



New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Who Ought We Thank?

by Elder Dolph Painter

A Movement exists in our country to remove God and God's name from any and all things associated with government: its buildings, its currency, its pledges and anthems, the oaths sworn by those taking office, sitting on a jury, or testifying in a courtroom. So how long will it take legislators to officially change the name of Thanksgiving to Turkey Day?

I know God's name is not specifically spoken when we say Happy Thanksgiving, but it is implied. For Whom do we give thanks? Mother Nature? A political party? Our inner self? The force?

- God and God alone was Who George Washington wished to thank when he requested the country observe a day of thanksgiving, and the nation complied with his request in 1789.
- God and God alone was Who Abraham Lincoln wished to thank when he proposed perpetuating George Washington's day of thanksgiving, and Congress legalized his proposal in 1863.
- God and God alone was Who

Franklin Delano Roosevelt thanked when he observed our national day of thanksgiving, and in 1944 Americans amen'ed their radios.

- Turkeys and turkeys alone are who our legislators wish to thank when they remove God and God's name from any and all things associated with our government, and in 2016 Americans are allowing them to do so.

Once upon a time, Israel thanked a calf. That didn't turn out well – Exodus 32:35. Ounce upon a time, Corinth thanked a man. Neither did that idea work out -- 1 Corinthians 1:12-13. Once upon a time, Ephesus thanked their stuff. That also bombed – Revelation 2:4. Fast approaching is the day when America will thank a turkey.

If I know anything about our American forefathers, they would have us thank the God of heaven. If I know anything about cause and effect relationships, we should thank the God of heaven. May God be longsuffering as we gobble, gobble, gobble.

We were blessed to be able to spend time with Brandon's parents, M.L. and Sheila King, from Mississippi Primitive Baptist Church. Pictured with Connor, Brandon and Robin King.



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Worship Service
Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study
Wednesday 7:30 p.m.

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Pastor's Letter - Elder Glenn Blanchard

When I was teaching school, each teacher had a key to his own room. Thus your access was limited. If you needed to get into another room you had to find someone with a "master key." Having a "master key" meant you had access to everything. For Bible readers, it is the same. We can read and understand what we read, at times. But, to understand the grand design of the Bible we need a "master key." That is the Holy Spirit. We must remember to pray for understanding every time we pick up the Bible. I urge all of God's children to plan to read through the Bible in 2017. I believe the Holy Spirit will bless you with understanding.



Newborns are a gift from God. We recently welcomed Ray and Kyla Blanchard's son, Levi (Above) and Luke and Mary Lawrence's son, Phillip. Pictured with older siblings, Lorianne and Nathan. (right)



From Law to Grace - By Elder Sonny Phelan

"But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held' that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter." –Romans 7:6

A Pharisee of the Pharisees, Paul knew what it was like to worship under the old law service, but in Romans, chapter 7, he gives his experience of coming from law to grace. And what was it that brought about this change? He met Jesus!

Under the law service, Paul had seen the priest rise up and echo forth a string of "Thou Shalt Nots" while giving the people the opportunity to present their sacrifices, but how much better was grace. Being delivered from the eternal consequences of the law, Paul was thankful to worship under the gospel dispensation, to "serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter;" when he could admit that he had fallen short of the requirements of the law and point to one who had kept the law for him, Jesus, the friend of sinners. This is coming from law to grace.

Before Paul met Christ, his only knowledge of sin was "by the law." His knowledge was that of the head and not of the heart, "For I had not known sin, but by the law" – Romans 7:7. Though the law was taught to Paul by one of the most knowledgeable men of his day, this religious training did not change Paul's heart. Nor can it change any heart. By law is knowledge, not feeling. While he saw sin as a transgression of the law, his heart was not smitten and his conscience was not wounded by it. Therefore, one may be taught what is right and what is wrong by the letter, but until Christ lives in the heart by His spirit, performance can only be one of duty and not of love.

The law was not designed to make a person love God any more

than a speed limit sign will make one love those who enforce it. C. H. Spurgeon said, "Many preachers must confess the uselessness of mere moral preaching. There is no instance on record that I know of that the mere preaching of the law made a man love God, or, where the heart ever was, or ever could be, renewed by doing good works." If Christ does not live in the heart, God's laws are hated and the lawgiver is abhorred; laws are seen as negative restrictions rather than positive guides and helps. But when we come to grace, we learn that the law is for our good and for God's glory as they warn us of the sin that will surely destroy us. Rather than keeping them for fear of punishment, we keep them because we love the One who gave them.

Paul learned that the law had limitations. Though it was just and holy, and revealed his sin, he could not get to heaven by keeping the law. "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain" – Galatians 2:21.

While under the law, Paul thought he was doing a great job and deserved Heaven's highest seat. Paul and his Pharisee friends had made gates (excuses) around God's laws and he could say "touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." But when he met Christ, the law was magnified. He saw sin in a way that he had never seen it before. He saw it in Paul! And no matter how hard he tried to keep the law, evil was still found within. We read of his struggle in Romans 7. How sad was the plight as the

man verily tried to work his way to heaven. How cruel was the law that he could not fulfill. But how kind was the Savior as he revealed Himself to Paul as the "end of the law." Our faith must stand in the finish works of Christ and not in our ability to fulfill the law.

He also learned that keeping the law will not give one spiritual life, no matter how grand and glorious the priest's requirement, "for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law" – Galatians 3:21. As the wind blows where it "listeth (pleases), and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" – John 3:8. Who can command the wind? While it blows in one place and not another, so the Spirit blows where it pleases and imparts Spiritual life to the objects of God's grace.

While law and grace do compliment one another, they say different things. When I see the law, it thunders and smokes as Sinai did before the children of Israel. It is strong and powerful, much more powerful than a sinner, but grace is stronger than our sin. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" – Romans 5:20. While the law says "Do," grace says "I have done for you." The law says "Guilty." Grace says "Not Guilty, I became your guilt." The law says "Give." Grace says "Freely receive." The law is a cruel taskmaster and says "Make more bricks." Grace says "It is finished."



Brother Dick Lawrence welcomed the opportunity to worship with his daughter and son-in-law, Lorelei and Mike Lopez, who attend Camp Creek Primitive Baptist Church.

Wishes

I wish I had a telescope,
To scan the starry skies
But since I have no telescope
I'm glad I have two eyes.

I wish I had a kitchen
Run by push button commands
But while that kitchen's still a dream,
I'm glad I have two hands.

I wish I had a super car
To give my friends a treat,
But till that new car comes along,
I'm glad I have two feet.

Two eyes to look to God above,
Two hands to clasp in prayer,
Two feet to carry me to church,
Why!!! I'm a millionaire!



We enjoyed the fellowship with Sister Zelma's great-niece, Rhonda and her family, Sean, Eli and Miriam Lendowski.

Brother Reed Luther is attending school in the area to become a motor boat mechanic.



Letter

Thank you so much for all your articles. We enjoy them so much. Please accept this small donation. Brother Glenn has been a wonderful friend in Christ for a very long time. We love all of you & may God continue to bless all of you. Love & prayers.

By His Grace,
Elder Roger & Sister Janice McDonald
Andersonville, GA.



It is nice when friends of like faith come to visit. The Spezzano family, Jim and Kelly, with sons Joshua and Timothy, regularly attend Salem Primitive Baptist Church.

We enjoyed wonderful fellowship with Carl Yeager and his daughter Karen Stevens, from Flint River Primitive Baptist Church, in Huntsville, Alabama.



Biographical Sketch - Elder Charles Sandage

Elder Sandage was born March 11, 1922 at Bee Branch, Arkansas in Van Buren County. In 1925, his family moved to Hot Spring County, Donaldson, Arkansas where Elder Sandage still lives. In 1940, when Elder Sandage was eighteen years old, he joined Harmony Church in Donaldson. He was the last person baptized by his future father-in-law, Elder W. H. Lee.

In 1942, Elder Sandage married Virgie Mae Lee, Elder Lee's youngest daughter. The Lord blessed the Sandages with two

sons: Charles Lee, born March 1943, and David Berry, Born January 1957. Elder Sandage served in the U. S. Air Force from October 1942 until December 1945.

Elder Sandage was ordained as a deacon in February 1948 and made his first effort to speak to the church in 1949. In August of 1953, Elder Sandage was ordained to the ministry. He was called to pastor every church that his father-in-law, Elder W. H. Lee, had pastored in his lifetime, one being his home church at

Donaldson. In 1965 the church at Donaldson went to full time services and called Elder Sandage to serve them, which he did until 1995. Elder Sandage resigned at Donaldson and moved his membership to Mt. Paron Church near Fordyce where he still serves as pastor.

We were thankful to see Sister Leta Dunn and her daughter, Debbie. Sister Leta is recovering from shoulder surgery, please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.





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50th Florida Fellowship Meeting

Hosted by Little Union Primitive Baptist Church of Lithia,
Florida

Schedule for the Meeting:

Thursday, February 16th

- service at 7 PM

Friday, February 17th

- service at 10AM

- lunch at 12:30 PM

- service at 2 PM

- supper at 5:45 PM

- service at 7 PM

Saturday, February 18th

- service at 10 AM

- lunch at 12:30 PM

- service at 2 PM

Sunday, February 19th

- service at 10:30 AM

- lunch at 12:30 PM

Little Union is Located at 15510 County Road 39 Lithia,
Florida 33547

More information is available at:

www.LittleUnion.com/ffm-2k17

Contact: Brother Jamie Arnold 731-693-0679

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