#### **Elders**

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 August

#### **Evangelists**

Dan Jenkins	379-2325
David Sproule	301-2230
Josh Blackmer	319-1418
Robert Lupo	315-1411

#### **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

#### **Church Office**

Phone	561-848-1111
Fax	561-848-1198
Website	www.pblcoc.org
E-mail	office@pblcoc.org
Ivan Villard	667-8675
Cindy Nelson	801-9457
June Pack	627-5363



This Week's Reading: 2 Corinthians 7 -2 Corinthians 11



Vol. LXII August 6, 2023 No. 31

# Back-to-School



# Sunday, August 6





By Dan Jenkins

# "Ready, Set, Go" and the Christian Race

The response to

"Come, follow

Me and I will

It is impossible

for man to earn

or merit his

We have watched those moments when athletes are about to start their race for the Olympic gold medal. They have done this so often since they first lined up to race, perhaps when they were still in grammar school. In various ways the official has said, "On your marks, get set, go." The starting

gun sounds, and the race begins.

Those starting words vary depending on the place and circumstances. In England, the words sometimes used are, "On your mark, steady, go." As I grew up, the phrase most often used was shortened to, "Ready, Set, Go." It is interesting to see how these three words are used to apply to our Christian lives.

The Christian is "ready." You see this in of men" is "Go." Paul's letter to the Romans. After he said that he was a debtor to all men, he said, "So as much as in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also" (Rom. 1:15). When he said "as much as in me," he emphasized how devoted he was to getting the gospel to all mankind. He gave as much as he had! When he used the words, "to you who are in Rome also," the word "also" emphasized that he felt the same toward teaching in every place.

When Paul wrote Titus, he said, "Remind them...to be ready for every good work" (Tit. 3:1). Faithfulness to God causes us to see a work that needs to be done, and then because we are ready, we do it! As the runner crouches to start the race and awaits the starting gun, so the Christian is "crouched" and his "starting gun" is seeing something needing to be done.

**The Christian is "set."** The book of Hebrews describes our lives as being participants in a race in which we are surround by a great company of witnesses. Evidently those witnesses are the heroes of faith mentioned chapter eleven. The

writer then says, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:1-2). The race is set and so are we! Our affections are firmly "...set on things which are above, not on things on make you fishers the earth" (Col. 3:2).

> The Christian is prepared to "go." When Jesus called men to follow Him and become fishers of men, they responded, but there was no way they could have understood all that was involved in following Jesus. However, just before He ascended, He gave them detailed instructions of what being a follower of Jesus involved. They were told to go to all nations, to every creature and teach them the words Jesus had given them (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15). The response to the invitation to "come" is then to "go."

> So, as you run your race, remember that it involves three things—ready, set, go. Let's run the race faithfully.



By David Sproule

# Salvation: It Requires the Grace of God

When it comes to our salvation from sin, it is essential that we understand the source of this salvation! It comes from

The grace of God is wonderfully beautiful and so desperately needed! What is grace? Greek scholars define the term as

"favor and kindness which bestows upon one what he has not deserved; the favor, grace and goodness of God to man, of the worthy to the unworthy, of the holy to the sinful." Think about those words. A short definition of grace is "unmerited favor." It involves man receiving from God what he does not deserve. Our God is an awesome God!

salvation. Scripture affirms the only way that man can be saved from sin is by the grace of God. None of us deserve this! Twice in Ephesians 2, the Scripture states, "By grace you have been saved" (2:5, 8). Scripture also affirms that this grace is available to all. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men" (Tit. 2:11). God wants every human being to be a recipient of His gracious salvation. However and unfortunately, not everyone will be. A person's receipt of God's saving grace is not something that was arbitrarily and unconditionally predestined by God, but it is dependent on how one responds to the gospel.

Look carefully at these passages. We can only be "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). Did you notice where God's grace is extended? It's the same place as stated in First Timothy 1:14, "The grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant...in Christ Jesus." One must be "IN Christ Jesus" in order to be saved by the grace of God.

> One is saved by grace but not by grace alone. If salvation was actually by grace alone, then all would be saved, for God's grace has "appeared to all men" (Tit. 2:11). But the rest of that text shows us that salvation by grace is accessed by obeying its "teaching" (2:12). Did you know that God's grace is "teaching" us how to obtain it? We obtain His grace "through faith" (Eph. 2:8). We obtain His grace "through the washing of regeneration" in baptism

(Tit. 3:5-7). We must meet the God-given conditions to get "in Christ" (Rom. 3:24; 6:3) to access the God-given grace.

There is no doubt that it is impossible for man to earn or merit his salvation. Salvation is a "gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). The Greek word for "gift" in this verse signifies a gift which involves a "sacrifice"—God sacrificed His Son as a "gift" for our salvation." Wow! Man does not earn or deserve this "free gift" (cf. Rom. 6:23), but he can "access...into this grace" (Rom. 5:1-2) by a proper response to God's revealed will.



By Robert Lupo

## The Pressure of Social Media

When I was growing up, I was constantly reminded by my parents, my teachers and my church leaders to resist peer pressure. I was told, "Evil company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33). This was certainly good advice. Our peers can hold a tremendous amount of power over a young person.

They want to be liked and feel like they belong. So, when a crowd shows them a certain amount of acceptance, they may conform to any number of trends or habits within that group.

When I was in high school, the number of peers that might have influence over me was probably somewhere around fifty. I had close friends in the is openly identiyouth group at church and in the drama club at school. Back then, MySpace was the only social me-

dia platform, and all of the friends that I had on MySpace were the same people I knew in real life. My world of influence would be considered pretty small by today's standards. But, that was still enough to sway me to make several detrimental mistakes in my youth.

The peer pressure we had as children doesn't come close to comparing to what today's youth are facing. Not only do our children have pressure from friends they know in real life, but they also receive pressure from millions of social media influencers and users tailored to prey on their most base curiosities. Every Google search they make or website they visit is recorded and sent to social media platforms to shape what pages, profiles and forum threads they are recommended and what ads they see. Any doubt or question they have about morality could bring them to a page with thousands of people with different religious values, upvoting the most popular takes.

How did we get to a point where one in four teens fying as LGBTQ?

We need to understand what this kind of influence is having on children today. According to the news site, The Hill, "The CDC says the number of LGBTQ students went from 11 percent in 2015 to 26 percent in 2021." How did we get to a point where one in four teens is openly identifying as LGBTQ? It is the pressure of social media. For the first time in history, our children have a popularity-based system of

measuring their worth. What matters is not how many of my friends compliment me or invite me to hang out. What matters is how many "Likes" my post gets from complete strangers. The more shocking the post, the better the reception.

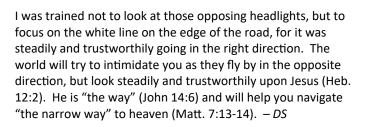
"Evil company corrupts good morals." What kind of company are your kids keeping online? They may have ten friends at church. How many friends do they have on Instagram?

# Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### Going the right direction

When learning how to drive, one of the tough things is driving on narrow, two-lane streets when cars are coming at you in the opposite direction. This is especially true if it is at night and those opposing headlights are shining directly in your eyes.

This is very similar to living the Christian life. As you are trying to please God and make decisions that will honor Him, there are thousands of people traveling in the opposite direction. Sometimes they don't always stay in their lane. Sometimes they have their high beams on, so that it is hard for you to see where you're headed.



## Sitting in the right seat

Have you ever watched a movie or television show where a character is determined to be the driver and not the passenger? In the scene, he often grabs the keys from his friend and jumps in the left door of the car, only to realize that he's in a foreign country and the steering wheel is on the right side of the car. It makes for a good laugh.



How often do we "play that game" with Jesus? How often do we want to be the one in the driver seat? Well, if you are in the driver seat of your life, where does that put Jesus? In the passenger seat? In the back seat? Left standing on the curb?

If Jesus is truly going to have THE place in our lives that He demands, expects and deserves, it requires that we "deny" ourselves (Matt. 16:24), that we "humble" ourselves before Him (1 Pet. 5:6), that we "submit" to Him (Jas. 4:7), that we "trust" Him (1 Tim. 4:10), that we "follow" Him (Luke 9:23), and that we "obey" Him (Heb. 5:9). Put Christ in the driver seat of your life! He will take you where you truly want to go! He will never steer you wrong! - DS

# Keep in Your Prayers



# **Pray for These PBL Members**

Judy Carmack La Posada (room 2014), rehab for hip replacement

**Linda Coe** knee replacement surgery scheduled for Oct. 2

Mary Coombs has not been feeling well

**Richard Haines** surgery on his neck scheduled for Aug. 9

**Loretta Holaday** recovering from knee replacement surgery

**Trudie Holland** in Luxe Rehab (room 141), rehab for hip replacement

**Carolyn Kemp** in rehab, recovering from car accident

**Gwen Lyons** recovering from cataract surgery

John Patrick recovering from eye surgery

**Sherri Richmond** thyroid cancer, surgery being scheduled

Yolanda Stewart scheduled for surgery next month

Amy West undergoing chemo treatments

## **Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members**

Myrick Bassie Yolanda Stewart's father, suffering serious health issues

**Brittany Davis** Reanna Lupo & Halle Johnson's sister, undergoing tests

**Don Fields** Trish Clark's brother, melanoma on his head

**Jonathan Jenkins** Dan & Judie's son, recovering at home from accident

Frankie Lyons diagnosed with vascular dementia

**Delores Sims** Jimmie Banks' mother, undergoing radiation treatments

#### **Ongoing Health Issues**

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 Our Shut-Ins**

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

Joan Holloway

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, August 6

- Gift Card Drive for Mount Dora Children's Home.
   Please bring Wal-Mart or Wawa gift cards by Sunday,
   September 3 and place them in the box in the Lobby.
   They are not having a truck pick up items, so please do
   NOT bring supplies.
- ◆ Leadership Training Course at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2.
- Back-to-School Ice Cream Social after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream, toppings and drinks to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship!

#### Sunday-Wednesday, August 6-9

 Gospel Meeting hosted by Gifford with Randy Cole Sims, Sr. (Fiske Blvd.) Sunday will begin with lunch served at 1:00 p.m. followed by the lessons at 3:00 p.m. Randy will speak at 7:00 p.m. each night (Monday-Wednesday).

#### Monday, August 7

 No Monday Night Bible Study. Class will resume after the parking lot construction has been completed.

#### Tuesday, August 8

 No Tuesday Morning Bible Study. Class will resume after the parking lot construction has been completed.

#### Sunday, August 13

Leadership Training Course at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2.
 All members are welcome to attend this class.

#### Friday, August 18

Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Daisy Lord.
 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, August 20

- Leadership Training Course at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2.
   All members are welcome to attend this class.
- Youth & Family Singing after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

#### Saturday, August 26

 PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting at 1:00 p.m. at the home of Mary Brown. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.



#### Sunday, August 6

 Back-to-School Ice Cream Social after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream, toppings and drinks to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship!

#### Friday, August 18

Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Daisy Lord.
 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, September 2

 Young Adult Devo at 6:00 p.m. at the home of David & Traci Sproule.

#### Monday, September 11

 Men's Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.



#### Sunday, August 6

 Back-to-School Ice Cream Social after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring ice cream, toppings and drinks to share. All members are encouraged to come and enjoy this time of fellowship!

#### Friday, August 18

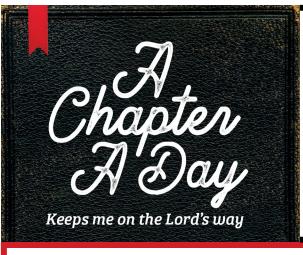
Ladies & Lattes at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Daisy Lord.
 All PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring a dessert.

#### Sunday, August 20

 Youth & Family Singing after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

#### Sunday, August 27

 Jr. High & Sr. High Devo after evening worship at the home of Buzz & Kathy Nelson. See Robert Lupo for details.



READING THROUGH THE

# New Testament

IN A YEAR

# For the Month of August

□ August 1	2 Corinthians 4	□ August 17	Galatians 3
□ August 2	2 Corinthians 5	□ August 18	Mark Your Bible
□ August 3	2 Corinthians 6	□ August 19	Day of Reflection
□ August 4	Mark Your Bible	□ August 20	Galatians 4
□ August 5	Day of Reflection	□ August 21	Galatians 5
□ August 6	2 Corinthians 7	□ August 22	Galatians 6
□ August 7	2 Corinthians 8	□ August 23	Ephesians 1
□ August 8	2 Corinthians 9	□ August 24	Ephesians 2
□ August 9	2 Corinthians 10	□ August 25	Mark Your Bible
□ August 10	2 Corinthians 11	□ August 26	Day of Reflection
□ August 11	Mark Your Bible	□ August 27	Ephesians 3
□ August 12	Day of Reflection	□ August 28	Ephesians 4
□ August 13	2 Corinthians 12	□ August 29	Ephesians 5
□ August 14	2 Corinthians 13	□ August 30	Ephesians 6
□ August 15	Galatians 1	□ August 31	Philippians 1
□ August 16	Galatians 2		

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







Sunday, July 30

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Ryan & Ola Hankins; Ms. Jocelyn Katline; Mr. Damian Ramos; Mr. Don McClintock; Mrs. Liz Otero; Ms. Joan Parsons; Ms. Tania Portelles; Mr. & Mrs. Arpit & Swati Samson; and Mr. Charles Smith.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mr. Rafael Castillo, El Salvador; Mrs. Kristen Dye, Carrollton, TX; Mr. & Mrs. Matt & Cyndi Hankins & Taylor; Greenwood, AR; Mr. Andrew Jenkins, Melbourne, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Keith & Susan Joy, Vero Beach, FL; Mr. & Mrs. Wayne & Kristi Parker & Piper, Muscle Shoals, AL; Mr. & Mrs. Bryan & Kelly Trejo, Livermore, CA; and Mr. & Mrs. Willie & Ethel Tumblin, Sebastian, FL.





Sunday, August 6 Lena Gadson

Monday, August 7th Jeff & Jennifer Goodale (Ann.)

Kirk Crews

Tuesday, August 8th Silas & Debora Lynch (Ann.) Mary Porter

Thursday, August 10th Phil & Mary Porter (Ann.)

Paulette Cole Loretta Holaday Paul Metzkes Dan McLeod Cody Price

Saturday, August 12th Loretta James



We are collecting gift cards for Mount Dora Children's Home for the month of August. Please bring Wal-Mart or Wawa gift cards by Sunday, September 3 and place them in the box in the Lobby. They are not having a truck pick up items, so please do NOT bring supplies.

#### 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 <u>Sunday evening</u>, please meet at the front of the auditorium at <u>5:50 p.m.</u>

#### Sunday Morning, August 6

Singing ......Gary Friedly Opening Prayer ......Graysen Hayes Scripture Reading..... Dirk Summerlot Singing Lord's Supper..... Dan McLeod Contribution Singing Sermon Singing Closing Prayer ...... Dan Fuller

Serve at Table:

Ed Buonadonna Bill Ingram, Jr. Addison Collins **Gary Jenkins** Gorman Ericksen Chuck Reeves, Jr. Andres Fernandez Daniel Swayne **Edward Gager** Brandan Widner

#### Sunday Evening, August 6

Singing ......Robert Lupo Opening Prayer..... David Lord Scripture Reading ...... Cris Cuevas Singing Lord's Supper..... David Brown Contribution Singing Sermon Singing Closing Prayer..... Paul Metzkes Serve at Table:

**David Perez** 

Audio this week: Ricky Smith Computer this week: Daniel Lord

Video this week: Todd Juckett

Daniel Wagner

Service Coordinator: Ushers for this week: Eugene Williams & Freddie Gadson **Bob Higbee** Safety Team for this week: Darin Summerlot

Singing	Jimmie Banks
Invitation	David Lord
Family Prayer	Dan Fuller

Wednesday Evening, August 9

	Our	Reco	ra	
ce		July	30	Ju

Attendance		<u>July 30</u>	June Avg
	Sun. Bible Study	179	160
	Sun. AM Worship	256	251
	Sun. PM Worship	138	113
	Wed. Bible Study	135	143
	Contribution	15 501	\$16 302

2023 Weekly Budget: \$16,450 Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$11,073



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: Grace Judge, Maria Hackshaw & Sabrina Clayton

