



A total solar eclipse is coming to our area on Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the last major eclipse to cross North American for the next 20 years. With the moon closer in proximity and an increase in solar flare activity, it should be quite a sight!

The loss of sunlight will have various impacts: a decrease of solar power collection, ionosphere changes in temperature & electrons, and possible HF radio & GPS navigation hiccups.

Perhaps one of the most interesting effects of the loss of sunlight will be the "Purkinje effect" where the lower light levels will cause our eyes to see reds & oranges more darkly and muted, while blues, purples, & greens will seem brighter. The sun itself and colors will not actually change, but our eyes' ability to perceive & process them will.

Not having our full amount of sun-light reminds me of the iconic words of Prov.29:18 that we often memorize, *Where there is no vision, the people perish* -- but what does that mean? *Vision* here is not about any physical ability or capacity; it's about perceiving & accepting the revelation of God.

Not having our full amount of SON-light will affect our spiritual vision & behavior.

- Perish is sometimes rendered "no restraints" or "run wild" -- indicating a rebellious spirit & behavior
- Life becomes self-centered -- things become more about "me" than about Jesus
- Priorities become more about maintaining the status quo instead of seeking God's face / leadership
- Practice of love / grace gives way to a critical & judgmental spirit
- We lose our mission zeal & turn inward, spending our time, energy, & money on personal agendas

So, let's get out there this month and enjoy this special work of our Creator in bright (and dim) display.

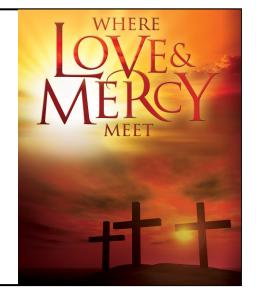
But, let's also personally & continually focus on the SON, Jesus, and continually let Him positively affect our spiritual vision and behavior.

Be looking for a new Wednesday study beginning April 17<sup>th</sup>!

—Wade

A big thank you goes out to everyone who has been very gracious and supportive of me and my family as we transition to First Baptist Church, Alvarado. You have made us feel very welcome and right at home. I would also like to say a big thank you to our Adult Worship Choir! What a wonderful presentation Sunday as we proclaimed the good news of Christ and his resurrection. Join me in appreciating all that each member did to make that happen. I know the Lord was lifted up and honored through their efforts. I look forward to great things from them in the future.

- Associate Pastor of Worship, Travis Sampson



## **UPCOMING CHURCH EVENTS**

• April 17

**New Wednesday Evening Curriculum** 

• April 27

Men's Crawfish Boil 1PM

• April 28

**Guess Who's Coming to Dinner** 



Congratulations goes out to our church staff this month: Wade Taylor, April 4<sup>th</sup>, on his 29th Anniversary as Senior Pastor Tara Monrose, April 10<sup>th</sup>, on her 7th Anniversary as Church Secretary

## **FINANCIAL UPDATE:** (4/1/2024)

Current Checkbook Bal <u>Designated Funds Bal.</u> Total Available Funds	\$60,648.86 \$13,357.34 \$47,291.52
2024 Giving Received	\$67,234.00
2024 Giving Needed	\$85,997.47





The time is coming for senior recognition!

To the parents of our seniors please have them here and ready for May 19. We will recognize them during the morning service and then return at 6:00 pm for the Baccalaureate Service. We are excited to celebrate these Seniors! They are all amazing and God will bless them in their next steps in life. I urge you to pray for them and to encourage them through the rest of this school year.



## **FBCA SENIORS**

Olivia Monrose Andria Harris Kinkaide Brown Aaron McGowen Gavin Rios

Also, there is still a need for Camp funds. Camp is July 8-12, 2024. If you would like to donate to camp, please contact me (TJ) or Tara in the office.

We still need a female adult to go to camp with us. This is not a yearlong commitment, but it is something to grow in relationship with the students and to begin to disciple the youngest



generation of Christ followers to become leaders. Please reach out to me (TJ) to get more information on how camp works and what is needed from you.



T. J. Arango Associate Pastor of Students

Scan the code to sign up by 04/17/24 or pick up a sign up sheet in the foyer and return to the church office.

Dinner is on Sunday 04/28/24 from 6-8pm





