



October 18, 2026

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church

10050 Ferguson Avenue ❖ Savannah, Georgia 31406

Where Christ Is Exalted and the Fellowship Is Exciting

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If you have any questions about the message from today, or want to get information about church membership, please see any of the elders after the service, drop a note in the foyer offering box indicating your desire to talk with a pastor, or call the church office.

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God. (Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10.)

Announcements

Members' Meeting & Evening Worship

Members, there is a quarterly meeting this afternoon, **October 18**, at 5:00 p.m. Everyone, Evening Worship will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Special Speakers:

Dr. Catherine Wheeler, M.D., OB/GYN

Paula Kinard,
Empower SAV Executive Director

Focus on Life

Friday, October 23 * 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Ferguson Avenue Baptist Church
10050 Ferguson Avenue, Savannah, Georgia

Join us for worship, pro-life speakers, and a delicious meal.

Tickets \$10.00



Focus on Life Event

Register **TODAY** for our **Focus on Life** event **October 23**. We'll have music, dinner, and talks from Dr. Catherine Wheeler, a former abortion practitioner but now a pro-life advocate, and Paula Kinard, Exec. Director of Empower SAV, a local organization dedicated to helping moms in crisis pregnancies. Tickets are only \$10! You have the option of paying online or at the door, but you must register online by end of day today. QR code for the tickets is above and on page 19. If you have problems registering, see Dawn for help.

Homecoming!

FABC's 58th Homecoming is coming up on **November 8**! Contact dawn@fabchurch.com if you have any corrections or updates to your Member Directory info! Invite friends and family to save the date and come, especially those who used to attend!

Continued on p. 4

October 18, 2026

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Psalm 19:14

Pew Bible p. 456

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Greeting

(When singing begins, please make your way to your seats and sing along!)

Thou are worthy, Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy, O Lord
To receive glory, glory and honor, glory and honor and pow'r.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created, Thou hast created all things,
And for Thy pleasure they are created, Thou art worthy, O Lord.

Prayer of Praise

Hymn, pp. 6-7

“O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer”

Prayer of General Confession

Steve Posner

Proverbs 28:13

Pew Bible p. 549

Hymn, p. 8

“Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee”

Scripture Reading

Bob Dimmitt

Ephesians 2:11-22

Pew Bible pp. 976-977

Hymn, pp. 9-10

“There Is One Gospel”

Message

Bob Dimmitt

Inescapable Judgment

Matthew #150

Matthew 23:25-28, Pew Bible p. 829

Hymn, p. 11

“Benediction”

Inescapable Judgment

Matthew #150

Matthew 23:25-28

The Greek phrase behind plate/dish (paropsis) was often used of a platter on which exquisite delicacies were served.

Matthew 23:25 *ESV - full of greed*

NASB - full of robbery

NKJV - full of extortion

Analytical Lexicon of the Greek NT: *Robbery* (seizure) = to seize and carry off with force, from the root harp---, denoted a rake, or hook for drawing up a bucket, means robbery, pillage, plunder, extortion

The Bible shows again and again that true righteousness comes by the cleansing power of the Word and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.

Anyone who came into contact with a tomb automatically became unclean ... in fact it could defile by “overshadowing.” This meant that if a person’s shadow touched a corpse or its shadow, the person was ritually defiled, and objects he touched became unclean.

God had withheld his judgment for generations, providing the people with full opportunity to repent. But

Pronouncement of inescapable judgment:

Vs 33-36

Continued from p. 1

Wednesday Night Suppers

This Wednesday night, supper is Pizza. Sign up! Supper starts at 5:30 p.m., Adventure Club starts at 6:20 p.m., Youth begins at 6:30 p.m. and Adult Bible Study begins at 6:45 p.m.

Senior Saints' Lunch

Sign the list to go to Metter this Tuesday, **October 20!** You'll have lunch at Papa Bucks, and then visit Durden Pecan Company. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to ride the bus!

Fall Festival!

This annual event is one of our major outreach efforts to the community, and will be held on Wednesday, **October 28.** It is designed with activities for children from toddlers through sixth graders! We need volunteers, so if you would like to attend and don't have children or grandchildren to bring with you, please sign up for a booth or other volunteer spot! We need you to help our event run smoothly! If you have kids to bring in that age group, please come and bring them! If you do not have any children in this age group and do not wish to volunteer, please spend this time in prayer that the gospel will be spread, heard, and responded to! There are no other activities happening that night.



Wednesday Night Help

We still need just a couple more people to sign up to help on Wednesday nights for the months of November and December. You only have to work one Wednesday in December! The banquet help list is coming and that is separate.

Men's Fifth Saturday Breakfast

Men, sign up for the final Fifth Saturday Breakfast of 2026! It is on **October 31**, and starts at 7:15 a.m. You will be served up a delicious breakfast, and also feast on God's Word together.

Homecoming Work Day

Also on **October 31**, a work day for Homecoming will commence at 8:45 a.m. Anyone who can come help knock out a list of cleaning and maintenance items is welcome! Men, you might throw some tools in the back of your truck or car, as you never know what's needed. Women, there are tasks for you, too!

Important Upcoming Events



October:

18	Quarterly Members' Meeting	5:00 p.m.
20	Senior Saints' lunch: Metter	meet at church at 9:30 a.m.
23	Focus on Life Event! (See QR code on pages 1 & 19)	6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
28	Fall Festival (See ad on page 4)	6:00 p.m.
31	Men's Fifth Saturday Breakfast	7:15 a.m.
31	Homecoming Work Day	8:45 a.m.

November:

3	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
7	Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: Fowler & Law Families	11:00 a.m.
8	FABC's 58th Homecoming! Fellowship begins	9:45 a.m.
8	FABC's 58th Homecoming! Worship begins	10:30 a.m.
10	Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
14	Free Clothing Swap	TBA
24	Wednesday on Tuesday	
29	Cocoa, Coffee, Cookies, Cakes, Candy, & Christ	6:00 p.m.

December:

1	Elders' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
4	Women of Light Cookie Swap	TBA
5	Lunch at Old Savannah City Mission: Beth Lewis, Jeanie Groover, Dean McCraw	11:00 a.m.
8	Deacons' Meeting	7:00 p.m.
9	Christmas Banquet	6:30 p.m.
11	Young Adult Christmas Party	
14, 16	Caroling	5:30 p.m.
20	Cantata	6:00 p.m.
24	Christmas Eve Communion Service	5:00 p.m.
25	Christmas Day!	
31	New Year's Eve Activities	7:00 p.m.

I sometimes hear old people, including Christian people who should know better, say "I don't want to be a burden to anyone else. I'm happy to carry on living so long as I can look after myself, but as soon as I become a burden I would rather die." But this is wrong. We are all designed to be a burden to others. You are designed to be a burden to me and I am designed to be a burden to you. And the life of the family, including the life of the local church family, should be one of "mutual burdensomeness."

John Stott

O LORD, MY ROCK AND MY REDEEMER

Music and Words by Nathan Stiff

♩ = 64

D A/C# Gadd2 Em7 Dadd2/F# Gadd2

1. O

VERSE

D A G D G

Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem - er, great - est trea - sure of my long - ing
 Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem - er, strong de - fend - er of my wea - ry

A D A/C# Bm

soul, my God, like You there is no oth - er. True de -
 heart, my sword to fight the cruel de - ceiv - er, and my

G A D G Bm

light is found in You a - lone. Your grace, a well too deep to
 shield a - gainst his hate - ful darts, my song when en - e - mies sur -

A G Bm A

fath - om, Your love ex - ceeds the heav - ens' reach; Your
 round me, my hope when tides of sor - row rise, my

D A/C# Bm A G D A

truth, a fount of per - fect wis - dom, my high - est good, and my un - end - ing
 joy when tri - als are a - bound - ing, Your faith - ful - ness, my ref - uge in the

1. D A/C# G Em D/F# G

need. 2. O

2. D A/C# G Em D/F# G

night. 3. O

28 **VERSE**

Bm Em Bm

Lord, my Rock and my Re-deem - er, gra-cious Sav - ior of my ru - ined

31 Em Bm Em

life; my guilt and cross laid on Your shoul - ders, in my

34 G A D

place You suf - fered, bled, and died. You

36 G Bm A

rose, the grave and death are con - quered. You

38 G Bm A 1. A 2. A

broke my bonds of sin and shame. You shame. O

41 D A/C# Bm A G

Lord, my Rock and my Re - deem - er, may all my

43 D A Bm

days bring glo - ry to Your Name. May all my

45 Gadd2 A rit. D

days bring glo - ry to Your Name.

Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee

Latin Hymn, 12th Century

John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

G G/B C G/B Am D G D7 G D G A7/C# D

1. Je - sus, the ver - y thought of Thee With sweet - ness fills my breast;
 2. No voice can sing, no heart can frame, Nor can the mem - 'ry find
 3. O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite heart! O joy of all the meek!
 4. But what to those who find? Ah! this! No tongue or pen can show

8 Am F#°/AG#°/A Am A7 D C#°/D D D/C G/B C C/G# G/D D7 G

But sweet - er far Thy face to see, And in Thy pres - ence rest.
 A sweet - er sound than Je - sus' name, O Sav - ior of man - kind!
 To those who fall, how kind Thou art! How good to those who seek!
 The love of Je - sus, what it is— None but His loved ones know.

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There Is One Gospel

Jonny Robinson
& Rich Thompson

1. 2.

C F sus2 A m7 F sus2 F sus2

6 C F C G

1. There is one Gos - pel on which I stand for all e - ter - ni - ty.
2. There is one Gos - pel to which I cling, all else I count as loss.
3. There is one Gos - pel where hope is found, the emp - ty tomb still speaks.

11 C/E F C/G G C

It is my sto - ry, my Fa - ther's plan, the Son has res - cued me.
For there, where jus - tice and mer - cy meet, He saved me on the cross.
For death could not keep my Sav - iour down, He lives and I am free.

16 F C F C A m G

Oh, what a Gos - pel, oh what a peace. My high - est joy and my deep - est need.
No more I boast in what I canbring, no more I car - ry the weight of sin.
Now on my Sav - iour I fix my eyes, my life is His and His hope is mine.

20 C Dm7 C/E F C

Now and for - ev - er, He is my light. I stand in the Gos - pel of
For He has brought me from death to life. I stand in the Gos - pel of
For He has pro - mised I too, will rise. I stand in the Gos - pel of

23 1. 2. C F A m7 F

Je - sus Christ.
Je - sus Christ. 2. There
3. There

28 3. G C Dm7 F add2 A m7 G 1. F

Je - sus Christ.

CCLI Song # 7199817
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There Is One Gospel

33 ^{2.}
F C

And in this Gos - pel, the church is one, we do not walk a - lone.

38 C/E F C/G G C

We have His Spi - rit as we press on to lead us safe - ly home.

43 F/C C F/C C Am G

And when in glo - ry still I will sing of this old sto - ry that res - cued me.

47 C Dm7 C/E F C G C

Praise to my Sav - iour, the King of life. I stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.

51 C/E F C F C Am G

And when in glo - ry still I will sing of this old sto - ry that res - cued me.

55 C Dm7 C/E F C G C

Praise to my Sav - iour, the King of life. I stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.

59 Dm7 C/E F C G Am

Praise to my Sav - iour, the King of life. I stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.

63 F C G C

I stand in the Gos - pel of Je - sus Christ.

67 F Am7 F C

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of eight staves of music, each with a line number and a key signature change. The notes are as follows: Staff 1 (33): F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 2 (38): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 3 (43): F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 4 (47): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 5 (51): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 6 (55): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 7 (59): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 8 (63): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6. Staff 9 (67): C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, A5, Bb5, C6.

Benediction

Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Peacefully ♩ = 76

F/A B♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭

May the peace of God our heav-'nly Fa - ther, and the

4 Gm7 Cm7 F sus F F/A B♭ B♭/D

grace of Christ the ris - en Son, and the fel - low-ship of God the

7 E♭ B♭ Gm7 Cm7 F sus F B♭/D

Spir - it keep our hearts and minds with - in His love. And to

10 F Gm7 F/A F E♭/G E♭ B♭ B♭/D F Gm7 F/A F

Him be praise for His glo - rious reign, from the depths of earth to the

13 E♭/G E♭ B♭ F Gm7 F/A D/F# Gm F6 E♭

heights of heav'n. We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain: Christ e -

16 B♭/F F sus F B♭sus B♭

ter - nal, the King of kings!

Articles

The Six Misconceptions That Keep Christians Spiritually Immature

By C Cook

Many of us remain spiritually fragile long after our faith has begun. Our convictions shift easily under cultural pressure. Our understanding of Scripture remains shallow. Our spiritual lives feel inconsistent and reactive rather than steady and formed. And when seasons of difficulty arrive, the structure of our faith often proves less stable than we assumed.

What's going on?

Well, Jesus spoke directly into this reality at the end of the Sermon on the Mount. In Matthew 7:24 (ESV), He says, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.” The imagery is not complicated, but its implications are sobering. The difference between stability and collapse is not determined by appearances during calm weather. Both houses stand while conditions remain favorable. The distinction becomes visible only when storms arrive.

The point Jesus is making is not merely about crisis. It is about foundations. It's about the idea that a life shaped by obedience to His words develops the kind of internal structure that can withstand pressure. But a life built on anything less may function for a time, but it will eventually reveal its instability.

Now, this raises an uncomfortable but necessary question. If maturity is the outcome Jesus expects, why do so many believers remain spiritually stalled? The answer is rarely found in a single failure or a single mistake. Beneath the surface of many Christian lives are quiet assumptions about growth that sound reasonable but subtly undermine the formation Scripture describes.

These assumptions rarely announce themselves as rebellion against the Lord. In fact, they often sound spiritually sincere. But when they shape our expectations about discipleship, they quietly keep us from becoming the kind of people Jesus is actually forming.

In other words, the problem is not always what we reject. Often, it is what we assume. And many of those assumptions function as misconceptions that stem from immature mindsets.

Misconception One: Time Automatically Produces Spiritual Maturity

One of the most persistent assumptions in Christian life is the belief that spiritual maturity unfolds naturally over time. If we drift at all, we drift toward complacency, not maturity. Many believers quietly assume that if they remain around church environments long enough—attending services, hearing sermons, participating in life groups—growth will eventually emerge as a kind of spiritual byproduct of longevity. Yet Scripture consistently challenges this expectation.

The writer of Hebrews confronts this directly. In Hebrews 5:12 (ESV), he says, “For

though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God.” The passage exposes the illusion that time itself produces formation. Years had passed for these believers, yet maturity had not emerged because spiritual growth requires something more than exposure.

The next verse deepens the point. Here’s Hebrews 5:14 (ESV): “Solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.” Maturity is not described as the automatic result of religious longevity. It is the outcome of trained discernment, and discernment itself develops through constant practice.

Maturity emerges where truth is repeatedly appropriated into one’s everyday life circumstances. Time can expose us to God’s Word, but it cannot replace the process of submitting to it.

Misconception Two: Information Inherently Produces Transformation

Another assumption is the belief that knowledge produces spiritual growth. Many believers have been taught, either explicitly or implicitly, that maturity will naturally follow from acquiring enough biblical information. Sermons are consumed. Books are read. Podcasts are downloaded. All good things. Sadly, however, while the mind becomes full, the life often remains unchanged.

Scripture does not leave this misunderstanding unchallenged. James 1:22 (ESV) says, “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James does not describe passive listening as an incomplete spiritual practice. Rather, he labels it self-deception.

This distinction reflects something deeply embedded in the way human beings actually change. Knowledge stored in the mind does not automatically reorganize the patterns of the heart. Instead, transformation occurs when truth becomes embodied in action. It shows up when forgiveness is practiced rather than merely affirmed, when humility is chosen rather than merely admired, and when obedience becomes concrete rather than theoretical.

Doctrine is essential because it anchors our understanding of reality. But doctrine does not accomplish its purpose until it begins to shape the life that holds it.

Misconception Three: Good Intentions Carry the Same Weight as Obedience

Many believers genuinely desire to follow Christ, and that desire often manifests in sincere intentions. We intend to pray more consistently. We intend to forgive more quickly. We intend to resist certain habits of sin. Yet intentions, however sincere, cannot substitute for obedience.

Jesus exposes this distinction with unsettling clarity in Luke 6:46 when He asks, “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?” The question cuts through the gap between agreement and surrender, meaning that it’s possible to affirm Jesus with our words while quietly postponing the changes His authority requires.

The human heart has a remarkable ability to treat intention as moral currency. If we desire the right outcomes strongly enough, we often feel as though we have already moved closer to them. But Scripture consistently measures faithfulness not by aspiration but by action. Obedience is where belief becomes visible.

Misconception Four: Spiritual Growth Is Primarily an Individual Project

Another assumption quietly shaping Christian life is the belief that discipleship unfolds primarily in private. Many believers pursue growth through personal study, individual prayer, and solitary reflection. All of these practices are necessary and good. Yet Scripture never presents spiritual maturity as something that develops in isolation from the body of Christ. Better said, you cannot have church by yourself.

Paul describes the purpose of the church in Ephesians 4:13 as the process through which believers grow “to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” That maturity emerges through the shared life of the church, where truth is spoken, accountability is reckoned, correction is received, encouragement is given, and the character of Christ is practiced within real relationships.

Isolation allows many of our hidden patterns to remain concealed, because pride is much easier to maintain when no one sees how we respond to correction.

Within a community, those patterns eventually surface, and when they do, the Holy Spirit often uses those moments as instruments of formation. Spiritual maturity rarely develops in isolation. The body of Christ is not an accessory to growth. It is one of the environments where growth actually happens.

Misconception Five: Difficulty Is Evidence That Something Has Gone Wrong

Many folks often assume that spiritual growth unfolds best within seasons of comfort and stability. But when hardship appears—whether through disappointment, suffering, or prolonged uncertainty—it’s easy to interpret that difficulty as evidence that something has gone wrong in the believer’s relationship with God.

Yet the pattern of Scripture reveals something far more complex. God often forms His people in places where their stability is tested. Israel encountered God’s refining presence in the wilderness. Elijah was sustained and reoriented in the wilderness. And even Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness before the public unfolding of His ministry.

Difficulty does not automatically produce maturity. Scripture never romanticizes suffering in that way. Yet hardship often exposes the deeper structures of our trust.

When external stability disappears, the soul reveals what it has actually been leaning on.

James addresses this in James 1:2–4, he writes that the testing of faith produces steadfastness, and that steadfastness leads toward maturity. The point is not that suffering is inherently good. Instead, the point is that God can use the testing of faith to deepen the character of those who remain anchored in Him. Storms do not create foundations. They reveal them.

Misconception Six: Spiritual Maturity Is Ultimately Self-Generated

Perhaps the most subtle assumption shaping modern spirituality is the belief that transformation is something we can produce through sufficient effort. Discipline, intentionality, and obedience all matter deeply in the life of a disciple. Yet Scripture consistently insists that the deepest transformation of the human heart is not the product of human determination alone.

Paul describes the character of mature Christian life as the “fruit of the Spirit” in Galatians 5:22–23 (ESV). Fruit does not appear because the branch strives hard enough. Fruit grows because the branch remains connected to the life of the vine.

Similarly, the disciplines of Christian life are not techniques that manufacture maturity. They are practices that keep us aligned with the life of the Holy Spirit at work in us, Who is the true agent of transformation.

Without the leadership of the Holy Spirit, discipleship eventually collapses into moral effort. But with the Spirit, obedience becomes participation in a life that God Himself is forming.

Foundations That Can Withstand the Storm

When these assumptions are exposed, the path toward maturity becomes clearer. Spiritual growth requires foundations strong enough to support the life Christ intends to build. Truth anchors the mind. Obedience aligns life. Difficulty exposes the stability of what has been built. And through it all, the Holy Spirit works within the surrendered life to shape the character of Christ in ways that human effort alone could never accomplish.

Without these foundations, faith can remain sincere yet unstable. Religious activity can continue while maturity remains distant. But when a life begins to take shape around truth, obedience, and the transforming work of the Spirit, something deeper begins to emerge.

The storms Jesus promised will still come. But they no longer have the final word. Why not? Because when a life is built on the rock of Christ's words and lived out in the power of His Spirit, the structure that rises from that foundation can stand. ❖

The Biggest Intellectual Struggle Christians Face at College Isn't What You Think

by Michael J. Kruger

The Majority Isn't Always Right

One of the most common questions I get from college students and from people thinking about what college students struggle with is about the most difficult objection to the faith they're going to face. When you think about the average nineteen- or twenty-year-old college student, what's the thing they struggle with the most? Many things could be obvious. It could be the problem of evil, the existence of God, or evolution. Those are all key issues. But actually, I don't think that's the most common question they face, and I don't think that's the thing that bothers people the most.

So, what is it that people struggle with the most? The average believer on the college campus looks around and realizes that virtually every single person he knows, including the vast majority of the professors that he studies under, thinks that he's crazy. In other words, let's imagine that 10 percent of the college campus is evangelical (and that'd probably be generous on some college campuses); that means 90 percent of a person's classmates think Christianity is nuts and that it doesn't make any sense at all.

More than that, the smartest people on the campus with PhDs think Christianity is really crazy, and maybe even only 1 percent of those folks believe. So, think about the average nineteen- or twenty-year-old on a college campus. They're looking around and asking, *Why does it seem like the smartest people on the planet are pre-*

cisely the ones who don't believe? To put the question in a different way that's maybe even more troubling, they're going to ask themselves, *What is the chance that I'm right and everybody else is wrong?*

That's a pretty troubling question. If not answered, it's going to be like a little sliver in the mind that doesn't go away. They're going to think, *Okay, so I'm going to sit around on my college campus and say that 90 percent of my friends are wrong and 99 percent of my professors are wrong and I'm the one that's right? Really? That's the way this is going to go?*

You may wonder why so many people abandon their faith in college. I'm convinced that's one of the reasons. They don't have an answer to that question. But you may not realize that lurking behind that objection is an assumption that people have that they don't even realize they have. **And that assumption is that if something is true, they assume that most people will believe it.**

And the converse then operates in their head: If most people believe something, then it must be true. And so, they look around and think, *Well, all I have to do is simple mathematics here. Ninety percent of people believe X, so it must be true. If most people believe, it must be true.*

If only knowledge worked like that. But I think we all know that's not how people form their beliefs. They don't form their beliefs on facts, as if they put on a white lab coat and go do the math and the science and then reach conclusions. Knowledge doesn't work that way.

A very famous book was published in the twentieth century by a philosopher named Thomas Kuhn. Thomas Kuhn was not a believer, but he wrote a book called *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. That book was famous for one reason in that it said that even science doesn't work neutrally. Even science doesn't work purely on the basis of fact alone. Rather, science works through a predetermined grid or a paradigm—what we might call a worldview—where people collect data and information in light of what they already believe when they start the search.

And what Kuhn points out, therefore, is that what you already believe when you start searching for information actually colors the way you accept or reject information.

So, here's the big point: When you talk to a college student who's struggling with why they're alone, they have to remember that people don't form their beliefs neutrally. People aren't a blank slate. People come with all kinds of preconceptions and ideas. And even more than that, the Bible teaches that people start with a fallen, broken heart that's already predisposed to not believe the things of God. Once you realize that people are not neutral and are actually hardwired, by virtue of the fall, to reject the things of God, it's not a surprise anymore why many people reject the faith.

Here's the big takeaway: Whether or not mass amounts of people reject the faith and whether the majority of people reject the faith has no bearing on whether it's true. It can still be true even if most people reject it. and in fact, the Bible predicts exactly that: *Narrow is the path to life, and few will find it. And wide is the path that many will take, and many will enter down it.* (Matt. 7:13-14) We will not expect to be in the majority when we realize the world is set up exactly that way. ❖



Creation Moments

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The "Bear Facts" About Good Health



"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath beforehand ordained, that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:10

Imagine lying around not just for days on end, but for months! And while lounging the months away, you get leaner and more muscular.

The bear's lifestyle sounds like a couch potato's dream.

Such a lifestyle would cause our bones to become weak and smaller, and make the calcium level in our blood high enough to kill us. We would also lose muscle and gain fat, lying around all day. We all know what happens to couch potatoes. But bears are different, and scientists have been puzzled to learn that bears don't suffer bone loss and don't lose muscle during their winter rests – they don't really sleep all winter, but they do rest a lot. Moreover, they don't eat, drink, or use the bathroom all winter – a routine that would kill most creatures in less than a week.

Researchers believe that they have found the chemical in a bear's blood that prevents bone loss during long inactivity. The chemical is under study for possible use in treating human osteoporosis. Bears avoid bathroom visits by chemically changing their own wastes back into proteins. The fact that scientists study how things in the creation work to improve how we do things is a tribute to the workmanship of the Creator, even if scientists refuse to admit His existence.

REF.: Ingrid Wickelgren, "Bone Loss and the Three Bears: A circulating secret of skeletal stability," Science News. Image: Brown bear inside a cave, Envato.

Scan the QR code after service to watch a related video!



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Missionary of the Week

Kris & Nina Brackett

Grace Ministries International - Atlanta, GA & Croatia

The Bracketts serve Croatia and other locations from their home base in the Atlanta area. Here are excerpts from their latest prayer letter, which we received October 7.

2026 has been an eventful year for our family with the arrival of two granddaughters, an engagement and soon wedding (which took place October 10!), multiple overseas travels to visit training centers and fellow missionaries, teaching opportunities, a Missions Conference, and local church ministries. We are overwhelmed with gratitude to God for His kindness and provision as we serve the church both in the US and abroad. Thank you for your continued prayers and support that enable us to do what we do.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

After attending the Courageous Churchmen pastors' conference and speaking at both a youth conference and a missions conference early in 2006, Kris participated in the Shepherds' Conference, where he spent much of his time meeting with leaders from the various TMAI regions and local training centers.

In May, Kris managed to sandwich an international trip between the births of our two granddaughters. After the early arrival of Allisen, Kris departed for:

- Croatia, where he attended board meetings and re-organized the publishing ministry of TBA, the training center in Krapina;
- Wittenberg, where he took part in the European Bible Training Center's 25th Anniversary Shepherds' Conference;
- Berlin, where he participated in a class on Expository Preaching to the European M.Div. students; and
- Kroměříž, Czech Republic, where he participated in the Czech Bible Institute's annual conference and preached seven times on the Humanity of Christ.

The second half of the summer focused primarily on the Grace Community Church Missions Conference, where it is always an encouraging time to spend time with other missionaries from all over the world and the GCC elders and friends.

In September, Kris traveled to Los Angeles for a three-day retreat with the other directors of The Master's Academy International.

Between trips, Kris has continued working with the Theological Biblical Academy to strategize about its future. We now have eight men who have completed their training in the full-time Bachelor's program, and we are planning a graduation next April that will include these men as well as two others who completed their studies over the past couple of years.

Kris has also been helping with publications following the resignation of a colleague who led that ministry for more than 25 years. In addition, he has been coordinating the teams responsible for reviewing member and candidate schools of The Master's Academy International. This multi-year project is designed to establish and maintain consistent standards among our global training centers. This year, reviews have been completed for training centers in Uganda, Romania, England, Colombia, Argentina, Albania, the Philippines, and Malawi.

This is critical work for TMAI as we seek to expand the ministry while maintaining high standards. At the same time, it is deeply rewarding to work alongside men from around the world who are committed to training the next generation of faithful preachers and teachers.



TRAVEL PLANS

Immediately after the wedding, we will leave for a month-long trip to:

- Geneva, Switzerland to visit fellow missionaries serving there
- Reims, France for the TMAI European Summit
- Genoa, Italy for an EBTC MDiv class
- Los Angeles, CA for TMAI meetings and Sufficiency of Scripture Conference

The first half of 2027 will involve traveling to Türkiye, Israel, California, Croatia, and Czechia, with more trips tentatively planned for the rest of the year.

The Lord has also given us many opportunities for ministry at Faith Community Church, our local church. We serve in the College & Career group, where we lead small groups, in addition to monthly discipleship meetings. We also host a community group in our home with mostly young families. Kris serves as an elder and Director of Missions, and preaches occasionally. Nina leads ladies' Bible studies and discipleship with a couple of young ladies. She also continues to meet with Croatian and Bosnian ladies via Zoom twice monthly.

PRAISES & PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Praise the Lord for giving us the many opportunities to serve His church in the USA and overseas. As we look into 2027, Kris is scheduled to travel almost every month. Nina will accompany him in some of them.
2. Pray for Kris as he juggles his many responsibilities for GMI, EBTC (Germany), TBA (Croatia), TMAI, and FCC, our local church.
3. Pray for Nina as she discipless women in our church, Croatia and Bosnia, while also serving our kids and grandkids.
4. Pray for Katy and Brandon as they begin the next chapter of their life as husband and wife. Katy is finishing up her culinary arts degree and will start her internship in January.
5. We are overjoyed to add one more grandchild to the family. Pray for Gracie that she will continue to have a healthy pregnancy and uneventful delivery.
6. Since moving to the US, our financial need has increased, mainly due to taxes and some travel expenses for Nina when she accompanies Kris. In the meantime, we have lost some financial support for various reasons. Pray with us as we raise more funds for our monthly support.

Kris & Nina Brackett

Nursery October 18

Babies:

Eleanor Bowden, Mary Fowler,
Kay Stanford

Toddlers:

Tricia Morris, Lynn Ernst

Preschoolers:

Taylor & Courtney Pelton

Nursery October 25

Babies:

Amy Horton, Lisa Rowe

Toddlers:

Sona Bailey, Jan Boyett

Preschoolers:

Jimmy & Tammy Kicklighter

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Focus on Life

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This week at FABC!

Today

Coffee Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Quarterly Members' Meeting	5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship	6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Senior Saints' Lunch: Metter	meet at church at 9:30 a.m.
Women's Bible Study: <i>Contentment</i>	6:15 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: <i>1 & 2 Timothy, Titus</i>	6:15 p.m.

Wednesday

Supper: Pizza	5:30 p.m.
Adventure Club	6:20 p.m.
Youth	6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study	6:45 p.m.

Thursday

Senior Adult Bible Study	10:00 a.m.
Young Adult Bible Study	6:30 p.m.

Friday

Focus on Life	6:00 p.m.
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Sunday School Classes and Descriptions

Adult

Questions & Answers	Fellowship Hall: Bob Dimmitt
Song of Solomon	Youth House: Steve Posner
New Members	Gym Overflow: Tom Keller

Children and Students

Babies	Room 3:	Kay Stanford, Sandra Bridges
Toddlers	Room 24:	Lynn Ernst, Savannah Martin
Pre-K	Room 25:	Michael & Ruth Kleinpeter
K, 1st and 2nd Grade	Room 28:	John & Pam Humphrey
3rd-6th Grade Boys	Room 202:	Ric Zittrouer, Richie Mills
3rd-6th Grade Girls	Room 204:	Jess Dimmitt, Karen Law
Youth Guys & Girls	Room 206:	Bobby DeLoach, Shawn Champion, Avalon DeLoach

Lockup Deacons for October: Jimmy Kicklighter, Napoleon Martin

Hearing assistance devices for services in the sanctuary are available on request at the sound booth.