



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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WWW.FREMONTFBC.ORG



MAY 2026

Lead Pastor- Richard Crooks | Music Director- Sasha White | Youth Leader- Jesse Kracht

Pastor's Notes | Bible Student Corner

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. - Mark 13:22 (Words of Jesus) (esv)

This issue I combine my Pastor Notes and Bible Students into a longer article to challenge you to think through what you believe, why you believe it, and in some cases, if you should research further. The theme question is, "Does theology matter?" First, let me point out that the word "theology" literally means "study or understanding of God." I ask you, "Is there really anything more important or noble in life than learning about and knowing this great God we serve?" Every Christian does have a personal theology, whether they realize it or not; it is just that some people have thought out carefully what they believe; others just assimilated whatever they have bumped into. I have met plenty of people who scoff at theologians for "arguing over how many angels can fit on the head of a pin." Others think that matters is knowing the Bible, and believe theology is man's theories and confusing. I think they are wrong. Paul thinks they are wrong. Peter thinks they are wrong. Jesus thinks they are wrong. Let's turn to the scripture and discover why it is important, and how your theology and the scripture impact one another. Let me point out a few dangers to recognize first--- All too often we develop our understanding of scripture BASED ON our theology, rather than basing our THEOLOGY on reflecting on scripture...and don't realize it. It is also easy to base theology on only select scriptures while ignoring others. While we may believe that we base our theology only on scripture, it is also true that we are influenced by our culture, our life experiences, and what we have been taught in the past was presented in a specific setting and from a specific theological perspectives. Let's set the stage by adding in a couple of warnings by Paul and Peter:

-PAUL-- 1 Timothy 6:3-4 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing...."

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.

-PETER---2 Peter 2:1 ...there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction.

The biblical writers were very clear: people will teach wrong doctrines and it is important to be discerning. Some might say, "Well, all you have to know is the Bible," which is kind of true...but remember: in Jesus's temptation Satan quoted scripture, but in a misleading way that countered good theology about the nature of God. So the Bible, a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, and sound theology will help us know when the scripture's teaching is being distorted. Harder to recognize is that sometimes when we decide that someone is teaching false doctrine because they do not agree with us, it is our understanding that needs to be clarified and adjusted. Let's explore some examples of these concerns:

THE IMAGE OF GOD IN HUMAN BEINGS--- Genesis 1:26-27 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*



JAM Camp: May 31 - June 2

1st - 6th grade fall of 2026
Cost: \$175

Junior Camp: June 7-12

4th -6th grade fall of 2026
Cost: \$385 (\$360 before May 1st)

Mid High Camp: June 14-19

7th - 9th grade fall of 2026
Cost: \$385 (\$360 before May 1st)

Senior High Camp: June 21-26

9th - 12th grade fall of 2026
Cost: \$400 (\$375 before May 1st)

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Well known passage...but what does it mean, that God created the first humans in the image of God? What is it, specifically, that was in the image of God? And why add the words “after our likeness”? Were only THEY in the image of God and that image was then from humans when they sinned in the Garden of Eden?

Are we also made in the image of God? How does the image of God apply when so many do so much evil? Has sin removed, corrupted, or disabled the image of God in us? However you answer (which is developing your theology, btw), think now about some other references, such as *Romans 8:29---For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son.* (see also *2 Corinthians 3:18*). What does this mean for the image of God in humans?

SALVATION SECURITY—We Baptists often use phrases such as “assurance of salvation” or “eternal security,” for those who give their lives to Christ. One salvation promise (out of many), is found in *Romans 10:9-10--- because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.*

Pretty simple, right? Pretty clear: believe with your heart, confess Christ with your mouth, you will be saved. We look to *Ephesians 2:8-9* and *John 3:16*, for example, as supporting passages. A teaching that, as Baptists we hold dear. But that is not the same as some other churches and Christians, who may focus on the wording in other passages. Passages with these phrases:

Acts 2:38— Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins (So is baptism required for salvation?)

James 2:20-- that faith apart from works is useless? (Believing isn't enough, works are needed?)

Philippians 2:12-- work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, (We have to work it out in fear?)

Hebrews 6:4-6--- For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened...and have shared in the Holy Spirit...and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God (So does this mean one can fall away from salvation?)

Some churches emphasize these things and would disagree with what we teach because of that theological emphasis. One could ask how these passages affect your theology? Do you interpret them according to your beliefs, or form your beliefs by including these scriptures in your theological thinking?

THE TRINITY---*Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”* That is the foundational scripture for “monotheism”...the teaching that there is only one God. But then, when you come to the New Testament, you discover Jesus praying to the Father...the one true God...which makes sense until you come to the moments such as when Thomas cries out to Jesus: Thomas answered him, **“My Lord and my God!”** as recorded in *John 20:28*. Jesus does not reject the title! So if **Jesus** is acknowledging that **HE** is Thomas's Lord and God, then **WHO** was Jesus praying to and calling Father? (That verse, by the way, proves that Jehovah's Witnesses are false teachers!) I once had a Christian couple attend my Sunday School class and were troubled when I referred to this verse and called Jesus God as the second person of the Trinity...they said they knew he was the Son of God....not that he was God! Their theology had ignored passages such as this.



And who is this Holy Spirit/Comforter Jesus promises in *John 14, 16* and *Acts 1* to send to live in his followers? What does it mean that Jesus puts all three of those names/titles/beings on apparently equal status when we are told by him to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in *Matthew 28*? However, in *Acts 2:38*, Peter says to be baptized “in the name of Jesus,” (some churches only use the name of Jesus at baptism)...so did he forget? Which is correct? Does it matter? If you say it doesn't, you say that based on what? These are the kinds of verses and questions that led our Christian forerunners to discuss, develop and define the theology of the Trinity we now take for granted without really considering what that doctrine means and why it matters.

THE PERSON OF CHRIST---In this case, let me point first to *John 3:16--“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son... AND Hebrews 1:3-4---He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.*

These two passages are full of lots of terms that raise lots of questions about exactly who this individual named Jesus is. Questions such as: What exactly does “the exact imprint of his nature” mean? Why is there an emphasis on Jesus being the “only” or “only begotten” Son of God? What exactly is the uniqueness of Christ? When *John 1:14* says that “the Word became flesh,” in what way was Jesus human (or flesh) and in what ways was he divine, or God's Son?

We often have quick answers we believe, but those are because somebody before us took the time to think, discuss and research these questions prayerfully in scripture and among the community of faith. And as a result, these have been guides to help us believers not to fall for the deceptions of Satan and his false teachers who twist scripture. The work of developing clear, accurate and relevant theology is ongoing as every generation in every culture must seek to understand for themselves the teachings of scripture. Remember, not one of us knows everything, or have perfect understanding. Our theology must always be open to growing as we learn and experience more. Paul says this very clearly in *1 Corinthians 13:12*--- Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

My challenge to you for this month is to reflect deeply on what you have learned, and be open to learning more, or having your understanding refined or even corrected.

Remember these words of scripture:
For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, --2 Timothy 4:3
But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. -Titus 2:1
Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth --2 Timothy 2:15



With the Psalmist, my prayer is that God will *“Open my (and your) eyes, that I (and you) may behold wondrous things out of your (God's) law.* Whatever you decide is your theology; whether it is well reasoned, considers the entire body of scripture and done in conjunction with other Christians is what determines whether or not it is GOOD theology.

Richard

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” Isaiah 43:19

As we come to the end of the spring semester for youth at FBC, I first want to take a moment to look back at all the Lord has done for us over the course of the past school year. This past year, we have had 4 of our students go public with their faith and get baptized, along with countless conversations about the faith that help plant the seed of the Holy Spirit in many other student's lives. A few notably thinks that our youth had done this year includes: *Summer Camp 2025 *Friendsgiving 2025 *Christmas Caroling 2025 *Spring Retreat 2026 *Youth Lock-In 2026 Looking back on this past year, I can't help but say "Thank you, Jesus" for everything that he has not only done for our youth at FBC but for the youth in Fremont, Nebraska. Truly, I do believe that we are living in a time of revival, specifically with the youth in our region. As we continue to march on to what the Lord has for us in this upcoming season of life, I can't help but praise God for everything that He has done for us. A few closing remarks from the youth at FBC. Our last youth group will be May 3, we will be starting up a weekly bible study starting in June with times and dates to be announced later! Congratulations to the class of 2026 and everything that you have accomplished over the course of your 12 years of school. "May the Lord, bless you and keep you, may he shine his face upon you and give you peace in this next season of your life!" -Jesse Kracht



Allie Jones



Asa Summers

GRADUATE



Connor Peterson



Lexi Jones

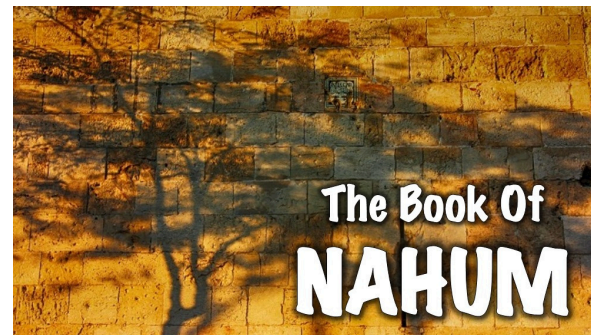


Ryan Thompson



Samantha Hill

Not Shown - Sydney Olson



Monthly Meetings

Esther Circle - May 11 - 11:00a
 Hannah Circle - May 12 - 11:30a
 Naomi Circle - May 28 - 12:30p



WE ARE COLLECTING



American Baptist Women's MINISTRIES

Building God's Community Women and Girls Conference



JULY 17- JULY 18, 2026
 Hybrid: Online & In Person at Select Locations

FOR WE ARE CO-WORKERS, WORKING TOGETHER, YOU ARE GOD'S FIELD, GOD'S BUILDING. - 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9

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2026 FBC Fremont
 ABWM Women's Bible Study

COMMON GROUND
 Loving Others Despite Our Differences
 A STUDY OF SIBLING RIVALRIES IN THE BIBLE
 AMBERLY NEESE

January 17
 February 21
 March 21
 April 18
 May 16
 June 20
 July 18
 August 22
 September 19
 October 17

coffee provided

Join us each 3rd Saturday on the 3rd floor at 9:30 am for a discussion oriented Bible Study. No pre-registration required. - study materials available at FBC Fremont

FBC Fremont 505 N. C Street Fremont, Nebraska

Questions: 402-721-1265 office@fremontfbc.org
 Updates and cancellations will be announced on FBC Fremont NE Facebook page

Vision Team Meeting April 11, 2026

In attendance: Diana Borer, Marcia Hill, Alan Holzerland, Randy Cash, Eileen Cash, Mary Weldon, Joel Foreman, Betty Laughlin and Terry Woodman.

*The Meeting opened with a devotion by Marcia

*Alan provided property and finance reports on multiple projects. Richard is following up on the status of the stained-glass windows. A second opinion assessment of the boiler is being followed up on while the committee has approved getting a bid to replace the missing tiles on the front entry way roof and gutters. The shield is being replaced to repair the ice machine; however, it may be necessary to consider purchasing a smaller machine. Other areas of concern are replacing the orange pad in the front entry way and the three cement steps, security cameras, and addressing safety issues in the elevator. The committee was informed that wet tiles could lead to slips and falls.

*Joel reported that ABM collected \$280.00 during Easter breakfast. The money will be divided and donated to the wildfires out West and for the Stained Glass Windows. Next event scheduled is John C. Fremont Days.

*Diana bought cards for signing and sending to the missionaries featured each week.

*Marcia announced FBYouth is planning a Lock-in in April. Currently 3 youth are interested in going to Colorado for the Central Region Youth Conference. Last night of FBKids is scheduled for May 6 @ 30 Bowl for a night of Bowling.

*The pastor shared that Jesse Kracht will be delivering the sermon at First Baptist Church in Gibbon on May 24th. Jesse is going to serve as camp Pastor at Camp Moses Merrill this summer along with being invited to the World Mission Conference. Pastor Richard is currently collaborating with the Pastor in Valley to start organizing their assigned responsibilities. The Easter outreach went well. We are continuing to look for an organist. The Vision Team was asked to consider organizing a spiritual retreat, where members could come together to discuss current challenges and plan for the church's future.

*Upcoming events are Mother's Day, Memorial Day

*Marcia Added we should have breakfast for the upcoming seniors.

*As there was no other business, Pastor Richard closed in prayer

Respectfully submitted - Shelly Bowen, clerk.



APRIL BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWER

What was a "paschal lamb" and what were the necessary features of one that makes it symbol of Jesus? Can you think of another who made a similar reference? The Paschal Lamb we know better as the Passover Lamb described in Exodus 12 was to be a male lamb without blemish, sacrificed in whole, and whose blood upon the doorposts meant that the "death angel" in Egypt would not take the first-born male child of those within. Jesus was without sin, died without a bone broken, and his blood covers us with God's protection from the wages of our sin—death, not to mention that he was the first-born of Mary, as well as the uniquely born of God. At his baptism John the Baptist refers to him with the phrase, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," in John 1:29.

MAY BIBLE PUZZLE

Which prophet describes himself not as a prophet, but as one who tended fig trees? In a similar vein, what did Paul describe as his commercial vocation?

For the Weary Heart

Day 1: Matthew 11:28-30

Day 2: Psalm 73:26

Day 3: John 14:27

Day 4: Psalm 55:22

Day 5: 1 Peter 4:19

Day 6: 2 Corinthians 5:6-7

Day 7: Psalm 147:3

Day 8: 1 Peter 5:7

Day 9: Isaiah 40:31

Day 10: Luke 10:41-42

Day 11: Nehemiah 8:10

Day 12: John 16:33

Day 13: Psalm 4:8

Day 14: Exodus 33:14

Day 15: Psalm 121:1-3

Day 16: Jeremiah 31:25

Day 17: Hebrews 12:12-13

Day 18: Colossians 1:29

Day 19: Galatians 6:9

Day 20: Proverbs 3:24

Day 21: Psalm 46:10

Day 22: John 16:24

Day 23: Isaiah 26:3

Day 24: Hebrews 4:16

Day 25: Psalm 55:6

Day 26: Proverbs 23:23-24

Day 27: Psalm 18:31-32

Day 28: James 1:12

Day 29: Revelation 2:3

Day 30: Hebrews 6:10

Day 31: Isaiah 55:11



**This is the day
that the Lord has
made; let us
rejoice and be
glad in it.
-Psalm 118:24**



**FBKids!
Bring a Friend**



BOWLING NIGHT

Get ready for a night of **Strikes** and **Spares**...don't worry about the distance - it's right up the Alley!

WEDNESDAY

MAY 6TH
6:30P-8:00PM

30 Bowl
1205 E 23rd ST

402-721-1265

Need a Ride?
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FREE FOOD**



Nola Crooks 02
Chris Raasch 02
Mary Weldon 05
Richard Crooks 09
Jessica Schollmeyer 12
Deakon Scott 14
Adam Schollmeyer 23
Frankie McKee 28

MPYC is a high school youth conference sponsored by American Baptist Churches of the Rocky Mountains, ABC of Nebraska, ABC of the Dakotas, ABC of the Central Region, and Mid-American Baptist Churches.

This conference is for high school youth who will be entering 9th grade in the fall and those who most recently graduated high school.



mpyc-abc.org



MOUNTAINS & PRAIRIES Youth Conference

JUNE 14-18, 2026

YMCA OF THE ROCKIES
SNOW MOUNTAIN RANCH
GRANBY, COLORADO



Keynote Speaker
REV. DJ DANGERFIELD

COST:
\$375 BEFORE MARCH 15, 2026
\$400 AFTER MARCH 15, 2026.

APRIL BIBLE HISTORY ANSWER

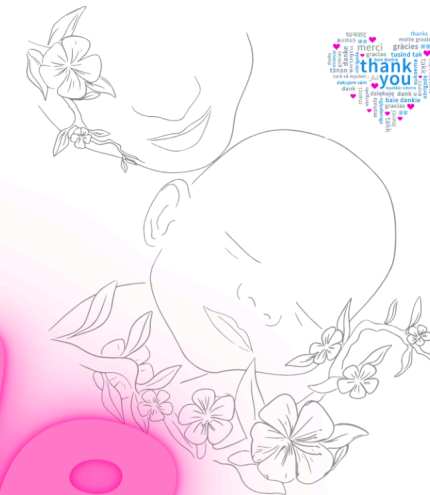
John Bunyan penned (at least a significant portion of) Pilgrim's Progress while in an English prison for refusing to follow the Church of England (Anglican) rules, preaching instead as a Puritan or "non-conformist." That book is said to be the second most published book in history, second only to the Bible in terms of beloved reading among Christians ever since. (It was very popular in the Soviet Union prior to its breakup.) It was first published in 1678 and has always been in print since then, available in over 200 languages, and currently can be found in a modern English version. If you have not yet read it, now might be a good time to pick it up and do so!

MAY HISTORY PUZZLE

There are two church groups who are considered the most ancient Christian churches, one probably older than the other. What are they called and where are they located?



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"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm 19:1

Through the Good Neighbor Fund (GNF), we're able to help those in our church and community with financial assistance and Hy-Vee food vouchers. As the fund begins to run low, your support can make a meaningful difference. Please consider giving—thank you for being such a generous church family!



Thank You



WE WERE ABLE TO DONATE/GIVE YOUR DONATED BASKETS TO CHILDREN WE SERVE. THEIR MOMS WERE SO THANKFUL AND ALSO ENJOYED THE GIFT BAGS.
WITH GRATITUDE - CATHY SAMPSON | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




SCAN ME!



Things Happen and Plans Change -
It's Always A Good Idea to Verify
Dates/Times/Places :)

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study Friday Bible Studies will return in September	2 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun & Fellowship (FC)
3 COMMUNION 9:30a - Traditional 11a - Casual (FC) 6p - FBYouth (7-12) Last Day!	4 9a - Men's Coffee	5 7p - AA Meeting	6 10a - Women's Coffee 6:30p - FBKids Bowling @ 30 Bowl 7p - Bible Study	7 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study/Zoom	8 9a - Men's Coffee	9 8:45a - Personnel Meeting 9:30a - Vision Team
10 Mother's Day 9:30a - Traditional 11a - Casual (FC) 11a - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag/Movie (FC)	11 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle 6p - Woodcarvers	12 Delivering FOOD to Schools 11:30a - Hannah Circle @ Gringo's 7p - AA Meeting	13 10a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	14 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	15 9a - Men's Coffee	16 9:30a - ABW Bible Study 2p - Fremont High School Graduation
17 9:30a - Traditional 11a - Casual (FC) 11a - Bible Study 2p - Logan View Graduation	18 9a - Men's Coffee	19 7p - AA Meeting	20 10a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	21 10a - Pastor-Led Bible Study/Zoom	22 9a - Men's Coffee 10a - Nye Sq. Bible Study	23
24 9:30a - Traditional 11a - Casual (FC) 11a - Bible Study	25 OFFICE CLOSED 9a - Men's Coffee 6p - Woodcarvers MEMORIAL DAY	26 7p - AA Meeting	27 10a - Women's Coffee 7p - Bible Study	28 5:30p - Kay Circle Mat Weaving	29 9a - Men's Coffee	30
31 9:30a - Traditional 11a - Casual (FC) 11a - Bible Study	<p><i>'Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.' - John 15:13 esv</i></p>					<p>Cookies & Coffee</p>  <p>3 - Esther 10 - Naomi 17 - ABM 24 - Hannah 31 - Esther</p>