



New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

“Before the Foundation of the World” - Elder Sonny Phelan

“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” Ephesians 1:4

According to the Bible, a lot went on before this world was spoken into existence. Before man; before creation; before God manifested himself to man; God was involved in His mighty plan of redemption. According to Paul, God marked out a people to dwell with him in glory “before the foundation of the world.” They were known and loved long before their faces marked the sands of time. And were it not for God’s former preparation, where would the Saints be today? Adam failed; Noah’s generation failed; Israel crucified the Lord; and we too, have come short of the rigid demands of the law. The Saints should rejoice to know that God loved them and chose them, “Before the foundation of the world.”

Certainly, if the Saints were chosen before the foundation of the world, Christ knew who He came for. Isaiah prophesies of His perfect knowledge and His perfect redemption, “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities” -Isaiah 53:11. According to Isaiah, Christ went to the cross with “knowledge.” He knew both how to redeem and who to redeem. How could Isaiah make such a statement 700 years before Christ? Because it was planned and purposed “before the foundation of the world.”

John’s theology agrees with Paul’s. According to John, the Lamb’s book was written and completed before the

foundation of the world (Revelation 5:1-5, 13:8, 17:8). When Adam fell, His people were not forgotten. God is a better record keeper than the I.R.S. It was for those names that Christ came. The Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (our Jesus), was the only one “worthy” to open that book and release the captives (Revelation 5:15). This He did at Calvary.

Peter agrees as well. Peter tells us that Christ was “Foreordained before the foundation of the world.” This means that it was known of God before the foundation of the world that Christ would die for the sins of His people. Again, this was represented in types and shadows as the high priest placed his hand upon the forehead of the sin offering just before it was slain. This was to identify the chosen sacrifice for the sins of the people. Before our legal representative fell in the garden, the plan of redemption was secure. The sacrifice was chosen “before the foundation of the world.”

But let Jesus tell us about the love that God had for those that He chose “before the foundation of the world.” After all, He was there. In His priestly prayer, Jesus tells us that the Father loved His people in the same way that He loved His only begotten Son: “and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” -John 17:23. And how was that? “for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24. Since God’s love is eternal, we can not travel far enough into the halls

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Pastor's Letter - Elder Glenn Blanchard



Some of the members here and I are going through A. W. Tozer's book, "The Pursuit of God." It's a short book, written in 1948, by a pastor then serving in Chicago. His main concern is that post WWII American Christians were more interested in the façade of religion than in the real thing. He says that American Christians knew of God, but didn't know God. He cites their interest in church programs and entertainment rather than having a personal relationship. In a number of places he sounds like a Primitive Baptist. Sixty-nine years later he has proved to be exactly correct. If you'd like some thought provoking reading this fall, try A. W Tozer's book, "The Pursuit of God."



It is encouraging to see the Holy Spirit at work when Brothers in Christ make a public profession of faith through baptism. Doug Jones was baptized on October 1st!

Doug's sister, Cindy Gibson, from New Smyrna came to celebrate with Doug as he joined the church and was baptized.





We are always encouraged to worship with our church members' families. Pictured left is Mark Ernest, son of Margaret McDonald and stepson of Decon EW McDonald.



Local visitors Tasha and Alex with little baby Noah. What a privilege to get to worship with our area neighbors.

"Before the Foundation of the World" (continued from page 1)

of eternity and find the fountain head of God's love for His people. And this is the well spring of our love for Him. We love Him because He first loved us "before the foundation of the world."

Though some things are hard to understand in the Bible; language has never been plainer. According to Paul; according to John; according to Peter; according to Jesus; the Saints will dwell with God in glory because He ordained it to be so "before the foundation of the world." Knowing this, we are expected to come to some logical conclusions. As the old prophet said, "Come, let us reason together." Could one that He divinely chose be forgotten, left out, or overlooked? Could He fail in bringing the least to glory? Could Satan pluck

one or two out of His hand? We must answer in the negative to our cadence of questions. Surely, it would never make a child unhappy to discover that their father loved them before they were born. Nor to discover that their inheritance was abundant and secure. Let us enjoy the "earnest" of our inheritance and experience the security that is found in the finished work of redemption: Loved by the Father, chosen in the Son, redeemed by His blood, and quickened by the Spirit. All of this was planned "before the foundation of the world." Father, it is by faith that we lay hold upon thy finished works and find a peace that passeth understanding!



It is always a blessing to have frequent visitors, we enjoy the company of the Rutherfords, Robert, Daniela, Daniel & Gabby.



Sister Leta was on cloud nine as she was able to spend time with grandson Blaine Dunn and friend Karlie from Illinois.

What a blessing to be able to worship with the Poskocil family while they were vacationing in sunny Florida: Randy, Julie, Elijah, Preston, Hayden, and Kinsley.



Unremarkable - by Elder Dolph Painter

Shortly after my 50th birthday, my wife suggested I go to the doctor for a physical, but I didn't. On my 51st birthday, my mother teamed up with my wife and asked that I get a physical, but I didn't. Six months later, my father joined the chorus and I submitted. I couldn't resist all three.

I was poked and prodded as one might expect in such a physical. All looked well. I was told the results from the blood-work would be available shortly. Two or three weeks later, a post card from the doctor's office arrived in the mail. The card read:

X unremarkable
abnormal

Unremarkable really caught my eye. I thought, "What kind of description is that?" Couldn't they have said I was healthy, normal, or within acceptable limits? But once I considered the description next to the unchecked box, I thought, "I can live with

unremarkable."

My 19 year old son shared his thoughts. He said, "Dad, they probably mean nothing to talk about, unremarkable's literal definition. They are saying your blood is nothing to talk about." And my son was right. My blood is nothing to talk about. But there is One whose blood ought to be talked about. There is One whose blood is extremely remarkable. Peter was inspired to write:

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.** 1 Peter 1:18-19*

Only priceless blood could atone sin. That my friends, is something to talk about!

Dear Brother Blanchard,

I feel blessed to say I am a member of Mount Olive PBC in Roanoke, VA. As you know, Brother Dolph Painter is our dear pastor.

One of our precious sisters, Joyce Hodges, tells me of such good memories of being at Winter Garden PBC. I hope that some day the Lord will bless me to visit your church and I would love to be there – especially during your Annual Meeting.

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$20.00 to help you a little with sending the newsletters. I would appreciate it if I could receive them.

In bonds of Christian love,

Sister Peggy Phillips,
Vinton, VA

Sister Phillips,

We have added you to our mailing list. Please give my love to the Saints at Mount Olive.

Truly blessed to be able to worship with like-minded believers in Jesus Christ.

Pictured:

Sisters Karen Anderson and Ginger Sommerer from Missouri. (top right)

Sisters Margaret Wehner and Paula Winkle. (middle right)

Sisters Donna Lawrence and Norma Haslam. (bottom right)



Pictured on back

Left to Right:

Elder Glenn Blanchard with a few of the deacons Carol Philips, Bill Mcswain, Rodney Roberts and Ben Anderson.



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