



First Baptist Church
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*Mission Statement:
Sunday School is FBC's primary
Great Commission strategy for
reaching, teaching, and ministering
to the people of Winnsboro.*



September 6, 2026

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19-20 (CSB)

A Sweet Labor Day Devotion

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 1 Corinthians 12:12–14 (NIV)

My family has a Labor Day tradition. The entire gang gathers at my parents' home on the river for jet-skiing, swimming, good food... and homemade ice cream. My mother makes the best homemade ice cream.

This Labor Day we were waiting for the ice cream, but the ice-cream maker just kept spinning. Then my dad remembered that he accidentally tossed the tiny part in the bottom out. That one little part ended up being important, and without it, the ice cream took much longer to get firm.

Like that tiny part in the ice-cream maker, each part of Christ's body is important to the livelihood of Christ's church. We may not feel like our tiny part matters, but in the entire scheme of things, we could be the reason the church doesn't stand firm. He needs our part.

For me, I sometimes feel I don't offer anything overly impressive to the growth of the Kingdom. I can speak, but I'm sure not great at it. I can sing, but it's nothing to write home about. And it took me years before I gathered the courage to pray out loud. But I do have a few things I can do and enjoy doing.

I can write and share God's message with my readers. I can teach the preschoolers at church and help start their growth in the Lord. I can do my part servicing the nursery so new moms can fully enjoy the sermon. I can be willing to attribute my good mood to my good Lord whenever asked why I seem particularly happy. I can also let others know that God will see me through when I'm having hard times.

Faith step: Eat a bowl of ice cream today and think about all of the parts that were necessary for that delicious taste, and then thank Jesus that you can be a tiny part in His Kingdom.

Happy Labor Day!

A Note from Pastor Tom

*David Henry
Minister of Education / Youth*

First Peter 3:15b is widely used to argue that we as Christians need to be prepared to defend our faith: "[be] prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." (ESV) Many a Christian apologist has been inspired by this call to use their intellectual capacity to show the reasonableness of our Christian faith. Yet when we read this verse in its greater context, it's actually not speaking primarily to defense from the mind (intellect) as it is to a defense from the heart (love).

Peter writes in 1 Pet 3:14-15, "14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, 15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." The defense that Peter calls for us to make is that of a life given to the love and desire of God that may lead to suffering. We are not to fear those who seek to bring us harm for doing good in Christ (cf. 1 Pet 3:13, 16). Rather, our fear of man (those who can harm us) is to be squeezed out of our hearts by our fear of God: "....but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy" (1 Pet 3:15a).

This may sound odd at first glance. Replace one fear for another? Well, yes. But in reality what we are doing is replacing one love for another. Rather than love our own lives and the approval of others, we are to love God above all else. We are to "honor Christ the Lord as holy." The phrase "honor...as holy" means "sanctify" (cf. NASB, KJB), to set Christ apart as holy in our lives. The fear of persecution and longing for relief from suffering is displaced with our love and longing for Christ to be glorified in our lives.

How do you overcome the love and fear of one thing? Replace it with the love and fear of another! This was what the Puritan preacher Thomas Chalmers called "the expulsive power of a new affection." We can't just simply say, "Don't be afraid." We hear, instead, "Honor Christ the Lord as holy."

Our defense of why we would not embrace the things of this world to avoid suffering is not an overwhelming intellectual argument. Our defense is an overwhelming love. We treasure Christ so much that we can't help but being willing to suffer for being and doing what He has called us to be and do.

No wonder Peter says to "make a defense" with "gentleness and respect." We aren't seeking to win an intellectual argument; we are seeking to win a deceived heart. And the way you win a deceived heart is by showing it what to truly treasure.

So make a defense of your hope today by treasuring Christ more than you fear man.

Weekly Announcements



September

- 8 - Jeremy Keeler, Stefanie Caston
- 9 - Ryan Jongsma, Axle Carr
- 10 - David May, Kord Chapman, Brian South, Bexley Redding
- 12 - Wilburn Hettich
- 13 - Mark Bassett

A Weekly REACH, TEACH & MINISTER schedule

9:00-9:10

Fellowship & Announcements

9:10-9:20

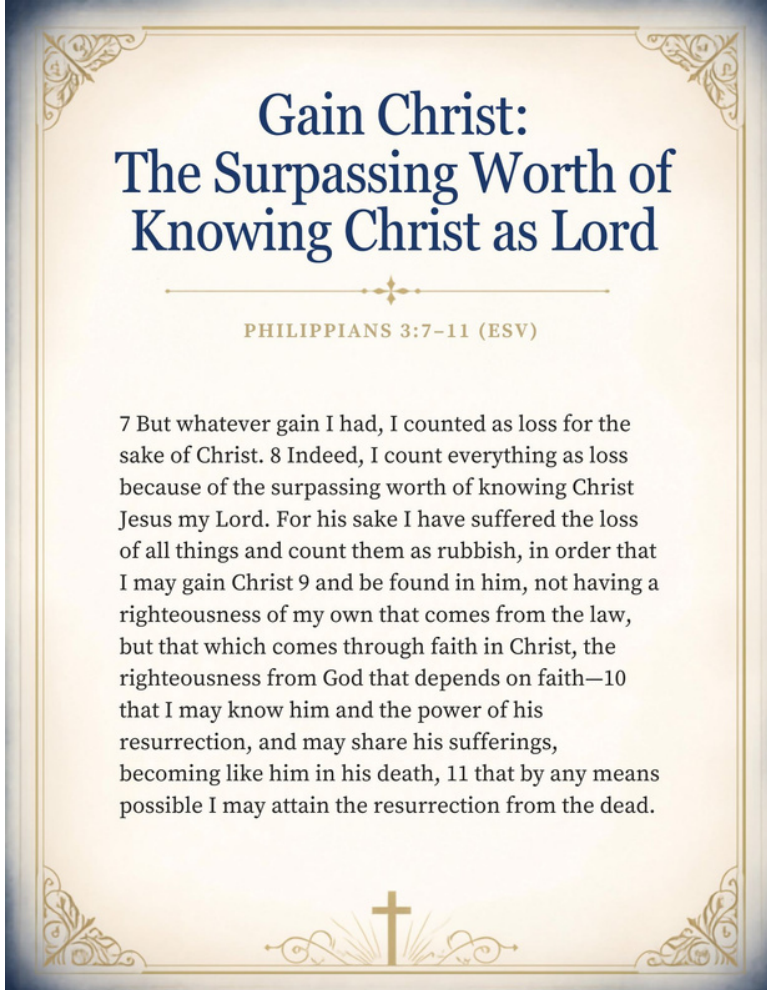
"REACH" Spotlight

9:20-10:00

"TEACH" People God's Word

10:00-10:15

*"MINISTER" in Care Groups/
Prayer Time*



The Women's Ministry will host their monthly Bible Study tonight at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is provided. All women are welcome!



Men's Retreat - October 2-4 - Broken Bow
Women's Retreat, October 23-24, Lakeview



Let's Pray! Join us for a time of corporate prayer for our church body. Sunday mornings, 8:00 am, in the GMRC.
Let's fill up the room with prayers to the Lord!