scribes who were against Jesus and plotting to kill Him, versus Mary (as John 12:3 indicates) who pours an expensive amount of ointment on Jesus in true Worship. Either you view Jesus in such disgrace that you commit an atrocity against Him, or you take the Alabaster Flask in your life and worship Him!

***Sunday, March 30th, 2025***

***Sermon #52: ‘A Snake in the Grass!’***

***Mark 14:12-21***

(Matthew 26:17-25, Luke 22:7-23, and John 13:1-20 parallel this passage)

In this passage of scripture we will begin to examine the passover meal that Jesus has with His disciples. Jesus sends two of the disciples in Mark 14:13 to go into the city and meet a man who was carrying a jar of water. Then, once all the disciples are gathered together for the passover meal, Jesus reveals some alarming information to the disciples that further proves His deity as the Son of God. There is a snake in the grass among the disciples, and Jesus knows it.

***Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025***

***Sermon #53: ‘The First Lord’s Supper!’***

***Mark 14:22-31***

(Matthew 26:26-29, Luke 22:17-20 and 1st Corinthians 11:23-26 parallel this passage)

As a part of the Midweek Worship service this week, we will observe the Lord’s Supper, as our scripture text describes the very first Lord’s Supper that Jesus had with His disciples. The scripture text tells that after they took part in the first ever Lord’s Supper, they sung a hymn and



then went out to the Mount of Olives and had a very interesting conversation. Yet again, Peter is going to open up his mouth.

***Sunday, April 6th, 2025***

***Sermon #54: 'The Agony, Arrest and the Anonymous!'***

***Mark 14:32-52***

(Matthew 26:36-56, Luke 22:40b-53 and John 18:2-12 parallel this passage)

In this large section of scripture we will study the agony that Jesus felt and went through in the garden of Gethsemane. Shortly thereafter, Judas would come up to Jesus, kiss him on the cheek, and then Jesus would be arrested. Then, interestingly in Mark 14:51-52, we see an anonymous man who runs away naked. Don't miss this sermon as the temperature begins to rise with the religious leaders.

***Wednesday, April 9th, 2025***

***Sermon #55: 'One Takes the Blame!'***

***Mark 14:53-65***

(Matthew 26:57-68 and Luke 22:54 parallel this passage)

Jesus lived a perfect and sinless life. As you know, our 2025 word of the year is selfless, and Jesus is the greatest example of selflessness that we can follow. Jesus is brought to the council and they accuse Him of blasphemy. He's accused of crimes that He did not do. In this case, one takes the blame, and that One is the One, Jesus Christ.

***Sunday, April 13th, 2025***

***Sermon #56: 'Wishy Washy Christianity!'***

***Mark 14:66-72***

(Matthew 26:69-75, Luke 22: 55-65 and John 18:25-27 parallel this passage)

This Palm Sunday we are going to look at how Peter did exactly what Jesus said He would do, here, Peter denied Jesus. Peter exemplifies here someone who is ashamed of Jesus and does not want to face the first century consequences that came with following Jesus. Even today, many of us are guilty of wishy washy Christianity. This Palm Sunday, may we focus our hearts and no longer sit on the fence when it comes to our faith.

***Wednesday, April 16th, 2025***

***Sermon #57: 'We are Barabbas!'***

***Mark 15:1-20***

(Matthew 27:1-2, 11-30, Luke 22:66-71, Luke 23:1-5, 13-25, John 18:39-19:16 parallel this passage)

Believe it or not, you and I are Barabbas. It is you and I that should be paying the penalty for our sin, but Jesus took that penalty from us by going on the Cross and dying. When the people cried ‘give us barabbas’ in this text, we must realize that we are Barabbas. Christ has taken our place. As painful as Pilate’s Proceedings had to have been, God’s plan was unraveling, and the cup was not going to pass. Jesus was going to the Cross, to die for our sins.

***Sunday, April 20th, 2025, Sunrise Service at 7 AM***

***Sermon #58: ‘The Most Important Events in the History of All Humanity!’***

***Mark 15:21-47***

(Matthew 27:31-60, Luke 23:26-54, and John 19:17-42 parallel this passage)

In Mark 15:21-47, we find the most important events in the history of humanity in this text. In this text we find the crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. These events have changed humanity for all eternity. Come and join us on Easter Sunday, at 7 AM in the Sanctuary, as we look at the Most Important Event in the History of Humanity!.

***Sunday, April 20th, at 11 AM***

***Sermon #59: ‘Reality of the Resurrection!’***

***Mark 16:1-20***

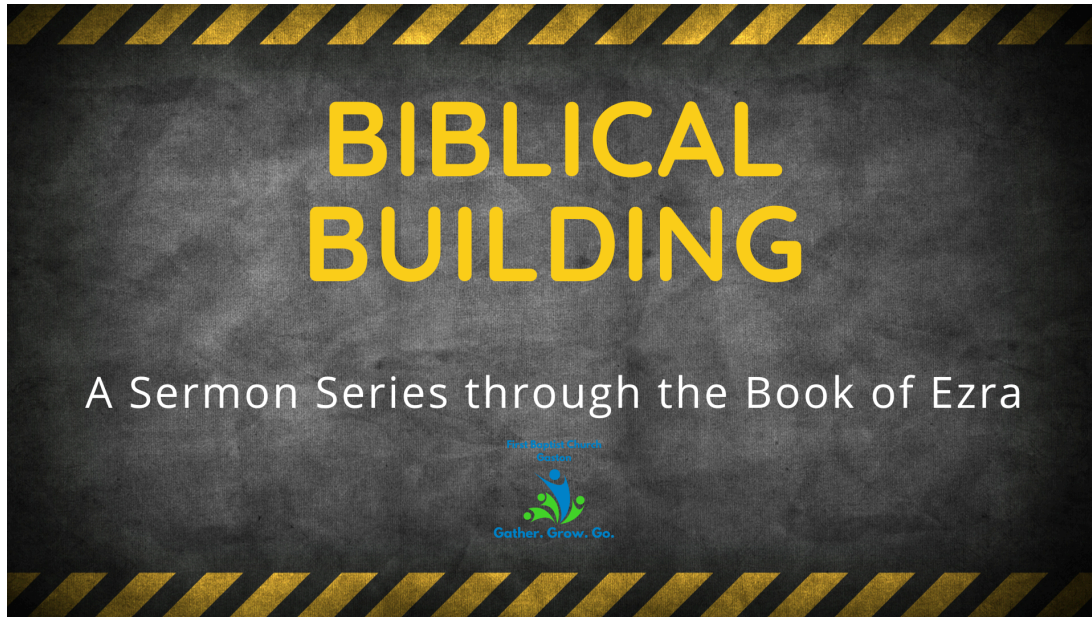
(Matthew 28:5-20, Luke 24:1-32, and John 20:1-31, parallel this passage)

On Easter Sunday of 2025 ALL are invited to join us as we celebrate and reflect on the Reality of the Resurrection!

***Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

Our incredible Associate Pastor, Rev. Steve Kittrell, will be preaching during this service whatever the Lord lays on his heart.



***‘Biblical Building!’***

A Sermon Series through the book of Ezra

21 Sermons in this Series

**Series Stats:**

- This sermon series will certainly be the most unique one that I have written and preached during my time here at First Baptist, and let’s be honest, my time in the ministry.
  - *As many of you know, last year our Church unanimously voted to begin the process of building what will one day be, a Multi-Purpose building on the land that is across the street from the Church.*
    - *I have casted this vision and call it ‘The Field of Dreams!’*
  - As we embark on such a BIG project that takes all of us, I don’t want us to ever forget that God is the one who is going to make this happen. He truly is faithful. Far beyond what we could think or imagine.
    - *While this is going to be a long journey, it will be worth it for generations that will come behind us and be ministered by the ministry of FBCG to have a facility that will be able to hold decades of ministry for the Kingdom.*
  - *As I prayed all of 2024 about what the Lord may want us to do through this process, I couldn’t help but think of Biblical Building.*
    - The book of Ezra follows the Israelites as the ‘remnant’ was released from Babylonian captivity and allowed to return back to Jerusalem.
    - When the exiles returned, the temple was in ruin.
      - *The book of Ezra follows the path that the Israelites took to rebuild God’s House, Biblically.*

- In this series, we will look each week at what it means to build the house of God Biblically.
  - *We will look at the challenges, obstacles, and hardships that the Israelites faced in their building of God's house, and how that can apply to our 'Field of Dreams' vision.*
- Keep in mind that the book of Ezra begins where 2nd Chronicles ends.
  - It's incredible in the book of Ezra to see how God used pagan leaders, like Cyrus and Artaxerxes in order to restore His people and rebuild His house.
- *This is probably my most favorite sermon series of 2025, because I believe and know that GOD is going to do incredible things through His Word.*
  - The question we must ask is, will we be obedient to what He wants to teach us as we study through Ezra?

*Sunday, April 27th, 2025*

*Sermon #1: 'Overview of Ezra!'*

*Ezra*

During this sermon I will officially kick off our 'Biblical Building' Sermon Series. The point of this sermon series is to look at how the Israelites rebuilt the Temple of the Lord back in the book of Ezra. As we look at this, it will give us a Biblical guide as we begin our 'Field of Dreams' building endeavor in the field across the street. We will look at what it meant to Biblically build the house of God back then, and how we can do it now. You won't want to miss this series, and you won't want to miss this sermon as Pastor Brady overviews the book of Ezra.

*Sunday, May 4th, 2025*

*Sermon #2: 'When God moves Government!'*

*Ezra 1:1-11*

When we open up the book of Ezra and read the first 11 verses immediately we get a front row seat to seeing God move the nations. Literally. In this sermon we will see that the 'Lord stirred up the spirit of Cryrus king of Persia'. God can move in the hearts and minds of those who are in government in such a way to bring and give Himself maximum Glory. If God can do it then, He can certainly move in any Government that He chooses to today.

*Sunday, May 11th, 2025*

*Mother's Day Panel*

This Mother's day we will do something that we have never done before. Instead of continuing in Ezra, or having a special Mother's Day sermon, we will have parent/child dedication during the service and hear from a panel of dedicated Mothers from all walks of life from our own Church family. I will be coming up with questions to interview several Mothers in our Church and allow them to share how Biblically, they view Motherhood.

***Sunday, May 18th, 2025***

***Sermon #3: 'A List of the Faithful!'***

***Ezra 2:1-70***

Don't let the 70 verses that we will cover in one sermon scare you, yet! In this sermon we will read 70 verses that are full of names. Names of all kinds of different Israelites. But, these aren't just any names. These are the names of the faithful remnant. In Ezra 2:1-70 we find the names of the exiles who CHOSE to return from Babylon to resettle their former homes in Jerusalem and Judah. Not all the exiles returned home, many of them decided to stay in the comforts of Babylon and blend in with pagan culture. In this sermon, we will find a list of the faithful group of people who came 'home' and would soon seek to rebuild the temple. Are we the faithful group in the life of FBCG that will step out in faith for the 'Field of Dreams' vision?

***Sunday, May 25th, 2025***

***Sermon #4: 'We Build in order to Worship!'***

***Ezra 3:1-7***

Because of Matthew 18:20 we know that the Church is where two or more believers in Christ are gathered. But, in the context of the Old Testament, there were rules and regulations (the law, in the Torah) for the buildings and all of the items that were to be in the house of the Lord. But, here in Ezra 3:1-7 we see the foundations for the future temple are laid. And in this text, we find the truth that the reason we build a place for God's people to gather is not for equity, curb appeal, or 'moving up the ladder', it's for the purpose of worshiping our great God.

***Sunday, June 1st, 2025***

***Sermon #5: 'Don't Let Buildings Distract or Dictate our Mission!'***

***Ezra 3:8-13***

Last Sunday we were able to look at and focus on the spiritual side of preparing to build. Realizing that we build in order to worship and that our own spiritual lives must be in proper relation towards God before the brick and mortar comes into effect. In this sermon, we will see that the Israelites assembled the materials together to build, but then the older generation was upset that it wasn't as good as the last temple. Through this text, we will see that buildings, whether grand or not, should not distract from the worship that is to occur in them.

*Sunday, June 8th, 2025*

*Sermon #6: **Pastor Steve Preaching***

*Ezra 4:1-6*

Pastor Steve will be faithfully exegeting Ezra 4:1-6, while Mrs. Hannah and I are away at the Southern Baptist Convention. This year it is in Dallas, Texas.

*Sunday, June 15th, 2025*

*Father's Day Panel*

Just as Mother's Day was done differently this year than years in the past, Father's Day will be as well. This year we will be having our first ever, Father's Day Panel. During the service instead of having the traditional Father's Day sermon or continuing in Ezra, we will be hearing a sermon through the testimonies of Godly Fathers. All Fathers, and Mothers, in attendance will be able to hear their testimony and apply it to their own families.

*Sunday, June 22nd, 2025*

*Sermon #7: **'Unknown Opposition!'***

*Ezra 4:7-16*

As if it wasn't bad enough that the Israelite Senior Adults were complaining, and the surrounding nations were seeking to 'bully' and terrify Judah into not building, now, a letter was sent to the King. In this text, the associates who wrote this letter to King Artaxerxes are unnamed. While that will be uncovered in Ezra 4:17, in this text, there is unknown opposition. The opposition is letting the King know that in their opinion, the Israelites will not pay taxes nor respect the King. As you can see, God's people, when they act in obedience of what God has directed them to do, will face extreme and at times, obnoxious, opposition. The Israelites are targeted. And we, as First Baptist Church of Gaston, will be too as we seek to follow the 'Field of Dreams' vision.

*Sunday, June 29th, 2025*

*Sermon #8: **'The Work May Cease, but it's not Finished!'***

*Ezra 4:17-24*

Many years ago our Church family faced a time in the 1970s where the congregation felt as if God was leading them to build a new sanctuary. This was a feeling that had been in existence since Rev. Stephen Talbert left in 1955. Ultimately, the leadership at that time in the 1970s didn't feel as if they could afford to build. While the work at FBCG ceased in the 1970s, God continued the work in 1985 when our present day sanctuary was built. Here in this sermon, we will look at how the letter sent by Rehum to King Artaxerxes ceased the Israelites rebuilding the temple for a

total of 15 years. For 15 years, God's people were not able to rebuild the temple. While the work may have ceased, it wasn't yet finished, God was going to use the prophets Haggai and Zechariah to finish this work. When God starts a project, it may be stalled, but it will be completed. May we remember that in these days.

*Sunday, July 6th, 2025*

*Sermon #9: 'The Highest Authority!'*

*Ezra 5:1-5*

In this sermon we will study that God has the last say on any and every matter. In Ezra 5:1-5, 15 years have gone by and this is where the books of Haggai and Zechariah would come into chronological effect. The officials of Tattenai and Shethar-bozenai are neutral officials compared to the officials of Ezra 4:8-10. They do not have recollection or record of the previous decrees, they just want the Israelites to have proper authorization. But, because Ezra 5:5 tells us that the 'Eye of God' was upon them, they continue to build, as they wait for an answer.

*Sunday, July 13th, 2025*

*Sermon #10: 'Past Sins Can Create a Present Dilemma!'*

*Ezra 5:6-17*

The letter from Tattenai to King Darius included lots of information. Most of it includes the backstory and context of why the Israelites were in this dilemma in the first place. Meaning, the situations that had happened in the past, for them to have to rebuild the temple now. The letter includes how God allowed Israel to be overtaken by Babylon, and much more. In this letter, we as a Church can learn that the sins we create now, can affect our present and also future members of the Kingdom of God as well as our current fellowship.

*Sunday, July 20th, 2025*

*Sermon #11: 'God CAN and often DOES use Government Leaders!'*

*Ezra 6:1-12*

King Darius does something that without a doubt, would've shocked most, if not all of the ancient world. He allowed the Jews to continue their rebuilding of the temple. This is clearly the hand of God! In this sermon through King Darius's response as found in Ezra 6:1-12, we see that the Hand of God intervenes in and through the government leaders. In Ezra 6:8 we see that King Darius states that the rebuilding of the temple be paid out of the royal revenue! His own pocket! God CAN and often DOES use Government leaders to accomplish His will.

*Sunday, July 27th, 2025*

*Sermon #12: 'God uses Good Men!'*

*Ezra 6:13-18*

In this text we will see that the building of the temple has been completed and they offer 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs as a sin offering for all of Israel. Finally, after many years, the temple had been rebuilt. But in this sermon, I want to focus on how God often uses ‘good’ men to accomplish His purposes. In Ezra 6:14, we see that through the prophetic ministry of Haggai and Zechariah, that God was able to move mightily in His people. May we never forget that WHY and HOW we live matters. Is God using us? Or are we just living? There’s a big difference.

***Sunday, August 3rd, 2025***

***Sermon #13: ‘Joy to the World!’***

***Ezra 6:19-23***

When God works in the world and we are able to see it up close and personal, oftentimes God’s people react with Joy. Here in this text, we see that the Israelites celebrate the passover, and they have exuberant joy with what God has done in the rebuilding of the temple. May you and I not forget that there is JOY in following the Lord! JOY to the World!

***Sunday, August 10th, 2025***

***Sermon #14: ‘The Role of Pastors!’***

***Ezra 7:1-28***

57 years have passed since the time of the dedication of the temple. In Ezra 7:1-28, still during the reign of King Artaxerxes, Ezra is introduced as a priest and then commissioned by King Artaxerxes to establish the Mosaic law, and then teach the Mosaic law to the people of Judah. (This is the first time through 6 chapters that Ezra, the writer of this book, is formally introduced). While Ezra chapter 7 will recount Ezra’s Commission, Culture, and Companions, we will also have a front row seat to how a Pastor is to lead God’s people. Whether that is before or after a building project, the Pastor is to lead and shepherd God’s people.

***Sunday, August 17th, 2025***

***Sermon #15: ‘The Faithful Few!’***

***Ezra 8:1-14***

Now that Ezra has been commissioned, he is going to lead approximately 5,000 people (1,500 men) back into Jerusalem. More Jews than were already there. In this sermon, we will find the names of the families who journeyed back to Jerusalem with Ezra, but we also see great faith and leadership. Leadership in Ezra, and faith in the people to follow him back into Jerusalem. While 5,000 may seem like a lot, and it was, are we willing to be the faithful few to travel where God may lead us metaphorically and physically?



*Sunday, August 24th, 2025*

*Sermon #16: 'Navigating the Grey Areas!'*

*Ezra 8:15-20*

In this text we will discover that Ezra required Levites to be a part of the caravan that journeyed back to Jerusalem. It would be assumed that the temple in Jerusalem already had the correct number of priests and temple servants. But, Ezra, an expert in God's Law (the Torah), knew that Levites ONLY Levites were to carry the Holy things. According to Ezra 8:24, it seems as if that was not taking place. So, Ezra seeks to be consistent with the intent of God's law, even if the letter of the law did not address this particular situation. In this text, we see from the example of Ezra, how we as Christians are to navigate the 'Grey Areas' of scripture and life.

*Sunday, August 31st, 2025*

*201st Homecoming Sunday*

Last year we had an amazing Bicentennial Celebration to celebrate our 200 years as a Church family. This year, we get the opportunity to celebrate 201 years as a Church. Don't miss this Sunday as we take a break in our 'Biblical Build' sermon series and celebrate all that God has done in the last 201 years during this service.

*Sunday, September 7th, 2025*

*Sermon #17: 'Pray for God's Protection!'*

*Ezra 8:21-23*

Praying for God's protection over our family, ourselves, friends, and one another is something that we all do quite often. Myself included. When we need God's provision and protection, according to this text, we can ask Him for it. As we continue in our 'Field of Dreams Vision' for the future that God has in store for us, may we not forget to ask Him for what only He can do and provide.

*Sunday, September 14th, 2025*

*Sermon #18: 'Monetary Giving Matters!'*

*Ezra 8:24-36*

While this is often a touchy subject to people, Monetary giving does matter. Especially to God. In this sermon we will see that Ezra does entrust the offerings that were given back in Ezra 7:15, to the priests, but we also see that the monetary giving that we GET to give to God and His purposes matter greatly. May we not ever forget this during our 'Field of Dreams' vision.

*Sunday, September 21st, 2025*

*Sermon #19: 'Pray About the Problem!'*

*Ezra 9:1-15*

Praying about a particular problem before we ever respond is very important. In this passage of scripture we find that the matter of intermarriage with other religions among the Jews is brought to the attention of Ezra. When Ezra hears of this news, his first act is to pray for the people. How often do we pray about a problem before we respond? Oftentimes, if we are honest, we respond and then pray afterwards. This sermon will challenge us to pray, seek guidance from God, and then respond.

*Sunday, September 28th, 2025*

*Missions Sunday*

Last year on December 15th of 2024 we had our first ever 'Send Sunday'. In a way, this was a missions day as we were able to pray for and send out Emily Furtick and Charles and Sherry Burton. This year, and in the years to follow, we will have one Sunday a year where we highlight our missions teams and allow them to share testimonies on what God has done in their lives during their time of living on mission. You won't want to miss our first ever 'Missions Sunday'.

*Sunday, October 5th, 2025*

*Sermon #20: 'The Freeing of Repentance!'*

*Ezra 10:1-17*

In this sermon we will see that Ezra prays, and in verses 1-2 the people confess their sin. In verses 3-5 they agree to follow God's will over their own. Ezra will ask God for an answer, and then the people will separate from their pagan ways. Church family, there is great power when we repent from our sins and allow God to free us through His Forgiveness. If there is ANY sin in our lives this Sunday Morning, we can repent and ask God to forgive us.

*Sunday, October 12th, 2025*

*Sermon #21: 'The Pain of Obedience!'*

*Ezra 10:18-44*

While being obedient to God can be freeing, it can also be painful. In this passage of scripture we find the list of those who were guilty of intermarriage. Even some of them were Levites, which were priests. Ezra 10:44 ends in such a sad and morbid manner. Ezra 10:44 would indicate that men of Israel sent away their pagan wives and their children. Indeed, at times, obeying GOD can be quite painful.



***‘Stay the Course!’***

A Sermon Series through the book of 1st Peter

***7 Sermons in this Series in 2025***

**Series Stats:**

- To close out Sunday mornings in 2025, we will begin a verse-by-verse sermon series through the book of 1st Peter.
  - ***The very first book of the Bible that I preached through at FBCG was the book of 2nd Peter in a series we entitled ‘Remember’.***
    - At the close of that series I told you as a congregation that one day we would go through 1st Peter. The Lord has let me know that now is the time to do that.
    - We are starting this series in 2025, but we will not finish it until the spring of 2026.
  - ***As you know we are living in a world that, by the day, is becoming increasingly hostile towards Christians.***
    - Peter, the apostle who denied Christ, but also preached when 3,000 people accepted Christ, is the writer of this epistle.
    - Peter writes this letter to encourage believers to endure persecution and suffering.
  - ***As we continue to live in this world, the longer that the Lord reminds me personally, to stay the course. Stay close to Him, and the plan that He has in store.***
- ***Church family, as we end 2025 and begin 2026, we must stay the course no matter what the world seeks to throw at us.***

***Sunday, October 19th, 2025***

***Sermon #1: 'The Landscape of the New Testament Church!'***  
***1st Peter 1:1-2***

The first two verses of the first letter that Peter sent serve as the greeting of the letter. But, even in the greeting there is a message that God wants us to heed. In this greeting, we are given the geographical locations of Christians who were facing persecution in the New Testament Church. Now that Christ has ascended to the right hand of the Father, the apostles, Peter included, are leading the New Testament Church.

***Sunday, October 26th, 2025***  
***Sermon #2: 'Thankful for Salvation!'***  
***1st Peter 1:3-12***

Peter begins his letter by showing the believers that no matter the persecution that they are facing, that we should pause, and be thankful for our salvation. To me, this means that we need to close out our social media feed, turn off the news channel, and stop reading every headline thinking 'Oh no! What are we going to do!'. We have salvation in Christ Jesus. This world is not our home, our suffering is temporary, and we must remember that all of the Bible points directly to Jesus Christ.

***Sunday, November 2nd, 2025***  
***Sermon #3: 'Called to be Different!'***  
***1st Peter 1:13-21***

Ever since I was in middle school (not that long ago), the word 'different' has always had a stigma around it. Being 'different' was/is always looked at as being a bad thing. In this sermon we will look at how believers in Christ are called to a higher standard of living. We are not called to act similarly to the world or the same as the world, but different. As 1st Peter 1:13 states 'preparing your minds for action', are we prepared for the actions that God would have us to complete for His Glory?

***Sunday, November 9th, 2025***  
***Sermon #4: 'You are Stronger than you Think!'***  
***1st Peter 1:22-25***

Now that you are a new creation in Christ (if you are a believer), you are strong because of Christ Jesus in you! In this sermon Peter quotes Isaiah 40:6 and Isaiah 40:8 to show the contrast between the weakness of our human flesh that we currently live in on earth, and the strength that is available to us through Jesus Christ! You are stronger than you think, through Christ Jesus!

*Sunday, November 16th, 2025*

*Sermon #5: 'Don't be Foolish, Fellowship with the Church!'*

*1st Peter 2:1-10*

The apostle Peter is very clear that as believers we need to get off of spiritual milk and start eating spiritual meat in the first three verses. Then, in 1st Peter 2:4-10, we see the importance of the Church meeting together. Do you remember in 2020 when the government said that it was unsafe for believers to gather together? Now, more than ever, the Church MUST gather together. Please, if you are reading this, gather together with your local Bible Believing congregation. We need Jesus, and we need each other!

*Sunday, November 23rd, 2025*

*Sermon #6: 'Live What you Preach!'*

*1st Peter 2:11-12*

In these two short verses of scripture we find the importance of living what you say that you believe. The apostle Peter makes it clear that non-believers are watching us. They see what we do and don't do, and are looking to make sure that our actions match what we say that we believe. Are you living a life that depicts what you say that you believe about Jesus and who He is?

*Sunday, November 30th, 2025*

*Sermon #7: 'Glorifying Christ as a Citizen and as an Employee!'*

*1st Peter 2:13-25*

In this passage of scripture the Apostle Peter focuses on encouraging believers in Christ to be submissive to the authorities placed over them, as long as it does not contradict Scripture. As believers in Christ, we must remember to respond to our government and employers, in ways that honor and glorify God above all else. We don't need to act out in unethical behavior in hopes of 'proving a point' but we should act in a way that honors and glorifies Christ.



### *Honing in on the Heart*

Sermon Series

25 Sermons in this Series this year

#### **Series Stats:**

- After we conclude our Sermon Series through the book of Mark we will resume our Midweek sermon series through the book of 1st Samuel that we began in 2024.
  - *In 2024 we had 35 sermons through the book of 1st Samuel. I really enjoyed going through the book of Samuel with you in 2024, and can't wait to see how God is going to continue to use His Word in 1st-2nd Samuel during Midweek Worship in 2025.*
- **Spoiler alert:** We will not conclude our 'Honing in on the Heart!' sermon series in 2025. It is my goal to get through 1st Samuel and then start 2nd Samuel. But, this series will continue on Wednesday evenings into 2026.
  - I understand that is going to make it quite the lengthy sermon series, but, that's what happens when we practice book-by-book and verse-by-verse preaching.

*Wednesday, April 23rd, 2025*

***Sermon #36: 'One Step Further!'***

***1st Samuel 19:1-24***

On this Wednesday night in 2025 we will officially pick back up in our sermon series through 1st Samuel. We will pick back up in an interesting passage of scripture. If you remember back in our study of 1st Samuel in 2024, we left off when Saul had tried several different ways to get David killed by using the Philistines to do the actual killing. Now, in this sermon, we will see that Saul takes it one more step further, and attempts to kill David himself for the first of what will not be the last time. Don't miss this sermon as we look at 'One Step Further!'.

***Wednesday, April 30th, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

Pastor Steve will be preaching during the midweek worship service whatever the Lord lays on his heart. You won't want to miss Pastor Steve preaching God's Word.

***Wednesday, May 7th, 2025***

***Sermon #37: 'Running for his Life!'***

***1st Samuel 20:1-25***

David is fully aware that his life is at risk due to the efforts of Saul to have him killed. Jonathan warns David and creates a covenant with David and vows to protect him. So, in order to get away from psycho Saul, David hides in a field to save his life, for now.

***Wednesday, May 14th, 2025***

***Sermon #38: 'The Bond of a Brother and the Bother of Bitterness!'***

***1st Samuel 20:26-42***

In this sermon we will find out that we all fall into two different kinds of people. We are either a Brother to someone, like Johnathan, or we are a burden, like Saul was to David, Johnathan and many others. Saul is still eaten up with bitterness and anger towards David. Saul finds out that Johnathan was a part of hiding David and was the reason he was not at supper. When Saul finds this out he throws a spear at his own son. When bitterness is given the opportunity to grow in your life, it will build overtime and become a burden to you, and those around you. I pray that we will leave the sanctuary on May 14th inspired to be a Brother to someone, not a burden.

***Wednesday, May 21st, 2025***

***Sermon #39: 'Homeless, Hungry, and Nutty!'***

***1st Samuel 21:1-15***

In my opinion, 1st Samuel 21 is one of the most interesting passages of scripture in the Bible. Truly if I did not practice verse-by-verse preaching, I cannot honestly say I would preach this text unless the Lord let me to it, of course. David is hungry, he goes up to the temple and Nob, and eats of the Holy Bread. Then, he travels to Gath, still on the run, and he's recognized so he imitates himself as an insane person to stay undercover. Wow. We have a lot to unpack in this sermon. I can't wait!

***Wednesday, May 28th, 2025***

***Sermon #40: 'A Short Safe Haven!'***

***1st Samuel 22:1-5***

David now leaves Gath and ends up in a cave. Here, his family comes to him and they are able to assemble a small army. 400 people are now with David. I believe God provided this cave and the people willing to go with him so that David could hear from God through the prophet Gad and allow David to recalibrate in a way. There our times in our lives when God allows a short safe haven for a season to help us recalibrate for what He has in store for us.

*Wednesday, June 4th, 2025*

***Sermon #41: 'The Nightmare at Nob!'***

***1st Samuel 22:6-23***

Just as our last sermon that dealt with David visiting Nob, this one gets even more gory and dark. As we saw in 1st Samuel 21, Doeg the Edomite was there that night when David was there. Instead of standing up to David himself, he went and told Saul. Talk about a tattletale. Saul then does the unthinkable. He orders that 85 priests be killed, and then that every man, woman, child, infant, and all livestock be killed in Nob. Truly a nightmare. We see it today in our world though, don't we? A world leader or terrorist gets upset and kills innocent people destroying communities and cities. Truly, the evilness of sin in 1st Samuel 22 and the evilness in our world is heartbroken. There's only one answer. Jesus. Jesus is the answer.

*Wednesday, June 11th, 2025*

***Sermon #42: Pastor Steve will be preaching.***

***1st Samuel 23:1-14***

Hannah and I will still be representing our Church at the Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas, Texas. Pastor Steve will continue our series in Samuel during this midweek worship service.

*Wednesday, June 18th, 2025*

***Sermon #43: 'A Close Call!'***

***1st Samuel 23:15-29***

I truly believe we won't know how many 'close calls' that God has saved and protected us from that we don't even know about until we get to Heaven. In this sermon we will see that Saul gets very close to David, and then the Hand of God intervenes. Saul is notified that the Philistines have raided the land and now his attention is diverted to the Philistines and away from David. This is not an accident or coincidence, this is the hand of God.

*Wednesday, June 25th, 2025*

***Vacation Bible School***



Be sure to come and join us for Vacation Bible School! There will be an adult class in the sanctuary! So, don't miss it.

***Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025***

***There will be no Midweek Worship services or on-campus activities.***

***Wednesday, July 9th, 2025***

***Sermon #44: 'Kill Em' with Kindness.'***

***1st Samuel 24:1-22***

David has an opportunity that Saul would have dreamed of. David is able to come up behind Saul in a cave, while Saul is going to the bathroom, and had the opportunity to kill him, but instead cut a piece of his robe. Just imagine this. You are given an opportunity to kill the man that desperately wants you wiped off the face of the earth. If you kill him, your time as King will officially begin. Instead, David shows kindness, grace and mercy. Church family, how much better would our world and communities be with we were to Kill people with Kindness instead of killing the with words and weapons.

***Wednesday, July 16th, 2025***

***Sermon #45: 'How to React when Someone Dies?'***

***1st Samuel 25:1***

On this particular night of midweek worship, we are going to slow down in our study of 1st Samuel, and focus on the death of Samuel. In 1st Samuel 25:1, we are told that Samuel dies, and that all of Israel gathered together and mourned for him. This sermon will pierce the heart of every person because we've all experienced the death of a family member, loved one, and friend. In this verse, we see that it is okay for us to mourn over those who have died. We will take a deep dive and learn how we should react, Biblically, when someone dies.

***Wednesday, July 23rd, 2025***

***Sermon #46: 'More Disrespect Towards David!'***

***1st Samuel 25:2-22***

David now crosses paths with a man by the name of Nabal. David sends his servants to Nabal to begin conversing with him, and most scholars agree that the terminology that Nabal used towards David, was a sign of disrespect. David gets angry, and Abigail, Nabal's wife, now enters the picture to try and calm David down. This chapter gets increasingly more interesting by the verse!

***Wednesday, July 30th, 2025***

***Sermon #47: 'Murder and a Marriage!'******1st Samuel 25:23-44***

From what we read in 1st Samuel 25:2-22, this passage continues that same narrative. In this sermon we will see that God turned Nabal's heart to a stone, and that ten days later, Nabal died. Once Nabal dies, David takes Abigail to be his wife. When we look at the murder and the marriage, we learn quickly that God does not mess around.

***Wednesday, August 6th, 2025******Sermon #48: 'David Spares Saul's Life, Again!'******1st Samuel 26:1-16***

Saul continues to run after David. It's obvious that Saul still wants David dead. David realizes this and sends spies out. Once Saul and his men were asleep, David goes down to the camp right where Saul was sleeping. While David's men want to kill Saul, David says 'no'. Why? Because Saul was still the Lord's anointed. But the Lord had a huge part in this as He gave Saul and his men a deep sleep.

***Wednesday, August 13th, 2025******Sermon #49: 'False Repentance!'******1st Samuel 26:17-25***

False repentance is a very dangerous trap that the devil tries to make seem very attractive, and often succeeds. While there is much scholarly debate on whether or not Saul truly repents here, I feel the answer is obvious based on the actions of Saul that follow this chapter. Saul says the right things, like we often do, but I think based on his later actions, his heart was never truly in the right place. May we not fall into this trap of False Repentance.

***Wednesday, August 20th, 2025******Sermon #50: 'David's Ascension!'******1st Samuel 27:1-12***

Even though Saul is still alive, this passage of scripture captures the fact that David was truly coming into his own. While he was the king of Israel to be, he was not yet the functioning King as Saul was still alive. But, while his exile continued, he was able to defeat more and more enemies of Israel.

***Wednesday, August 27th, 2025******Night 1 of our Three Night Revival.***

*Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025*

*RA/GA/Mission Friends/Acteen Recognition Night*

*Wednesday, September 10th, 2025*

*Sermon #51: 'Disguised, Desperate, and Destroyed!'*

*1st Samuel 28:1-25*

In this sermon we will study one of the most compelling and 'eerie' passages of scripture in the entire Bible. Saul disguises himself out of desperation, and along with two other men travels to the home of a witch. In this passage, Saul convinces the witch to 'wake up' the spirit of Samuel. The narrator of Samuel records the prophet's response once he was woken up by the witch. In all the Bible, there's not a passage quite like this one. You won't want to miss this sermon! I've been thinking about this particular sermon since way back in 2023 when the Lord laid on my heart to preach through 1-2 Samuel.

*Wednesday, September 17th, 2025*

*Sermon #52: 'The Welcome Wears Off!'*

*1st Samuel 29:1-11*

While the Philistine War Leader, Achish of Gath trusted David, the other Philistine commanders in the military felt that he may seek to betray them. So, they insist that David be sent home. Even in this we see God's providence in saving more Israelite lives from more bloodshed in battle.

*Wednesday, September 24th, 2025*

*Sermon #53: 'Strength in the Lord!'*

*1st Samuel 30:1-31*

In yet another thrilling passage of scripture, we find that David's wives are captured, and also the family members of other leaders in Israel had been captured. What we are going to find in this passage is that David was Appalled, David Asked God, and David Acted quickly. When you and I are met with devastation in our own lives, following the three steps that David did can really allow us to be strengthened in the Lord.

*Wednesday, October 1st, 2025*

*Sermon #54: 'Saul's Suicide!'*

*1st Samuel 31:1-13*

For many Chapters in 1st Samuel now, we have seen the downwards progression of Saul's own selfishness. Now, Saul gets into battle with the Philistines and decides to commit suicide. Saul's selfish decisions cost him, his sons, his armor bearer, and all his men. What a tragic day.

***Wednesday, October 8th, 2025***

***Sermon #55: 'The News of an Amalekite!'***

***2nd Samuel 1:1-16***

An Amalekite soldier who saw the death of Saul occur and tells David that he essentially took him out of his misery, comes and delivers Saul's crown and armband to David. David then orders that this man be killed for killing the Lord's anointed.

***Wednesday, October 15th, 2025***

***Sermon #56: 'Public and Personal Grief!'***

***2nd Samuel 1:17-27***

Not only did Saul die, but also his sons which would have included Johnathan. Remember that Johnathan and David were best friends, some might even say brothers. In this sermon, we will look at the public and personal grief that David openly exposes in his lament that is recorded here. Even though David was wronged by Saul on many occasions, in this passage David still decides to remember Saul in a generous way. Here, David sets an example of something we do today at modern day celebration of life services. We emphasize the good that someone has done after they have died.

***Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025***

***Sermon #57: 'The Time has Come!'***

***2nd Samuel 2:1-7***

A lot of time has passed since David, the Shepherd boy, was anointed in Bethlehem. But now that Saul is dead, the time has come for David to be anointed and fulfill his place as King. But, it won't be as easy as you would think. Israel is just as bad as we are sometimes, they want to hold to the 'tradition' of how the power of succession usually goes... We must remember just because we think something is 'usual' may not be the way God wants to do it.

***Wednesday, October 29th, 2025***

***Sermon #58: 'Power Hungry Men!'***

***2nd Samuel 2:8-11***

In just these few verses, we see that Saul's Son, with the direct and help of Abner, actively seeks to keep the reign of Israel in the family of Saul. While this wouldn't last and David would become King, it does make the situation a bit more complicated. Which is what usually occurs when people seek power over God's plan.

***Wednesday, November 5th, 2025***

***Sermon #59: Pastor Steve Preaching***  
***2nd Samuel 2:12-32***

Pastor Steve will be preaching from 2nd Samuel 2:12-32 during this Midweek Worship Service on November 5th.

***Wednesday, November 12th, 2025***  
***Sermon #60: 'Family Drama!'***  
***2nd Samuel 3:1-25***

This will be the second time as your Pastor that I have preached a sermon entitled 'Family Drama!'. The first was in the fall of 2022, as we looked at Noah and the drama that occurred in his family. Now, we see the drama that occurs between David, Abner and Ish-bosheth. Remember, David is Saul's son-in-law because he married Michal.

***Wednesday, November 19th, 2025***  
***Sermon #61: 'Jealousy Kills!'***  
***2nd Samuel 3:26-39***

Joab can't stand that David allows Abner to come and be a part of his administration. Back in 2nd Samuel 3:25, Joab accuses Abner of being a spy. Joab is Jealous. When we become Jealous, we must be aware that Satan will use that in terrible ways. Here, it happens and David mourns Abner, as he has mourned others before.



***'Fear Not!'***  
Sermon Series

***A Look at the four 'Fear Not' Statements found during the Christmas narrative in Scripture.***

**Series Stats:**

- This series is a 4-part sermon series that will be during 1 Midweek Service and 3 Sunday Morning Services.
  - *The purpose of this sermon series is to look at the Christmas story through the words that Angels said to Zacharias, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds. Those words were simply, 'Fear Not!'. They are truly words that as we close out 2025, we can still cling to. No matter what we face, God is in control and we must 'fear not'.*

***Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025***

***Sermon #1: 'Fear Not, your Prayers are Heard!'***

***Luke 1:13***

This Christmas we will have a 4-part sermon series that will guide us through the Christmas season that is entitled 'Fear Not'. Throughout this series we will look at four 'fear not' statements that occur throughout the narrative of the Christmas story. The series will begin on this night, as Zacharias was told to fear not.

***Sunday, December 7th, 2025***

***Sermon #2: 'Fear Not, for you have found Favor with God!'***

***Luke 1:30***

In this sermon we will look at how the Angel came to Mary and told her to fear not. Why? Because she had lived her life in such a way up to that point that she had found favor with God! How much better would our lives be if we sought to please God and not man? Remember John 3:30 from the first sermon of this year? In this sermon we will see that fear can be removed in our lives when we trust Jesus as the real and true Savior of our lives, and of the world!

***Wednesday, December 10th, 2025***

***The Children's Choir will be presenting their Christmas Musical. Don't miss this.***

***Sunday, December 14th, 2025***

***Sermon #3: 'Fear Not, Good News is Here!'***

***Luke 2:10***

In this sermon we will study how the Angel told the shepherds that dark night not to fear, because behold, 'I bring you good tidings of great joy'. Jesus is the good news! The Incarnation is the answer to people's sin and because of that, our fears (1st Timothy 1:15)! May we not forget that as believers this Christmas season, we do not have to fear either because Jesus is still the good news.

***Wednesday, December 17th, 2025***

***Pastor Brady and First Lady Hannah will be sharing the Christmas Story with the Children and our annual Church-wide drop-in will take place afterwards in the Fellowship hall.***

***Sunday, December 21st, 2025***

***Sermon #4: 'Fear Not, Follow God's Plan!'***

***Matthew 1:20***

On the Sunday before Christmas we will look at how the Angel that appeared to Joseph in a dream, told him 'fear not'. Joseph was then directed to follow God's plan and take Mary as his wife, even though this would have been indescribably hard, and culturally unacceptable. Even if that's the case, Joseph followed God's plan, as should we in these days.

***Wednesday, December 24th, 2025***

***A Special Christmas Eve Service***

Communion will be observed during this service.

This year Christmas Eve uniquely lands on a Wednesday. Something that doesn't happen often. Because of this, we will have a special Christmas Eve Service. We will observe the Lord's Supper and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, the night before!

***Sunday, December 28th, 2025***

***Pastor Steve Preaching***

Our Associate Pastor, Rev. Steve Kittrell, will be preaching whatever the Lord lays on his heart to share.

***Wednesday, December 31st, 2025***

***No Church services or on campus activities***