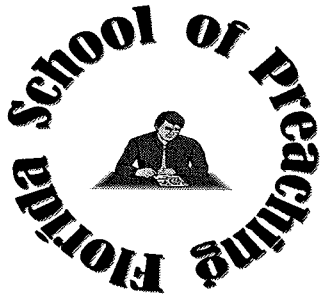


The Harvester



Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord



Volume XXIX

December 2008

Number 5

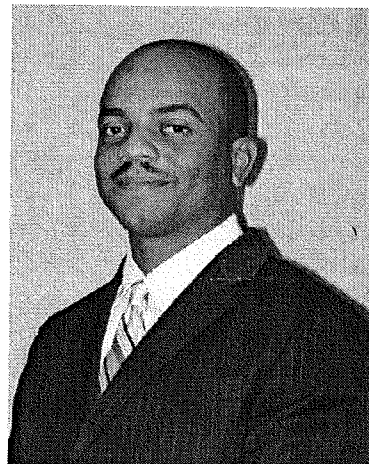
COMPLETING STUDIES IN DECEMBER

Two of our forty-four students (including full-time, part time, and extension classes) will be finishing classes December 12.

ROBYN MILLER is originally from Little Rock, Arkansas. She graduated high school in 2006, and shortly after enrolled in the school. While the Lord does not authorize women to preach (1 Tim. 2:12), they are welcome to increase their Bible knowledge and spiritual strength. Robyn has been on mission campaigns to Costa Rica and Mexico,



where she has been involved in teaching children. She plans to continue her education, and at the time of this printing, was interviewing for a job to work with troubled children.



DERRICK BROWN came to us from the church of Christ at 201 10th Ave East in Bradenton, Florida. He is originally from Swainsboro, Georgia. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1989-1993. In addition to his working with the 201 church of Christ, he also preaches at least twice a month for the Peace River church of Christ in Punta

Gorda, Florida. He and his wife, Niki, have four children. At the time of this printing, Derrick was still looking for full-time work. He will make some congregation a fine preacher.

2008 Lectureship Book Preview “Do You Understand Restoring the Erring?”

By Brian R. Kenyon

Our 34th annual lectureship, “Do You Understand Restoring the Erring?,” will be held January 19-22, 2009. Since our 1994 lectureship, we have printed hard bound books containing the lectures and additional material relating to each year’s theme. This year’s book is our sixteenth; it consists of 568 pages; and it is dedicated to James W. Huggins, who served the school for a number of years as an instructor and board member. This book will be a very useful addition to any person’s library, especially elders, preachers, teachers, and all concerned Christians! In this article, we wish to give each reader a taste of this tenth volume in our “Do You Understand...?” series of lectureship books. Following are some excerpts we hope each reader will find Biblically informative, spiritually insightful, and seriously motivating to positively approach the subject of restoring the erring.

Make Plans Now To Attend Our 34th Annual Lectureship

“Do You Understand Restoring The Erring?”

Monday through Thursday, January 19-22, 2009

In his chapter, "Gentleness and Peacemaking Are Essential for Restoration," Miles Peebles writes,

The Golden Rule requires Christians to treat a brother overtaken in any trespass with fairness. To treat someone fairly is to stay with the facts pertaining to his situation, while giving him the benefit of the doubt in any unclear and murky area. To treat someone fairly is to refuse to attribute his behavior to unwholesome or evil motives unless it is clearly evident what his motives are. Jesus commanded that his disciples "judge with righteous judgment" (Jn. 7:24). Righteous judgment is that judgment which results from our adhering to only the known facts and applying correctly the Law of Christ.

Some who have wondered from the truth blame others, thinking that this relieves them of responsibility. In addressing this misconception, Gene Burgett, in his chapter, "Insight from the Christian Graces," writes,

Some say they have turned from God because of the behavior of some members of the church. Jesus teaches that those who cause God's children to fall away can expect to answer for their actions (Mt. 18:6-9). However, the prophet Ezekiel also reminds us, "the soul who sins shall die" (Ezk. 18:20). The fallen need to be reminded that if someone has done them harm, the one who harmed them acted sinfully. Suppose, however, everyone turned away from God when another wounded him or her? All that would be left in the church are those who wound others but have not yet been wounded. Turning from God under this circumstance is to fall short in the grace of virtue. Moral courage allows one to get past personal recrimination.

Though some seem to minimize the role of being a peacemaker, David Stearsman, in his chapter, "Insights from the Beatitudes," puts peacemaking into focus.

To bring peace to a situation where there is strife can be an exceedingly difficult task. While some believe that active spiritual warfare is best waged by always being on the warpath, Jesus taught that peacemaking is a noble task. Doubtless, there are some who consider the reckless nature of such brethren to be noble. However, the apostle Paul heaped praise on those who were able to "walk worthy" in the faith with "all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:2-3). While a peacemaker should never compromise the truth, he should realize that there is power in restraint.


Earl Edwards, in "Should Marking and Withdrawing Be the Last Step?," writes concerning a common objection some brethren raise about withdrawing fellowship.

A final objection to withdrawal that is often presented is, "They have already withdrawn from us." The Bible says nothing about letting Christians who have lapsed into sin "withdraw from us." By this we generally are confessing that we have known they were sinning for a long period of time and have done little, if anything, about it, and they are not attending services at all at this time. Again, I say the above is an admission that we are guilty of not following God's way. Any time the brethren of a congregation know a brother is at "fault," or sinning—which would include forsaking the assembly, they are responsible before God to "restore such a one" (Gal. 6:1). Obviously, if he refuses to be re-

stored, then he ought to be withdrawn from (2 Thes. 3:6).

Also, the above reasoning denies the validity of the two major purposes of discipline that we discussed earlier. One purpose is that through impressing the seriousness of the sin on the offender (by withdrawal), there is greater hope of restoring him (1 Cor. 5:5). The other major purpose is to keep the whole church from being "leavened" (1 Cor. 5:6), or led into disobedience by the sin left unrebuked in the offender.

I am ready to affirm on the basis of Galatians 6:1 and Second Thessalonians 3:6 that a church has forsaken its responsibility to God and the offender when it allows a person to just drift away into the condition that generally prevails when we say, "They have withdrawn themselves."

This is just a sampling of the excellent material in our 2009 lectureship book. The local church will be made much stronger when the Biblical truths presented here are learned and applied. Why not obtain a book for yourself, your preacher, elders, and/or church library? Call to reserve your copy today! 

The Harvester

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"Do You Understand Restoring the Erring?"

34th Annual Lectureship **Jan. 19-22, 2009** Jackie M. Stearsman, Director



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Will Vann



Ryan Tuten



Jackie Stearsman



David Stearsman



Melvin Sapp



Jason Roberts



Ryan Roark



Miles Peebles



Frank Parker



Jeffrey McNeal



Christopher Lowe

MONDAY

9:00 God's Interest In Reconciliation
9:40 Man Needs To Be Restored
10:20 BREAK
10:50 The Price Paid To Reconcile Man
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Identifying The Lost

1:30 Individuals May Be Lost
2:00 Families May Be Lost
2:30 Congregations May Be Lost
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 What We Learn From Luke 15
7:45 Problems/Solutions In Differences

Jeffrey McNeal
George F. Beals

Jason Roberts

Larry Calendine
Ryan Tuten
Michael Dockery

Christopher Lowe
Jackie M. Stearsman

TUESDAY

9:00 David's Attitude Of Restoration
9:40 True Spirituality In Restoring The Lost
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Restoring Our Attitude On Finances (1)
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Identifying Peacemakers

1:30 Insight From The Beatitudes
2:00 Insight From The Fruit of the Spirit
2:30 Insight From The Christian Graces
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Paul's Concern For His Own People
7:45 Insight From Lamentations

David Stearsman
Melvin Sapp
Gene Burgett

Will Vann
Jimmy Clark

WEDNESDAY

9:00 Difficulty Of Pharisaical Characteristics
9:40 Congregations Can Be Restored
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Restoring Our Attitude On Finances (2)
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Identifying Methodology

1:30 Importance Of Personal Contact
2:00 Essentiality Of Genuine Concern
2:30 All The Lost Are Not the Same
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 All Members May Not Be Receptive
7:45 Personal Accountability

Freddie Clayton
Jimmy Clark

Don Hudson
Frank Parker
Brian R. Kenyon

Bernard Cooper
Bill Greer

THURSDAY

9:00 Gentleness And Peacemaking
9:40 Wisdom From Above In Restoration
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Restoring Our Attitude On Finances (3)
11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Identifying Differences

1:30 Be Sure We Know All The Facts
2:00 Be Sure We Do Not Act Hastily
2:30 Withdrawing Fellowship As Last Step
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Mercy Extended, Mercy Received
7:45 Forgiveness Is Not Easy

Bill Greer
Freddie Clayton
Earl Edwards

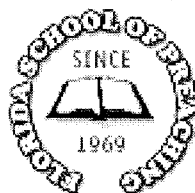
Ryan Roark
Tom Holland

"Do You Understand Restoring the Erring?" is a very relevant and much needed topic for the church and world today! This lectureship will study who really is in error from a Biblical standpoint, why all of us should care, and how can we best reach the erring while keeping "the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:3). January is a great time of year to be in Lakeland, Florida, and there will be no better place at that time for a study of restoring the erring. Come be with us!

Obtain a copy of our new book:

Do You Understand Restoring the Erring? . . . \$16

A new CD containing all our lectureship books (1994-2009) will be available by lectureship time. Reserve your copy today for \$35 by emailing (fsop@gte.net) or calling the office (800) 320-9780 today!



Previous Lectureship Books Still Available:

Do You Understand the Biblical View of Man? ('08)
Do You Understand the God of the Bible? ('07)
Do You Understand Restoration? ('06)
Do You Understand Church Growth? ('05)
Do You Understand the Grace of God? ('04)
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Budgeting Blessings

As this calendar year draws to a close, we want to express again our appreciation to those who have so graciously supported the Lord's work of training preachers through us. We simply cannot operate the way we do without individual Christians and congregations like yourselves who have kept us in their budgets. We are truly humbled and appreciative of the financial gifts that continue to make this work possible. We know that many of our supporters give like the Macedonians, "beyond their ability," because "they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God" (2 Cor. 8:3, 5). As individuals and congregations make their 2009 budget, we ask that you please continue to include the Florida School of Preaching. If you do not currently support this work and would like to learn more about it, just let us know and we will be more than happy to meet with you!

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In Honor of James and Janie Hall's 50th Wedding Anniversary (M/M Bob Faneuf).

Special Gifts: Atlantic Christian Fund.

*Our final deposit for the month is usually made on the last Wednesday of the month. All contributions received after that time are reported on the next month's financial statement.

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