



The Resurrection

The resurrection of the dead is anathema to the modern mind. Rudolf Bultmann, one of the most famous New Testament scholars of the twentieth century and a theological liberal, declared, “An historical fact which involves a resurrection from the dead is utterly inconceivable.” To the Apostle Paul, however, Christianity without the resurrection of Jesus from the dead was inconceivable (see **1 Cor. 15:1–11**). In company with the other Apostles, Paul proclaimed the resurrection as the great fact upon which Christianity stands or falls.

How do we tell jaded and skeptical people about the resurrection? Luke’s account of Paul’s ministry in Athens (**Acts 17:16–34**) gives us much-needed direction. When Paul arrived in Athens, he preached at the synagogue, but he also went to the “marketplace,” where philosophers and teachers congregated to exchange ideas (v. 17). Paul persevered through initial misunderstanding and mockery, and he accepted an invitation to address the Areopagus, an august body of retired public officials.

In that address, Paul first gently but firmly exposes one of the fundamental and fatal weaknesses of polytheism. The altar “to the unknown god” was the Athenians’ standing acknowledgment that their religion was insufficient and inadequate. Paul then presents to the Athenians the solution that they need but never found on their own—the worship of the one true God.

Paul tells the Athenians about the sovereign and all-sufficient God who made and upholds the world and all that is in it (vv. 24–25). He also tells them about themselves (vv. 26–29). God has made all human beings from “one man,” and He has furthermore “determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place” (17:26). The entirety of our lives is lived inescapably before the omnipresent God (17:28). We are, furthermore, His image-bearers (“offspring”; vv. 28–29).

For these reasons, we should “seek God” in the hopes of “find[ing] him” (v. 27). We should not try to think of God or worship Him with images (v. 29). As sinners, however, the best we manage is to “feel [our] way,” that is, to grope in the dark (v. 27). God is always present to His creation, but His sinful creatures willfully refuse to come to Him. Even so, because God has created and sustains us, we will one day have to give an account before Him (see v. 31).

Thus far, Paul has reasoned with the Athenians based upon what they know of God and of themselves from the creation. He then turns to a particular fact of history—God raised a man from the dead (v. 31). That God has lifted the sentence of death from Jesus and publicly vindicated Him means that Jesus was a righteous man. That is to say, He is unlike any other person who walked the face of the earth. This righteous Jesus had claimed on earth that He would judge all people (see **John 5:19–29**). The resurrection vindicated this claim. In raising Jesus from the dead, God publicly affirmed Jesus’ claim to judge the world at the end of the age. Because this judgment is certain and imminent, Paul pleads with his hearers to “repent” (**Acts 17:30**), to turn from the service of idols to the worship of the triune God. The resurrection and the worldwide preaching of the gospel has brought to an end the “times of ignorance,” during which God was pleased to withhold final judgment (v. 30). The days of comparative but culpable Gentile blindness have come to an end. Only the gospel can dispel the ongoing ignorance and blindness in which unrenewed humanity finds itself.

Paul’s mention of the resurrection yields two very different results. Some mock and sneer—the very idea that one’s body would have immortal existence was laughable to the Greek mind (v. 32a). Others, however, want to hear more and, trusting in Christ, follow Paul (vv. 32b–34).

Proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus did not, on this occasion, win Paul the accolades of the Athenian intelligentsia. Neither did it

Sermon Schedule

- 4/4 “Fear and the Power of God”
Matthew 28:1-10
- 4/11 “The Sowing Season”
Luke 8:4-15
- 4/18 “The Peace of God from the God of Peace”
Philippians 4:2-9
- 4/25 “The God Who Never Gives Up” *Judges 16*



yield a visibly impressive host of converts in Athens. But Paul did not preach the resurrection because it was popular. He preached it because it was true. The resurrection of Jesus confirmed the coming judgment but also secured blessing for the undeserving. However God is pleased to use this truth in the lives of unbelievers, the church’s task remains the same—to tell others that Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

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[The Resurrection by Guy Waters](#)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	01 Dan Love Men's Basketball	02 Bricen Krashner Sophia Sprouse	03
04 Easter Sunday Deacon's Fund Collection Casey Forrest Joy McCarter Maggie McCarter Steve Sluis	05 Travis Heffner Men of the Covenant	06 Circle #1 Diaconate Meeting Men's Basketball	07	08 Men's Basketball	09 Craig Adams Carter Miller	10 Chris Wynkoop
11 Observance of the Lord's... Todd Holben Eck Miller Children's Catechism	12 Circle #3	13 Addison Ferguson Circle #2 Men's Basketball	14 Linda Boyd Colleen Riddle Circle	15 Betty Jo McCarter Men's Basketball	16 Chris Wallace	17
18 Patrick Newberry Pat McCormick Children's Catechism	19	20 Ann Carol Love Susan Long Men's Basketball	21 Sara Ann McMullan	22 Men's Basketball	23	24 Glenn Jackson
25 Children's Catechism	26	27 Men's Basketball	28 WIC Council...	29 Brandon Wallace Foster Krebs Men's Basketball	30 Laura Clinton Miller Brummett Marshall Hoffman	01

Men of the Covenant: April 5, 6:30pm, FLC for a meal, devotional and program.

Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: April 11.

WIC Council meeting: April 28, 6:30 pm, Covenant SS room.

Diaconate Meeting: April 6, 7:00pm, Sanctuary.

Session Minutes

The Session of Bethel Presbyterian Church met Sunday, March 14, 2021 at 2:00 PM in the sanctuary with Moderator, Rev. J. Marcus Van Flake, for the regular monthly meeting.

The meeting was called to order and opened with the reading of the Scriptures from Psalm 34:4-8 and 17-18 and prayer by the Moderator.

A quorum was present. Elders present: Steven T. Britt, Robert C. Love, Jr., Calvin B. Reese, Corey C. Clinton, Steven H. Linder, D. Ross Love, James G. Long, Timothy G. Marsh, L. Christian Griesman, and W. Hampton Stowe, III. Also present were Adam Coble, Diaconate Chairman, Gunther Griffin, Pastoral Intern, and Brent Clinton.

Adam Coble gave the Deacons Report and reviewed the minutes of the March 2, 2021 Deacons meeting. Additionally, he reviewed the Financial Report dated February 28, 2021 all of which are appended to the file copy of these Session minutes. MSA the Deacons Report, Financial Report, minutes, and actions/recommendations. Adam was dismissed with prayer by Steve Linder.

MSA the minutes of the Session meeting held on February 14, 2021 as written, corrected, and emailed to the Session.

MSA to recommend that the WIC discontinue financial support of Bethany Christian Services.

MSA the WIC recommendation that Jenny Quinn serve as Nursery Coordinator.

Bobby Love and Brent Clinton provided an update on the Duke

Energy land transaction.

Marcus provided an update on the Assistant/Associate Pastor search.

Marcus provided Session members with a copy of the book, Gospel Coach, by Scott Thomas and Tom Wood, and discussed plans to begin Elder Shepherd training at the May Session meeting.

MSA Bobby Love as Session Representative to the 48th PCA General Assembly meeting to be held in St. Louis, Missouri June 28 – July 2, 2021.

MSA the Bethel Cemetery Association recommendation to install a Columbarium in the grassy circle at the back of the cemetery.

MSA Hamp Stowe as the Bethel Session Representative on the Bethel Cemetery Association Board of Directors.

MSA vacation for Marcus April 5-9, 2021.

MSA Chris Hodge to preach, and to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at Bethel on April 11th. A decision was made to continue to follow the same COVID protocol procedures for Communion as was followed for the January 10, 2021 Communion Observance.

MSA Chris Hodge to moderate the April Session meeting, if a meeting is needed.

MSA Calvin Reese and Bobby Love as Bethel's Session Representatives at the April 24, 2021 Fellowship Presbytery Meeting at Trinity Chester PCA.

A discussion was held regarding the Fellowship Presbytery Missions

Committee church planting questionnaire that was sent to all Presbytery churches. Marcus and Calvin will formalize and send to the Session for approval, in response to the Committee.

A new member class is being planned for May 16th, May 23rd, June 6th, and June 13th.

The next Bethel Session meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2021. A King's Cross Temporary Session Meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2021.

MSA to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Corey Clinton.

Robert C. Love, Jr., Clerk of Session

Financial Update:

MULTIPLY Building fund

Balance Feb. 28: \$1,398,905
February: \$22,397

Tithes and Offerings

2021 Budget: \$601,407
YTD Feb. 28: \$103,582
February: \$40,012

Building Plans Update:

We are currently working on building plan options and we are making some progress. We will communicate updates with more information for congregational consideration and approval as soon as we can. Given circumstances, we do not yet know when appropriate time to begin project might be... THANK YOU for your continued patience and prayers!

International Missions Spotlight

Andres and Ruth Garza

Monterrey, Mexico



Andres and Ruth Garza have a long history with Bethel. They were the first family to live in the Price house while Andres attended RTS. After their return to Monterrey, Mexico, he served as the leader of MTW's Northern Mexico team and started the Church Planting Institute which provides training and support to church planters. In 2015, he was invited to work with Redeemer City to City and serve as their Regional Director and Church Planting Catalyst, Latin America. Ruth works with Parakelo, a ministry to church planters' wives. In addition, Andres was the lead church planter of Iglesia San Pedro in Monterrey, Mexico. This recently particularized church plant has grown in vision and in spirit and is planning to plant their own daughter church soon, as well as develop local and regional mercy ministries.

As many of us know, Andres is a dynamic sort of guy that is constantly on the move meeting with people, networking and planning that next move that will shore up a church that may need help somewhere in Mexico or Latin America. Unfortunately, recently Andres has experienced some symptoms of stress and tension that have

doctors instructing him to slow down and get some much needed rest. Let us hold Andres and his family up in our prayers: for health and that Andres will be able to get the rest that he needs, and for the health of his family. Let us also be in prayer for the Iglesia San Pedro church... for their growth, spiritual maturity and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as they plan to plant a daughter church and seek to take on their own mercy ministry opportunities.

PRAYER Requests



- The Van Vlake family
- New Assistant Pastor search
- Intern Gunther Griffin and his wife Sam
- Elders, Deacons, WIC officers, Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders, Youth leaders/teachers, giving thanks for their faithfulness and willingness to serve
- Local ministries such as God's Kitchen, Clover Area Assistance Center and Biblical Studies Released Time
- Reformed University Fellowship
- Our missionaries serving through the country and the world
- Our community and our country, especially for wisdom and safety in dealing with Covid-19
- Please pray for the lost that don't know of or believe in Jesus. Pray as well for Bethel and other bible-believing and gospel preaching churches to be blessed in our efforts to evangelize and make disciples locally and to the ends of the earth
- Our college students
- Expectant mothers and their unborn babies within the church family
- Bobby Armstrong (brother-in-law of S. McCarter Mizell, cancer), Rick Duke (cancer) and wife Judy (friends of C. Davis), Judy Ferguson (healing from surgery), Margaret Ann Ferguson, Kathy Forester (E. Moseley's sister, breast cancer), Matthew Hall, Miriam Hovis, Mrs. Rita Jackson, Jan Kombs (friend of J. LeMoyné, stroke), Herb LeMoyné (J. LeMoyné's brother, Parkinson's disease), Dana Massey (advanced brain cancer, friend of S. Burns), Annie Mae McDaniel (J. Ferguson's mother), Jim Pittman (V. Linder's brother, cancer), Marcia Trevino and Norm West.