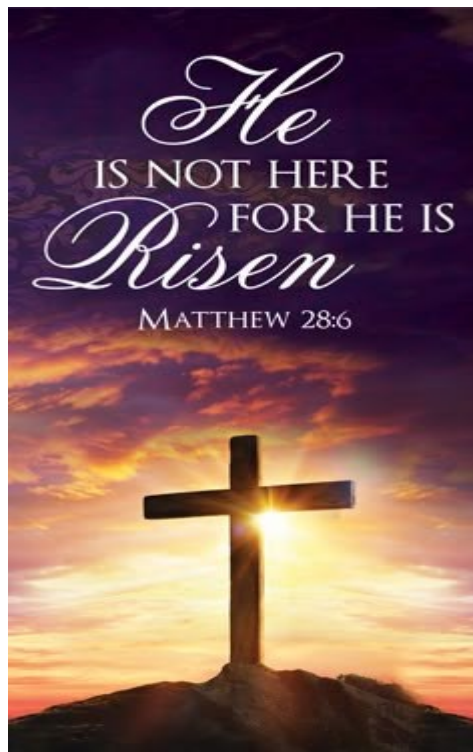




BELLVIEW
Baptist Church

Week of April 5, 2026



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Pastor Bob's Message...



Calvary: The Hill That Changed the World

Few places in all of history carry the weight, wonder, and meaning of Calvary – also called Golgotha. The name “Golgotha” comes from an Aramaic word meaning “Place of a Skull” (John 19:17, NKJV), while “Calvary” is derived from the Latin *calvaria*, also meaning “skull.” Whether because of the shape of the hill, the presence of skulls from executions, or its association with death, this place became the most significant location in human history – not because of what it was, but because of what happened there.

The Bible gives us a brief but powerful description. After Jesus was condemned under Pontius Pilate, He was led outside the city of Jerusalem to a place called Golgotha. Crucifixion sites were intentionally located outside the city walls, both for ceremonial reasons and as a public warning. Hebrews 13:12 reminds us, “Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.” Even in location, the suffering of Christ fulfilled God’s divine plan.

A Brief Historical Glimpse

While the Gospels do not give detailed geographical descriptions, historians and archaeologists have spent centuries identifying the likely location of Calvary. Today, two main sites are considered:

1. The traditional site within the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem.
2. The “Garden Tomb” area, often associated with “Gordon’s Calvary.”

Both locations were outside the city walls during the time of Christ, even though the modern city has grown around them. This aligns with the biblical account. Crucifixions often took place near major roadways, meaning many people would have seen Jesus on the cross, fulfilling Psalm 22:17.

The Story That Took Place There

What happened at Calvary is the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus Christ, the sinless Son of God, was crucified between two criminals. Though innocent, He willingly took upon Himself the punishment for the sins of the world.

Luke records one of the most touching moments: one thief mocked Him, while the other said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” Jesus replied, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:42–43, NKJV).

At Calvary, we also hear the words: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34). And finally, “It is finished!” (John 19:30). This was a declaration that the debt of sin had been paid in full. Fun (and Meaningful) Facts About Calvary

- The word “skull” symbolizes death, yet Calvary became the place where death was defeated.
- Darkness covered the land from noon to 3 p.m. during the crucifixion.

Pastor Bob's Message Continues...

- The veil of the temple was torn in two at the moment of His death (Matthew 27:51).
- A Roman centurion declared, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54).

What Calvary Means to Us Today

Calvary is not just a historical site—it is a spiritual reality. Romans 5:8 says, "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."


At Calvary, justice and mercy met. God's holiness required payment for sin, and His love provided that payment through His Son. For the believer, Calvary is the place of forgiveness, redemption, and hope.

Conclusion

Calvary may have once been just a hill outside Jerusalem, but it became the center of God's redemptive plan. From a place of death came eternal life. From suffering came salvation. And from that rugged cross came the greatest message the world has ever known.

On that hill, Jesus didn't just die... He changed everything.

Pastor Bob



**Bring
your 3**

**Join Us at
the Altar**

JUNE 15–19, 2026 | Union University, Jackson, TN

\$100 deposit for students by Sunday, May 3.

YOUTH

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

If you would like to help a student go to Youth Camp, please pick up an envelope from the Welcome Center!

CAMP

Pastor Bob's Message....

God Is Life-Giving: The Resurrection That Changes Everything

Sunday School Series: "God Is: Understanding the Character of God" - Lesson Five

In our continued study of the character of God, we now turn to one of the most powerful and hope-filled truths in all of Scripture: God is life-giving. This truth is not merely a statement about God as Creator, though He is indeed the giver of all physical life. Rather, it reaches its fullest expression in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, where God demonstrates His authority over death and His power to grant eternal life. The central point of this lesson is clear and foundational to the Christian faith: the resurrection of Christ changes everything.

The reality of the resurrection is not simply a theological idea – it is the dividing line between despair and hope, between death and life, and between religion and true salvation. Without the resurrection, Christianity collapses. But because Christ rose from the dead, everything about our past, present, and future is transformed.

The Gospel of Mark gives us a vivid and personal look at the first witnesses of this life-changing event. In Mark 16:1–6, we find a group of women approaching the tomb of Jesus early in the morning after the Sabbath. Their purpose is simple: to anoint the body of Jesus with spices, a final act of love and devotion. Their expectations are grounded in sorrow, not hope. They are not coming to witness a miracle; they are coming to mourn the dead.

However, when they arrive, they are immediately confronted with something unexpected. The stone that had sealed the tomb has been rolled away. Upon entering, they do not find the body of Jesus, but instead encounter a young man clothed in a white garment – an angel – who delivers a message that would forever change human history: "Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here."

The phrase "he is risen" is central to understanding God as life-giving. The word "risen" comes from the Greek *egeirō*, which means "to awaken," "to raise up," or "to stand again." This is not symbolic or poetic language. It is a literal, physical resurrection. Jesus was not merely remembered fondly by His followers – He was raised bodily from the grave by the power of God.

This moment marks the greatest demonstration of God's life-giving nature. Death, which has plagued humanity since the fall of man, is confronted and conquered. The grave, once seen as the final destination of all mankind, is now revealed to be powerless in the presence of God. The empty tomb stands as a testimony that God has authority over life and death.

The resurrection also validates everything Jesus claimed about Himself. Throughout His ministry, He declared that He was the Son of God, that He had power to forgive sins, and that He would rise again on the third day. If He had remained in the grave, those claims would have been proven false. But because He rose, every word He spoke is confirmed as truth. The resurrection is God's stamp of approval on the work of Christ.

The Apostle Paul, writing in 1 Corinthians 15:1–4, further clarifies the significance of the resurrection by defining the gospel itself. He writes, "Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel... how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." In these verses, Paul outlines the essential elements of the gospel message: the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The word "gospel" comes from the Greek *euangelion*, meaning "good news." But what makes this news so good? It is good because it addresses humanity's greatest problem – sin – and offers God's perfect solution. Christ "died for our sins," meaning He died as our substitute. The phrase "for our sins" carries the idea of "on behalf of" or "in place of." Jesus took upon Himself the punishment that we deserved, satisfying the justice of God. However, the gospel does not end with the death of Christ. Paul emphasizes that Jesus "rose again the third day." This is the crucial element that transforms the cross from a symbol of suffering into a symbol of victory. If Jesus had died and remained in the grave, His death would have been no different from any other. But the resurrection proves that His sacrifice was accepted by God and that sin and death have been defeated. Paul also notes that these events occurred "according to the scriptures," reminding us that the resurrection was not an afterthought in God's plan. From the very beginning, God had purposed to bring life out of death. The Old Testament is filled with prophecies and foreshadowings that point to this moment. The resurrection is the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan, demonstrating His faithfulness and sovereignty.

In 1 Corinthians 15:20–22, Paul moves beyond the facts of the resurrection to explain its implications for all humanity.

Pastor Bob's Message Continues...

He writes, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." Here, we see the broader scope of God's life-giving nature.

The term "firstfruits" is rich with meaning. In the Old Testament, the firstfruits were the first portion of the harvest, offered to God as a sign of gratitude and as a guarantee of the full harvest to come. By calling Christ the "firstfruits," Paul is teaching that Jesus' resurrection is not an isolated event. It is the beginning of a greater resurrection that will include all who belong to Him.

Paul also contrasts two representatives of humanity: Adam and Christ. Through Adam, sin entered the world, and with sin came death. Every person born into this world is "in Adam," meaning they are subject to sin and its consequences. But through Christ, a new reality is made possible. Those who are "in Christ" receive life—spiritual life now and eternal life in the future.

The phrase "made alive" comes from the Greek *zōpōiō*, meaning "to give life" or "to quicken." This is the essence of who God is. He does not merely preserve life; He creates it, restores it, and sustains it. He brings life out of death, hope out of despair, and victory out of defeat. Understanding that God is life-giving has profound implications for our daily lives. First, it changes our standing before God. Because of the resurrection, we can be forgiven of our sins and declared righteous. We are no longer under condemnation, but are accepted in Christ. Salvation is not something we earn; it is a gift we receive through faith in the risen Savior.

Second, it changes how we live each day. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in every believer. This means we are no longer enslaved to sin. We have the ability, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to walk in newness of life. Christianity is not just about a future hope—it is about present transformation.

Third, it changes our perspective on death. For the believer, death is no longer something to fear. It is not the end, but the beginning of eternal life with God. The resurrection assures us that just as Christ was raised, we too will be raised. This gives us comfort and confidence, even in the face of life's greatest uncertainty. Finally, it changes our purpose. We are called to share the life-giving message of the gospel with others. Just as the women at the tomb were instructed to go and tell the disciples, we too are commissioned to proclaim the good news that Jesus is alive. In a world filled with death, despair, and hopelessness, we carry the message of life.

In conclusion, the truth that God is life-giving is most clearly seen in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The empty tomb is not just a historical fact—it is a living reality that continues to impact lives today. It assures us that death has been defeated, that sin has been forgiven, and that eternal life is available to all who believe.

The resurrection changes everything. It changes our past by providing forgiveness, our present by giving us new life, and our future by securing eternal hope. Because He lives, we can live also.

"He is not here: for he is risen." And in that simple yet powerful declaration, we find the very heart of who God is—a God who gives life.

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Pastor Bob

LOOKING AHEAD/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 5

9:00 AM Bible Study
10:00AM Worship Service/Easter Sunday
6:00 PM NO Evening Service

Wednesday, April 8

6:30 PM Mid-Week Services / Student Ministry, TeamKid, Mission Friends
7:40 PM Adult Choir Practice

NO Evening Service on Sunday, April 5!



Hope Unlimited Baby Bottle Campaign

Change for Life

Mother's Day, May 10, 2026
through
Father's Day, June 21, 2026



VBS
2026

June 1 – 5
6 – 8:30 PM



Grades K – 8

WEEKLY SCHEDULE/GIVING

LIVE STREAMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 5—10 AM

Sunday, April 12—10 AM

**Sunday Bulletin and the
monthly newsletter are online!**

Go to

www.bellviewbaptistpaducah.com

Only newsletters that will be sent out are
the members with no email addresses.

Last Sunday's Report for March 29, 2026

Required Weekly.....\$7,842.52

Offering Received.....\$6,536.00

Designated Received.....\$1,385.00

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK

Deacon of the Week

Mark Wilkins – 270-543-7927

Greeters/Welcome Center

Keith & Bonnie Hodge | Ruthie McCabe

April Ushers

Keith Byers – Kenneth Harper – Jason Olroyd

Andy Pegram – Richard Sawyer – Ray Shelton

Safety Team for Sunday, April 5 – #1

Card Ministry for April—Linda Hatley

Please NO food or drinks in the Worship Center.

**THERE WILL BE
NO NURSERY
SUNDAY, April 5
Easter Sunday**