

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHALLOTTE

LOVE GOD. LOVE ONE ANOTHER. LOVE THE WORLD.

4486 Main Street
Shallotte, NC 28470
910.754.4048
thefbcs.com



Office Hours:
M-Th 9am-3pm
Closed Monday

Sunday School-9:45am
Worship-11am

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

Or Current Resident

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

4/1	Deuteronomy 5-6; Proverbs 1	4/16	Deuteronomy 32; Proverbs 16
4/2	Deuteronomy 7-9; Proverbs 2	4/17	Deuteronomy 33-34; Proverbs 17
4/3	Deuteronomy 10; Proverbs 3; Psalms 37	4/18	Psalms 1; Joshua 1-2; Proverbs 18
4/4	Deuteronomy 11-12; Proverbs 4	4/19	Joshua 3-5; Proverbs 19
4/5	Deuteronomy 13-14; Proverbs 5	4/20	Joshua 6-7; Proverbs 20
4/6	Deuteronomy 15-16; Proverbs 6	4/21	Joshua 8; Proverbs 21; Psalms 33
4/7	Deuteronomy 17-18; Proverbs 7	4/22	Joshua 9-10; Proverbs 22
4/8	Deuteronomy 19-20; Proverbs 8; Psalms 128	4/23	Joshua 11-12; Psalms 149; Proverbs 23
4/9	Deuteronomy 21-22; Proverbs 9	4/24	Joshua 13-14; Proverbs 24
4/10	Deuteronomy 23; Philemon; Proverbs 10	4/25	Joshua 15; Proverbs 25
4/11	Deuteronomy 24-25; Proverbs 11; Psalms 49	4/26	Joshua 16-18; Proverbs 26
4/12	Deuteronomy 26-27; Psalms 19; Proverbs 12	4/27	Joshua 19-20; Proverbs 27
4/13	Deuteronomy 28; Proverbs 13	4/28	Joshua 21-22; Proverbs 28
4/14	Deuteronomy 29-30; Proverbs 14	4/29	Joshua 23-24; Psalms 115; Proverbs 29
4/15	Deuteronomy 31; Proverbs 15; Psalms 139	4/30	Ruth 1-2; Psalms 129; Proverbs 30

the Vision

Monthly Newsletter of First Baptist Church of Shallotte | April 2025

EASTER AT FB CS



First Kids Easter Program

Sunday, March 30 at 11am



“Your Grace Still Amazes Me”

Presented by Celebration Choir

Sunday, April 13 at 11am



Easter Sunday

SONrise Service at 7am

FREE Breakfast

Bible Study Classes for all Ages at 9:45am

Worship at 11am

Events

- Apr 7th 6:30-8:30p - Ladies' Ministry Meeting
Dinner Provided;
Speaker Barbara Holden
- Apr 12th 8-10a - Cars & Coffee
- Apr 13th Following Worship Potluck Lunch; Bring a Side & Dessert, Meats Provided
- Apr 13th 6p - Quarterly Ministry Meeting
- Apr 26th 10a-Spring Fun Day
- Apr 27th 11a -Baptism

IS THE SHROUD OF TURIN EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST?

The Shroud of Turin is back in the news.

New testing last summer dated the Shroud, believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus, to around AD 55-74. This contradicts previous carbon dating that had placed the Shroud's origination to around AD 1350. But if the Shroud originated around 55-75, it's more likely to be authentic!

Why does that matter?

What is the Shroud of Turin?

The Shroud of Turin's first appeared on record when it was displayed in a small church in France in 1353. Prior to 1353, the Shroud passed through several hands, including royal families and religious leaders. It's been in the possession of the Roman Catholic Church since then, displayed occasionally for the public to see.

The Shroud shows the figure of a man bearing extensive injuries, as if he had been tortured prior to his death. And those injuries coincide with the wounds of Christ reported in the Gospels, including the marks of crucifixion.

Scholars say that the Shroud of Turin is the most studied religious relic in history. If it is authentic, then it could be the burial cloth that Jesus was wrapped in—and which He discarded when He rose from the grave (John 20:3-8)!

Differing views

The evidence favors its authenticity. In his excellent 1981 book *Verdict on the Shroud*, Christian apologist, philosopher, and theologian Gary Habermas provides an extensive investigation and a well-reasoned, balanced case. Despite some discrepancies related to first century burial practices, he concludes that the best explanation for the image on the Shroud is that it was the burial cloth of Jesus Christ.

For instance, the crucifixion of Christ was a unique event, and it is unlikely that anyone else would have ever died with precisely the same trauma to his body. Also, the image on the Shroud is actually a negative image, imprinted on the cloth by some kind of extraordinary and exceptional means, such as a flash of bright light—perhaps the kind that would happen when a person rises from the dead.

On the other hand

But skeptics deny its authenticity as the burial shroud of Jesus.

In 1988, the Shroud was carbon dated, resulting in the infamous conclusion that it was a forgery, created around 1350. Skeptics declared that the case was closed and held dearly to this conclusion.

But carbon dating is hardly foolproof and the way the cloth was tested was a bit sketchy. In addition, it's unlikely that the technology to pull off this kind of forgery existed in the 14th century, leaving believers and advocates hope for future vindication.

That time may have come. And that's why the Shroud is back in the news.

New tests

Last summer the Institute of Crystallography in Italy examined the Shroud using Wide-angle X-ray scattering. WAXS determined that the Shroud is at least 2000-years-old, placing it in the window of AD 55-74.

The WAXS method is experimental for a study of this type. But when researchers compared the image on the Shroud to a WAXS study of an image on a similar type of cloth from the Siege of Masada (AD 72-73) they found that the two cloths were of the same time period.

Does that mean there is no doubt the Shroud belonged to Jesus? No, but it challenges the 1988 carbon dating, and it confirms that the Shroud came from the time period in which Jesus died and rose from the grave, increasing the likelihood of its authenticity.

Does it matter?

So that brings us to the more important question—does it matter?

On the one hand, sure it does. We should always embrace historical and archeological evidence that verifies biblical events. God's fingerprints are all over human history. The events of the Bible are not fictional accounts or legends, but they happened in a real time and place, involving the lives of real people.

So, history backs up our beliefs. This is often helpful when we are talking to skeptics, and it bolsters our own faith.

But on the other hand, we need to be careful not to depend too much on empirical evidence to verify our faith. Empirical evidence builds a case for the biblical narrative, but it doesn't necessarily prove it.

Bishop Robert Barron, an expert on the Shroud, clarifies, "our faith in Christ's resurrection is in no way dependent on the Shroud but its uncanny power to capture our attention and many other mysteries have strengthened the faith of many."

What matters most

Empirical evidence is best used as a tool to build a case or to confirm the veracity of the Christian faith. But it is not the basis of our belief. God, and His work in Jesus Christ as recorded in the Bible, are the basis for what we believe.

This is important for at least three reasons.

First, skeptics continually challenge the historical evidence for the Christian faith. Many of those challenges are grounded in nonsense and easily dismissed, but some sound convincing. So, if you invest too much confidence in empirical evidence for your faith, you may be overly impacted by such challenges, especially if your faith is vulnerable to doubt (James 1:6).

Second, if that happens, you have unintentionally fallen prey to the myth that scientific study is flawless. Twentieth century culture treated empirical science as an infallible god, able to cure all our ills and solve all our problems.

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IS THE SHROUD OF TURIN EVIDENCE OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST?

Science is a great tool and has produced many of the great advances we enjoy. But scientists are fallible, they are guided by certain presuppositions about the universe, and secular scientists may be biased against a biblical worldview. So don't fall into the trap of giving empirical science more credibility than it deserves.

With that, then, third and most important, your relationship with Christ does not hinge on whether or not empirical evidence proves the facts of scripture.

Empirical evidence can confirm and support our faith, and such confirmation is a blessing! But our beliefs do not depend on scientific verification. Faith is required to have a healthy relationship with God (Heb. 11:6).

The proof of the resurrection

The proof of the resurrection of Christ is your changed life! Your salvation depends on His resurrection, and He is faithful to provide resurrection life to all who trust in Him (Rom. 8:11, 10:9-10; 1 Peter 1:3).

The existence of the church, the changed lives of Christians, the infallibility of the Bible, and the ongoing power of the gospel of Jesus Christ are all evidence of the power of God provided through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Whether the Shroud of Turin is the burial garment of Jesus or not, the tomb is empty, and He is alive!

With love in Christ,
Pastor Bob

NEW TO THE FAMILY



JOAN WALKER
JOINED FEB 9



JEFF IDDINGS
JOINED MAR 2

OUR PARKING LOT IS BEING REFRESHED!

April 14-21, our parking lot and driveways will be refreshed. So, for most of the week the church facilities will not be accessible. When the parking lots and driveways are not accessible, the church office will be closed and the staff will work remotely. Here's what to expect:

- Monday April 14-Tuesday April 15: No parking and no driveway access. Ladies Ministry Meeting rescheduled to April 7 and Trail Life cancelled.
- Wednesday, April 16: Ministries, DiscipleLife, and activities as usual!
- Thursday, April 17- Saturday, April 19: No parking and no driveway access.
- Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday, services as usual!
- Monday, April 21: No parking and no driveway access. Office closed for Easter Monday; Men's Ministry meeting is cancelled.
- Tuesday, April 22, back to business as usual!

Be sure to watch our website and email for any updates or changes. To contact the church staff while offices are closed, you can call the church office and leave a message. We will receive the message and return your call.

DEACON OF THE WEEK

4 / 6 - 4 / 12
MARK VARNUM
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MARKMONICAANDGIRLS
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JEFF HOPKINS
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