

Bishops

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 September*

Evangelists

Dan Jenkins 379-2325
David Sproule 301-2230
Robert Lupo 315-1411

Deacons

David Brown 972-7608
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
Gary Jenkins 889-3585
Jeff Leslie 744-3444
David Lord 346-2228
Buzz Nelson 385-1588
Lawrence Williams 662-3419

Church Office

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Vol. LXIII

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No. 36

*Thank you,
Johnny!*

**Faithful Elder
at Palm Beach Lakes**

**Nov. 14, 1976 - May 18, 2003
Sept. 23, 2007 - Sept. 20, 2024**



Palm Beach Lakes owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to Johnny Davis for the many years he has served this congregation. He and Betty moved to this area in 1960 and Johnny was one of the first deacons this church selected. He was a deacon for 14 years and then served as one of our shepherds for 44 years. We are grateful for the heart of this servant of God.

His love for every member of this church will never be forgotten. How often did you hear him pray, "God, please bless the very old and the very young"? His concern for each one of us has been such a blessing!

Johnny has been part of this congregation for 64 of its 101 years. He and Betty have changed us all.

Thank you, Johnny and Betty! We love you both so much! We will miss you!



By Dan Jenkins

It's OK to Not be a Firstborn

There is no doubt that the Bible gives greater importance to the firstborn child in families. There is great responsibility for them, but in the Old Testament, they received a greater portion of the family inheritance. When God wanted to impress to the nation of Israel how important it was to Him, He did so by affirming that He was their Father, and they were His firstborn (Jer. 31:9).

I am not a firstborn. Those who share my "plight" may have noticed just how many more photos and baby items are in the house of the firstborn. If the family is rather large, there are so few of these for the other children that they may sometimes think they might have been adopted.

One truth we may have overlooked is that while God honors firstborns, He has never forgotten "second-borns," or "third-borns," etc. To see this, look at the following examples throughout the Bible.

The firstborn, who truly was the firstborn, was Cain, the first son of Adam and Eve. How did that turn out? Cain's sacrifice was rejected by God, and it was Abel, whose sacrifice offered by faith, who was honored.

Esau was the firstborn, but it was Jacob his younger brother through whom Jesus came. Just as God chose to not send

the Messiah through Cain, he chose to send Him through the younger brother.

Do you remember when Jacob's children were being blessed by this patriarch? Joseph presented his two sons before Jacob in such a way as to insure that Manasseh, the firstborn, might receive the greater blessing. However, Jacob reversed his hands and blessed the younger son. The tribe of Ephraim became so much greater that it was his name that God used to refer to the northern kingdom of Israel.

The lineage of the kings belonging to the oldest son was not followed when David died. Solomon was one of the youngest sons of David, but he was the one who became king.

The New Testament has a well-known story of a man who had two sons—we refer to it as the parable of the prodigal son. One son, the firstborn, faithfully followed his father, stayed with him and was to be the heir of family treasures. The younger brother had many spiritual problems. He was covetous, a lover of money, a son who wasted his inheritance, and he was immoral. However, when you get to the end of the story, he is one we all understand and honor.

Thank God for firstborns! But thank God because He equally honors the rest of us! There is a sense in which God sees and honors all of us as He honors any of us!

His love is the same for all of His children—for "second-born" & "third-borns"



By David Sproule

Watch Out for That "New Math"!

The boldness of Satan is astonishing and sickening. The first time we are introduced to him is very early in the Biblical narrative—in the 57th verse of the Bible, that "cunning...beast" enters the scene. The first thing we read of him doing is planting a seed of doubt in the validity of the Word of God

(Gen. 3:1), and then going further to lie profusely about the consequences of disobeying God, "You shall not surely die" (3:4; cf. 2:17). Truly, "he is a liar and the father of it" (John 8:44). From the very beginning, he has been adding to and taking from God's Word to cause mankind to violate God's Word.

And, unfortunately, since the days of the Garden in Genesis 3, mankind has been following his lead in adding to and taking from the Word. Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, when they were forbidden to do so (Gen. 3:6). Israel molded a golden calf and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, as if it was their "god" (Ex. 32:1-35). Moses struck the rock to provide water for the Israelites, instead of speaking to the rock as God instructed (Num. 20:7-12). Time and time again, God's creation was disregarding the clear directions given to them by their God. Who did they think they were—what math were they using—that they could disobey God?

From the beginning, God has always told man what He is

to do in order to please God ("Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat," Gen. 2:16). He has always told man what He is not to do ("but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat," 2:17). And, He has always told man the consequences of disobedience ("for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die," 2:17). Still, man, being influenced by the father of lies himself, transgresses God's clear directives.

It is no wonder then that God has to repeat Himself throughout Scripture. In Deuteronomy 4:2, He made it clear, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it." Again in Proverbs 30:6, "Do not add to His words." Then, finally, on the very last page of the Bible, "anyone" who "adds to" or "takes away from" the Word of God is warned of the serious and eternal consequences thereof (Rev. 22:18-19).

God's math is simple—do not "add" to or "subtract" from what He says, lest you "multiply" your sorrow and "divide" yourself from Him. Yet, the cunning beast still thinks that he can teach his new math and get away with it. Friends, remember that the devil is a liar! His new math is from hell and leads to hell! Let us remember that we must "listen to" and "do" the will of God in order to "go in and take possession of the land" He is giving us (Deut. 4:1). What He commands us is "for our good always"—now and in eternity (Deut. 6:24).

God's math is simple—do not "add" to or "subtract" from what He says



By Robert Lupo

“That’s Just Your Interpretation!”

One of the most common complaints you will hear when trying to teach the Bible to the lost is, “That’s just your interpretation!” Unfortunately, when you hear this, it usually means that they are not interested in listening.

But who can blame them for this attitude? When an outsider looks at the thousands of denominations of “Christianity,” it is easy to see why they don’t value one church’s interpretation over another. After all, if there are thousands of ways to interpret the church of the Bible, then how could you trust any teaching from Scripture?

The answer to this question is actually very simple. Any division of interpretation on the Scriptures is not the fault of the Bible, but of those who misuse it. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:20 that, “...no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.” There is only one way to interpret the Bible: the way God intended it to be understood. Where, then, do all these interpretations come from? Peter explains in chapter three of that same book.

The first explanation is that some things in the Bible are difficult to interpret. In verses 15-16, Peter observes this very thing, “...our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles,

speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand.”

Not everything in the Bible can be understood upon a first reading. This is not the fault of the writer, but the reader. “For God is not the author of confusion but of peace...” (1 Cor. 14:33). Obviously, God had a message that He wants us to understand. So, it is our responsibility to grow our understanding. If we will examine each saying in the context it was written, we will uncover that message.

Not everything in the Bible can be understood upon a first reading.

The second explanation is user error. Peter continues in verse 16, “...which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction...” Here, we see that people will distort the meaning of Scripture either out of ignorance or out of malevolence. Some were taught incorrectly while others intentionally try to mislead. The answer to both false teachers, thankfully, is the same. Peter tells us to “...grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (v. 18). We need to learn the Scriptures for ourselves. That way we can recognize error.

Denominationalism is not the fault of the Bible. God gave us words to live by. These words have meaning. It is our responsibility to carefully handle these words and understand them the way God intended them. My interpretation or your interpretation doesn’t matter.

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

“Your call cannot be completed as dialed”

Probably every person who has ever used a phone has heard the recorded message, “Your call cannot be completed as dialed. Please check the number and dial again.” This is an indication that something went wrong with the attempted call, usually on the caller’s end or the phone network. Can something similar happen in our spiritual lives?

We may be under the impression that God is required to always “pick up the phone” when we pray. But the Bible does not teach that. Consider some sobering verses: “One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination” (Prov. 28:9). “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear” (Psa. 66:18). God told rebellious Israel, “Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear” (Isa. 1:15).

Sin is not something to play with! When I allow sin to abide in my life and separate me from God (Isa. 59:1-2), my prayers will “not be completed” if dialed. I’d better “check” my life and try again! – DS



“When you look at others”

It is so easy to “look at others” and to be jealous (even slightly so) when they “have more” than you do, “have it easier” than you do, “get to do more fun things” than you do, etc. In “looking at others,” it becomes very easy to forget what you have or minimize the value of what you have.

In 1897, Johnson Oatman, Jr., in a beloved hymn, wrote, “When you look at others with their lands and gold, Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold. Count your many blessings, money cannot buy Your reward in Heaven, nor your home on high.”

Scripture tells us that playing the “comparing-ourselves-to-others” game is “not wise” (2 Cor. 10:12). Faithful child of God, do what the song calls for! “Count your many blessings!” You are a child of God. You have every sin forgiven by the precious blood of Jesus. You have a spiritual family in Christ’s church. You have direct access to the throne of God. You have the promise of eternal life! Don’t “look at others”! Look at your blessings and “See what God hath done”! – DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

Fran Campbell	dealing with knee pain
Dee Catanzaro	fell and broke her wrist
Josie Dawson	recovering from cataract surgery
Adelene Honore	dealing with eye issues
Mary A. Jackson	recovering from cataract surgery and hand surgery
Dan Johnson	Gardens Medical Center (room 259), undergoing tests
Grace Judge	recovering from major neck and back surgery
Dick Kelley	recovering from surgery
Janice Osborne	recovering from oral surgery
Islay Rodriguez	hospitalized earlier this week but doing better
Jim Rogers	JFK Medical Center (room 5206), rehab section
Amy West	recovering from procedure on her leg stent
Henry Williams	dealing with ongoing eye issues
Samuel Williams	has not been doing well



Anthioda Charles & family, upon the passing of **Joseph**, last week.

Ongoing Health Issues

Judy Carmack	chronic 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	Daniel Johnson
Josie Dawson	Kasandra Jones
Zula Garrett	Betty Matter
Dick Haines	Joyce Parker
Margie Hardin	Leigh Puckett
Loretta Holaday	Maurine Reed
Joan Holloway	Ricky Smedley

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Michelle Airey	Jackie Stout's daughter, recovering from cancer surgery
Russell Beliech	Stephen Beliech's bro., aortic valve replacement (9/17)
Wayne Hall	Rick Hall's brother, hospitalized, recovering from stroke
Rochelle Lord	David Lord's mother, ongoing health issues
Sandra Perez	Cherylann Banks' sister, diagnosed with liver fibrosis
Chuck Reeves, Sr.	Chuck Reeves, Jr.'s father, serious health issues
Greg Ryan	Lynne Jorgensen's son, cancer, radiation treatments
Jewell Smith	James Green's sister, hospitalized, undergoing tests

Remember Our Mission Works

Pacific Islands
Robert & Mary Martin
Wayne & Kristi Parker

Africa
Nnanna Aforji
Tamuka Arunashe

Bahamas
Tavaro & Shameika Hanna

United States
Apologetics Press
Robert C. Lupo
Mauricio & Kayla Yegros

Answering Macedonian Calls
Josh & Cara Blackmer



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, September 8

- ♦ **Going Away Party for Johnny & Betty Davis** after evening worship in the Family Room. Come and enjoy visiting and showing our gratitude to them.

Monday, September 9

- ♦ **Monday Night Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

Tuesday, September 10

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

Friday, September 13

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Reanna Lupo. 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 14

- ♦ **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.

Saturday, September 14 (cont.)

- ♦ **Teacher Appreciation Banquet** for our teachers of children and adult Bible classes at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Room. Please RSVP to the office.
- ♦ **Ladies' Day hosted by Miami Gardens** from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. This year's theme is *"Modesty of a Christian Woman."* Please RSVP by August 31. See the bulletin board for more details.

Sunday, September 15

- ♦ **Friends & Family Day with David Powell.** The theme is *"Priority #1: Getting Our Children to Heaven."* Use the invitations in the Lobby to invite your friends!
 - 9:00 a.m. Bible Study**
"Rearing Christian Children in a Crazy World"
 - 10:00 a.m. Morning Worship**
"Will Our Children Remain Faithful?"
 - 12:45 p.m. Evening Worship**
"Do Right and Wrong Change with Culture?"

Saturday, September 21

- ♦ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting** at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

Friday, September 13

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Reanna Lupo. 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.

Friday, September 20

- ♦ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of David & Daisy Lord. See Ivan Villard for details.

Saturday, October 5

- ♦ **Young Adult & Youth Connect Day.** See Ivan Villard or Robert Lupo for details.

Monday, October 7

- ♦ **Men's Meet** at 6:30 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship!



Palm Beach Lakes Youth

Sunday, September 8

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

Friday, September 13

- ♦ **Ladies & Lattes** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Reanna Lupo. 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, September 15

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

Sunday, September 22

- ♦ **Jr. High & Sr. High Devo** after evening worship. Location TBD. See Robert Lupo for details.

Thursday-Sunday, September 26-29

- ♦ **RUSH Weekend at FHU for Grades 8-12.** Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby. Cost is \$60 plus food. See Robert Lupo for more details.

Was Christ's Death Retroactive?

by Dave Miller



Q:

Was Christ's death retroactive for those who were obedient and faithful to God and had passed before the crucifixion? Or was His sacrifice not needed on their part?

A:

Christ's sacrifice was/is certainly needed for every person of accountable age and mind who have lived on the Earth. All have sinned and therefore have earned hell by their own actions (Romans 6:23). Only the blood of Jesus can make it possible for them to be forgiven and acceptable to God.

Romans 3 explains: "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had **passed over the sins that were previously committed**, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:23-26). According to the Law of Moses, when those who were under that legal system performed the prescribed sacrifices as acts of atonement, they understood that they were forgiven. Read Leviticus chapters 4 and 5 where "he will be forgiven" is used 8 times. The psalmist summarized the appropriate attitude of the faithful, obedient Israelite: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:11-12). Or as Jeremiah expressed: "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning" (Lamentations 3:22-23).

But the New Testament explains that, in a **technical** sense, the blood of Christ was necessary for that forgiveness to occur. So how could they be forgiven **before** that blood was **actually** shed on a Roman cross in A.D. 30? Revelation 13:8 states that Jesus was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."¹ Since God is an infinite, eternal Being who is not susceptible to time (in fact, He **created** time, and He exists **outside** of time), He could reckon people prior to the cross justified if they manifested "obedient faith" (Romans 1:5; 16:26). That is the commonality for all people throughout human history regarding the prerequisite to salvation—an obedient faith. Those who manifested that type of faith were counted by God to be justified based on the blood of Christ—even if prior to the cross.

Perhaps a useful illustration would be one I heard some years ago: Before all our instantaneous electronic capability, if a person paid his electric bill, he would write a check and mail it to the electric company. He would then consider his bill paid—if his wife asked, "Did you pay the electric bill?" he could truthfully say, "yes." But, in actuality and technically, the check had to arrive at the electric company. They would open his envelope, remove the check and note in their records that he had sent the money. But, technically, the bill was still not actually paid. The electric company would send the man's check to his bank. His bank would then cash the check and give that money to the electric company. At that point, the electric bill was **actually and legally** paid.

In like fashion, God could forgive people throughout human history as long as they engaged in the acts of faith that enabled Him to do so. But **actually and legally**, atonement was made by Christ on a Roman cross in A.D. 30. Nevertheless, the death of Christ was formulated in the mind of Deity in eternity prior to the creation of the Universe.

Endnotes

¹ English translations treat the underlying Greek as follows: (1) "**from** the foundation of the world"—BRG, JUB, KJV, MEV, MOUNCE, NKJV, YLT; (2) "**from** the beginning of the world"—DRA, NMB, RGT, WYC; (3) "**from** the creation of the world"—NIV; (4) "**since** the foundation of the world"—DLNT, ISV; (5) "**before** the world was founded"—CJB; (6) "**before** the world was made"—NLT; (7) "**before** the foundation of the world"—OJB; (8) "**before** the creation of the world"—GW, NOG. See Greek grammarian A.T. Robertson (1960), *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman), 6:402.

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

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshipping with us

Sunday,
September 1

LOCAL VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Cris & Alice Cuevas; Mr. Channing Daniel; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas & Young DiNetta; Mrs. Ann Freseman; Mr. Lawrence Gilmore; Mr. & Mrs. Rai & Ashley Masuda; Mr. & Mrs. Michael Menendez & Astrid Arevalo; Ms. Dorothy Pernell; Mr. & Mrs. John & Andrea Phillip; Mr. & Mrs. Hunter & Jewell Sanders; and Mr. Joshua Tull.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Miss Julie Charles, Henderson, TN; and Mr. & Mrs. Milton & Evie Pullen, Houston, TX.



Directory Changes

Mary Beth Hester placed membership on Sunday, September 1.



Thank you everyone for your prayers, calls, texts and support. Our family is very thankful.

Anthioda & Julie Charles

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week

Sunday, September 8th

Trinity Franck
Verdell March

Wednesday, September 11th

Mario & Marcia Clough-Moss (Ann.)

Thursday, September 12th

Darin Summerlot

Monday, September 9th

Jennifer Walker

Saturday, September 14th

Josh Blackmer
Taylor Hayes

Tuesday, September 10th

Debi Watson

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, September 8

Singing Gary Friedly
Lord's Supper Dan McLeod
Singing
Opening Prayer Dan Fuller
Scripture Reading David Lord
Singing
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer David Holaday

Serve at Table:

Ed Buonadonna	Chuck Reeves, Jr.
Addison Collins	Johnny Singer
Mike Damron	Cristian Suarez
Gorman Ericksen	Darin Summerlot
Freddie Gadson	Daniel Swayne

Sunday Evening, September 8

Singing Graysen Hayes
Opening Prayer Dion Hayes
Scripture Reading Daniel Wagner
Singing
Lord's Supper Douglas Alvarenga
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Paul Metzkes

Serve at Table:

David Perez Darin Summerlot

Audio this week: David Brown

Computer this week: Israel Cuevas

Video this week: Scott Studer

Wednesday Evening, September 11

Singing Dan McLeod
Invitation Victor Colage
Family Prayer Dion Hayes

Our Record

Attendance	Sep. 1	Aug. Avg
Sun. Bible Study	167	171
Sun. AM Worship	258	268
Sun. PM Worship	96	121
Wed. Bible Study	160	141
Contribution	\$18,554	\$16,708

2024 Weekly Budget: \$16,452

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$23,713

Service Coordinator:
Eugene Williams

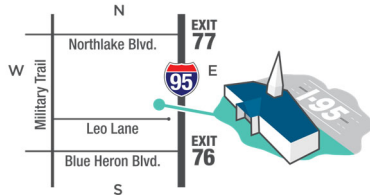
Ushers for this week: Edward Gager & Dirk Summerlot
Safety Team for this week: Andres Fernandez



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: **Johnny & Betty Davis**

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What Must I Do to Be Saved?

The Bible says...

- 1. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God**
"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
- 2. Repent of your sinful ways**
"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).
- 3. Confess your faith in Jesus**
"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus...you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9).
- 4. Be immersed in water**
"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).
- 5. Commit to a lifetime of faithful service**
"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).