



New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Together In Unity - By Elder Sonny Phelan, Jr.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Psalm 133:1

This beautiful thought comes from David's pen as one of the "Songs of Degrees." These short psalms have been of special interest to the Lord's people throughout the ages. Some have referred to them as the "Gradual Psalms." There have been many ideas advanced as to their special title. According to some, there were fifteen steps by which the priests ascended into the temple and on each step they sang one of these fifteen psalms. Others have suggested that these psalms were sung by the masses as they approached the temple to worship and the title refers to the change in the pitch of the song as the congregation neared the temple. How fitting a reminder and how beautiful would be the sound, as the great congregation journeyed toward the temple and lifted up their voices together and sang, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

The first word of this Psalm tells us that this is a Psalm of observation: "Behold!" When brethren dwell

together in unity it is always a notable occasion, something special to stop and take notice of.

For the Psalmist to pen such words by inspiration must mean that it is also an occasion worthy of Jehovah's special attention. Surely, the unity of the "brethren" far surpasses any natural wonder of the world. This remains to be a "Spiritual Wonder." It is a place where the Lord, "Commanded the blessing." The seven natural wonders can not claim such a promise! Quite unlike the society in which we live; unlike the chaos we find when we observe the daily news; this is a scene of tranquility and bliss, "Behold, how good and how pleasant."

The word that David uses for "pleasant" is quite instructive. It is a word the Hebrews used to depict musical harmony. Like an orchestra playing a symphony. The melody and the rhythm are harmonious. There is a spectrum of sound: highs and lows; strings and woodwinds; each under the influence of one Conductor. Their

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We were blessed to have the Warren family visiting from Crescent City, Florida. Mike, David, Kathy, Kasey and Ellie Sharp.



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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

In this issue you will find the information for the 2018 Florida Fellowship Meeting. This is a great opportunity to visit Florida in February. If you have "cabin fever" from being snowed in, you'll love the weather here in February. The folks at MacClenny PBC will be working hard to make things as enjoyable as possible for you. I encourage all of you to "come on down" and enjoy the Spirit of the Lord in Florida in February.



Enjoyed fun and fellowship during our meeting to celebrate God's blessings on Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church with Elders Jerry Williams, Jeff Winfrey, Glenn Blanchard, Donnie Riddell, and Charles Dennis.



Together In Unity (continued from page 1)

gifts and their graces compliment one another. How pleasant a serenade for “pilgrims” and “strangers” of this world. Surely, such a place would inspire a second visit!

Not only is such a place “pleasant,” it is equally good. It is a good for the people who dwell there; good for the cause of Christ; good for the community where such a place is found; and good for our posterity, the future inhabitants of Zion. Behold such a place! David’s special word, “brethren,” is short but sweet. It is a word that includes and excludes. It is suggestive of a family who have the same Father and the same Elder Brother, Jesus Christ who is their anointed High Priest. As we use this word, we not only refer to our spiritual relationship as the children of one spiritual Father; but as “kindred in Christ.” The best blessings are reserved for the family!

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the two brief pictures given by David in this Psalm are worth two-thousand words. Briefly consider these two pictures which depict such a place as we have attempted to describe.

Like the Precious Ointment

This precious ointment was the Holy anointing oil that God commanded Moses to compound according to the “art of the apothecary.” This was God’s precise formula which carried with it a sweet, distinct odor. It could not be compounded, used, or sold privately. The only place this fragrance could be enjoyed was within the walls of the sanctuary. From their earliest remembrance, the Hebrews were carried as tiny children to the temple and this special aroma carried with it many wonderful memories of pleasant times and experiences. It is known by those who study this science, that the olfactory gland

is the first of our senses that we remember. These scents we attach to people, places and events. The hay in the meadow, the freshly cut lawn, the leaves of autumn, and the sweetness of spring all bring to remembrance the joys of days gone by. Where brethren “dwell together in unity” we will enjoy such a fragrance and store many a found memory! As this holy oil was poured out, the sweet scent was noticed and appreciated from the least to the greatest. Just as the holy anointing oil produced a pleasant scent which permeated the temple to be enjoyed by all, the same may be said for brethren who “dwell together in unity.”

As the Dew of Hermon

Being the highest of all mountains in Palestine, the snow on the mountain’s cap condenses the vapors during the summer, so that abundant dews descend upon the lower mountains and surrounding plains. Therefore, when the outlying country is parched, there is moisture beneath Hermon because of her dew. The moisture that this mountain produces provides the best of all conditions for vegetation and plant life to thrive. David, the shepherd, was eye witness to the scene. From the mountain’s peak, David had surveyed his world around this great Hermon. The benefits of Hermon’s dew was apparent. The farther David’s eye traveled from her peaks, the more barren the terrain. How beautiful the picture. This place, where brethren “dwell together in unity”, provides the best environment for His tender plants to grow and prosper. Though the world is a parched place, marrow and fatness is found “where brethren dwell together in unity.” Lord, we thank thee for such a place!

Always enjoyable to worship with visiting family. Pictured Blaine and Eddra Patterson with Blaine’s cousin, Steven Acosta.



Story of the Oyster



Old friends are the best friends. Pictured middle, Hannah Chu, now attending law school in Virginia with Robin King (left) and Mary Lawrence (right).

There once was an oyster, whose story I tell,
Who found that some sand had got into his shell.
It was only a grain, but it gave him great pain,
For oysters have feelings, even though they're so plain.
Now, did he berate the harsh workings of fate
That had brought him to such a deplorable state?
Did he curse at the government, cry for an election,
Or claim that the sea should have given him
protection?

No! He said to himself as he lay in his shell,
"Since I cannot remove it, I shall try to improve it."
Now the years have rolled by, as the years always do,
And he came to his ultimate destiny – a bowl of stew.
And the small grain of sand that had bothered him so
Was a beautiful pearl, all richly aglow.
Now this tale has a moral, for isn't it grand
What an oyster can do with a small grain of sand?
What could we do if we'd only begin
With some of the things that get under our skin?

From "Words Fitly Spoken" a compilation by Sister Marlene Melvin

Las Vegas Primitive Baptist Church

Here is a current schedule of appointments at the Las Vegas PBC. Most of their visitors are Primitive Baptists from other states who are there on business or vacation: therefore, I think this will help keep people reminded to visit the church when in Las Vegas.

January 7 – Elder Doug Meeks
January 21 – Elder Craig Blair
February 4 – Elder Joe Nettles
February 18 – Elder Mike Ivey
March 11 – Elder David Wise

The church meets at 10:00 am every Sunday at the Bill and Lillie Heinrich YMCA located at 4141 Meadows Lane in Las Vegas. For more information I can be contacted at buddyabernathy1@gmail.com or 205-828-2454.

Thanks for your help,
Elder Buddy Abernathy

We were blessed to be able to worship with visitors Penny and Richard Mask, pictured with member Jay Blanchard and his nephew Levi.





We enjoyed wonderful fellowship with Jean, Lindsey and Jeff Caughel. (left)

Hannah Anderson throughly enjoyed tending to Phillip Lawrence. (right)



Three Important Words - By Elder Dolph Painter

Properly understood; foreknow, elect, and predestinate generate a great deal of joy and comfort in the heart and mind of a saint. Misunderstood, these three words do right the opposite, they foster anxiety and sense of injustice and in the mind of God's children. Foreknow, elect, and predestinate are words which a Bible reader may not ignore. Why?

1. 2 Timothy 3:16 says all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine. If God inspired all scripture then He inspired the words foreknow, elect, and predestinate. These words are found on pages of our Bibles. We cannot deny their existence – 1 Peter 1:2, Romans 8:29.
2. Revelation 22:19 says God is jealous over His word. He curses any who would remove words from His word, including the words foreknow, elect, and predestinate. We cannot ignore their existence – Deuteronomy 4:2, Romans 9:11-13, Ephesians 1:4-7.

3. Romans 8:30 says God's plan of salvation is a closed system, with none falling out and no additions. Those who were foreknown (foreloved), are those who were elected (chosen by God), are those who were predestinated (heaven bound). We cannot minimize foreknow, elect, and predestinate in God's plan of salvation – Ephesians 1:4-11, 1 Peter 1:2-9.

Purgatory, age of accountability, and dying grace are terms invented by men. Each of these concepts were created by men to catch the folks who fall through the cracks of their doctrine. This patchwork, these non-Bible based terms were created by men who deny the existence of foreknow, elect, and predestinate. Tough language? Sure, but what's more important – defending the words of God or defending the words of men? Thus saith the Lord ought to be our conviction, and God said He foreknew, elected, and predestinated a people. He never put us in Limbo.



Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church
P.O. Box 771048
Winter Garden, FL 34777

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Thanks!*

Please come visit us!

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2018 Florida Fellowship

Hosted by MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church in
MacClenny, Florida

Schedule for the Meeting:

Thursday, February 8th

- service at 7 PM

Friday, February 9th

- service at 10AM

- lunch at 12 PM

- service at 2 PM

- supper at 5:45 PM

- service at 7 PM

Saturday, February 10th

- service at 10 AM

- lunch at 12 PM

- service at 2 PM

Sunday, February 11th

- service at 10 AM

- lunch at 12 PM

Little Union is Located at 94 North Boulevard East
MacClenny, FL 32063

More information is available at:

www.macclennypbc.com/

www.facebook.com/macclennypbc

Elder David Crawford, Pastor

Elder Michael Green, Jr., Asst. Pastor