



New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Spiritual Birth - By Elder Dolph Painter

Spiritual birth is the transformation whereby a person is turned into a child of God; it's the operation whereby God's spirit takes residence in a person. Scripture refers to spiritual birth with many terms. Some terms are unique to spiritual birth (i.e. born again, made alive). Scripture discusses spiritual birth and only spiritual birth each time these words are used. However, other terms used to describe spiritual birth have more than one meaning. These words may or may not be discussing spiritual birth. Sometimes these words address an entirely different subject. For instance:

- Quicken – to make alive: In Ephesians 2:5 quicken speaks of spiritual birth, but in Psalm 119:50 quicken does not speak of spiritual birth. How can we tell? Context. Ephesians 2:1-4 speaks of dead sinners who are the target of God's grace; whereas, Psalm 119:50 is written by a prophet who gets excited reading God's word.
- Sanctify – to set apart. In 1 Peter 1:2 sanctify speaks of spiritual birth, but in 1 Thessalonians 4:4 sanctify does not speak of spiritual birth. 1 Peter 1:2 speaks of the trinity's collaboration

in eternal salvation; whereas, 1 Thessalonians 4:4 speaks of a lifestyle which ought to be lived by baptized, believing, church members.

- Call – to summon: In 2 Timothy 1:9 called speaks of spiritual birth, but in 1 Corinthians 1:1 called does not speak of spiritual birth. In 2 Timothy 1:9 called is coupled with grace and immortality; whereas, 1 Corinthians 1:1 speaks of Paul's call to the ministry, his apostleship.
- Save – to deliver: In Titus 3:5 saved speaks of spiritual birth, but in 2 Peter 2:5 saved does not speak of spiritual birth. In Titus 3:5 saved is coupled with regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost; whereas 2 Peter 2:5 speaks of a literal flood.

This author's intention is to warn folks about automatic pilots. We all have them. Each time we go to scripture with a preconceived definition, a definition arrived at without consulting context; we risk error in Bible interpretation. And when a definition is off, interpretation and doctrine are off. May the Lord help us read scripture earnestly and honestly.



We were delighted to get to celebrate with Sister Leta Dunn for her birthday.



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

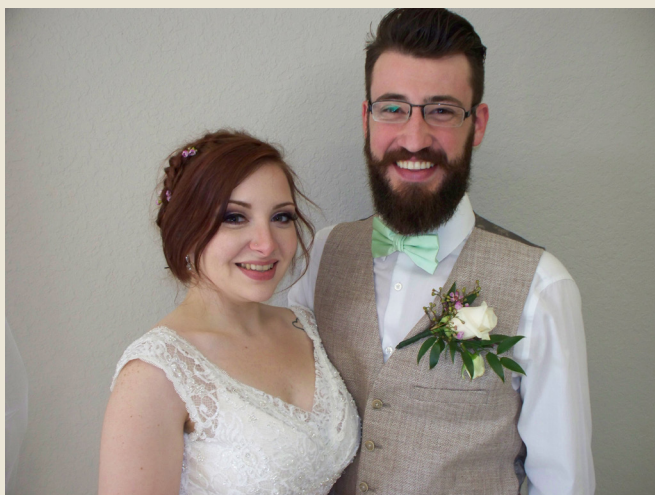
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Pastor's Letter - Elder Glen Blanchard

We have had a great year in Florida already. Just off the top of my head: The Winter Meeting at MacClenny PBC with Elders Chris and Tim McCool, then the Florida Fellowship Meeting with Little Union PBC, and on to the Gulf Coast Meeting with Bethel PBC in Bonifay, Florida. In April we have the El Bethel Annual Meeting with Elder W. C. Hatten in Tampa, then the Hebron Annual Meeting in Plant City with Elder Chris Folsom. From there it is on to Orange PBC in Apopka. In May we start with the Antioch PBC Annual Meeting in Vero Beach, with Elders Chris McCool,

Kerry Lathrop and James Allen, and closing May is our own Annual Meeting in Winter Garden with Elder John Melvin, on the Memorial Day Weekend (May 26-28). At Winter Garden we have been blessed to have the following Elders here this year: Josh King, Gary Harvey, Gus Harter, Luke Hagler, and Derek Kitchens. Their messages are on our website. You can see why we are thrilled with the prospects of the rest of the year.



What a blessing when two like-minded members come together. Congratulations John and Olivia Harvey on your marriage. May God richly bless you and your family. Also pictured (bottom left) Olivia and John, with John's family, Elder Gary, Becky, and Seth Harvey. Olivia's mom, Suzy Davis, with her parents, Jim and Faye Webb (bottom right).



Announcements

Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church Annual Meeting

Services: Friday, May 26th - 7:30 PM
Saturday, May 27th - 10:30 AM, lunch at noon,
2 PM, 6 PM, Communion Services at 7:30 PM
Sunday, May 28th - 10:30 AM, lunch following

Mt. Zion Primitive Baptist Church 2017 Nebraska Fellowship Meeting

We take this opportunity to invite you to attend the 2017 Nebraska Fellowship Meeting in June (8, 9, 10 and 11). God has wondrously and graciously blessed our previous meetings and we are looking forward to this year's meeting.

Contact: Elder Thomas E. Bond, Pastor home: (308)784-5518 or cell: (308)325-3957
Howard Halbgewachs, Deacon, home: (308)784-43201 or cell: (308)325-3302

New Book: A Resurrection Gospel: The Glorious Simplicity of Biblical Eschatology

Sovereign Grace Publications is pleased to announce the release of "A Resurrection Gospel: The Glorious Simplicity of Biblical Eschatology" by Elder Joe Holder. This 312 page paperback book is a study of the primary "resurrection" passages in both the Old and New Testaments. It retails for \$19.95 (plus s/h) and may be ordered at: sovgracepublications@gmail.com.

Fun fellowship and food after services.
Pictured EW McDonald, Kaitlin and Doug Jones.



All ages had fun while Brother John Harvey was teaching the congregation how to read shape notes.

The Greatest Question by Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr.

“What think ye of Christ?” - Matthew 22:42

With just one short question we discover the fountainhead of all theology. Surely, this is the greatest question that has ever been put before the minds of men. And from our answer we will discover much about ourselves: “What think ye of Christ?” Today, we will explore this great question of Christ under three headings: (1) Thinking; (2) How our thinking affects us; (3) The greatest question.

Thinking

Jesus is not only interested in our actions, He is also interested in our **thoughts**.

In the book of Matthew alone, Jesus addresses the subject of thinking 16 times with words such as, “Think not” and “what think ye.” It was by His questions that Jesus challenged the erroneous thinking of His day; thinking that robbed Him of His glory and His people of His comforts.

How Thinking Affects Us

Thinking molds the character. As one man said, “thinking is a chisel that molds our character, day by day, one chip at a time.” Robert Speer said, “Every day we are becoming more like our thoughts. It is true that ‘As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.’ No wonder Jesus is interested in how we think!

The devilish slogan, “free thinker” has permeated our society. We are told that parents should not direct their children’s thinking or they will disturb their achievement level. But what are we trying to achieve? Surely, Satan is behind this. Thinking right thoughts is a discipline of the highest order. Jesus was interested in the way that people thought. Should we not be as well?

Thinking affects us in ways that we have never imagined. Thinking affects our **feelings**. “What do you THINK about that?” may be substituted for “How do you FEEL about that?” Do you see why Satan wants people to be free thinkers? A mind set free will float downstream like a dead fish. It takes a Godly effort to control one’s thoughts and set the affections on things above. And how we think about Christ, who He is, and what He has done for us will affect our feelings toward Him.

We must know that Satan will do all that he can to rob us of the comfort that is found in Christ and Christ centered thinking. Since he is a liar from the beginning, he will fill our minds, not only with untruths about Jesus, but about the cares of this world as well. It has been found that only 8% of the things that we worry about actually come to pass. That means that 92% of the thoughts that disturb us are mirages. Satan’s lies, designed to rob us of our peace. We overcome the 92% by “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” – II Cor. 10:5. This Christ centered thinking is better than the philosophy of man. It is wisdom which descends from above!

The Greatest Question

But let us turn to the great question, “What think ye of Christ?” Jesus did not say, “What does the church think or what does the preacher think?” He did not ask what we think about self or the people around us. The question is a personal one between the believer and Jesus:

“What think **YE** of Christ?” What is **your** personal opinion of Him? Do **you** have one? Do **you** think about Him? Do **you** think that His blood was sufficient payment for the sin debt? Do **you** think that He died upon Calvary’s cross? Do **you** think that those He died for are secure from the consequences of eternal damnation because of His suffering, that the devil and all of his angels can never pluck even the least out of His pierced hands? Do **you** think that He did this for YOU?

Ah, here is [the] rub. Here is the bottom line. Here is the question that broke down their denominational barrier. Whether one hailed as a Pharisee or a Sadducee was unimportant to **the great question**. They could no longer hide behind their differences in doctrines concerning the resurrection, angels, or the hereafter. What they thought about Christ was the beginning to the end of their faith. And if we think; think spiritually; think logically; think personally; should not our thoughts lead us to Him? To own Him in Baptism? To identify ourselves as one of His? As Spurgeon said, “I never knew a person that had low thoughts of Christ that did not first have low thoughts of sin.” How much He has done for us must dictate how great our thoughts are of Him and our actions of obedience. Let His great question be followed by our great question, “Lord, what wilt thou have ME to do?”



We were fortunate to have Elder Luke Gagler and his family, wife Tiffany and their children Emma, Bailey, Hank and Jack.

Enjoying fine fellowship, pictured here are Ron Batten, Becky Roberts and Doug Jones.



We always enjoy the fellowship when special guest of members join us. Mary, Lorianne and Nathen were joined by Daniela, Daniel and Gabby Rutherford.



We always learn so much from our visitors, especially when they are from another country. Jenny Tomko with exchange students from China, Ashley and Sherry, along with Jenny's son, Christopher (above) J.T., Jenny and Christopher Tomko. (bottom left) Visitor Bobby Hodge. (middle center) Elder Charles and Doris Kitchens, with their son Elder Derrick Kitchens. (bottom right)



We were blessed to worship with several out of state visitors. Charlotte, Elijah, Kelly, Alex, and Audrey Montgomery, from Arkansas. (right) Bill, Phil and Julienne Irwin, from Maryland. (bottom)



Letters

Brother Blanchard,

We appreciate you sending us the Newsletter, so wonderfully done. The Bible teachings (lessons) are especially meaningful and a blessing.

Have a blessed day each day,

Brother Bob & Sister JoAnn Coleman

Dear Editor,

Enclosed is a small contribution for the newsletter, wish I could send more.

May our Good Lord continue to bless your ministry of spreading the Word. Hope to see you in May at Antioch PBC's Annual Meeting (May 5th through 7th) in Vero Beach.

Sincerely,

Sister Ann Mathis, Vero Beach, FL



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Please come visit us!

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A fun tradition of the ladies (and some gentlemen) of the church is to wear hats on Easter Sunday.