



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

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Are you led by the Holy Spirit?

“Well, yes, I have the Spirit of God in me since I trusted God for my salvation.” That of course, is not the question asked. The question is, “are you led by the Spirit?”. In other words, do you see and understand the prompting and directions the Spirit of God would have you go?

I revisited Romans 8:28 in sermon preparation time this week. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.” When reading this verse, it would be easy to take a laissez-faire attitude to life. “Que sera, sera!”, meaning whatever will be, will be. As a Christian, it would be convenient to look at this verse and think that it is all in God’s hands and we share no actionable agenda when it comes to God’s work. And I think that would result in spiritual deformation for the believer.

Prior to verse 28, Romans 8:25 deals with us waiting for the hope of the redemption of our bodies with perseverance. Perseverance would be an active forward motion through life regardless of circumstances with eyes fixed on God. That means our active participation! “But I am not equipped.” Doubt, fear, distraction, all encumber us to always walk strongly. Thankfully, we have other actions on the agenda if we are to grow more Godly found in verse 26 of Romans 8. Verse 26 supplies the understanding that our desires are tuned to God and growth through the mess of this world as we “pray”. We take the action to pray, even though ill-sufficient in this endeavor. Yet we pray. And what happens? The Holy Spirit meets us in prayer and teaches us our real needs. “... *the Spirit Himself makes intercession FOR us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*” Who needs informed of reality and truth, God the Father, or me, myself, and I? It seems that the information needed is for the one praying and the Spirit of God is ready to meet us in prayer to strengthen our walk.

Again, verse 27 shows it is our heart and mind that “HE” searches. Who is the “HE”? God the Father is looking into your heart as you pray, then makes intercession through the Spirit **FOR** you, the saint according to the will of God the Father. Your active participation in prayer joins in with a heavenly work of God intended to form you and shape you towards Godliness, no matter what in the world is going on around you.

Now, through the hope that looks towards the redemption and the God informed prayers that trains our hearts and minds from the throne of God through the presence of the Holy Spirit, God is now free to participate in “working all things together for good” in your life. Remember, it is “*to those who love God*” – eyes fixed on God with perseverance. It is “*to those who are called according to His purpose*” – Your prayers informed by the Spirit from the Father!

And what is the “good” that God is working all things, including your willful, active pursuit towards? Romans 8:29 is the “good” in question! It’s not about easy lives, or bigger bank accounts, or lack of problems. The “good” that God the Father through the intercession **FOR** you by the Holy Spirit in accordance with your perseverance and prayers is all to “conform you to the image of His Son”. God will send you through hell on earth all the while holding your hand and speaking to you through the Spirit if hell on earth is what it takes to make you Christ-like!

Romans 8:28 is not a promise of ease or a cause to just glide through life. It is an invitation to join God in His work for you. To be actively listening to the council of the Father through the utterances of the Holy Spirit so that you don’t lose hope when going through the fire. It is a promise, that as you actively engage with God through everything, He will use it all to make you resemble Christ so that when the hope of redemption is fully realized, you enter the kingdom as the very brother of Christ, both by blood and character.

But don’t miss the point. You will not grow closer to a family resemblance of Christ without love for God and listening to the purposes of God. You are to be an active participant in God’s work for you. Keep your sight set on the redemption of our bodies - heaven, and keep your hearts present before God - prayer. [Philippians 4:6-7] *Be anxious for nothing, but **in everything** by **prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made **known to God**; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.* Only God can give you peace during conflict and at the same time shape you like Christ. That is the “good” that God would have all things in your life working towards!

Pastor Leroy

High School Senior Recognition Day is Sunday, May 5th. Those seniors we wish to recognize are: **Isabella Stokes, Jolie Newsome, Layne Eubanks, Cole NeSmith and Dee Harris.** Church-wide Lunch to follow the Worship Service.
Lunch will be provided by the Youth Committee.



Fish Fry Cookout for the Golden Age members will be held on Thursday, May 9 at Cheri Bentley's Lake Home. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 9:15 am. Don't forget that if you signed up to bring a dessert, please bring it with you.

The Lord's Supper will be observed on Sunday, May 19 during the Worship Service



FROM YOUR YOUTH PASTOR

Have you ever asked the question “What’s your plans for tomorrow?” Or maybe you have been asked that same question. Sometimes we know right away what we want to accomplish and sometimes we may have to think for a moment.

James 4:13-15 says, “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”

At first glance, these verses can make us feel very insignificant in life, but that’s not the point God is making. In the previous verses James is warning us against getting caught up in the things of this world that we become passionate about, and if we are passionate about the worldly things, then our lives are very meaningless! But if we daily acknowledge God and our passions are focused on the things of God, then we will look at each day as an opportunity to fulfill the will of the Lord! How exciting to be a part of accomplishing the plan of the Almighty Creator! To bring the King of Kings glory for all He has done! There is no greater purpose than to follow His plan each and every day!

In Christ, Bro. Harold

Could I Be Called a Christian

*Could I be called a Christian, if everybody knew
The secret thoughts and feelings, of everything I do
Could they see the likeness, of Christ in me each day
Or could they hear Him speaking, in every word I say*

*Could I be called a Christian, if my faith I did not show
If I did not go to places, where the Lord would have me go
If I do not love His truth, if I do not guard His trust
If I cherish more than Jesus, my greatest hidden lust*

*Could I be called a Christian, and believe not His Holy Word
If I take Him as my Savior, and then refuse Him as my Lord
If I could not love the outcast, and am not burdened for the lost
If I fail the deny myself, and each day take up His cross*

*To obey all He's commanded - To do all that He said
To be His true disciple - To place no confidence in the flesh
To glory in Christ Jesus - It's He who justifies
How to find your life you must lose it - To live you first must die
Let every one examine their own life - "Could I be called a Christian?"*

(Lyrics from the Song "Could I Be Called a Christian" by Steve Camp, Sparrow Records, 1991)

On the average of once or twice a week someone says to me, "I know I need to be in the choir." They usually follow with a statement of desire to be involved in part of some ministry of the church. Sometimes I hear "I feel so disconnected from God." Yes, there are times I feel distant from the Lord then realize this feeling is because of a lack of much needed quiet time with Him. There are also those who choose to use the Lord's day as needing a break from the busy week of daily life and other commitments. It appears to be our human nature to avoid God's presence.

The Israelites had a day that they would never forget. When the Ark of the Covenant was brought into King Solomon's newly built temple, "***...the priests could not perform the service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled His temple***" (1 Kings 8:11). They were so overwhelmed with God's presence that it caused them to retreat! We experience the glory of God when we live His way and walk by faith. Before we rush into His church and ask Him to bless us, we may need to ask ourselves some tough questions: "Am I involved with something God wouldn't approve of?" "Am I not fulfilling a commitment that I have made?" "Is God pleased with the way I am acting?"

There is no automatic pilot with obedience. It takes a constant dialogue between you and the Lord Jesus to know His desires for your life. Then, as you live according to God's will, you'll experience life's greatest reward; a clean heart, the joy of His salvation, and the glory of His presence. (Psalm 51)

"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (Luke 21:28)

Bro. Andrew

Our Members Birthdays in the Month of May

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|
| May 1 | Cheri Bentley | May 27 | Robert Scott |
| May 4 | Karen Chason | May 30 | Roxanne Willingham |
| May 4 | Kathy Frosteg | | |
| May 5 | Cole NeSmith | | |
| May 5 | Rebecca Hendrix | | |
| May 6 | Brooke Hilliard | | |
| May 6 | Victoria Comeriato | | |
| May 7 | Brandon Rogers | | |
| May 7 | Willow Edenfield | | |
| May 11 | Cynthia Smith | | |
| May 14 | Kate Drury | | |
| May 14 | Sarah Lunderman | | |
| May 14 | Brandi McGalliard | | |
| May 17 | Philip Strickland | | |
| May 18 | Maylee Collins | | |
| May 19 | Laura Jane Gray | | |
| May 20 | Skye McBee | | |
| May 20 | Linda Pollock | | |
| May 21 | Timothy Aldridge | | |
| May 23 | Kimberly NeSmith | | |
| May 26 | Teressia Hussey | | |



Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Activate The Prayer Chain



Tina Sellers 294-8443
Helen Schmidt 294-2818
Sandra Peck 294-8073

Deacons of the Month:

Ken Newton (229) 220-1750
David Drury (229) 221-3743

Staff at Home

| | |
|--|--|
| Rev. Leroy Williams Pastor | 321-292-9650 leroy.j.williams43@gmail.com |
| Rev. Harold Smith Minister of Youth | 229-221-1565 harold@pelhamfbc.org |
| Rev. Andrew Chaffer Minister of Music | 229-319-0472 revchaffer@gmail.com |
| Sandra Peck Ministry Assistant | 229-327-6026 eshiver@pelhamfbc.org |
| Wesley Palmer Deacon Chairman | 229-403-2340 wesdawg02@yahoo.com |

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“In God We Trust”

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 287
Pelham, GA 31779

Prayer List

MEMBERS

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Melea Bentley & Family | father passed away 4/12 |
| Don & Jean Bodin | medical |
| Larry Frosteg | medical |
| Bette Frosteg | medical |
| Jimmy Godwin | medical |
| Shirley Humphries | medical |
| Janice James | medical |
| RayJean Leggett | medical |
| Shirley Nazworth | hospital |
| Sue Strickland | hip replacement |

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Harris Adams (Debbie Palmer) | medical |
| Mark Bodin | medical |
| MaryHelen Bostwick & babies | medical |
| Buddy Campbell | cancer |
| Katherine Chambliss (Sherrod) | cancer |
| David Chapman (Nan) | medical |
| Mark Davis (son-in-law of Brims) | cancer |
| Sharon Dixon (Maloy) | medical Heart |
| Connor Fielder (Theressia) | coma (wreck) |
| Ken Harper (V Thomas) | cancer |
| Randy Harris (James) | cancer |
| Rick Herren (nephew Hurst) | brain tumor |
| Harley Johnson (Fenn) | melanoma |
| Chris Leggett (Feagin) | medical |
| Chris Mobley (Campbell) | cancer |
| John & Jean Murphy (Monday) | medical |
| David Parr (Anderson) | medical |
| Sue Sadler (Fenn) | heart |
| Ann Sherman (Sherrod) | cancer |
| Dorothy Sizemore | medical |
| Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler) | cancer |
| Candace Trimble (Monday) | medical |
| Cindy Warren (Bishop) | cancer |
| Walt Younkin (Godwin) | cancer |

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Lane Butler, Mitchell County Convalescent Center
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie
 June Carter, Legacy Village, Rm 208, Thomasville
 Leon Davis, Parkway
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway
 Gary Hurst, Bainbridge Healthcare
 Carl & Susan Long, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Lula Scott, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines
 Bill Willis, Parkway



First Baptist Church - Pelham

SUNDAY

| | |
|----------|--|
| 9:15 am | Morning Mingle - Breakfast |
| 9:40 am | Children's Sunday School Opening Rally |
| 9:45 am | Adult & Teen Sunday School Classes meet |
| 10:00 am | Children's Sunday School Classes meet |
| 11:00 am | Morning Worship Service and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham |
| 5:00 pm | Ladies Bible Study Resumes on April 7th |

Monday

| | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 6:30 pm | Men's Bible Study |
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Tuesday

| | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 12:00 Noon | Men's Lunch/Bible Study |
| 7:00 pm | Men's Prison Ministry |

Wednesday

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 5:00- 5:30 pm | Kid's Choir |
| 5:00- 6:00 pm | Supper |
| 6:45- 7:30 pm | Prayer Meeting |
| 5:00- 7:30 pm | Children Program |
| 5:45 -7:30 pm | Youth Meeting |
| 6:00 - 6:45 pm | Choir |

Staff Meeting
Tuesday, May 7 at 4:30 pm
Tuesday, May 21 at 4:30 pm

Deacon's Meeting
Sunday, May 12, at 8:30 am

Council Meeting
Thursday, May 16
At 5:00 pm at the office

MISSION OPPORTUNITY

We will be collecting a Love Offering for the Baptist Children's Homes on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12.

Nursery Volunteers

| | |
|--------|--|
| May 5 | Lori Williams, Lydia, Karen Moltz |
| May 12 | Kimberly & Jamie NeSmith, Melodie Chaffer |
| May 19 | Melea & Duane Bentley, Lynne Aldridge |
| May 26 | Nichole & Neal Hilliard, Amy & Donnie Palmer |

The Office will be closed on Monday, May 27 for the Memorial Day Holiday.

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR MAY

| | |
|--------|---|
| May 1 | Psalms 133 |
| May 2 | Psalms 106-107 |
| May 3 | 2 Samuel 5:11-25; 2 Samuel 6:1-23 1 Chronicles 13-16 |
| May 4 | Psalms 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68 |
| May 5 | Psalms 89, 96, 100, 101, 105, 132 |
| May 6 | 2 Samuel 7; 1 Chronicles 17 |
| May 7 | Psalms 25, 29, 33, 36, 39 |
| May 8 | 2 Samuel 8-9; 1 Chronicles 18 |
| May 9 | Psalms 50, 53, 60, 75 |
| May 10 | 2 Samuel 10; 1 Chronicles 19; Psalm 20 |
| May 11 | Psalms 65-67, 69-70 |
| May 12 | 2 Samuel 11-12; 1 Chronicles 20 |
| May 13 | Psalms 32, 51, 86, 122 |
| May 14 | 2 Samuel 13-15 |
| May 15 | Psalms 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55 |
| May 16 | 2 Samuel 16-18 |
| May 17 | Psalms 26, 40, 58, 61, 64 |
| May 18 | 2 Samuel 19-21 |
| May 19 | Psalms 5, 38, 41-42 |
| May 20 | 2 Samuel 22-23; Psalm 57 |
| May 21 | Psalms 95, 97-99 |
| May 22 | 2 Samuel 24; 1 Chronicles 21-22; Psalm 30 |
| May 23 | Psalms 108-110 |
| May 24 | 1 Chronicles 23-25 |
| May 25 | Psalms 131, 138-139, 143-145 |
| May 26 | 1 Chronicles 26-29; Psalm 127 |
| May 27 | Psalms 111-118 |
| May 28 | 1 Kings 1-2; Psalms 37, 71, 94 |
| May 29 | Psalm 119:1-88 |
| May 30 | 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72 |
| May 31 | Psalm 119:89-176 |