



THE FOREST HILL NEWS

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Forest Hill Church of Christ

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Harold D. Mangrum
Keith B. McAlister
Eddie F. Ray III

Ministers:

Barry M. Grider,
Pulpit Evangelist
Matthew Jones,
Personal Evangelist

Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship.... 10:30 A.M.
Afternoon Worship.....1:30 P.M.

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 P.M.

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What We Can Know About Prayer

Barry Grider

When a doctoral student at Princeton University asked, “What is there left in the world for original dissertation research?” Albert Einstein replied, “Find out about prayer. Somebody must find out about prayer.” Even Christians have a difficult time understanding how prayer works. We know it is a privilege to pray. Prayer is a spiritual blessing we have in Christ (Eph. 1:3) and without Christ we could not pray (Heb. 4:14-16). Still Christians ask, how does God answer our prayers? For what should we pray? Does it make any difference whether we pray or not? The only way any of us can know about prayer is by turning to the Bible. What does the Bible say about prayer?

First, God commands that we pray. Samuel the prophet, said to ancient Israel, “Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you” (1 Sam. 12:23). Jesus, right before teaching a parable about prayer, said, “that men ought always to pray and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). Paul commanded, “Pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). We may not always understand the complexities of prayer but God still commands it and we must do it.

Second, we can address God as Father when we pray. God is high and lifted up (Isa. 6:1). “The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty” (Psa. 93:1). Queen Elizabeth II has reigned as the British monarch for 66 years. Though she is now 92 and frail and her days upon earth limited, I would stand in awe if in her presence because of who she is and what she represents. Yet the God of heaven desires us to enter into His presence through prayer and Jesus said, “After this manner, therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven” (Mat. 6:9). Through Christ, our relationship with God has changed. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). God cares for us as His children (Psa. 103:13).

Third, we can know what to say in prayer. What do we talk to God about when we pray? Paul writes, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God” (Phil. 4:6). Furthermore, through prayer we, confess our sins unto God (1 John 1:9), pray for others (James 5:16), and cast our cares upon God (1 Pet. 5:7).

Fourth, we can believe in prayer. “And this is the confidence that we have in him, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know we have the petitions that we desired of him” (1 John 5:14,15). James reiterates what John says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much (James 5:16). “Likewise, the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom. 8:26).

I have often quoted what two of my heroes in the faith said about prayer. George W. Bailey said, “If there is nothing else we can do in any given situation, at least we can pray. And we should never do anything unless we first pray.” James Watkins said, “If you have trouble praying, talk to God about it. Then you will find you can do what you did not think you could do. Prayer is simply talking to God.” We may not understand everything about prayer, Christian friends, but surely we understand enough about it to keep on praying.

The Ancient Landmarks

Barry O'Dell

Five times in the Old Testament the word *landmark* is used. The word means, “a border, boundary, or territory.” Deuteronomy 19:14 and 27:17 are prohibitions written in the Law of Moses about Israelites moving the borders of another’s inheritance in the Promised Land. Proverbs 22:28 and 23:10 are similar commands written several hundred years later. Job 24:2 is a part of Job’s defense of his innocence in view of his suffering. He was “perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed (turned away from) evil” (Job 1:1). He said of others, “Some remove the *landmarks*; they violently take away flocks, and feed thereof” (Job 24:2). It is obvious from these five passages that God expected people to respect the property of others.

The concept of borders or *landmarks* is also present in the New Testament in a metaphorical way. The apostle John wrote, “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son” (2 John 9) The word for *transgress* is similar to our English word *trespass*. The word in the Greek language (*parabaino*) means, “to go by the side of; to pass or pass over; to overstep or trespass.” While the five passages listed above from the Old Testament refer to literal, physical property lines, John spoke of abiding or remaining “in the doctrine of Christ.” There was a line that was not to be crossed! In the immediate context, John was warning about those who “confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” (2 Jn. 7). He called those who do such “a deceiver and an antichrist.” There are other lines that are not to be crossed according to the New Testament.

Salvation. The gospel is very clear and easy to understand when it comes to being saved from sin. Jesus was very specific (Mk. 16:16). Peter was very specific (Acts 2:37-38). Phillip was very specific (Acts 8:35-38). Paul was very specific (Gal. 3:26-28). God has drawn a boundary in terms of man being saved from his sin and we have no right to *go beyond* or *trespass* in this realm.

Marriage. From the beginning God determined that the home was to be established upon a man leaving his parents and cleaving to his wife (Gen. 2:24). When questioned about divorce for “any reason” Jesus responded “from the beginning it was not so” (Matt. 19:3, 8). God’s intent for marriage is one man and one

woman, for life. As with salvation, however, mankind has *gone beyond* or *trespassed* against God’s plan for marriage in a variety of ways.

Worship. From the beginning (Gen. 4) man has attempted to “improve” or change God’s plan for worship. Hebrews 11:4 gives a view into what happened with Cain and Abel as recorded in Genesis 4. Abel offered by faith and his sacrifice was “more excellent” to God than his brother’s. The implication is obvious — God, at some point in time, had revealed what He wanted as sacrifice. Abel obeyed and Cain did not. First Kings 12 is another example of man altering God’s specified worship. Jeroboam, a servant of Solomon, helped to split the Kingdom of Israel and established new locations, objects, and time for worship in Israel. The record states of Jeroboam, “...who did sin, and who made Israel to sin” (1 Kg. 14:16). There has never been a time in history when man was permitted to change God’s plan for worship. Men today tamper with God’s plan in various ways. Women leading in the assembly, which is a violation of Paul’s command is an example (1 Tim. 2:8-14). Musical instruments, which is a violation of the commands and examples found in the New Testament is another example (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 13:15). The list could go on, but the point is clear.

The behavior of individual Christians. God had set boundaries that His children are not to cross in terms of their conduct. Our conduct should “adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in all things” (Titus 2:10). In Ephesians 4:25-32 we read of several lines that are not to be crossed by those who have put on the new man. Mankind does not have the right to make his own determination concerning his daily conduct!

The admonition to not remove the *ancient landmarks* in spiritual matters is just as important as the command under the Old Testament that referred to physical property lines in Israel.

(Fulton County Gospel News, January/February 2018)

PRESIDE: Robert Berch
ASSIST: Cole Bennett
 Bob Gitter
 Billy Rodgers

Lawayne House
 Kalon Brown
 Ty Phillips
 Cannon Taylor

A.M. OPENING: Greg Mangrum
A.M. CLOSING: Randy Elliott
P.M. OPENING: Steve Allmond
P.M. CLOSING: Allan Hart

If you are unable to lead prayer or serve at the Lord's table, please contact Cedric Huff or Paul Connell.

RECORD, WEEK of August 26, 2018

BIBLE STUDY: 225
 A.M. WORSHIP: 290
 P.M. WORSHIP: 195
 CONTRIBUTION: \$18,251.00

HOMEBOUND

Virginia Ditto Albert & Ruth House
 Hazel Eskew Betty Jones
 Doris Jean Cole Jerry & Betty Robbins
 Anita Hopper Velton & Dorothy Trimm

OUR SICK

Ill at home: Sherry Brown, Tish Clarke, Phil Houston, and Jim Woody.

Patsy DeShields, St Francis Hospital, Barry Building, Room 405.

Lisa Howard, blood sugar problems, Germantown Methodist, surgery scheduled for August 29.

Betty Jones, Ave Maria Home Care, Bartlett.

Martha McKelvey, Memphis Jewish Home.

Nancy Safronoff, mother of Walt Safronoff, recovering from knee surgery in MI.

Mary Alice and I want to thank you for your prayers and kind cards sent to us at the passing of my twin brother, Richard D. Bergstrom.

Bob Bergstrom

PLEASE CHECK YOUR BOX!

HEARTS AND HANDS

TEAM "E" (JIM WOODY) will receive assignment cards September 2.

REORGANIZATION LUNCHEON, Sunday, September 16 following the morning service. Kathy Maund, RN, will be available to administer flu shots on this day. Please sign up on the bulletin board.

EVENTS

LADIES AND MEN'S CLASSES will resume September 11. We will meet at Cracker Barrel for breakfast at 8:45.

KIRBY PINES Retirement Community worship service each fourth Sunday 8:00-8:45 a.m., conducted by Forest Hill. Our next service will be Sunday, September 23.

YOUTH RETREAT October 12-14. Details forthcoming.

Forest Hill Church of Christ

Adult Classes

Summer Quarter, 2018 (July-August)

<u>Location</u>	<u>Teacher</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<u>Sunday Morning</u>		
Auditorium (A)	Greg Mangrum	<i>1 & 2 Timothy & Titus</i>
Chapel Hall (E)	Keith Mosher	<i>Luke</i>
Break Room (E) (Young Adults)	Tom Wacaster	<i>Hebrews</i>
<u>Wednesday Night</u>		
Auditorium (A) Fellowship Hall	Barry Grider Matt Jones	<i>The Divided Kingdom</i> <i>Taking Sin Seriously</i>
<u>Tuesday Morning</u>		
Ladies/Class (A) Men's Class	Cecilia Grider Barry Grider	<i>Portrait of a Christian</i> <i>Practical Christianity</i> <i>Studies</i> <i>in the Book of James</i>

A-Auditorium Building
 E-Education Building

Last week's solution:

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:6-7

CORNERSTONE

Scryptogram: Each letter in the passage is replaced with another.

UH TSZAH OUCLU SUH FQCBVHXT XHDQTHV CT FHLZJH
 SUH UHWV TSZAH ZD SUH LZAXHX. SUCT CT SUH BZXV'T
 VZCAE; CS CT JWXPHBZQT CA ZQX HIHT. SUCT CT SUH
 VWI OUCLU SUH BZXV UWSU JWVH; OH OCB B XHNZCLH
 WAV FH EBWV CA CS.

J=M Solution next week. L=C

September 2018
Coordinating Elder-Tony Callahan
Birthday Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Karen Brown
2	3 Brenda Gitter Edison Ray	4	5	6 Ryan Weight	7 Lawayne House	8 Anna Ulrich
9 Wade Braddock Orival McClure	10 Pearl Washington	11	12	13 Libby Goff Jazmyn Howard	14 Gerald Brown Jr.	15
16 June Faulkner	17	18 John Pope	19	20 Kenny Barcroft Lisa Davenport	21	22 Barry Grider
23 Cecilia Bouchillon /30	24 Janet Sanders	25	26	27 T.J. Clarke Lynn Manning Johnnie Ann Wacaster	28 Joy Brown	29 Marv Sowell Jason White

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