

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

April 9, 2023

Welcome!

*"Above all else, guard
your heart, for it is
the wellspring of life."*

Proverbs 4:23



*"Lord, You have been our
dwelling place in all
generations. Before the
mountains were brought forth,
or ever You had formed the
earth and the world, even
from everlasting to
everlasting. You are God."*

Please come back
tonight at 6pm for
worship in song with
an invitation by
Jearmie Gupton

Prayer List

Newborn **Theo Ezell** is in the NICU with an extremely elevated heart rate.

Remember all those affected by the shooting at **The Covenant School**, especially the **Dieckhaus** family in the loss of their daughter Evelyn.

Maria Hunter Harrington's surgery went very well, and she is recuperating at home

Kristine Garrett got great news on her latest cancer scans

Elizabeth's grandmother **Carol Saling** has cancer

Forshia Pennington has cancer.

Continue to pray for: Those affected by the helicopter accident at Fort Campbell, those affected by the storms in Arkansas and Mississippi, **Sheila Krantz, Kim Waller, Carol Allen, Jo Walker, Pat Agee, Sherry Russell, Keith Walker, Camille Brosky, Diane Singleton, Chelsea Roaden**, those in **Ukraine**; **Judy Cook**, the **Brown** family, **John Hayes, Nick Phifer, Weston Johnson** and **Bill Gillock**

*We invite everyone to
study the book of Romans
with us this Wednesday
night at 7:00; we will be in
chapter 7 this week*

Serving Today

Song Leader:

Steve Buchanan

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)

Scripture Reading:

Jeff Baker

Prayer:

Johnny Walker

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:

Eddie Walker

Matthew 26:1-6

Wait On Table:

David Billingsley

Serve:

Johnny Walker

Doug Demonbreun

Prayer:

Mike Reed

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am
Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

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He is Not Here, for He Has Risen (Matthew 28:6; 1 Corinthians 15)

Matthew 28:6 “He is not here, for He has risen...” - These words about the resurrection are either the most important that have ever been translated into the languages of man or the greatest lie in human history. As Christians we not only believe in the resurrection, but also likely echo the sentiments of Paul from **1 Corinthians 15:3-5** that it is of “first importance” to the gospel message. It means **everything** to us and has served as the foundational motivation for following God’s plan.

But why do we believe it is true? Clearly not everyone believes, otherwise our world would be a much different place. Paul considered the impact if this was indeed a lie in **1 Corinthians 15:12-19** and said, “*if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*”

In view of this, how would we explain our faith in this event to a non-believer? In **1 Peter 3:15**, Peter exhorts his readers to “always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...” What would you say if asked to give a reason for your faith in the resurrection?

Is There Another Explanation? *What theories have been offered to explain why the tomb was empty?*

- **Conspiracy Theory** - Jesus’ followers stole His body, lied about His post mortem appearances, and faked the resurrection (**Matthew 28:11-15**).
- **Swoon Theory** - Jesus was not quite dead when He was removed from the cross but merely fainted and appeared dead.
- **Hallucination Theory** - All post mortem appearances of Jesus were merely hallucinations.
- **Substitute Victim Theory** - Jesus was not actually crucified, but someone else (possibly Judas Iscariot) was crucified in His place.

Is There Evidence for the Resurrection? *Is Paul’s case for the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 stronger than the theories presented to explain why the tomb was empty?*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4a (ESV) - “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried...”

The fact that Jesus died and was buried is not nearly as controversial as popular culture would lead us to believe. It is almost universally accepted by scholars (even non-believers) that He died by crucifixion.

1 Corinthians 15:4b (ESV) “...that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

It is powerful to note that there is No evidence of any claim that Jesus’ body was still in the tomb. Again it is almost universally accepted that the tomb was found to be empty.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8 (ESV) “...he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.”

Paul challenges his readers to check his facts. He gives a list of eyewitnesses and points out to his readers that many of these eyewitnesses are still alive and available for questioning. Among these eyewitnesses are Peter, James, and Paul who all experienced a life changing transformation after they believed they had seen the risen Jesus. How else can this be explained than that they actually did witness the resurrection?