



Volume 2 / Issue 4
April 2024

THE SPIRE

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made the heaven and earth.
Psalm 121:1-2 (ESV)

WELCOME TO FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Greetings in Christ!

One of the most discouraging aspects of sharing the Gospel is knowing that so many people will reject the message, and yes, even at times reject the messenger...you.



At times, we might think that if we could just be a bit more like Jesus then everyone would accept this message because we would minister the way He wants us to minister. We would share the exact words they need to hear to make the decision for Christ.

Yet, let me remind you that even Jesus Himself was often “despised and rejected”, and in fact was rejected so much that He was crucified on a Cross! We know that ultimately it was the plan of God to provide a sinless sacrifice for sin, but still, the Bible tells us that Jesus came into the world to “seek and to save the lost”. His love extended to each and every person He came into contact with, including the two thieves who hung on crosses beside Him.

In other words, it's up to us to share the Gospel and leave it in the hands of the Lord, plus we must remember each person has their own free will.

An unbeliever once ridiculed the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ by saying, “If Jesus Christ is able to save to the uttermost, why is it that there are so many unbelievers?” The Christian to whom he was speaking stopped a very dirty little boy who was passing by and turning to the unbeliever said, “Can you blame soap and water for the filth of this boy?” It was available to all, but only those who accept it experience its regenerating power.

The Gospel is still available to all so therefore, it must be shared with all. Probably the most quoted scripture in the Bible tells us this in John 3:16; ***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.***

Friends, let's do our part here on earth in sharing the Gospel so that eternity will be the home of those we minister to.

Blessings in Christ!
Pastor *Doug*

Service Times

Sunday School Hour.....9:30 – 10:30 am
Worship Service.....10:45 – 12 noon
Wednesday Night Prayer.....6:30 – 7:30 am

A Note from our Pastor

DEAR FRIEND,

As pastor of First Southern Baptist Church and in behalf of our members and friends. I would extend a personal and warm invitation to you to attend services at our friendly church.

We are a loving church family and welcome new folks with open arms.

Our church has a vision to reach our community and the world with the Gospel message of Christ's death, burial and resurrection and the salvation He so freely offers.

We would be delighted if you would stop in for a visit and even more excited if you should choose First Southern Baptist Church as your church home. Everyone is welcome and we would love to include you in our fellowship.

Blessings,

Pastor Doug and Ruth



Baptist vs. Southern Baptist: The Differences Explained

Many people around the world find comfort in practicing a religion. In fact, there are over [4,000 religions](#) recognized around the world.

Two common religious groups are the Baptists and the Southern Baptists. People often see these groups as the same, but they have differences that set them apart. Baptist vs. Southern Baptist churches each have their own backgrounds and religious ideas.

If you're wondering what sets these groups apart, you've come to the right place. We explore the characteristics of these two faiths in our article below.

The History of Baptist Religious Groups

You can trace the history of the Baptist church to the very early 17th century. It was then that people started rebelling against the [Church of England](#). These people started calling for religious reform.

The first Baptists emphasized baptism for all its members. They also wanted local church autonomy and leadership for all the believers.

Many early Baptist people fled to the American colonies. Baptist groups started popping up amongst the colonists.

The Baptist faith grew and started merging into different branches. This is where the Southern Baptist church came from.

The Southern Baptist church has a darker history involving slavery. In the 1800s, debates over slavery caused a rift between Baptist groups. The Southern Baptist church had most of its locations in the slave states of the South.

The Southern Baptist church has since denounced slavery. The group has also publicly apologized for any involvement that members of its group have had during this horrifying time in history.

Baptist Church

The Baptist religion stems from the Protestant Christian church. Baptists are Christian, so they share many beliefs of other Christian religious groups.

Although there are several branches of the Baptist faith, there are some common beliefs held among this group. These beliefs are what set them apart from other Christian religions.

Bible

The fundamental belief of Baptist people is that the Bible is key to how they experience their life. Baptists believe that the Bible is the direct Word of God. This means it is the ultimate guide for how to practice and live as Baptists.

The Bible is the guide that Baptists use to live their life. It also gives information about God's character and plans for salvation. By following the word of the Bible, people can get closer to God.

Most Baptists encourage the [study of the Bible](#). They see this as a way to deepen their understanding of the Word of God.

Baptism

Another cornerstone of the Baptist faith is baptism. Baptize means a person has chosen to dedicate themselves fully to their faith. Baptists see the act of getting baptized as a spiritual rebirth.

Church Leaders

Baptist followers don't have traditional priests. They believe that each member of the Baptist faith can communicate with God directly. Each Baptist follower handles their relationship with God.

Salvation Beliefs

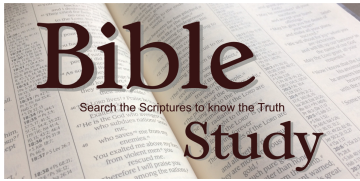
Salvation is another key belief in the Baptist faith. Baptists see salvation as the gift of God's grace.

In this faith, salvation is not something you can gain through action. It, instead, comes from the personal decision to trust wholeheartedly in Jesus Christ. Salvation also means repenting of your sins using the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Church Structure

Baptists feel that their churches should get to make their own decisions. They run independently and are self-governed.

Baptist churches also believe in democracy. Each member has a say in how the church is run.



Freed to Serve God

Romans 3:9–26

We all have a need for acceptance. In fact our self-concept is often determined by the approval or rejection of those around us, whether family, peers, business associates, fellow students or even Christian friends. We tend to do and say what we hope will win people's favor.

GROUP DISCUSSION. What kinds of things have you done to try to earn someone's favor? Perhaps you can recall a humorous incident from your dating life or a way you tried to gain favor with a schoolteacher.

PERSONAL REFLECTION. This tendency to try to earn favor often carries over into our relationship with God. What are some ways you have tried to earn God's approval?

If we feel we must somehow earn God's acceptance of us, we end up acting out of a sense of guilt. In the book of Romans, Paul expounds the doctrine of justification, the biblical foundation upon which a right relationship is built—with ourselves, with others and with God. It frees us to be all that God intends for us. *Read Romans 3:9–26.*

1. In verses 10–18 Paul cites several Old Testament passages to illustrate the fact that everyone is “under sin” (v. 9). What portrait of humanity emerges from these verses?
2. How does this compare with the way you view people?
3. How does Paul use the various parts of the body to illustrate graphically the extent and effects of sin (vv. 13–18)?
4. The terminology Paul uses in this passage comes from the Roman legal system. In this courtroom scene God is the judge who is evaluating men and women on the basis of their obedience to his law. What do verses 19–20 tell us about the nature and outcome of this trial?
5. What do verses 9–20 reveal about our moral and spiritual condition?
6. Verses 21–26 introduce several key words which help us to understand the nature of salvation. A *justified* person (v. 24) has no legal charges against him or her and is therefore *righteous* in the eyes of the law. Why is our justification remarkable in light of our spiritual and moral condition?
7. How will a proper understanding of what God has done for you in Christ affect the way you view yourself?
8. The word *redemption* (v. 24) is borrowed from the slave market. It means to buy someone out of slavery. What are some of the ways we were enslaved as non-Christians?

9. What are some of the forms of enslavement or bondage that we struggle with as Christians?

How can Jesus free us in areas we continue to struggle with?


10. The expression *sacrifice of atonement* (v. 25) is taken from the Old Testament sacrificial system. The death of a sacrificial animal turned away God's wrath from the sinner. How does this imagery help us to understand and appreciate what Jesus did for us on the cross?

11. How can the fact that God has accepted and forgiven us through Christ affect our relationships with one another and with God?

Take time now to praise God for his loving and costly acceptance of us through Christ.

Now or Later

Read Romans 8:14–16. Here we see that Christ not only justifies us, that is declares us “not guilty,” but he also adopts us into his family. Adoption (another legal term) is fundamentally not a change in nature but a change in status. Reflect on the implications of your new status—not an orphan or a slave but a son or daughter.¹



**ADMIT THAT YOU
ARE A SINNER.**

**BELIEVE THAT JESUS
PAID FOR YOUR SIN
ON THE CROSS. †**

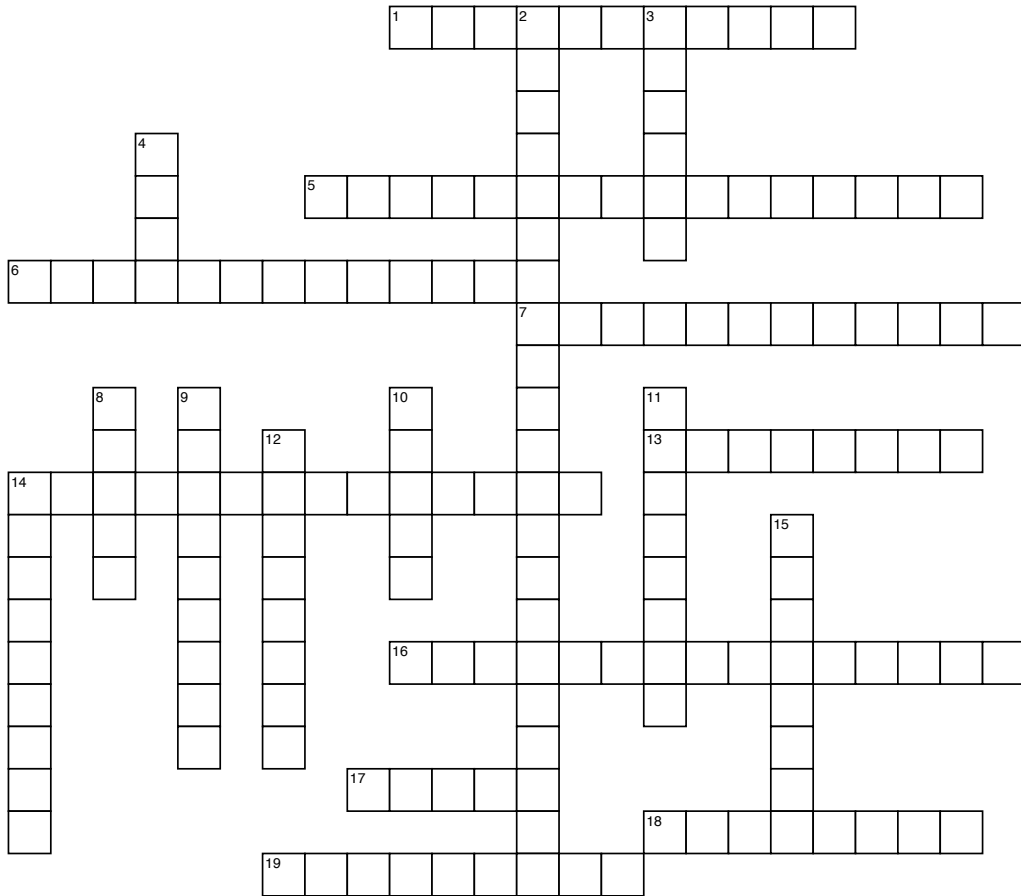
**CONFESS THAT JESUS
IS LORD AND CALL UPON
HIM FOR SALVATION.**

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2024						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Business Meeting & Potluck Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	8 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	9 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	10 A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM & G.A.P.	11 Constitution Committee 6:00PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM	12	13
14 Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	15 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	16 Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	17 A.W.A.N.A. 6:00 PM & G.A.P.	18 Church Council 6:00 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM	19	20
21 Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	22 Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	23 Yuma Hospital Blood Draw 6 – 9 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM	24 A.W.A.N.A. Banquet 6:00 PM	25 Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15 Church Council 6:00 PM Worship Practice 7:00 PM	26	27
28	29	30	Revival Week			
Prayer Meeting 5:00 PM	Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM	Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM		Yuma High School Girls Luncheon 11:45-12:15 Worship Practice 7:00 PM		

The English word April comes from the Latin Aprilis, the name given to the month by the ancient Romans. No one knows for certain why the Romans named it as they did. Some Roman authors thought that Aprilis was related to the Latin verb aperire meaning "to open," because April "opened" the buds of leaves and flowers.

ISAIAH 53



From "The Bible Puzzle Book A to Z Edition" by Mary Welsh

ACROSS

- 1 He was held this way (3 wds)
- 5 What his life was (4 wds)
- 6 He was numbered with them
- 7 He made this for the transgressors
- 13 The Lord laid it on Him
- 14 He was pierced for them
- 16 He was cut off from them (4 wds)
- 17 He was assigned one with the wicked
- 18 He was despised and _____
- 19 Like a lamb to the _____

DOWN

- 2 He was taken away by _____ (3 wds)
- 3 What a sheep before its shearers is
- 4 He was familiar with it
- 8 He poured out His life unto it
- 9 We are healed by them (2 wds)
- 10 This chapter is about _____
- 11 He did not open it (2 wds)
- 12 It was the Lord's will to do it (2 wds)
- 14 He will divide the spoils with them (2 wds)
- 15 He had not done any

ISAIAH 53

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

Z T T T H T U O M S I H R Y L B P P P D M
B N F H L M Z C Q X P I N I Q U I T Y G W
G E G Z E N I S R O F G N I R E F F O N A
M M T X V S Q H M B P M C R T L P B M X X
R G G M R C T V H T N C N X B D K A Y C K
R D G K J M J R G S X P F V H N Q N I K W
T U S G D R R R O B U H S U S E J F G N N
T J R N B F T T F N N R M W L W M V G C R
I D O I H C H H B K G C C P L D W T G K C
N N S V G L M R Z R K N W M M B L N R N Y
T A S I T R A N S G R E S S I O N S K T L
E N E L R M M R K T J J W N G D J K K T F
R O R E E V P E R C G C L T M N M F H V D
C I G H T Y F N V C K O M D V L T G I P B
E S S T H Y T R K A W M E N D N M O S K Z
S S N F G R F C K E R T J Z E T L L W C R
S E A O U H D T S H C G V L H E X H O J H
I R R D A G L T T E Y C I G N F Z Q U F N
O P T N L P E A J N B S K C R L V C N L N
N P N A S E E E H P Y F E M X R M K D R D
L O M L M D R B N Q P P D K K G G D S R N

From "The Bible Puzzle Book - A to Z Edition" by Mary Welsh

AN OFFERING FOR SIN

CRUSH HIM

DEATH

GRAVE

HIS MOUTH

HIS WOUNDS

INIQUITY

IN LOW ESTEEM

INTERCESSION

JESUS

LAND OF THE LIVING

OPPRESSION AND JUDGMENT

PAIN

REJECTED

SILENT

SLAUGHTER

THE STRONG

TRANSGRESSIONS

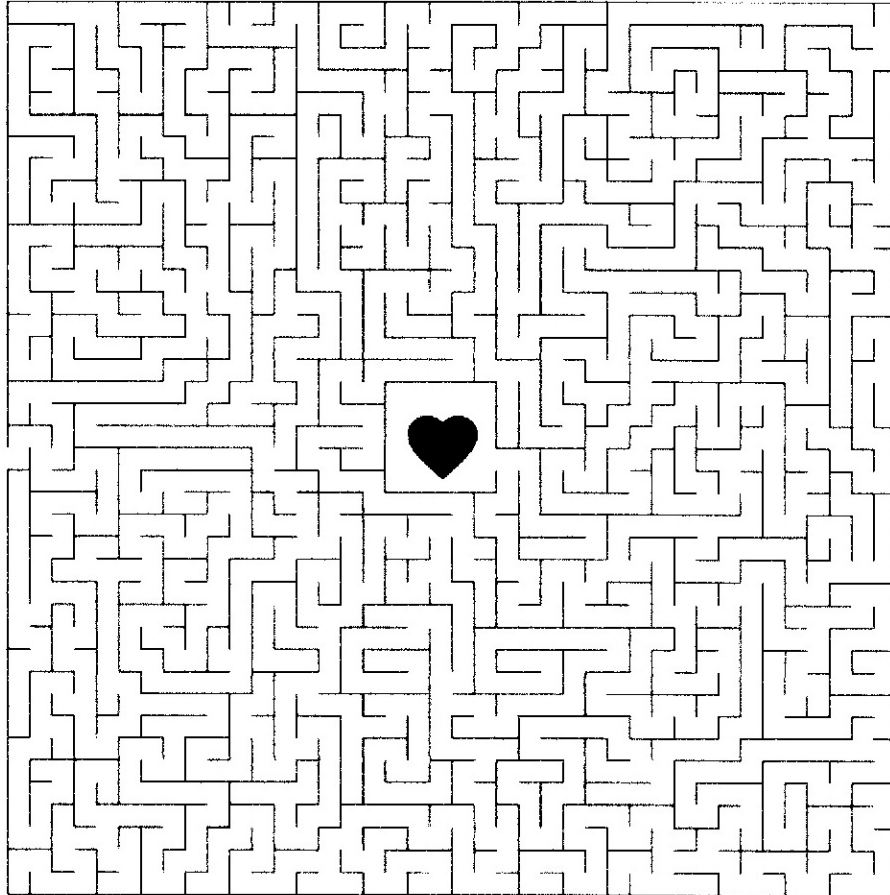
TRANSGRESSORS

VIOLENCE



Hiding God's Word in Your Heart

Start here →



I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.
Psalms 119:11

The Bulletin Board



A.W.A.N.A. every Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM.
Prayer Meeting , Sunday Evenings at 5:00 PM.
Constitution Committee, April 11th @ 6:00 PM
Church Council Meeting, April 18th @ 6:00 PM



5:00 PM



April 18th @ 6:00 PM



Ladies Bible Study Each
Monday night @ 6:30 PM

NOTE: See Pastor Doug to have any future events placed into the monthly newsletter.

First Southern Baptist Church
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