



the Vision

EASTER

HE HAS RISEN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE | MARCH 2024

Did Jesus Really Live? And if He Did, Why Does it Matter?

The website *Aeon* claims to publish articles promoting “profound and provocative thinking” and asking “big questions” that pursue “fresh answers.” In other words, they are the smart people. The rest of us account for the tribes of the unenlightened.

And on February 15, Aeon published an article with the provocative title, “There Was No Jesus.” The author, Gavin Evans, is an atheist from the UK. In his essay he recycles the tired notion that the story of Jesus is a fabricated myth which people of faith cling to out of ignorance, despite evidence to the contrary.

Is there evidence of Jesus?

To support his contention, Evans examines what he perceives as a lack of evidence that a man named Jesus lived in the Middle East of the first century. He criticizes every other view, including the popular liberal position that Jesus lived, but He was different from the “Christ of faith.”

But Evans relies on worn out atheist

cliches that illustrate a common ignorance of historical documents, the people of history, the nature of religion, and which barely hold water when compared to the evidence for the life of Jesus. Evans’ purpose is to pontificate rather than argue a rational point.

I won’t take space to answer each of Evans’ points. For that, you can watch this video, entitled “Did Jesus Exist?,” for an excellent rebuttal by Christian apologist and theologian Dr. Mike Licona.

Instead, I want to park on one point, and that is the main reason that people like Evans would even try to dispute the existence of history’s most famous figure. See, if you admit that Jesus lived, then you are obligated to decide who He was. And to do that, you are required to account for His death and resurrection.

Believing in Jesus is a reasonable conclusion based on evidence, experience, and the facts of history. Jesus not only lived. Jesus rose from the grave and changed the world.

Church Events

- **Mar 2nd—10a-12p**
Children’s Safety & Security Training w/ Cheryl Markland (BSC)
RSVP at fbcs hallotte.org/training
- **Mar 6th 6:15p—New Disciplelife Classes Begin** Sign Up at fbcs hallotte.org/wed-discipleship
- **Mar 9th 8-10a—Cars & Coffee**
- **Mar 10th—Daylight Savings Time**
- **Mar 11th @ 6:30p—Ladies’ Ministry Meeting**
- **Mar 12th @ 6:30p—Men’s Ministry Meeting**
Speaker: Jeff Hopkins
- **Mar 21st 8am-12pm—Work Day**
- **Mar 24th—Celebration Choir Presents “Victor’s Crown” & Potluck Lunch Following Worship**
- **Mar 31st Easter Sunday—SONrise Service at 7am**
w/ light breakfast
Sunday School at 9:45am
Worship at 11am
- **Apr 1st—Church Office Closed**

....continued from page 1

Did Jesus Really Live? And if He Did, Why Does it Matter?

Paul and the Aeon of His Day

Remember when Paul entered the city of Athens? The Bible says that “he was deeply distressed when he saw that the city was full of idols” (Acts 17:16). So, he “reasoned” with the Jews in the synagogue and people in the marketplace, explaining the story of Jesus and, especially, His resurrection. His rational arguments for the resurrection of Christ captured the attention of philosophers, who invited Paul to their speaker’s forum, called the Areopagus (Acts 17:17-19).

In the book of Acts, Paul’s conversations are often characterized as “reasoning” with people who are unbelievers (for instance, Acts 17:17, 18:4). Other times he is described as “persuading,” “debating,” or “discussing.” All portray Paul engaged in thoughtful and rational discussions, like the conversation that took place at the Areopagus.

The Areopagus was a group of philosophers and people with similar interests that gathered at Mars Hill in Athens for the sole purpose of talking about new ideas (17:21). That is to say, it was like the Aeon of the ancient world.

They were anxious to hear from Paul. He began his message to them by laying the foundation, “Paul stood in the middle of the Areopagus and said, ‘People of Athens! I see that you are extremely religious in every respect. For as I was passing through and observing the objects of your worship, I even found an altar on which was inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Therefore, what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you’” (Acts 17:22-23).

And then Paul proclaimed Christ as the one true God that the Athenians had been searching for. People were attentive and listened to his ideas. But when he came to the resurrection, the mood changed. The time for passive listening was over. Decisions had to be made. If Jesus was alive, academic neutrality was no longer an option.

The Bible says that some complained and ridiculed Paul, some wanted to hear more, and some believed in Christ. But one thing is certain. From that moment, no one who was at Mars Hill that day could remain neutral to the story of Jesus.

Because He Lives

The Christian faith is a reasonable conclusion if the evidence for Christ is rightly considered. And the evidence is stacked in favor of the resurrection.

For instance, if Jesus did not rise from the dead, how do we explain the transformation of the apostles? Only hours before they claimed to have seen Him alive, they were hidden in an upper room, huddled in fear. And yet, suddenly they were out in the streets preaching His resurrection? How do you explain that unless they had actually seen Him alive?



And considering that the apostles began preaching the gospel so soon after the resurrection, any fabrication could have been easily debunked. Anyone could have visited the tomb and seen that it was still sealed, or they could have produced the body and exposed the lies of the apostles. If the disciples of Jesus were lying, it would have been foolish to begin preaching His resurrection in full view of the tomb.

But their changed lives, and their boldness in preaching, are just two examples of early evidence that Jesus rose from the grave.

No neutrality

If writers like Evans show us anything, it’s that discussions about Jesus are still unavoidable. Even ardent skeptics find it hard to dismiss history’s most influential Person.

But when listeners are confronted with the resurrection, they have to make a decision. It’s the non-negotiable of the gospel message (Rom. 10:9-10, 1 Cor. 15:3-5). Neutrality is no longer an option.

Jesus didn’t come so that we could have more information about God, or so that we could be more religious. He came to provide life to those who believe (John 11:25). And once we are confronted with that, we have to make a decision about Jesus.

If He lived, He died. And if He died, He rose again. And that means He is alive today.

What do you believe?

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Bob



A Mission Field in Need of Hope Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

The North American Mission Board serves a diverse and complex region comprised of: United States, Canada and U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa.

At the North American Mission Board, we see a mission field that needs the hope of the gospel. With your partnership, we're committed to taking this hope to cities, small towns and college campuses. Thank you for giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

A generous gift is a powerful thing.

When you and give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, this is what happens: in North American communities with little or

no gospel witness, new churches are planted, physical needs are met and Jesus is made known.

In 2024, the gospel need in North America is greater than ever. This is your opportunity to make an eternal impact.

Our Church Goal \$8500

Give Online Now



Week of Prayer March 3-10

Pray For

Day 1—Lost

Day 2—Jefferson & Carol Hernandez, Sterling, Virginia

Day 3—Joseph & Kristen Gibbons, Las Vegas, Nevada

Day 4—FAITH GARLAND Boston, Massachusetts

Day 5—Alayu & Yegile Dubale, Denver, Colorado

Day 6—Josh & Beth Glymph, Jacksonville, Florida

Day 7—Noelson & Edna Chery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Week of Prayer Missionaries—watch their inspiring stories at AnnieArmstrong.com/Stories

Community Connections

Don Evans

On Sunday, January 28th you heard Pastor Bob sharing just how many new families were coming to be our new neighbors. All around us are new housing developments. In the nearby communities of Shallotte, Supply, Ocean Isle Beach, and Sunset Beach, there are approximately 140 families coming to be our new neighbors each month.

In His sermon message Pastor Bob noted we should 'expect the crowd'. There are so many ways to welcome these new friends to our neighborhoods. The book of Hebrews chapter 13 verses 1-2 tells us... 'Let brotherly love continue. Don't neglect to show hospitality, for by doing this some have welcomed angels as guests without knowing it.'

At First Baptist Church of Shallotte we want to welcome these guests, and here is our plan.

The Community Connections Team has developed a packet to deliver to these families. The packet contains an information booklet about our church, and the family ministries we offer to grow in Christ for each member of the family. In addition we will include a book authored by Kyle Idleman - 'Follower' - for those seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus. For the children we will add in a copy of the booklet 'The Most Important Story Ever Told.'

You can make this packet personal by including a hand written note, or some baked goods, or an invitation to your home, and to join us in worship at FBCS.

The Community Connections Team will lead our mission to the new developments. Times and locations will be communicated, we encourage you and your family to come along with us. You will be informed should we

know of a new family moving into your neighborhood, and if you like come by the church pick up a packet and GO welcome them.

Then as you connect with your new neighbors, invite them to have coffee, invite them to have a meal at your home, help them transition to their new home, and yes invite them to come to church with you.

On Sunday, March 10th there will be an information table at the rear of the sanctuary for you to learn more about this mission, and how you can be the hands and feet of Jesus in welcoming your new neighbors.

'Serve the Crowd' - Pastor Bob Weathers.

Deacon of the Week



DOUG WARD

(910) 512-1739
dward@atmc.net
Mar 3rd - 9th



BOBBY DAVIS

(910) 540-2686
gritster2016@outlook.com
Mar 10th - 16th



KELLY HOLDEN

(910) 231-6053
seekellrun@atmc.net
Mar 17th - 23rd



DICKY CARICO

(336) 514-5379
auntieanne1820@atmc.net
Mar 24th - 30th

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470

910.754.4048
fbcshallotte.org

Office Hours:

M-Th 9am—3pm

Closed Friday

Sunday School—9:45am

Worship—11:00am



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 318
Shallotte, NC

Bible Reading Plan

With Daily Proverbs

4/1/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 6-8; Pro 30	4/16/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 8-10; Pro 14
4/2/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 9-11; Pro 31	4/17/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 11-13; Pro 15
4/3/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 12-15; Pro 1	4/18/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 14-17; Pro 16
4/4/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 16-18; Pro 2	4/19/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 18-20; Pro 17
4/5/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 19-21; Pro 3	4/20/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 21-23; Pro 18
4/6/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Kgs 22; 2 Kgs 1-2; Pro 4	4/21/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 24-26; Pro 19
4/7/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 3-6; Pro 5	4/22/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 27-29; 2 Chr 1; Pro 20
4/8/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 7-9; Pro 6	4/23/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 2-4; Pro 21
4/9/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 10-12; Pro 7	4/24/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 5-7; Pro 22
4/10/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 13-16; Pro 8	4/25/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 8-10; Pro 23
4/11/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 17-19; Pro 9	4/26/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 11-14; Pro 24
4/12/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 20-22; Pro 10	4/27/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 15-17; Pro 25
4/13/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Kgs 23-25; Pro 11	4/28/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 18-20; Pro 26
4/14/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 1-4; Pro 12	4/29/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 21-23; Pro 27
4/15/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Chr 5-7; Pro 13	4/30/2024	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Chr 24-27; Pro 28