



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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ANSWERS IN AUGUST

Are you overwhelmed with how all-encompassing and divisive political differences seem to be in our country right now? Do you feel like none of the current political options fit perfectly with your values and beliefs? Do you have questions about how a Christian should think about specific issues or policies? Do you want help thinking through how you can faithfully follow Jesus while also being involved in the political process? Maybe you just want to talk with others about how you are trying to make these decisions for yourself.

Should Christians even be involved

in politics? Should the church even try to make an impact on the world around us or should we focus entirely on evangelism, discipleship, and the world to come? How can followers of Jesus seek to be good citizens of the kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world simultaneously - especially when those two kingdoms are often in conflict with one another? Have you thought much about the limits of government and the problems that it can't solve?

We want to address these questions and others in this year's Answers in August series. Make plans to join us starting this

Sunday night, August 11, at 6:00 pm. For three weeks (Aug. 11, 18, & 25), we will study the Bible and discuss what it means to be a follower of Jesus in this context. We will take a break for Labor Day on September 1, and then we will end the series on September 8 with a time set aside for all four of your pastors to take questions directly from you.

We are looking forward to this study. Whether you have specific questions you want answered or just see the importance of thinking through this significant issue, we hope that you will commit to being present over the next several weeks.

Perseverance Under Pressure

Matt McBroom | Pastor

Sometimes life is hard. It doesn't take much earthly experience to recognize the fact that we will all face adversity and challenges in this life. There are times, however, when things can be especially difficult. The loss of a loved one, losing a job, or brokenness in a relationship can be devastating. While these things are difficult to handle on their own, there are also times when we may have to face several challenges simultaneously. When these hard seasons inevitably come people can quickly become overwhelmed and often fall into depression and despair. So how can we attempt to handle the hardness of life? How are we to persevere under pressure?

The world would suggest we use the power of positive thinking or perhaps offer us the encouragement of "good vibes" being sent our way. There are also a myriad of other ways the world might suggest that we escape the trouble of the day, but none of them provide us with the one thing that we need. The one thing that will sustain us through the darkest times in life. That thing is hope. The hope that I am speaking of is not simply a hope in a better tomorrow. It is the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. This hope provides help for the hurting and sustains the suffering. This hope gives us help for today and a forever home in heaven.

Jesus tells us in John 16 that we will have trouble in this world. In spite of this, he says to take heart, to be courageous, because he has conquered the world. As Christians, we have placed our hope in more than a positive attitude or good vibes. We have placed our hope in the creator and sustainer of the universe. Our Heavenly Father loves us, cares for us, provides for us, and seeks our good. He is with us in and through all of life's troubles. He has promised to give

those who love Him and endure life's trials and tests the crown of life. This is our hope for today. This is our hope for tomorrow. This is how we can have perseverance under pressure. By placing our hope in Jesus Christ and fully trusting Him to sustain us.

*Thus says the LORD:
"Cursed is the man who
trusts in man
and makes flesh his strength,
whose heart turns away from
the LORD.*

*He is like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see any good
come.
He shall dwell in the parched
places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.*

*"Blessed is the man who trusts
in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.
He is like a tree planted
by water,
that sends out its roots
by the stream,
and does not fear when
heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the
year of drought,
for it does not cease
to bear fruit."*

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Student Ministry Update: Summer & Back to School

Garth Farmer | Minister of Youth

It's hard to imagine that we are already over half way through 2024 and that the school year is upon us! It feels like each year seems to go by quicker than the last and already God has done so much in the life of our student ministry. Our student ministry has experienced a lot of growth and change in 2024. God is working both in our church and in our students and we praise him for that! May we continually strive for faithfulness in all that we do.

Back in May we had our Disciple NOW Weekend. This is 24 hours of our students hanging out together and hearing the Word of God preached. This year our very own Pastor Matt McBroom taught our students on biblical relationships inside and outside the family. This was such a blessing to all of us! One of the things I long for is that God would be preparing our students, even now, to be godly men and women who will one day be godly spouses and parents. These are critical roles and I am so grateful for the way our students were challenged on what God has said about these relationships!

Just over 2 weeks ago we returned from Summer Camp. As many of you may know, camp was a new experience for us this year. We took our largest group of students by far. 44 students traveled with us to FUGE Camp at North Greenville University over 6 hours away. But what a great week it was! Our students grew closer to one another and were challenged to consider how to have lives characterized by things like prayer, repentance, and worshipful obedience. I am always encouraged by the conversations our students have every night after the services. What a blessing it was to hear them share

what truths stood out to them in a particular sermon or to discuss particular topics that are on their hearts and minds. Praise God for how he works in our hearts through the teaching of his Word! I am incredibly grateful for the way in which our church gave and contributed in order to make this year's camp possible. I am also grateful to all of the incredible chaperones who sacrificed so much time (and SLEEP!) so that our students could enjoy this week. I am constantly encouraged by our church and how much we pour into the lives of one another.

The school year is rapidly approaching and that means that our students and families will soon be bombarded with all the responsibilities that come with it. It will be a constant barrage of homework, practices, ballgames, recitals, and other extra curricular activities. All of this while also being a part of student ministry life. It can get overwhelming quickly. I hope you will join me in praying for our students and families as this next season arrives. Pray that there will be peace and joy found in the midst of busy schedules, grace and truth found in the times needed, and that we would be a student ministry that points them to Jesus with each and every opportunity.

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”

Jude 24-25