

Announcements and Church News

Our Sick

Emily George— recovering at home from hip surgery; Samantha Jones pulled a muscle in her back; John Nickl recovering from hip surgery at Largo Medical Rehab on Indian Rcks Rd, Rm 332; Ashley Wygal— for her pregnancy; Teresa Broyles and Vicky Lube—cancer trmt; Joyce Stanley, Kim Taylor, Nancy VanWinkle, health issues.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FAMILY/FRIENDS; Jinni Cochran's mother Nickie Campbell in the hospital from a fall; The Broyles stepmom Mary Jane Wright is in rehab recovering from a broken femur from a fall; Dolly Martin's sister Patsy/health issues; Regina Hunter's sister, Cynthia for health issues; Samantha Jones daughter Ariel, brother Eddie and son Joshua; Carol Mitchell- tumor on liver; The Stewart's—bro-in-law Russell Holt; Clifton Reynold's son Bryce; The Kozola's son Tim; David Sain's—wife Phyllis; Van Stewart's—aunt, Linda Parsons for health issues; Dianne Stewart's—brother, Bobby Goodfield; The Stingles—niece's baby; Paula Davis'—niece/ lupus; Darrell Broking/for health issues.

PRAYERS FOR CANCER:

Tim Martin of Pinellas Park church of Christ; Dyianna Thompson's brother-in-law, Rodney; John Benson's friend, Wendell; Ranny Reeves neighbor, Linda Wall; Randall Deily's—uncle; Linda Hadsock's niece, June McCray; Carol Untied's stepmother Emily; Debbie Methvin's—friend Michele Fuguero; Deb Adams friends son, Jason; Van Stewart's sister Tracey and cousin Paula; Ronnie Sommerville's dad, Ron; Mattie Simmons friend William; Sandy Caldwell's bro-in-law Larry; Kay Jessup's friends, Lou and Rose Fiores also co-worker Marie Woleck.

INMATES: Antwaun Thompson, Willie Newton & Tom George.

OUR SERVICE MEN: Sam Wagner and cousin Mark Wagner (Navy) Austin Reyes (Marine) Matthew Holleran (Army)

Activities

LADIES BIBLE CLASS— This Friday, January 20th at 1:00pm in the small building.

FSOP LECTURESHIP— The 48th Annual Lectureship at the Florida School of Preaching in Lakeland begins tomorrow thru January 19th. The title is the Rise of the Messianic Kingdom. The schedule of speakers can be found in the foyer. The lectureship can be watched online at fsop@fsop.net.

MEN'S BREAKFAST— This Saturday, January 21st at 8:30 in the small building. Please add your name to the sign up sheet if you plan to attend.

SPRING LADIES RETREAT— At Weeki Wachee Christian Camp from February 17th to the 19th. The theme is "BEE" The Change. For more information please pick up a flyer in the foyer. Registration forms are attached.

SYMPATHY— Our deepest sympathy is extended to Yllka Bejo and family. Yllka's mother passed away last week in Albania. Remember Yllka and family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their dear loved one.

REMINDER—Weekly sermons are available on CD, our website and livestream on Facebook and YouTube Sundays at 10:30 & 5:00pm and Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Announcements—Joe Bonelli
Song Leaders—Joe Bonelli/James George
Opening Prayer—Mark Bernhardt/Jesse Lancaster
Lord's Table—Van Stewart
Closing Prayer—Dennis Cuckler/Bob Hadsock

Birthdays This Week

Becky Jurado—January 15th
 Kay Jessup—January 17th
 Yllka Bejo—January 19th

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 15, 2023
 centralofchrist@gmail.com
 www.centralofchrist.com

Office: (727) 446-4808
 1454 Belleair Rd. Clearwater, FL 33756-2357

Gospel Broadcasting Network
<http://gbntv.org> **YouTube**
<https://spiritualsword.org/>

SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY TV Channel 44 (WTOG) at 7:30am Sunday **YouTube**
 watch & hear Phil Sanders

THE INTERNATIONAL GOSPEL HOUR **YouTube** (24/7) to hear Jeff Archey

House to House Heart to Heart **FSOP** (EST. 1969)
 fsop.net

Childhaven, Inc. Childhaven Children's Home in Cullman, AL
www.childhaven.com

FAIR HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME
fairhavenchildrenshome.com www.christiancourier.com

Soaring for Souls
soaringforsouls.com

india missions
cocindia.net

Arnold Town Road Church of Christ—Darrell Broking
 Chalmette Church of Christ—Mark Lance
 South Anchorage Church of Christ—Michael Dale

Elders:

Joe Bonelli Charles Broyles
 James George

Deacons:

Max Herman
 Van Stewart

Preacher: Charles Broyles

Office: 727-446-4808 Cell #: 423-240-9075

Sunday Bible Study—9:30AM
 Charles Broyles

Major Prophets—Ezekiel 39

Sunday AM Worship—10:30AM
 Charles Broyles

Hold To God's Unchanging Hand
 Romans 8:35-39

Sunday PM Worship—5:00 PM
 Charles Broyles

A Pyramid Of Praise
 Ephesians 3:20-21

Ladies Bible Study-Friday
January 20th at 1:00PM

Wed. Bible Study—7:00PM
 Charles Broyles

The Sovereignty of God

All of our services are available on Facebook Live and



YouTube Live!



From the Preacher's Pen

THE RELATIONSHIPS OF OBEDIENCE

Victor M. Eskew

If you mention the word “obedience,” some people are immediately turned off by the term. Some will label you if you teach the need for obedience. They will call you a “legalist” or a “right-winger” or a “staunch conservative.” It doesn’t seem to matter to these individuals that eternal life is predicated on one’s obedience. It was the Hebrew writer who declared: “And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9).

Those who ridicule the need for obedience have not done their homework. If they had, they would have learned that there are some very important relationships that are connected to obedience. First, they do seem to realize that obedience shares a close relationship with one’s love for God. Several times in John 14, Jesus noted this relationship. “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me...” (John 14:21). “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words...” (John 14:23). In John 15, Jesus continues to teach about the relationship between obedience and love. “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love” (John 15:10). One of Jesus’ apostles who heard these words of his Master, repeated them in one of his epistles. John, the apostle of love, declared: “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (1 John 5:3). Is loving God important? Is loving God something all of us should desire to do? Absolutely! Dear reader, our love for God can only be proven if we obey the commands of God. If a person will not obey Jesus, he does not truly love Him. Jesus Himself said: “He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings...” (John 14:24).

Second, those who are not fond of obedience do not seem to realize that there is a relationship that exists between obedience and friendship with Jesus Christ. In John 15:14, these words of our Lord are recorded: “Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” Most religious individuals want to be Jesus’ friend. They will often sing the song: “I’ll be a friend to Jesus.” They long for the Lord’s comradery. They long to boast that Jesus is their best friend. They yearn to lay their head on their pillows knowing that their friend, Jesus Christ, is close to their side. But, they reject the teaching that their friendship with Jesus is based on their obedience to Him. Jesus was clear. You are not His friend if you will not keep His words.

Third, our Lord also teaches that being a member of the family of God is based upon obedience. This lesson was taught by our Lord during His earthly ministry when His mother and brethren desired to speak with Him while He was talking to the people. The incident is recorded in Matthew 12:46-50. “While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren, stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren. And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the

same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

Verse 50 proves there is a relationship between obedience and being part of the Lord’s family. “For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”

Again, all religious people want to be numbered among the family of God. It is an honor to be called a child of God. This honor, however, is only bestowed upon those who are obedient to the Father’s will. It is not something that is bestowed indiscriminately.

Dear reader, are you a person who loves God? If you are, then you are obedient to Him. Are you a friend of God? If you are, it is because you do the will of God. Are you a member of God’s family? If you are, it is because you are obeying God’s Word. It is intriguing that the concept that man thinks is so negative is the basis for so many positive spiritual things. Only flawed man would ridicule something that expresses love for God, makes one a friend of God, and puts one into the family of God.

If you ever hear of someone “bad-mouthing” obedience, you need to flee from him. He is a false teacher. The Bible NEVER refers to obedience as something evil. At the outset of this article, we looked at Hebrews 5:9 that teaches obedience is essential for eternal life. As we close this article, let’s note that obedience is also essential for entrance into our heavenly abode. In Revelation 22:14, John writes: “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter into the gates into the city.”

TEN MINUTES BEFORE AND AFTER SERVICES

Allen Webster

Recently members of our church moved to another city due to job transfer. They visited two congregations near their new home. Both congregations came highly recommended. They arrived early, stayed late, and made themselves available. Yet, despite their eagerness, no one from Congregation Number One greeted them or expressed any interest. They contacted the preacher during the week and shared their concern. The preacher apologized. The next month they visited Congregation Number Two. During the first two visits, dozens of people greeted them, two Bible classes invited them out to eat, four families had them into their homes, and they received numerous invitations to become part of that congregation.

Guess which church this couple decided to attend? The friendliness of Congregation Two made a deep impression. The ten minutes before and after each service are significant times for our guests. Friendliness must be constantly practiced. Each week, several people visit our congregation for the first time. Extend your hand. Put on a smile. Let us be friendly.

Copied

1 Timothy 1:8-9

“But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully; Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers.”