



the
Vision

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2021
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

EASTER SUNDAY

7^{AM} SONrise Service & 11^{AM} Celebration Service Outside (Weather Permitting) & Online

DRIVE IN Park in the Education Wing parking lot adjacent to the pond. Staggered parking. Tune in to AM 1610.

or

SIT OUTSIDE Park in the lower parking lot. Take your chair(s) to the grass as directed. Practice social distancing and other relevant precautions at all times.

In the event of inclement weather, please check for updates at fbcshallotte.org.

Church Events

- Apr 5th Easter Monday
Office Closed
- Apr 10th 10am to 12pm
Family Fun Day
- Apr 11th at 9:30am
First Kids Up Worship
- Apr 11th at 6pm
Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- Apr 18th at 6pm
Discovering Church Membership Starts
- Wednesdays at 12pm
Reset Bible Study w/
Pastor Bob
- Wednesdays at 6pm
Youth & Fusion

The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Bible and Our Confidence at Easter

In mid-March, archeologists uncovered a fresh fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls in a cave on the outskirts of Jerusalem. It is a small piece around 2,000 years old, and it bares a verse from a Greek translation of the Old Testament prophets.

The first batch of the Dead Sea Scrolls was discovered in 1947 by a Bedouin herder who tossed a rock into a cave and heard a cracking sound. He investigated and found a pot containing leather and papyrus scrolls. Scholars dove in and, over the years, uncovered over 10,000 scrolls across eleven caves, mostly dating between 300BC and AD 68.

The scrolls include an array of Jewish documents written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, including nearly every book in the Old Testament except Esther, preserved in parts, fragments, or even whole pages.

Why does this matter to you and me? Scholars assume that the earlier a manuscript was produced, the closer it is to the original. So, for instance, let's say your Great-Great-Nana's recipe for apple pie is passed down through generations, copied time and time again along the way. Then somewhere along the line a health-conscience relative changes the word "sugar" to "sweetener."

Suddenly, whenever someone on that side of the family brings apple pie to your holiday gatherings, it tastes funky. You say the sweetener changed it. They bristle at your accusation. They claim Nana always meant it to have sweetener because that's what their recipe says. How do you solve this? You look for the original. But if you cannot find that, or it is lost in the family history, the next best thing is to find the copy closest to the original and you'll find what Nana most likely said, and meant, and wanted. Sugar, that is.

That's the value of discoveries like the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The biblical manuscripts found in the caves were around 1,000 years older than any manuscripts that scholars had at the time. So, in studying the scrolls and parchments, biblical scholars had an opportunity to either verify or refute the authenticity of the texts that we had prior to 1947. In other words, is your Bible true to the original documents or has it been altered?

It's no surprise that the Dead Sea Scrolls verified the authenticity of the biblical texts that we have used all along! In fact, the scrolls revealed few differences between the manuscripts scholars already had and those they found in the caves, despite thousands of years between them, testifying to the power of God to preserve and pass down the Scriptures, and reminding us just how reliable our



Bibles really are! In short, archeology backed up what we have known all along—we can trust God's Word just as we have it today!

So, remember this particular principle of scholarship: The earlier a manuscript was produced, the more likely it matches the original. This principle is not just for scholars. It bolsters our faith in other ways that, if you are not careful, you might overlook.

1 Corinthians 15:3-5 is embedded in a conversation that Paul has with young Christians in Corinth. He writes, "For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve."

Notice the phrase, "For I passed on to you as of most importance what I also received." Scholars believe that Paul is quoting a Christian confession of faith, something that, apparently, all early Christians learned and passed along as the factual foundation of their faith. In a world where most of the population was illiterate, memorizing key facts was not only common but also crucial.

Paul wrote 1 Corinthians around AD 54. But scholars believe that this confession predates the letter by as much as 20 years. That means that Christians were memorizing these words almost as soon as Christ rose from the grave! Let that sink in! These verses contain the facts of the gospel that were preserved by God for all Christians and passed along to fortify their faith, beginning right after Christ rose from the grave!

What are those facts? There are four: (1) "that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, (2) that he was buried, (3) that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and (4) that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve."

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The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Bible and Our Confidence at Easter

Seen this way, the truth is clear. This creed was designed to certify the facts of Easter. First, that Christ died according to the Scriptures, so that our sins could be forgiven. His crucifixion was not an accident or an afterthought. It was God's plan.

And second, that He was really dead. Buried, in fact, so those who buried Him verified His death. True death is required for a true resurrection. So, third, that He rose, just like He said He would, three days later! And not only that, multiple witnesses, starting with His closest followers ("Cephas" is the

Aramaic word for "Peter"), actually saw Him alive and could testify to what they saw. And many more saw Him after that (15:6-8).

Archaeology confirms it. The Bible is true, accurate, and trustworthy. And when we celebrate Easter, we are not simply participating in a Christian tradition. We are celebrating the foundational facts of our faith. The earliest Christians memorized the same truths and confessed the same facts. We are connecting with centuries of Christians just like us, whose hope, joy, and

salvation are grounded in this truth: Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the dead!

See you Sunday!

With Love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

Community Outreach

In Partnership with Baptist on Mission & American Red Cross

Have you heard the call delivered from Pastor Bob and Pastor Michael? We have been asked to be ready for the NEW plans GOD has for us. Well God has given us a NEW opportunity to serve our neighbors and to connect with them to share the love of Jesus.

Partnering with Baptist on Mission and the American Red Cross, First Baptist Church of Shallotte will be hosting the

mobile health screening, and mobile dental bus on Friday, June 25th, and Saturday, June 26th. Also on Friday, June 25th our church will host a blood drive.

In 1 John 4:11 it is written, "Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we must also love another." This event is indeed an occasion for us to love on our neighbors, as God loves us. And too we will have a tremendous

opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with those of our neighbors who do not yet know Him.

Now you are asking how can I serve and participate – here's how:

- Doctors, dentists, physician assistants, nurses, dental hygienists, anyone with medical experience. You can man the stations inside the buses
- Volunteers will be needed for registration, prayer warriors, neighbors who want to make connections, assisting in serving light refreshments.

- Register to be a blood donor

Whatever skills God has blessed you with – He can use for His glory with this event – don't hide those talents under a bed.

Servants who come out to bless our neighbors will be asked to serve for a three hour shift – you can do that right? Lunch will be provided.

Ok...FBCS let's do this!! The first step is to sign up on our website at fbcshallotte.org/sign-up.

For More Information Contact:

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

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Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Closed Friday

Sunday School—Online
Worship—11:00am



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Shalotte, NC

52 Bible Verses to Memorize Weekly

These scriptures are powerful, inspiring, yet short, easy and simple verses for everyone.
Take time each week to focus on memorizing the weekly verse.

- Week 14 – “For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” – Psalm 107:9, NIV
- Week 15 – “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.”
- Galatians 6:7, NIV
- Week 16 – “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” – Psalm 23:1, ESV
- Week 17 – “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.” – Psalm 23:6, ESV