

*fbc palmetto*  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PALMETTO

JULY  
5  
20 15

# GOD & COUNTRY

*Part 2*

*Jeremiah 6*

*Pages 633-634*

**Developing Missionaries Who  
*Share the Love of Christ*  
with Our Community & Beyond**

*Welcome to First Baptist*

*Weekly at FBC*

*God Bless America*

*Welcome*

*Every Praise*

*All Hail the Power*

*What a Friend  
We Have in Jesus*

*Xfuge Report*

*Prayer*

*Jesus Loves Me*

*Today's Sermon*

*Dr. J. Phillip Hamm*

**MONDAY-FRIDAY:**

- 7:30 am WEE World
- 7:30 am King's Kids
- 8:30 am Church Office

**SUNDAYS:**

- 8:00 am Library Opens
- 8:30 am Worship Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Worship Service
- 9:15 am Bible Studies
- 10:45 am Worship Service
- 10:45 am Bible Studies

**WEDNESDAYS:**

- 4:00 pm Library Opens
- 6:00 pm Prayer & Bible Study
- 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 6:15 pm All Youth
- 7:00 pm Orchestra Rehearsal

*Events This Week:*



1020 Fourth Street West  
Palmetto, Florida 34221  
9 4 1 . 7 2 2 . 7 7 9 5  
<http://www.fbcpalmetto.com>

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

- 6:30 pm Couponing Seminar
- 7:00 pm GO Team Meeting

*Coming Soon:*

- July 18: Adopt a Block
- Aug 1: Adopt a Block
- Aug 4: Deacon's Meeting
- Aug 11: Ladies Love Class Luncheon
- Aug 12: GO Team Meeting
- Aug 15: Adopt a Block
- Aug 24: Public School Begins

*Pastoral Team*

*Dr. J. Phillip Hamm, Senior Pastor*  
*Scott Perkins, Worship*  
*Kel Cunard, Executive & Education*  
*Todd Poppell, Connections & Students*

*Deacons of the Week*

*Jim Price & Bill Rogers*

# Sermon Notes – July 5, 2015

## God & Country – Part 2

### Jeremiah 6

Big Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Application: \_\_\_\_\_

---

# Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been lost? How did it feel?
- What causes a person's life to end up somewhere they never wanted to go?
- Has your life turned out the way you thought it would? Why or why not?
- When you read Jeremiah 6:16 about the “ancient paths” what does it make you think of?
- Think of specific areas of your life (marriage, work, finances, etc.). How do you want each area to turn out? What needs to change to ensure this occurs?

## Bible Reading Plan

2014-15 Chronological  
2-Year Reading Plan: Week 79

### Monday

- Matthew 10:16-42
- Matthew 14
- Psalm 104:16-35

### Tuesday

- Mark 6, Luke 9:1-17
- Psalm 105:1-10

### Wednesday

- John 6
- Psalm 105:11-25

### Thursday

- Matthew 15
- Psalm 105:26-45

### Friday

- Mark 7, Matthew 16
- Psalm 106:1-9

# Monday – God & Our Country

*“Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I turn from you in disgust, lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land.” Jeremiah 6:8*

In 1630, eleven ships set sail from England for the New World. Led by their future governor John Winthrop, who carried the charter that would establish the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the ships carried over a thousand Puritans to our shores in search of a new life.

This venture was rooted in faith and the belief that God was doing something incredible through their efforts. While on board the lead vessel, the *Arbella*, Winthrop delivered a sermon that captured a hope that would shape our nation.

*For we must consider that we shall be as a City upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us. If we deal falsely with our God in this work we have undertaken and so cause Him to withdraw His present help from us, we shall be made a story and a byword throughout the world; we shall open the mouths of enemies to speak evil of the ways of God and all believers in God; we shall shame the faces of many of God's worthy servants and cause their prayers to be turned into curses upon us, till we are forced out of the new land where we are going.*

Winthrop's sermon produced a harvest of faithfulness in the young colony, and his dreams were echoed in our nation for generations to come. His 'city on a hill' reference was quoted by President-elect John F. Kennedy in 1961 and President Ronald Reagan during his 1984 acceptance of the Republican Party nomination and his farewell address to the nation in 1989. They still believed we could be that shining city.

From its inception, our nation was founded on Biblical principles and rooted in a firm belief in the sovereignty of God. We collectively knew that any measure of our greatness was found in His goodness. In just a few centuries, we have grown to a place of global prominence and influence not seen in the history of the world; and at many times and in many ways, we have been that city on a hill.

Sadly, I fear we are on a path toward fulfilling the second part of Winthrop's sermon. Who could say we are not dealing "falsely with our God"? Oh, how far we have fallen, and we must now be on the verge, if not past the point, of Him withdrawing "His present help from us."

What happens to a nation who turns her back on the Lord? Read *Jeremiah 6* and see how the Lord responded to the nation of Judah when they rejected Him.

## Tuesday – Bitter Pills

*"Therefore I am full of the wrath of the Lord; I am weary of holding it in."*

*Jeremiah 6:11*

Have you ever had one of those moments when a Bible verse just made your day? Whether a friend shared it, or you found it in your own reading, its beautiful words spoke joy and hope into your life. Scripture is full of such wonderfully encouraging passages:

Jeremiah 6 is *not* one of those passages. From start to finish, it is dripping with the Lord's wrath toward the rebellion of His chosen people.

- *This is the city that must be punished; there is nothing but oppression within her. (v. 6)*
- *Be warned, O Jerusalem, lest I turn from you in disgust, lest I make you a desolation, an uninhabited land. (v. 8)*
- *Therefore I am full of the wrath of the LORD; I am weary of holding it in. "Pour it out upon the children in the street, and upon the gatherings of young men, also; both husband and wife shall be taken, the elderly and the very aged." (v. 11)*
- *"Were they ashamed when they committed abomination? No, they were not at all ashamed; they did not know how to blush. Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; at the time that I punish them, they shall be overthrown," says the LORD. (v. 15)*

We delight in the good news of the Gospel, but we struggle to choke down the bitter pills of God's wrath found in Scripture. Nevertheless, the bad news only makes the good news better. Even in the midst of this difficult chapter, there is a glimmer of hope. The Lord gives His people a way of escape. He invites His children to return to the safety of His will. "Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls." (v. 16) He implores them to hear the warning of coming doom. "I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!'" (v. 17)

Tragically the people of Judah did not listen to His plea. Although they knew the ancient paths, they said, "We will not walk in it." Even though they heard the watchmen's trumpet, they said, "We will not pay attention." And God's wrath was eventually poured out on them, and they were ripped from their homeland.

God has called us to be watchmen for our nation. America has been every bit as rebellious as the people of Judah, and we are in line for the same consequences they faced. In light of God's hatred for sin and His overwhelming love toward sinners through Jesus, we are to be the ones sounding the warning trumpet of God's judgment and pointing toward the saving message of His cross.

# Wednesday – Salt & Light

*“You are the light of the world.” Matthew 5:14*

On the heels of the celebration of our nation's independence, let us turn our attention to the way we have used and abused our freedom. Consider the following signs of our nation's moral decay:

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of Americans who claimed “no religion” more than doubled between 1990 and 2008.
- There are currently 750,000 registered sex offenders in our country.
- Pornography accounts for thirty percent of all internet traffic.
- More than 56 million babies have been slaughtered since the Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion in 1973.
- America has the highest incarceration rate and the largest prison population in the world.
- One out of every three children lives in a home without a father.
- There are 33,000 active gangs in the U.S. with more than 1.4 million members.

I don't list these facts to bring shame on the individuals who are living with them. I only want to shine a light on our world's desperate need for the hope that WE have. It is easy for us to lose our courage in the shadow of our despair, but now is the time for us as followers of Christ to renew our resolve. Today our nation needs us to look and act like Jesus more than ever. *Read Matthew 5:13-16.*

We cannot snap our fingers and stop our country's decline, but we can bend our knees and call on the God who can. We cannot fix all the problems we see, but we can fix our eyes on the One who is bigger than all our worries and fears. The Lord who called us to be salt and light is able to work in us and through us to stem the tide of our nation's moral decay. The greatest hope for our nation and our world is the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. In spite of all we have done and how far we have fallen, He went to the cross and died for every one of our individual and corporate sins. Our nation is but one pervasive revival away from returning to the hope on which we were founded.

Although we are heartbroken when situations and statistics remind us of our downward spiral, we very quickly settle in to the new normal until another moment of decay jolts us from our slumber. The most recent sign of our decline is the recent decision by the Supreme Court to legalize gay marriage in all fifty states. The nightly news and our social media news feeds have been overrun by responses on both sides of the issue. And we are left with the responsibility to be salt and light while we are overwhelmed by emotions and burdened with more questions than answers. Over the next two days, we want to provide (in these pages and on our blog) some Biblical answers for these trying times. We hope they will help to equip you to be the light of the world in the darkness of our times.

## Thursday – Questions for Christians Now Waving Rainbow Flags by Pastor Kevin DeYoung

*For evangelicals who lament last Friday's Supreme Court decision, it's been a hard few days. We aren't asking for emotional pity, nor do I suspect many people are eager to give us any. Our pain is not sacred. Making legal and theological decisions based on what makes people feel better is part of what got us into this mess in the first place. Nevertheless, it still hurts.*

*There are many reasons for our lamentation, from fear that religious liberties will be taken away to worries about social ostracism and cultural marginalization. But of all the things that grieve us, perhaps what's been most difficult is seeing some of our friends, some of our family members, and some of the folks we've sat next to in church giving their hearty "Amen" to a practice we still think is a sin and a decision we think is bad for our country.... If you consider yourself a Bible-believing Christian, a follower of Jesus whose chief aim is to glorify God and enjoy him forever, there are important questions I hope you will consider before picking up your flag and cheering on the sexual revolution. These questions aren't meant to be snarky or merely rhetorical. They are sincere, if pointed, questions that I hope will cause my brothers and sisters with the new rainbow themed avatars to slow down and think about the flag you're flying.*

*How long have you believed that gay marriage is something to be celebrated? What Bible verses led you to change your mind? How would you make a positive case from Scripture that sexual activity between two persons of the same sex is a blessing to be celebrated? What verses would you use to show that a marriage between two persons of the same sex can adequately depict Christ and the church?*

*Do you think Jesus would have been okay with homosexual behavior between consenting adults in a committed relationship? When Jesus spoke against porneia what sins do you think he was forbidding?*

*As you think about the long history of the church and the near universal disapproval of same-sex sexual activity, what do you think you understand about the Bible that Augustine, Aquinas, Calvin, and Luther failed to grasp?*

*How would you define marriage? Do you think close family members should be allowed to get married? Should marriage be limited to only two people? On what basis, if any, would you prevent consenting adults of any relation and of any number from getting married? Should your brothers and sisters in Christ who disagree with homosexual practice be allowed to exercise their religious beliefs without fear of punishment, retribution, or coercion? Will you speak up for your fellow Christians when their jobs, their accreditation, their reputation, and their freedoms are threatened because of this issue?*

*If some homosexual behavior is acceptable, how do you understand the sinful "exchange" Paul highlights in Romans 1? When Paul at the end of Romans 1 rebukes "those who practice such things" and those who "give approval to those who practice them," what sins do you think he has in mind?*

*Food for thought, I hope. At the very least, something to chew on before swallowing everything the world and Facebook put on our plate.*

*Read Romans 1 and consider these important questions. To read the full article, check out the link on our blog: [www.fbcpalmetto.com/fbc-media/blog.html](http://www.fbcpalmetto.com/fbc-media/blog.html)*



## Friday – How Do I Love? By Pastor J.D. Greear

*There's an old saying: "The ground is level at the foot of the cross." And it's probably the most helpful way to answer this question. How do you love your gay friend? By remembering how lost you were when Jesus found you. You start by remembering that you are a sinner and they are sinners. Beyond that, I see three ways we can practically love our gay friends and neighbors:*

**1. Don't judge them.** *"Don't judge." This is probably the non-Christian's favorite Bible verse. It's quoted as a way of saying that we shouldn't ever tell people that what they're up to is wrong. But as I've explained before, it can't mean that. Jesus spent his entire life correcting error, and he commands us to do the same.*

*But here's the catch: even though Jesus was clear about what was right and wrong, he didn't judge the world (John 3:17). How? By telling us the truth and then bringing us close. He made us—sinners—his friends. You judge someone not when you assess their position, but when you dismiss them as a person...What this means for us practically is that even when someone disagrees with us, we don't push them away. We draw them close. No, we don't abandon our convictions. But our relationships with people can't be contingent on their agreeing with us. We have to love our gay neighbor more than we love our position on sexual morality.*

**2. Love them enough to tell them the truth.** *People often ask me, "What if your son declares that he's gay one day?" I cannot imagine a human being I love more than my son. But if I love him, I will tell him what God's Word says, plainly. If I fail to do that, I am not loving him. And I hope I can teach him, like his daddy, to come to the feet of Jesus, broken and repentant—both of us broken men who need a Savior, repentant toward a wickedness in our hearts that we have no way of overcoming. If he was born with a proclivity toward same-sex behavior and I was born with a proclivity toward anger, pride, deceit, and unfaithfulness...well, we both need to be born again.*

*And if he and I don't agree about this issue? Well, then I'll do what Jesus did. I won't judge him. I won't send him away. I'll keep bringing him close. But I'll continue to tell him the truth, to warn him that the Bible says a day of judgment is coming. The righteous Judge will return and hold us all to account.*

**3. Show them a greater love.** *Our sexual desires go down to our very core. They are so deep that it's easy to want to define ourselves by them. But we need to realize that sex isn't the answer to our soul's desire; it's the question. We're all thirsty and starving for love. But the love that we need isn't the love of another human being; it's the love of God. We are all captives to sin, and only the love of God sets us free. There is a beautiful illustration of this in John 8. A woman caught in the act of adultery is brought to Jesus, and what does he say? "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."*

*I've always been amazed at the order in which He put those two statements. Most of us would have put change before acceptance: clean up your act and come back when you've gotten your life together. But Jesus knew she would never have the power to change until she had felt the weight of his acceptance. God's acceptance is the power that liberates us from sin. It is not the reward for us having liberated ourselves...*

*Only the weightiness of God's acceptance can empower us to forsake idolatry. Our message is not simply, "Stop sexual sin." Our message is, "Behold the grace of your God!"*

To read the full article, check out the link on our blog: [www.fbcpalmetto.com/fbc-media/blog.html](http://www.fbcpalmetto.com/fbc-media/blog.html)

## Weekend – Going Public

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19*

As we launch our *You Asked for It* series, we begin with a very important question: Why should I be baptized? This question is not just one of your submissions; it is also one we hear regularly from both new believers and those who have walked with Jesus for years.

However, this question's importance does not rest on the number of people who asked it. Its significance is found in its greatest proponent. With His parting words (*Read Matthew 28:19-20*), Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them to obey His commandments. But in spite of His clarity, many of us still struggle to comply. Whether it is because of the tradition in which we grew up or due to our own hesitancy to step outside our comfort zone, some who have surrendered their lives to Christ have not submitted to His call to be baptized.

At the end of the day, baptism is about two things: obedience and identification. It is about doing what Jesus said and officially going public with your allegiance to Him. Join us this Sunday as we dive in to this topic and discover why we should be baptized. As you prepare, read the following passages and prayerfully consider what God might be calling you to do.

*Read Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; Acts 2:36-41; Romans 6:3-6.*

### Prepare for Worship

As you prepare your heart for worship on Sunday morning *read Psalm 63* and ask the Lord to reveal the thirsts of your soul.

### Pray for the World: Greece

Although Greece was the first place to receive the Gospel in Europe (Acts 16-18), today it is one of the most unreached nations in the world. Less than one percent of its 11 million citizens are Evangelical Christians. It is actually against the law to share the Gospel with non-believers.

On top of a desperate spiritual condition, Greece's crippling national debt has placed it on the verge of an economic collapse. Unemployment is increasing across every demographic. Income levels are decreasing even as the cost of living continues to rise. At the moment, the banks are closed for ten days awaiting the resolution of the Greek government's request for a new financial bailout plan. If this situation remains unresolved, millions of Greeks will lose their life savings.

Pray for spiritual awakening, economic recovery and boldness among the nation's few believers to make Christ known without fear.

## Live Streaming Services

Are you going to miss a service? We stream our Sunday services live over the internet.

- 1) Go to our church website: [www.fbcpalmetto.com](http://www.fbcpalmetto.com)
- 2) Select the "media" tab at the top of the page
- 3) Select "live services" from its drop down menu

The weekly sermon and devotionals are also available under the "media" tab.

## Pardon Our Dust

The main office has moved to the second floor behind the Baptistry. Renovation has begun on the first floor vacated office space. In the near future this area will be converted to three new adult Sunday School classrooms.

## Children's Volunteers

Week 2 July 12

**Preschool Worship:** Susan Barfield, Linda Hazelbaker, Bobby & Amy Manning, Floyd McDole, Sandy Monahan, Wendy Puffenburger, Tom & Wendy Roland, Heidi Severson, Tristin Smithson

**Bed Babies:** Carin Hall, Nancy Mendenhall, Courtney Robinson, Shari Stinton

**Children's Worship:** Jeremy & Sheila Evans, Kris & Cheryl Rickly

## Beyond These Walls . . .

This week it is our privilege to pray for World Trumpet Mission. Hans and Cindy Vandergouw seek prayer for leaders in the body of Christ to be refreshed, renewed and revived. They are seeing leaders all over the region and nation who are very tired and discouraged.

## Couponing Tips & Tricks

Do you want to learn more about getting the maximum out of store coupons? Then this class is for you. Please join us in Conference Room B on Wednesday, July 8th at 6:30 pm. The class will be led by Ann Marie Jessup. There is no cost for this class.

## Are You Our Guest Today?

We invite you to fill out a "Connection Card" located in the pew rack in front of your seat. If you have a specific request or want to know more about the ministries of our church, let us know on the back of the card. Please drop your card in a "Connection Box" located at each exit of the Worship Center.

**fbcpalmetto**  
Connection Card

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Are You:  Single  30's  
 Div/Time Guest  Engaged  40's  
 Repeat Guest  Married  50's  
 Member  Divorced  60's  
 Wives Young  Widowed  70's

Names & Ages of Children Living with You: \_\_\_\_\_

100 Fourth Street West Palmetto, FL 34221

1020 Fourth Street West  
Palmetto, Florida 34221  
www.fbcpalmetto.com  
941.722.7795

**YOU  
ASKED  
FOR IT?**

*Sermon Series Begins Next Week:*

**Over the past few weeks, we have been receiving your questions and will begin a series next Sunday to answer them.**

*Week 1: Why should I be baptized?*