

Pastors

Johnny Davis 307-4232
Dan Fuller 685-4454
Paul Metzkes 870-8042
*Phil Porter 575-4782
Richard Watson 307-2608
*Chairman for the Month of May

Evangelists

Dan Jenkins 379-2325
David Sproule 301-2230
Josh Blackmer 319-1418

Deacons

David Brown 972-7608
Novel Brown 848-6988
Victor Colage 719-1490
Lance Collier 985-4407
Kirk Crews 339-9283
Mike Erickson 310-9916
Tim Fry 373-9121
Jeff Goodale 261-1188
Rick Hall 622-5131
Dion Hayes 214-533-5065
Bob Higbee 303-386-6405
Gary Jenkins 889-3585
Jeff Leslie 744-3444
David Lord 346-2228
Buzz Nelson 385-1588
Lawrence Williams 662-3419

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Vol. LXII

May 7, 2023

No. 18



9:00 a.m.

**Preparing Your Children
for Heaven**

10:00 a.m.

**Marriage: Made in Heaven,
Maintained on Earth**



Guest Speaker: **Steve Higginbotham**
(Knoxville, TN)

READING THROUGH THE NEW TESTAMENT

*A Chapter
A Day*

This Week's Reading:

*Acts 2 -
Acts 6*



By Dan Jenkins

Dealing With Mistakes of the Past

Far too many Christians carry far too much guilt about their past lives and choices they made which now impact the struggles in their daily lives. They look at the godly lives of other Christians and become discouraged almost to the point of just giving up. If this describes you now or in the past, consider the life of Lot, the nephew of Abraham.

We know little of the early life of Lot. He was the son of Haran, Abraham's brother. The first mention of Lot is in the exodus from Ur. As they entered Canaan, Lot was with Abraham in his journey and even accompanied his uncle when he went into Egypt (Gen. 13:1).

God blessed both Abraham and Lot abundantly, and their flock and herds became so great that this forced the separation of Lot from Abraham. Abraham gave Lot the choice, and Lot saw the plains of Jordan, which the Bible describes as being "well watered everywhere like the garden of the Lord" (Gen. 13:10). The selfish decision he made impacted the rest of his life. In the plains of Jordan was the city of Sodom. Lot not only moved toward that city, he moved into that city (Gen. 13:12; 14:12). One cannot but wonder how afterwards Lot may have grieved over his decision.

Stop for a moment to consider how many of us may

make wrong decisions which often lead us down the wrong paths. It is the guilt of having made such wrong choices that become part of the burden of our guilt. Lot is not the only one whose decisions impact the rest of their lives.

Lot was like Abraham in that he entertained angels not even knowing they were angels. You know the story of how Lot foolishly offered his daughters to the men of Sodom—wonder if he later regretted this. The angel forced Lot and his family to leave Sodom and soon Lot lost all his possessions, his wealth, his home and his wife to the fire of God's judgment. Then add the sinful actions of this man in his incestuous relationship with his daughters.

Before becoming too judgmental of Lot, look at how God saw him. Peter said that God "...delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)" (2 Pet. 2:7-8). We focus on his mistakes (and often we focus on ours), but God saw his righteous tormented soul.

Do not misunderstand what I am saying. Grace is ours, but we cannot continue in sin expecting grace (Rom. 6:1). Do not let your past mistakes overwhelm you. Live right, do right, die right! You will never regret it!

We often focus on Lot's mistakes, yet God focuses on his righteous soul



By David Sproule

Does It Really Matter Why I Was Baptized?

We read about people being baptized in the New Testament and it creates within us a desire to also be baptized. We read about Jesus and the apostles teaching people to be baptized in the New Testament and it prompts us to want to be baptized. So, as long as I was baptized (i.e., fully immersed in water), does it really matter why I did it? Some might argue that it doesn't matter, and others may claim it does. What does the Bible teach?

If it does not matter why someone is baptized, what if they are only doing it to please their parents and to get them off their back? If it does not matter, what if they are baptized because all of their friends were baptized and they just went along with them? If it does not matter, what if they do it because someone dared them to be baptized? If it does not matter, what if someone is baptized just to satisfy the wishes of the person they want to marry?

The list of scenarios could be extended, but perhaps these are sufficient to make the point—even human wisdom recognizes that the reason someone is baptized actually does matter. So then, who gets to decide what reason is acceptable and what reasons are not? The answer should be obvious—Christ has all authority and no man does (Matt. 28:18)!

Since the Bible is the only Divine source of information regarding baptism, why would we look anywhere other than the Bible for the reason one needs to be baptized? Some today claim that one needs to be baptized in order to demonstrate to the world that he has accepted Jesus and been saved. Did you know that there is not a single verse in the Bible that teaches this to be the reason to be baptized? In fact, just the opposite. Some examples in the book of Acts (the Ethiopian in Acts 8, Saul in Acts 9, the jailer in Acts 16) were individuals who were baptized "immediately," without waiting to gather a crowd to demonstrate to them (or to anyone else) that they were already saved.

So, what reason does the Bible give for one to be baptized? There is only one. When a sinner realizes that his sins are separating him from God and that he must make a change in order to be saved, that person "must" be baptized, so that in the moment of immersion, he may be "saved" and have his sins "washed away" by the blood of Jesus (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16). That is the only Biblical reason for one to be baptized.

What if someone is baptized for a different reason than to obtain forgiveness of sins at that very moment? Then, that person was not baptized for the reason the Bible pinpoints and that person needs to decide if they want to follow the Bible's teaching (and Christ's authority) on the matter.

Who gets to decide what reason is acceptable?



By Josh Blackmer

“Mercy Triumphs Over Judgement”

There are passages in the Bible that encourage us, build us up, inspire us, and keep us going through difficult times. Then, there are others that instill fear and reverence for the Lord. Passages like, “For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries” (Heb. 10:26-27). There is a passage out of the book of James that makes me reflect and weigh my choices carefully. Here is why.

The passage reads, “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment” (Jas. 2:12-13). You may read this and think it benign, but it is both beautiful and deadly. The danger in this passage is in our nature to desire mercy but deal out judgement. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He had this to say about the merciful: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy” (Matt. 5:7). He taught against the harsh judgement of the religious hierarchy of His day. “Do not judge so that you will not be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log

that is in your own eye?” (Matt. 7:1-3). Even the parable of the wicked servant highlights this concept with vivid imagery. “Then summoning him, his lord said to him, ‘You wicked slave, I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?’ And his lord, moved with anger, handed him over to the torturers until he should repay all that was owed him” (Matt. 18:32-34).

**Am I being as
merciful as I can
be?**

So how do I faithfully apply “mercy triumphs over judgement” in my life? First, we need to show mercy whenever we can. Think of it like planting a garden. I will sow the seeds of mercy in the soil of this life that I might reap the harvest of mercy in the next. Second, we need to maintain a balance as in all things. There are actions that people take to which they must be held accountable. We can’t show mercy and forgiveness to someone continuing in sin. “What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?” (Rom. 6:1-2).

The concept of mercy and judgment causes me to reflect carefully because it is easy to practice harsh judgement. It is not easy to forgive and be merciful. I want mercy and I need grace so I must give it. Carefully consider your dealings with those around you. Are you showing mercy?

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

What if someone made this wish for you?

The apostle John wrote a short note to a good friend of his named Gaius. In some of our notes today, we might say something like, “I hope you are doing well.” John sort of said that, but he placed a pretty heavy qualifier on it. John said to his friend, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2).

Did you catch what John said? John prayed that his friend would “prosper” and that he would “be in good health” (NASB). Those are nice (and ordinary) things to wish, but note what level John wished for his friend to prosper and be in good health—“just as your soul prospers.” John wanted Gaius to be as healthy physically as he was spiritually.

What if someone wished that for you? Are you as healthy spiritually as you are physically? What if we wished that for others? What if someone’s physical health was sustained at the same level as his spiritual health? Some folks may not be doing so well. What would it take to get us to focus more on our spiritual health than we do our physical health? –DS



What kind of church is this?

Imagine for a moment that there was a person living in the city of Philippi in the first century who decided to visit the church one Sunday. This person walked in and asked, “What kind of church is this?” If you were there in the first century and heard that question asked, would it strike you odd? Think about it. In the first century, there was only one church (Eph. 4:4). There were not hundreds (or even a few) denominations. In other words, there were not “kinds” of churches!

When the first car was invented, you would not have asked, “What kind of car is this?” It was the car! The first and only one! There were no others, so there were no “kinds” of cars! So, it would not make sense in the first century to ask, “What kind of church is this?” It was the church! The first AND ONLY one! There were no others, so there were no “kinds” of churches.

So, today, should we not simply go back to the Bible and be “the church” that Jesus started in the first century? He gave no authority for different “kinds” of churches (1 Cor. 1:10). He only has “one” (Eph. 4:4; 2:16; 1 Cor. 12:12-13). –DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Judy Carmack	dealing with severe pain in her right hip and leg
Linda Coe	undergoing medical tests
Mattie Cox	having outpatient surgery on May 11
Willie Cox	Jupiter Medical Center, being treated for pneumonia
Charles Hayes	fell and broke one wrist and bruised the other
Marian Holland	under Hospice Care (room C10), aggressive cancer
Dan Johnson	Promedica Heartland, double leg amputation
Joyce Parker	recovering from dental surgery

Ongoing Health Issues

Lillian Bankston	dialysis treatments
Judy Carmack	multiple health issues
Robin Landen	multiple health issues
John Loftis	back pain, weakness
Joel Ramirez	dialysis treatments
Sherri Richmond	multiple health issues
Henry Williams	dialysis treatments

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Joan Alberga	Ally Alberga's mother, under Hospice Care
Ann Graham	Luann McLeod's mother, Luxe Rehab, no visitors
Nathaniel King	Mary A. Jackson's brother, hospital, multiple issues
Frankie Lyons	Gwen Lyons' mother, fell & cracked pelvis in 3 places

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Inell Ingram
Josie Dawson	Daniel Johnson
Zula Garrett	Betty Matter
Terri Hahn	Joyce Parker
Margie Hardin	Leigh Puckett
Loretta Holaday	Maurine Reed
Joan Holloway	Ricky Smedley

Remember Our Mission Works

Pacific Islands

Robert & Mary Martin
Wayne & Kristi Parker
Joey & Tammy Treat

Africa

Tamuka Arunashe
Nnanna Aforji

Montgomery, Alabama

Apologetics Press

Coral Springs, Florida

Mauricio Yegros

Bahamas

Tavaro & Shameika Hanna



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, May 7

- ♦ **"Home, Sweet Home" with Steve Higginbotham** during morning services.
9:00 a.m. *Preparing Your Children for Heaven*
10:00 a.m. *Marriage: Made in Heaven, Maintained on Earth*
- ♦ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.

Monday, May 8

- ♦ **No Monday Night Bible Study.** Class will resume on May 15.

Tuesday, May 9

- ♦ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.

Sunday, May 14

- ♦ **Deadline for Friends & Family Day Lunch Orders.** Please place order form and full payment in the basket in the back of the Auditorium or to the church office.
- ♦ **New Member's Orientation Class** at 9:00 a.m. See Tim Fry for more details.

Sunday, May 14 (cont.)

- ♦ **Promotion Sunday** at 9:00 a.m. All adults and children will meet in the Auditorium for a special presentation.
- ♦ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.

Friday, May 19

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sandy Colage. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

Saturday, May 20

- ♦ **Widows & Widowers Luncheon** from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the home of Kane & Fran Campbell. Come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship. Please RSVP to Kane & Fran Campbell.
- ♦ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting** at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.
- ♦ **Family Group 1 & 2 Meeting** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of David & Skye Brown. This will be a potluck event. Please bring a main dish, dessert, and/or drinks. This is for all PBL members and families who live north of Blue Heron.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

Friday, May 19

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sandy Colage. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

Saturday, May 27

- ♦ **VBS Work Day** from 9:00 a.m. until noon. All PBL members are encouraged to come and help prepare decorations. See Josh Blackmer for details.

Saturday, June 3

- ♦ **VBS Work Day** from 9:00 a.m. until noon. All PBL members are encouraged to come and help prepare decorations. See Josh Blackmer for details.

Wednesday-Friday, June 7-9

- ♦ **VBS Setup** beginning immediately after Bible Study.

Saturday, June 10

- ♦ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. Location TBD. See Ivan Villard for details.



Palm Beach Lakes Youth

Sunday, May 7

- ♦ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.

Sunday, May 14

- ♦ **Promotion Sunday** at 9:00 a.m. All adults and children will meet in the Auditorium for a special presentation.
- ♦ **His Kids Class** at 5:30 p.m. for Age 3 and up. Meet in the front of the auditorium.

Friday, May 19

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Sandy Colage. All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

Sunday, May 21

- ♦ **New Bible Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for all children and adults.

Sunday, May 28

- ♦ **High School Graduates' Luncheon** after AM services.

A Chapter A Day

Keeps me on the Lord's way

READING THROUGH THE *New Testament* IN A YEAR

For the Month of *May*

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 1 | John 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 17 | Acts 10 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 2 | John 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 18 | Acts 11 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 3 | John 21 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 19 | Mark Your Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 4 | Acts 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 20 | Day of Reflection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 5 | Mark Your Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> May 21 | Acts 12 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 6 | Day of Reflection | <input type="checkbox"/> May 22 | Acts 13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 7 | Acts 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 23 | Acts 14 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 8 | Acts 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 24 | Acts 15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 9 | Acts 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 25 | Acts 16 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 10 | Acts 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 26 | Mark Your Bible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 11 | Acts 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 27 | Day of Reflection |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 12 | Mark Your Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> May 28 | Acts 17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 13 | Day of Reflection | <input type="checkbox"/> May 29 | Acts 18 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 14 | Acts 7 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 30 | Acts 19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 15 | Acts 8 | <input type="checkbox"/> May 31 | Acts 20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May 16 | Acts 9 | | |

"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshipping with us

Sunday,
April 30

LOCAL VISITORS: Ms. Sylvia Goldie; Mr. Don McClintock; Mr. Colton McKinney; Miss Victoria Michwanazi; and Mrs. Susan Shelt.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Andy & Letha Anderson, Winter Haven, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Garry & Teri Bee, Westland, FL; and Mr. Jerry Cole, Okeechobee, FL.

Birthdays & Anniversaries
This Week

Monday, May 8th

Jacqui Jenkins

Alice Nelson

Chuck Reeves, Jr.

Jackie Stout

Thursday, May 11th

John Judd

Friday, May 12th

Bree Solis

Tuesday, May 9th

Leigh Puckett

Saturday, May 13th

June Pack

News & Notes

There will be a **New Member's Orientation Class** on Sunday, March 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. All new members are encouraged to attend. See Tim Fry for more details.

Stronger Relations



Friends & Family Day with David Shannon is on Sunday, May 21. Lunch will be catered from Pollo Tropical. Please fill out an order form. Then, place your order form in an envelope with your full payment and return it to the basket in the back of the Auditorium. Deadline is May 14. Cost is \$10 per person. Children 7 & under are \$6 each.

Those to Serve

If you are unable to serve, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269.

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at **9:50 a.m.***

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at **5:50 p.m.***

Sunday Morning, May 7

Singing Dion Hayes
Opening Prayer Tim Cox
Scripture Reading Taylor Reeves
Singing
Lord's Supper Robert Mariano
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Philip Porter

Serve at Table:

Douglas Alvarenga Steward Lynch
Trey Higbee Tim Mahlbacher
Namdidie Ikon John Patrick
Richard Kelley Vincent Rogers
Orlando Lolo Tyler Williams

Sunday Evening, May 7

Singing Stephen Beliech
Opening Prayer Tom Garrison
Scripture Reading Novel Brown
Singing
Lord's Supper Tim Fry
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Willie Smith

Serve at Table:

Silas Balfour Rick Hall

Audio this week: Ricky Smith

Computer this week: Daniel Lord

Video this week: Todd Juckett

Wednesday Evening, May 10

Singing Graysen Hayes
Invitation Ricky Smith
Family Prayer John Hoelzer

Our Record

Attendance	Apr. 30	Mar. Avg
Sun. Bible Study	146	180
Sun. AM Worship	221	276
Sun. PM Worship	145	122
Wed. Bible Study	142	140
Contribution	\$15,002	\$17,638

2023 Weekly Budget: \$16,450

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$13,232

Service Coordinator:
Bob Higbee

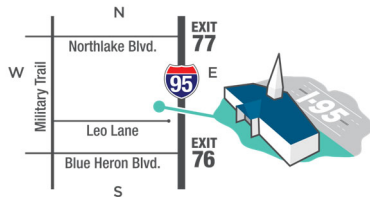
Ushers for this week: Nahum Villard & Seth Watson
Safety Team for this week: Victor Colage



Palm Beach Lakes CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

*Speaking where the **Bible** speaks, Silent where the **Bible** is silent.*



Service Schedule

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible classes 7:00 p.m.

Front Cover: Nicole Freseman, Casey & David Bound

First-Century Christianity in the Twenty-First Century

 Speaking where the Bible speaks

 Silent where the Bible is silent

 Calling Bible things by Bible names

 Doing Bible things in Bible ways

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Upcoming Events

May 14

Promotion Sunday

May 21

Friends & Family Day with David Shannon

Theme: "Stronger Relations Begins with Me God"

May 24, May 31, June 7, June 21

"Kick Start Your Summer" Series

Theme: "Model Prayers in the Bible"

May 28

High School Graduates' Luncheon

June 11-14

Vacation Bible School

Theme: "Operation: Creation"

June 21-25

Leadership Training Camp for Young Men & Women