

THE MESSENGER

Grace for the Journey



SEPTEMBER 2025

THE MESSENGER IS A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GEORGETOWN, SC

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

ROMANS

With Pastor Ben Hill
10:15 AM

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Children's Church Sunday
Mornings
WOW Wednesdays
4:45 - 7:00

STUDENT MINISTRY

With Pastor Jack Powers
Sunday Nights 5:30 PM
Wednesday Nights 6:15 PM

SUNDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

With Rev. Keith Wall

5:00 PM
Room 108



This is a Church Wide
Outreach Event
We are asking people to
serve alongside our
Children's Committee At:

Set Up ~ Registration
Games ~ Food ~ Cake
Walk Bounce Houses
Clean Up

There will be a drawing for a \$50. Gift Basket.
We are asking Sunday School Classes to provide gift cards from local
merchants for the baskets such as:
restaurants, ice cream shops, coffee shops, etc.

There will also be a cake walk!
Cake donations should be at the church
no later than Noon Friday 9/26

Please see Arnette Graham, Allie Fowler, Claire Duvall, Nancy Coker,
Ryan Marsh, Lynn Floyd, or Bevin Casselman to serve during the
event.

ALL HANDS ON DECK FOR THIS GREAT COMMUNITY EVENT!

SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH (PT. 4)

By Pastor Ben Hill

In this month's newsletter, we are picking up where we left off in part three. We defined how the Greek word for death is used. This week, we will assess how to understand best John's use of it in 1 John 5:16-17.

Is θάνατος a Physical or Spiritual Death?

In the context of John's previous discussion of eternal life in Jesus (1 Jn 5:6-13), it would be awkward and difficult to support an argument for John referring to a sin that leads to physical death. While the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), sin results in two deaths.

First, there is the physical death that all people will experience. One day, every person's body will fail and die. Second, all people are spiritually dead apart from Jesus' saving work. In the latter, everyone is born in a state of spiritual death (Eph 2:1; Rom 5:12). It is then right to understand that everyone is born dead spiritually and will experience a physical death in the future.

What, then, is the death John is speaking of in the text of 1 John 5:16-17?

John Stott provides clarity that it cannot mean a physical death, stating, "It can hardly refer to a sin punishable by physical death...the life with which it is contrasted is spiritual or eternal life." Yet, Gary Derickson argues against Stott's position. His focus is that the one committing the sin that leads to death is a believer, and he defends physical death from other

biblical accounts such as Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). He rightly notes that "Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, and it cost them their lives." Ultimately, his argument hinges on understanding ζώην as physical life, which is a problematic argument. John has already used this term in 1 John 5:13, referring to eternal life. Leading to doubt about such a drastic change just a couple of verses later.

Another advocate for physical death is Kenneth Gardoski, who does note the issues with a Derickson approach to the interpretation of death but still comes to the same physical death conclusion. He states, "It does not appear that born-again believers can sin so as to revert to a state of spiritual death. This rules out spiritual death as a possibility for the sinning believer in 1 John 5:16." Yet, this is to understand the context, as it references a brother in Christ who sins unto death, an issue that will be discussed later.

However, Akin speaks strongly against a physical death understanding. He states that it is "contextually appropriate to reject any interpretation that refers to a physical death, since 'death' is contrasted with spiritual (or 'eternal') life."

However, Akin speaks strongly against a physical death understanding. He states that it is "contextually appropriate to reject any interpretation that refers to a physical death, since 'death' is contrasted with spiritual (or 'eternal') life. The issue of contextual problems with understanding it as a sin that leads to physical death is important.

Because of the contextual relevance of what comes prior to John's statement about a sin that leads to death, the scholar believes understanding the sin that leads to death as a spiritual or eternal death is most helpful.

Since John's usage of θάνατος (death) appears to be about spiritual death, as discussed previously. The question that needs to be addressed is, who then can spiritually die? To answer the question of who can spiritually die, a proper understanding of John's usage of ἀδελφόν (brother) is needed.

Option one is that this refers to the regenerate congregation. Derickson believes it is the believers in the church that could sin; also, remember he advocates for physical death. His reasoning is tied to the believer's ability to experience sin. He states, "If this were not something they could experience, it would not make sense for John to address it here." Marshall leaves the door open for the identity to be Christians who have apostatized. e doubts it would be unbelievers, stating, "John needed to warn his readers against the possibility of sinning and failing to continue in the truth and in the doctrine of Christ (2:24; 2 Jn. 7-11) suggesting that he did not altogether exclude the possibility that a person might fall away from his faith into apostasy."

SIN THAT LEADS TO DEATH (CONT.)

His interpretation does merit consideration. However, the implication would add considerable weight to the notion that believers can lose their salvation. To firmly embrace such a notion, one would need to wrestle with the concept of eternal security in passages such as John 10:27-29, Romans 8:38-39, and Philippians 1:6, among others, which indicate that those genuinely saved are secure in Christ for eternity. It is for this reason that the apostasy of the genuine believer is unlikely.

The second option as to the identity of those who can spiritually die is the unregenerate, who are both outside and inside the church body. Some scholars, such as Stott, argue that the identity of those who commit the sin is not specified; Stott states, "he whose sin leads to death is neither named nor described." Additionally, there are advocates, such as Colin Kruse, who go so far as to identify a group of unregenerate, false teachers.

He states that "it is very likely that he has the sin of the secessionists in mind. They are people who deny that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh, and also deny the significance of his atoning death." In the case of Yarbrough, he holds that it is simply those who have "a heart unchanged by God's love in Christ." Akin's understanding of the message of 1 John is that true Christians cannot apostatize.

He argues that "by leaving the faith, they prove that they were never true believers to begin with." Because of the context of the greater work of 1 John, the more convincing because of the argument is that θάνατος (death) deals with spiritual death. This perspective avoids the necessity to work around eternal security; therefore, it is unlikely that genuine Christians are the identity of those committing the sin that leads to death.

Thus, the identity of those who commit the sin that leads to death should be considered unregenerate going forward, which then leads to a need to identify the specific sin that leads to death. In next month's newsletter, we will begin addressing this sin and assessing how best to interpret the sin that leads to death.



Offering Goal
\$6,600.00
Received to date
\$3,156.00



Next Meeting:
October 7th at
11:00 AM
Room 107



Wednesday,
October 22 at
6:15 In the
Sanctuary



DECEMBER 12 - 15
LAST DAY TO JOIN
THE SCT CHOIR IS
WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10

First Baptist Church
Georgetown Presents...

Gold City



In Concert
Saturday, October 11th 6:00 PM

Open Seating ~ No Tickets
Doors Open at 5:15
Love Offering



PLEASE RESERVE
ASSISTED PARKING
SPACES WITH THESE
SIGNS FOR THOSE WITH
WHEELCHAIRS OR
WALKERS ONLY.
THANK YOU

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ADULTS PRESENTS

Washington, DC - Our Nation's Capital



INCREDIBLE PRICE INCLUDES:

- Motorcoach transportation
- 4 nights lodging in the Washington, DC area
- 8 meals: 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Guided Tour of Washington, DC including the WW II Memorial, Capitol Hill, Embassy Row, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and more!
- Evening Guided Memorial and Monuments Tour
- Tram Ride through Arlington National Cemetery
- Visit to the Museum of the Bible
- Admission to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Garden

For more pictures, video, and information visit:
www.GroupTrips.com/YoungAsEverSC

\$765*

5 Days 4 Nights

*PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

(Fri - Tue)
Jun 12 - 16
2026

Departure: First Baptist Church, 219 Cleland St, Georgetown, SC @ 8 am

Day 1: Depart your group's location in a spacious video and restroom equipped motorcoach as you head for your destination: Washington, D.C. our National Capital! Later that day, enjoy a relaxing Dinner and check into your Washington, D.C. area hotel for a four night stay.

Day 2: Enjoy a Continental Breakfast before departing for a full-day Guided Tour of Washington, D.C. Some of the awe-inspiring sights on this fantastic tour will include the US Capitol, the White House, the National Archives, Embassy Row, and Georgetown. During the day, you will see the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial, and several War Memorials. This evening, enjoy Dinner at a local restaurant before continuing on the Guided Memorial and Monuments Tour.

Day 3: Begin the day with a Continental Breakfast. Today's Guided Tour includes such poignant and inspirational sights as Arlington National Cemetery, including the Tomb of the Unknowns, and Kennedy Graves, as well as the two Jima Memorial. You'll also enjoy a visit to the Museum of the Bible. Discover the history, narrative and impact the Bible has played in our world's history. From the 40 foot tall bronze doors at the museum's entrance, to the roof-top garden, explore over six floors of exhibits that span the time, space and cultures of the Bible. With over 40,000 items, the Museum of the Bible's collection contains some of the oldest and most important biblical artifacts and documents in human history. Later, you'll enjoy Dinner before returning to your hotel for the night.

Day 4: Start your last day in our Nation's Capital with a Continental Breakfast. This morning you will finish your series of Guided Tours, before having lunch on your own. This afternoon, head to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate & Garden. Experience great American history at Mount Vernon. This evening, enjoy a relaxing Dinner and return to your hotel.

Day 5: Today, after enjoying a Continental Breakfast, you will depart for home... a perfect time to chat with your friends about all the fun things you've done, the great sights you've seen, and where your next group trip will take you!

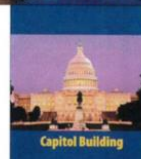
ADD SOME PEACE OF MIND TO YOUR TRIP...
With Diamond Tour Exclusive Travel Confident® Protection Plan.
See separate advertisement...

\$75 Due Upon Signing. *Price per person, based on double occupancy. Add \$199 for single occupancy.
Final Payment Due: 4/5/2026

FOR INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Keith Wall @ (843) 546-5187 or (843) 543-0833
Must be 55 or Older

Motorcoach Driver & Step on guide gratuities included in flyer price!



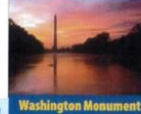
Capitol Building



World War II Memorial



Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial



Washington Monument



I want to share with you an exciting change coming to our Student Ministry. After much prayer, evaluation, and conversations with families, we believe God is leading us to move our Student Worship Gathering from Wednesday nights to Sunday evenings, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

For years, Wednesday nights have been a good place for us to gather, but it has become increasingly difficult for students to attend consistently because of sports, schoolwork, and other activities that fill their weeknights. Rather than competing with these commitments, we see Sunday evening as an opportunity to meet students where they are, providing a dedicated time for worship, teaching, and community without the distractions and conflicts of the school week. This change allows us to be more effective in reaching students with the gospel and helping them grow in their walk with Christ.

Moving forward, Sunday nights will become our primary Student Worship Gathering, a time of worship, teaching, and fellowship. This will free up Wednesday nights for discipleship and community involvement. On Wednesdays, we will focus on studying God's Word in smaller settings, attending, and supporting students at their activities and serving in the life of our church alongside others in various ministries. We believe this rhythm will help students develop deeper relationships both within the church and across our community.

Starting on Wednesday night Sept. 17th we will begin studying the 7 churches in the book of Revelation from 6:15 to 7:15. This time slot allows students who are involved in singing Christmas tree and in Children's Ministry an opportunity of serving within our church and not miss a thing. They will still have the time to join in on our study times.

Since January of 2025 we have been averaging 18 in Sunday School. On Sunday Nights we have been averaging 19 and on Wednesday nights our average is 34. These numbers include students and leaders. Our desire is always to be faithful in reaching the next generation and equipping them to follow Jesus. We believe this shift will strengthen both our students and our church family as we seek to live on mission together.

Thank you for praying with us and for supporting the FBC Student Ministry as we step into this new season with great expectation.

We will launch on September 14. Our schedule for the next 3 weeks is as follows: Sept. 3 Braylin will revisit the breakout session from Camp, The Roman Road. Sept 10, Matt Moore will revisit the Core from FCA. On Sept. 14 we will begin a 6-week series on establishing spiritual habits. It is my prayer that parents will be involved on the 14th. How may you ask? We will be sending home a letter with your student on Sept. 10. This letter will have some discussion questions that go along with the lessons for the week. You, as parents, can get involved by asking these questions as they share with you what they learn, and with your help, my prayer is that you, the parents will join in with them.

In Christ, Love ya Mean it,
Jack



All Children's Events
begin in the GYM at 4:45
Check-In opens at 4:30
Children will eat in the
gym together

In Touch Ministry Honors...

John Causey
477 George Washington Trail
Georgetown, SC 29440

Donald & Vivian Owens
651 Harrelson Road
Georgetown, SC 29440

Kent & Margaret Faulk
1439 Wallace Pate Drive
Georgetown, SC 29440

Betty Lawrimore
75 Egret Circle
Georgetown, SC 29440

*Send A Card of
Encouragement Today!!*



PLEASE RESERVE
ASSISTED PARKING
SPACES WITH THESE
SIGNS FOR THOSE WITH
WHEELCHAIRS OR
WALKERS ONLY.
THANK YOU

SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Office Closed	2 WOM 11AM/ Rm.107	3 CBS Starts	4	5 Shower FH	6
7 Hill Baby Shower 4-6PM	8 Visitation 10AM	9 Young As Ever 11AM DANNY NEWTON & GROUP	10	11	12 Choir Retreat FH/Sanct Choir Room	13 Choir Retreat FH/Sanct Choir Room
14 New Member Lunch FH	15	16	17	18 Visitation 1:30PM Deacon Supper /FH	19	20
21	22 Visitation 10AM	23	24	25	26	27 Family Fest 3-6PM
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	FBC Helping Hands Month		1	2	3	4 Shower FH
5 Life Chain 2PM Shower/FH	6	7 WOM 11AM ROOM 107	8	9	10	11 Pastor Ben's Birthday Gold City Quartet 6PM
12	13 Visitation 10AM	14 Young As Ever 11AM	15	16 Visitation 1:30PM	17	18 IP 1/4 Century Club Lunch Gym
19	20	21	22 Church Conference	23	24	25
26	27 Visitation 10AM	28	29	30	31	

Honorariums & Memorials

FROM	IN HONOR
PRAYER GARDEN Hinson & Anne Floyd	Grady & Brenda Thomas
FROM	IN MEMORY
BUDGET Bobby & Peggy Mayer Hamp & Daria Williamson Charles Smith Glenn & Sam Morris Debby Swails	Paul Elliott & Ernest Meyer Paul Elliott Debby Summey Harold Baker, Ernest Meyer, Jeff Anderson
YOUTH FUND Trudy Zothner	Doug Hinds, Paul Elliot & Ernest Meyer
Jean Moore	Harold Baker, Ava Bullard & Ernest Meyer
Greg & Wallis Taylor	Ernest Meyer
RUTH CLASS Marie Moore	Harold Baker & Paul Elliott
JANIE CHAPMAN Grady & Brenda Thomas	Ernest Meyer, Debby Summey, Robert Pitts, Jeff Anderson
FBC BENEVOLENCE FUND Cammie C. Steele & Vickie C. Tompkins	Debby Summey



Young & Restless

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25
AT 5:00 PM
BRING A COVERD
DISH AND A
FRIEND. OPEN TO
ALL SENIORS 55 +

Young As Ever
FIRST BAPTIST GEORGETOWN

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9 AT
11:00 AM
BRING A COVERD
DISH AND A
FRIEND. OPEN TO
ALL SENIORS 55 +

**MONTHLY
ATTENDANCE
AUGUST:**

**WORSHIP: 365
SUNDAY
SCHOOL: 210**

STAFF CONNECTIONS

REV. BEN HILL
Lead Pastor

DR. TED SHERRILL
Pastor Emeritus

EXECUTIVE PASTOR
Rev. Keith Wall
keith@fbcgeorgetown.org

MINISTER TO STUDENTS
Rev. Jack Powers
jack@fbcgeorgetown.org

**INTERIM CHORAL
DIRECTOR**
Mrs. Jan Fort
music123@sc.rr.com

PIANIST
Mrs. Kathy Newton

ORGANIST
Mrs. Ruth Reames

PERCUSSIONIST
Mr. Kail Page

MINISTRY ASSISTANT
Mrs. Terri McDaniel
terri@fbcgeorgetown.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Mrs. Jan Avant
jan@fbcgeorgetown.org

MINISTRY SUPPORT
Mrs. Denise Forehand
denise@fbcgeorgetown.org

OD SERVICE COORDINATOR
Mrs. Nancy Rowell

WEB/APP
Mr. Samuel Shelley
sam@fbcgeorgetown.org

Faithful In Giving
August 2025

Monthly Required
\$122,734.25

Received
\$121,568.41

Monthly Difference
(\$1,165.84)

Annual Budget
\$1,472,811.05

Budget Required To Date
\$981,874.00

Budget Received To Date
\$940,132.47

YTD Difference
(\$41,741.53)

FUNDS
FBC Family Benevolence
\$8230.79

Prayer Garden
\$19,258.49

Organ Fund
\$22,168.50

Trail Life Scholarships
\$6,333.33

Disaster Relief
\$5,211.75

Other funds are available for
contributions. Please contact
the Financial Secretary for list.

Scholarships
Daniels
Tamsberg
Moore-Mixon
Health Occupation

Honorariums & Memorials may
be made to any of the above
funds or to the General Fund.
Acknowledgement cards are
sent to each individual.

~~~~~  
"You will be blessed in every  
way, and you will be able to  
keep on being generous."  
2 Corinthians 9:11a

*To God Be the Glory  
Thank You*

## Talk To Us

843-546-5187  
info@fbcgeorgetown.org  
fbcgeorgetown.org

219 Cleland Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440

