

The Crosswalk

First Christian Church
2501 N Park Lane
Altus, OK 73521

March
2016



The following is an excerpt from one of the articles found in the ESV Study Bible produced by Crossway Publishing. This is an excellent summation of the Christian's approach to scripture. For the purposes of our newsletter I have broken up this article into three parts. This month we'll look at general revelation, special revelation, inspiration, and inerrancy of scripture. In April we'll look into the clarity and the sufficiency of scripture. Finally, in May we'll finish the article by looking into Jesus' view of Scripture.

The Bible and Revelation

Knowing God is the most important thing in life. God created people fundamentally for relationship with himself. This relationship depends on knowing who he is as he has revealed himself. God is personal, which means he has a mind, will, emotions, relational ability, and self-consciousness. Because he is personal, and not merely an impersonal object, God must personally reveal himself to us. He has done this in general revelation (the world) and special revelation (the Word of God).

General Revelation

General revelation is revelation of God given to all people at all times. This revelation is found both in the external creation (Ps. 19:1, "the heavens declare the glory of God") and in internal human experience (Rom. 1:19–20, "what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse"). General revelation shows attributes of God—such as his existence, power, creativity, and wisdom; in addition, the testimony of human conscience also provides some evidence of God's moral standards to all human beings (Rom. 2:14–15). This means that from general revelation all people have *some knowledge that God exists, some knowledge of his character, and some knowledge of his moral standards. This results in an awareness of guilt before God as people instinctively know that they have not lived up to his moral requirements. Thus in the many false religions that have been invented people attempt to assuage their sense of guilt.*

But general revelation does not provide knowledge of the only true solution to man's guilt before God: the forgiveness of sins that comes through Jesus Christ. This means that general revelation does not provide personal knowledge of God as a loving Father who redeems his people and establishes covenants with them. For this, one needs *special revelation, which God has provided in his historical supernatural activities, in the Bible, and definitively in Jesus Christ.*

Special Revelation

The Bible is God's written revelation of who he is and what he has done in redemptive history. Humans need this divine, transcendent perspective in order to break out of their subjective, culturally bound, fallen limitations. Through God's written Word, his people may overcome error, grow in sanctification, minister effectively to others, and live abundant lives as God intends.

The Inspiration of Scripture

The Bible is "God-breathed" (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16) and gets its true, authoritative, powerful, holy character from God himself, who inspired human authors to write exactly what he wanted them to write. Instead of merely dictating words to them, God worked through their unique personalities and circumstances. Scripture is therefore both fully human and fully divine. It is both the testimony of men to God's revelation, and divine revelation itself. "No prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet. 1:20–21). Because the Bible is God's Word in human words, it can be trusted as the definitive revelation from the mouth of God himself.

The Inerrancy of Scripture

The doctrine of inerrancy means that the Bible is entirely truthful and reliable in all that it affirms in its original manuscripts. Another way of saying this is that the Bible does not affirm anything that is contrary to fact. Because God is the ultimate author of the Bible, and because God is always perfectly truthful, it follows that his Word is completely truthful as well: He is the "God who never lies" (Titus 1:2). It would be contrary to his character to affirm anything false. God is all-knowing, always truthful and good, and all-powerful, so he always knows and tells the truth and is able to communicate and preserve his Word. "O Lord GOD, you are God, and your words are true, and you have promised this good thing to your servant" (2 Sam. 7:28). "Every word of God proves true" (Prov. 30:5; cf. Ps. 12:6; 119:42; John 17:17).

Inerrancy does not require twenty-first-century precision or scientifically technical language. The following quotation from the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy summarizes what inerrancy does *not mean*:

We affirm the propriety of using inerrancy as a theological term with reference to the complete truthfulness of Scripture. We deny that it is proper to evaluate Scripture according to standards of truth and error that are alien to its usage or purpose. We further deny that inerrancy is negated by Biblical phenomena such as a lack of modern technical precision, irregularities of grammar or spelling, observational descriptions of nature, the reporting of falsehoods, the use of hyperbole and round numbers, the topical arrangement of material, variant selections of material in parallel accounts, or the use of free citations (*Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy, Art. XIII*).

The inerrancy of Scripture gives the believer great confidence in the Bible as his sure foundation for understanding all God wants him to know and all that he needs for godliness and eternal life.

In His Service,
Ben

March 2016

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|-----|------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| | | 1 | 2 LBS 9:30AM | 3 | 4 LBS 6:00 PM ADMIN MTG 6:45 PM | 5 Church Rented |
| 6 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM EKK 6:30PM | 7 SERVICE/Action 2:00 PM VBS meeting 6:00 PM | 8 | 9 LBS 9:30AM | 10 ELDERS MTG 6PM DEACONS MTG 6:30PM | 11 Learning Bible Group 6:00 PM | 12 |
| 13 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM | 14 | 15 | 16 LBS 9:30AM | 17 EDUCATION MTG 6:00PM | 18 Learning Bible Group 6:00 PM | 19 |
| 20 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30 EKK 6:30PM | 21 | 22 | 23 LBS 9:30AM | 24 | 25 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE | 26 Church Rented |
| 27 SS 9:30AM WS 10:30AM | 28 | 29 | 30 LBS 9:30AM | 31 WORSHIP MTG 6:30PM | | |
| | | | | | | |

Serving In March

March 6

Meditation: Joe Price
Servers: Brenda Gibson, *Iris Felix
 John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Sarah Skiles, Jessica Buxton
Lord's Supper Prep: Phil & Ruth Carson

March 13

Meditation: Rick Weinkauff
Servers: Brenda Risner, Ruth Carson
 Tara Coffman, *Wanda Jones
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Meshell Pruitt & Lindsie Sirmons
Lord's Supper Prep: Phil & Ruth Carson

March 20

Meditation: Jerry Gibson
Servers: Brenda Gibson, Iris Felix
 *John Signorelli, Rebecca Cullen
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, John Signorelli/FHD
Nursery: Sheena Zieman & Christina Barns
Lord's Supper Prep: Phil & Ruth Carson

March 27

Meditation: Doug Dalton
Servers: Brenda Risner, Ruth Carson
 Tara Coffman, *Wanda Jones
Greeters: Bob Clark/FD, Jerry Gibson/FHD
Nursery: Rebecca Cullen & Kristen Partin
Lord's Supper Prep: Phil & Ruth Carson



Sunday, March 13 at 2:00am

Your Elders

Phil Carson, Randall Coffman, Doug Dalton,
 Gene Drechsler, Jerry Gibson, Jim Jones

Your Deacons

Crystal Crawford, Rebecca Cullen, Brenda Gibson
 Joe Price, Rick Weinkauff, Daniel White

In Our Prayers

Judy Colston & family—loss of loved one
 Kaybree Mann family—loss of loved one
 Lee & Billy Surlis—health issues
 Larry Allen - heart
 Reba Stephens - health
 Jackie Garland - cancer
 Charlotte McPherson
 Diana Williamson - cancer
 Marcia Sharma - stomach cancer
 Nita Walker - health
 Andrea Matthews - heart problems
 Robert Ramer -experimental therapy
 Sam Smith - mass in esophagus
 Tammie Crowder - infection
 Sandy Farris - cancer
 Arnold Goucher - cancer
 Herb Lacey - liver cancer
 Linda Crandal - leukemia
 Billie Vaughn - Jerry's cousin

Periodically the Prayer List will be updated. If we remove someone that you still want on the list, please let us know and we will be glad to put them back on.

If you have a prayer need or know of any changes, please contact the church office.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



4– Kylie Jordan
 7– Bettie Peters
 10– Joe Price
 11– Carter Partin
 12– Jackie Garland
 22– Kalyn Cullen
 29– Kathy Myers



Sunday Services

Sunday School 9:30 am
 Worship Service 10:30 am

Wednesday Night

Dinner 6:00 pm
 Classes for all ages 7:00 pm

Secretary's Report

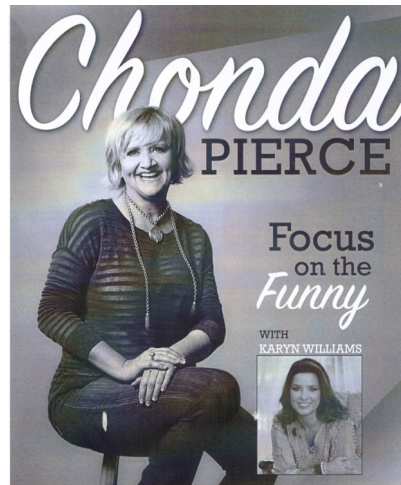
February 2016

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Average Attendance | 68 |
| Average Visitors | 33.6 |
| Total Average Attendance | 101.6 |
| Total Offerings | \$9,161.00 |

Up Coming Events



If you are interested in being one of the three spellers for the "GRATE" Altus Spelling Bee please contact Rebecca Cullen or Brenda Risner. Deadline to reserve our entry team is March 29.



SUNDAY · MARCH 20
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
LAWTON, OK

iTickets.com
800-965-9324

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

awakening events

If 10 people or more want to attend this funny concert at Lawton First Baptist Church Sunday March 20th at \$20 a person, contact the church office by February 22 so tickets can be ordered on line at the discount price. I do not know the time of the performance at this time.

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be immediately following services on March 27th. Be sure to bring your Easter Basket and wear your Easter Bonnets!



EASTER EGG CANDY NEEDED

Easter is March 27th so if you would like to donate candy, a box will be available at the front entrance and in the fellowship hall.

You are invited to a
WEDDING SHOWER for
Matthew & Lydia Palmer

When: March 20th at 5:00pm
Where: First Christian Church
Bring: a side dish or appetizer

Hope to see you there!

