



## The Deeper Challenge in Cancel Culture by Gerrit Dawson, Senior Pastor

The strife is everywhere. Between friends. Between family members. Between generations. A great divide seems to have opened up. Everything seems political. Everything seems to be about race. Everyone is always offended. We hate the conflict but don't really even understand it. What's going on?

The church of Jesus faces particular challenges. We know we are sent to the most difficult and desperate people and places with the gospel of Christ. We know Jesus loved the outcast and challenged the powerful. We resonate with the yearning for equality. Yet we feel that something is amiss in the demands for justice that want to deconstruct the way we've always lived. It's hard to sort out Christian compassion from "woke" compulsion.

The mission of the church remains the same: to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth, to regard everyone in the loving light of Christ. Yet we face increasing hostility. In fact, we face competition. There is a worldview competing with us for adherents. A religion that wants to replace us. It's a religion of harsh legalism and burning urgency that demands total allegiance. It's a promise of an earthly utopia that has no blue print except dismantling structures deemed oppressive. It resists being identified and wants everyone to view the world through its lens as the "normal" way of seeing.

Call it cancel culture, cultural Marxism, woke theology, or sim-

ply "justice, equity and diversity." Whatever the label, it has a source. The technical name is Critical Theory. Christians of all ages need to understand the view of the world that underlies so much of today's discussions. We need to be able to grasp what's being said in order to evaluate if it's really compatible with the gospel.

Our "Stay-Treat" on August 20-21 will feature three dynamic presentations by an expert in Critical Theory. Dr. Neil Shenvi brings the rigor of his background in theoretical chemistry along with his unique ability to present complex issues clearly. You can read more about Neil at [shenviapologetics.com](http://shenviapologetics.com).

Please plan to join us. And bring a car load! We can't afford not to understand what's going on in our current cultural conversations.



### The Deeper Challenge in Cancel Culture First Presbyterian Stay-Treat, August 20-21

Talk 1: "Critical Social Justice and Christianity: Are They Compatible?"

Talk 2: "Critical Race Theory: A Deep Dive"

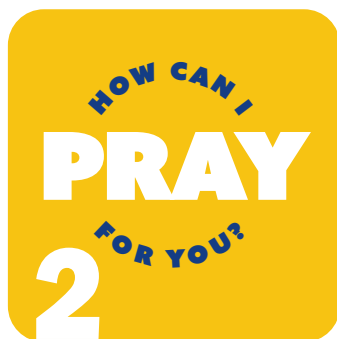
Talk 3: "Christianity and Justice: Cautions and Suggestions"



*Gerrit*

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**AUGUST EVENTS**

Combined 10.30 Worship AUG 1  
Sunday School Kick Off AUG 8  
LSU Prayer Walk AUG 14  
Stay-Treat AUG 20 & 21

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Combined 10.30 Worship SEPT 5  
Faith & Football SEPT 12  
Habitat Build Begins SEPT 30

**BIRTHS**

April 27, 2021 - Emery Kate Chapman  
Parents are Chelsey and Jacob Chapman

June 8, 2021- Caroline McClure  
Parents are Brandy and Chris McClure  
Grandparents are Kelly and Ken Mizell

June 12, 2021- Arthur Ellery Boyd  
Parents are Caitlin and Greg Boyd

July 22, 2021- Thomas Anthony Means, Jr.  
Parents are Elizabeth Landreneau and  
Thomas Anthony Means

**BAPTISMS**

June 13, 2021- Claire Turner Webber  
Parents are Claire Peyton and Rawley  
Webber

**MARRIAGES**

June 12, 2021  
Melissa Hall to Calvin Fabré

June 26, 2021  
Anne Marie Falls to Daniel Kerr

July 17, 2021  
Lindsey McKowen to Kemp Travis

July 24, 2021  
Abbey Ashmore to Tripp Bryant

**IN MEMORIAM**

June 19, 2021  
Martha Ann "Marty" Martin  
Daughter of Joe Scoggin

July 13, 2021  
Evelyn Coco

July 20, 2021  
Ancy Firnberg - Mother of Tim Firnberg

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

The Chapel and Sanctuary flowers are placed . . .

AUG 1 & 8 Open dates.

AUG 15 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Nora Will Diehl and Joan Diehl Smith, grandmother and mother of Cathy Pugsley by David, Cathy and Catherine Pugsley.

AUG 22 . . . to the glory of God and in loving memory of Annslee Laura Phillips by Lauren Teague Phillips and N. LaRon Phillips.

AUG 29 . . . by Ann K. Gregorie and family in memory of her parents, Florence and Mack Gregorie and in honor of her aunt, Nita K. Harris.

**Pew Prayer Partners** By Rev. Jim Solomon, Assoc. Pastor of Pastoral Care & Prayer

Have you glanced at our church website lately regarding "Care" ministry and "Prayer" ministry? I often find myself and over 100 volunteers who serve in this ministry caring for those who need pastoral counseling, crisis-intervention, hospital visitation, homebound communion, bereavement services, care card ministry, marriage mentoring, grief care, recovery ministry, meal ministry and looking after our elderly members. Yet, without prayer, there would be no true care. That's why I thank the Lord for setting the record straight regarding the preeminence of prayer above anything else we do to show others God's care.



We are a church that believes in prayer. I'm always amazed by the many people who daily lift up the concerns of members and others in our lives. If I had an opportunity to share all the answers to prayers that I have witnessed during my five years here, I would need many hours to do so! God hears his children and responds in ways that he knows are best, whether the answer to a prayer request is "yes," "no," or "not yet" (See Matthew 7: 7, John 15: 7-8, and 1 John 5: 14-15).

Every week, Christ's people at FPC gather to ask for his tender mercies on behalf of others. Requests are lifted up during worship services and by our elders, staff and other prayer partners throughout the week. We also have a Prayer Room by the Sanctuary building elevator staffed with pastors/elders and others who are willing to intercede on your behalf following the 9 am service. On Fridays, praises and prayers are emailed to those who join us in asking God to intervene on behalf of our people and others. During the week, you may call me, the church office or write us at [prayer@fpcbr.org](mailto:prayer@fpcbr.org) with any special requests. You can indicate if you want the request to remain confidential or if you would like it to be shared with other trusted prayer partners.

Now I'm very excited to announce a new way in which we can cast all our concerns on him as he cares for us (1 Peter 5: 7)! Pew Prayer Partners will be available beginning September 12 near the front and back of the Sanctuary following each service and in the Dunham Chapel following each service. You'll see them wearing tags asking "How Can I PRAY for you"? If you feel more comfortable asking someone to quietly pray with you rather than sharing your request in the Prayer Room, look for a Pew Prayer Partner. He or she will be happy to sit with you to lift up any requests for you. Here's to the God who said, "Ask and you shall receive!"

**August 8 Sunday School Fall Kick Off** by Darin Travis, Director of Discipleship

After a restful summer, our Sunday school teachers are thrilled to have you back in class starting Sunday, August 8! We have three outstanding classes for you to consider at the 10.10 am hour. 1) Kingdom Builders taught by Ryan Dickerson. This class will take a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark. This action-packed gospel account portrays Jesus as God in their midst from the opening verses till the end. Full of great discussion, this class is well loved by many. 2) Church History taught by Jeff Swarner. A history teacher by profession and student of history by passionate desire, Jeff will lead a study on the transforming influence of Christianity on world history from Babylon to the Beatles. Using the bestselling book "Dominion" by Tom Holland as the foundational mate-

rial, this class will be sure to engage everyone from the new believer to the avid history buff. 3) Crossroads is back by great demand. Barry Phillips will once again gather his Sunday school flock and welcome newcomers as well. Barry has been investing untold hours in studying the book of John and is eager to share his knowledge. Come join this class that loves each other incredibly well.

In addition to the 10.10 am Sunday school hour, we will continue to have our beloved "Tom & Jerry" class meeting at 9 am. This class meets right after the 7.45 service and will continue their epic journey through the book of Romans. Kevin McCarter's passion for Scripture and excellence as a teacher makes this class one you won't want to miss!

**Women's Fall Study: Esther** by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women's Ministry

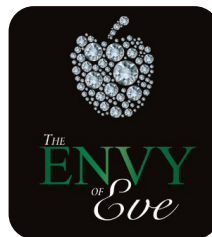
The book of Esther tells how an exiled Jewish girl became the queen of Persia and, with the help of her cousin Mordecai, rescued God's people from those that sought to destroy them. There were no signs and wonders, no special revelations, no miracles. This teaches us that God's plan is often achieved through his divine providence working through ordinary events. Even the actions of those that oppose God are woven into the purposes determined by him.



Esther's story also teaches us that God's sovereignty does not negate human responsibility. He has set us apart, to live in this world with courage and integrity, to carry out the responsibilities before us and to trust him to protect and provide for us even when we cannot feel or see him. In fact, God is never mentioned in the book, revealing that even when he is most conspicuously absent, he is all-powerfully present. He providentially watches over us and no power leveled against us will ultimately prevail. Our Esther fall study begins the week of September 1 and concludes November 11: Wednesdays @ 6.30 pm via Zoom and Thursdays @ 9.30 am in FPC Room 202. Childcare is available by contacting Jaime Carnaggio ([jaime@fpabr.org](mailto:jaime@fpabr.org)).

**Women's Ministry Circles** by Jaime Carnaggio, Director of Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry Circle book for 2021-22 is *The Envy of Eve: Finding Contentment in A Covetous World*, by Melissa Kruger.



*The Envy of Eve* exposes the reality of our covetousness, examines its ugly roots and explores the depth of this common sin in our lives. Through the illustrations of biblical figures such as Judas, David and Joseph, we see how discontentment, unbelief and a failure to trust God rob us of a life fully satisfied in Christ. And we begin to see that it is not our circumstances, relationships, or our abilities that need transformation . . . it is our hearts!

Join us this year as we discover how to replace covetousness with contentment. In turn, we are drawn toward true joy in a life of gratitude and service that more fully honors and glorifies our Heavenly Father, who has given each of us a cup that truly runs over, if only we have the eyes to see.

Women's Circles meet monthly for study, prayer, and fellowship from September through May. Contact Jaime Carnaggio ([jaime@fpabr.org](mailto:jaime@fpabr.org)) if you are interested in either joining or leading a Circle.

**Small Groups Forming Now** by Darin Travis, Director of Discipleship

We all know that the Christian life was not meant to be lived in isolation. God has fashioned us for community. To continue our efforts of living in community and loving one another well, this fall our small groups will kick off on September 7. As the Sunday services kick off a series on 1 Thessalonians, we are excited to have our small group content complement the sermons. Groups will focus on one of two topics. Many of our groups will use Ray Vander Laan's "Dust of The Rabbi" material found on Right Now Media. This teaching will provide wonderful context and understanding of the 1st century church that will really help 1 Thessalonians sermons come

alive. For those who listen to Gerrit's sermons on Sundays but always want more, many of our groups will study 1 Thessalonians verse by verse following along with each Sunday's passage. Discussion questions coming from the sermons and verses will help these groups go deep with each other and God's Word.

Groups will come in all shapes and sizes: married or single, coed, men or women, live or virtual, weekly or every other week. There is sure to be a small group that fits your preferences. To find a group, contact Kelly Wood at [kelly@fpabr.org](mailto:kelly@fpabr.org).

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**

7.45 Chapel Communion  
9 am Contemporary  
11 am Classic Reformed  
Livestream at 9 and 11 am on YouTube and Facebook

**AUGUST SERMON TEXTS**

*Texts are subject to change.*

AUGUST 1, 2021  
Psalm 139: 17-18; John 1: 14;  
John 14: 16-17; Matthew 28: 20b;  
Hebrews 11: 6

AUGUST 8, 2021  
Romans 3: 23-25a; Colossians 2: 13-14;  
1 Timothy 1: 15-17

AUGUST 15, 2021  
Hebrews 2: 14-16

AUGUST 22, 2021  
2 Corinthians 5: 15

AUGUST 29, 2021  
Acts 3: 19-20; Revelation 1: 4-8

**PASTORAL STAFF**

GERRIT DAWSON  
Senior Pastor

WHITNEY ALEXANDER  
Associate Pastor of Missions

BARRY PHILLIPS  
Ministry Executive

JIM SOLOMON  
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care & Prayer

DARIN TRAVIS  
Associate Pastor for Discipleship



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Mother's Day Out and Preschool  
225.620.0245

Baton Rouge Christian Counseling Center  
225.387.2287  
[brchristiancounseling.com](http://brchristiancounseling.com)



### **LSU Prayer Walk**

Let our love and passion for Christ mobilize us to intercede for the unreached international and American students at LSU and in our city. Join us to walk and pray by 2s and 3s across the LSU campus. Prayer guides will be available. Meet under the shady oaks in front of the LSU Union at 8.15 am on August 14. Parking is usually available directly in front of the Union or in the parking lot behind Barnes & Noble across from the Union. Contact Jim Solomon if you have questions ([jim@fpabr.org](mailto:jim@fpabr.org) or 387.0617).

### **Nursery Helpers Needed**

The So Loved ministry is looking for helpers for the nursery on Sunday Mornings. Volunteers typically serve for one hour, one Sunday per month. If you feel led to help minister to the precious children in our church, please contact Karah Guillory ([karah@fpabr.org](mailto:karah@fpabr.org) or 225-278-8753).

### **Mentors Make a Difference**

All children face challenges. Sometimes kids need a little support to build resilience and hope. Research shows that by helping a child feel loved and valued, the child can better learn, grow and succeed. A Kids Hope USA mentor spends one hour each week talking, reading, playing and listening to a child at Gardere Community Christian School. Mentors receive training and support. Contact Annette Lamond to learn more about being a mentor ([annette@fpabr.org](mailto:annette@fpabr.org)).

### **Buchanan Elementary Needs Our Help!**

Our sweet adopted school is in need of school supplies for the upcoming academic year. These supplies help families who are not able to provide the required items for their children. Please consider picking up "extra" supplies when you are out shopping this summer so these children can be blessed! Items may be left at the Connection Center. Items needed: booksacks (heavy duty if possible-no wheels), plastic 3-prong pocket folders (red, yellow, blue, green), red pens, pencils, multi-colored highlighters, washable Crayola markers, colored pencils, 24-count crayons, black dry erase markers, pink pearl erasers, loose leaf paper (wide-ruled), protractors, school supply boxes, pencil bags, Fiskar scissors (blunt tip), watercolor paint sets, 4-pack glue sticks, wide-ruled composition books.

Help us make a difference in the lives of our neighbors just two miles from our church! For more information, contact Laura Shaw at [laura@fpabr.org](mailto:laura@fpabr.org) or call 387.0617.