



# CHURCH OF CHRIST

## West Palm Beach

Striving Toward the Prize of the Upward Call of God

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**NOVEMBER 12, 2017**

## AGENDA

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeff Fiser

### GREETER

April Kercheville

### SONG LEADER

JP Morrow

### LORD'S SUPPER

Dan Schmidt  
Paul Schofield  
Sandford Cooper

### SCRIPTURE READING

Steve Poyner

### CLOSING PRAYER

Gary Gerber

### SUN 9:30AM BIBLE STUDY

Faithful Proclamation  
Facing Persecution:  
The Message of Jeremiah

### SUN 10:30AM MESSAGE

Living in the Light of Eternity:  
Your Holiness  
(1 Thessalonians 4:1-8)

### SUN 6:30PM MESSAGE

The Hope of Redemption:  
When God Spoke From Heaven  
(Exodus 20)

### WED 7PM BIBLE STUDY

The Road To Redemption:  
Seeing Christ in the Exodus

### 2018 HAVERHILL ROAD LECTURES

August 8-12, 2018

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### SHEPHERDS

Emil Kay and Dan Schmidt

## FAMILY NEWS

The next teaching rotation is posted on the center bulletin board in the foyer. The next quarter begins at the end of November. Please check the rotation schedule to see when you are slotted to teach. If you have any questions or need to make an adjustments, please speak to Brent.

## NEIGHBORHOOD BIBLE STUDIES

### PROVERBS BIBLE STUDY

Friday, November 17 @ 7:30pm  
at the church building

### FOUNDATIONS BIBLE STUDY

Friday, December 1 @ 7:30pm  
at the Poyner home

### LADIES BIBLE STUDY

Saturday, December 2 @ 10am  
at the Schmidt home

## REQUESTED PRAYERS

**Sydney Banuelos** for physical difficulties  
**Byron Butterfield** for difficulty walking  
**Elsie Griffith** with cancer in her blood  
**Kay Heilman's grand-niece** has an aggressive form of lupus  
**Kay Kay** for health difficulties  
**Berry Kercheville** for prostate cancer  
**Grace Kercheville** for Prader-Willi syndrome  
**Donna Koon** for physical and spiritual strength  
**Bessie Presnell's son** for cancer

**Emily Richardson's cousin**, Pam Inman, for physical difficulties  
**Evelyn Rollins** is recovering from a dislocated hip and for various health difficulties  
**Evelyn Rollins' sister-in-law** who is going through chemotherapy for cancer  
**Dick Saleeby** for diabetes issues and for injuries from a recent fall  
**Jennifer Schofield** for MS  
**Janet Wloch** is recovering from a broken ankle

## SCRIPTURE FOR TODAY'S MESSAGE

1 Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more. 2 For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus. 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, 5 not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; 6 that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. 8 Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 ESV)

# RENEWED BY GOD

43:22 "Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob; but you have been weary of me, O Israel! 23 You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings, or honored me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, or wearied you with frankincense. 24 You have not bought me sweet cane with money, or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices. But you have burdened me with your sins; you have wearied me with your iniquities. 25 "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins. 26 Put me in remembrance; let us argue together; set forth your case, that you may be proved right. 27 Your first father sinned, and your mediators transgressed against me. 28 Therefore I will profane the princes of the sanctuary, and deliver Jacob to utter destruction and Israel to reviling. (Isaiah 43:22-28 ESV)

## Weary of God (Isaiah 43:22-28)

People do not call on the Lord. The people did not look to the Lord to be their God in their lives. Instead, they are weary of God. They did not want to bring sacrifices to God and they did not want to give honor to the Lord. They did not want to give their money or bring their gifts to God. Their worship was not centered on praising or honoring God. This is the whole point of worship. Instead, the people thought God was exhausting. It is just so exhausting and a weariness to honor God. Yet God asks why the people feel burdened and wearied (43:23). This is the only God who says he will help us and carry us through life. Yet we listen to this offer and say that we are exhausted by God. God says I am here to help you, love you, and save you. But we look at God as a weariness.

Notice that God says that if anyone is weary, it is God, not us (43:24). All that we have brought to God is our sins. We have not brought him the honor that he deserves. We have not given him the worship that the only Sovereign ought to receive. Instead, we brought the enormous weight of our sins.

But notice that God says he can handle those burdens. Listen to God's promise: "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins." First, notice why God will blot out the sins of the people. He does so for his own sake. We offer nothing that God deserves or demands. Instead, we have offered God our sins. But for his own sake God promises to wipe away our sins. Second, God will not remember your sins. All that we have given to God is our sins. God says he will not remember those sins. God is going to act for the sins of the world so that those sins will not be remembered. The forgiveness of our sins cannot be based on our lives (43:27-28). We have no case before God. We should be judged for our actions. We are guilty of these sins. All are worthy of judgment and judgment is coming for sins.

44:1 "But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! 2 Thus says the Lord who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. 4 They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. 5 This one will say, 'I am the Lord's,' another will call on the name of

Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,' and name himself by the name of Israel." (Isaiah 44:1-5 ESV).

## God's Renewal (44:1-5)

But God says to not fear. Though judgment is coming there is no reason to fear. Why? Why should the people not fear? God says in Isaiah 44:2 that yet again he will help. Verse 3 describes what God is going to do. God is going to bless his people in such a way that it will cause a great reversal of their condition. We observe again that the pouring out of the Spirit in this prophecy has no reference to miracles. Notice the parallel in the second clause. "My offspring" is the same as "my descendants" and "my Spirit" is the same as "my blessing." The pouring out of the Spirit on the people is the same as God pouring out his blessings on the people. God uses imagery like that of refreshing rain in a dry, hot place. Our rains in West Palm Beach are often very refreshing, cooling us down from the heat of the afternoon sun. God is refreshing and renewing his people. This is what means for the Spirit to be poured out. God will bless his people which will lead to their refreshing and renewal.

God is going to pour out his blessings so that we will be like trees growing among the grass next to flowing streams of water. The crushed will become trees. The devastated will be renewed. People broken by sin are given the offer of new life that is greater than what existed before. Instead of being scorched grass God will plant us as trees. Verse 5 describes the result. People are going to say to others, "I am the Lord's." They will have the mark on their hand, "The Lord's" and be called as one belonging to God's people, Israel. These people will belong to God and to God's community of saved people. Consider that before the people were weary of the Lord (43:22). Now God's people will claim to belong to God and want to belong to him and his people.

Christians are not people that sound like those in Isaiah 43:22-23. Rather, Christians are people who sound like those in Isaiah 44:4-5. Isaiah is picturing what we are able to experience in Christ now. Those who have experienced the grace of God are those who lives are owned by the Lord and find their identity with Christ and his people. To put this point another way, notorious sinners will become notorious believers. God's grace will break into the lives of people with renewing power. This is amazing! Our sins are not too much for God. God does not walk away from our wretched sinful condition. God says that he will no longer remember our sins and renew our lives so that we can belong to the Lord and be part of his group of saved people. But the thought goes further. God's grace is strong enough to change your thirst and your desires toward him. God's grace is great enough to no longer see the Lord as a weariness and burden and now see him as a joy and an honor. God is able to cause a radical transformation of the dry, parched heart and make it fertile and fruitful for God's glory. Please notice that God's grace does not mean that our sins are overlooked and we keep sinning. The arrival of God's grace means there is going to be a renewal of the heart and reformation of lives so that we will want to belong to him. The pouring out of the Spirit, the pouring out of God's blessings of grace, will cause a radical transformation.✠

— Brent Kercheville



— Tim Challies





