

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



Volume 34

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GOD GIVES THE INCREASE!

Three Students Better Prepared to “Plant and Water”

Paul wrote, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase” (1 Cor. 3:6). Clearly, both “planters” and “waterers” are needed in the vineyard of the Lord! Since 1969, the Florida School of Preaching has been preparing men to be more effective planters and waterers of God’s word. Thanks to your help and fellowship in the Gospel, three men are now better prepared to serve the Lord as planters and waterers! God will not give the increase unless His people do their part. Because of your generosity, we are better able to do our part in training men to preach. Thanks for your help!



Roderick “Rick” Evans was born and reared on St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands and spent part of his adult life on the US mainland. He also served in the United States National Guard (1977-1983). He has been a Christian since 2001. Before enrolling in the school, he was a member of the church of Christ at Duff’s Bottom, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and was employed by the government of the Virgin Islands as manager over the BVI Fishing Complex. He will continue working with the MLK Jr. Street church of Christ in Arcadia, Florida, and plans to return to British Virgin Islands to plant a church in Virgin Gorda. He and his wife, Camille, have four children and one grandchild with one on the way.



Jack Pinckert grew up in Dalton, Massachusetts. He served in the United States Army, being discharged in 1991. He moved to Florida in 1999, and has been living in Winter Haven since 2001. He has been a Christian since 2005. Before attending the Florida School of Preaching, he managed a towing company. He has also worked in law enforcement. He is a member of the Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale, where he is very active in teaching, fill-in preaching, and putting together a weekly newsletter. Jack desires to preach the Gospel full-time, and at the time of this printing, he was looking for a congregation for whom to preach. He and his wife, Regina, have four children.



Kyle L. Smith is from Jacksonville, Florida. He became a Christian in 2002 at the age of fifteen, primarily as a result of studying the Bible at the Georgia Bible Camp, attempting to disprove what he was being taught. He came to us from the Wesconnett church of Christ in Jacksonville. Before enrolling in the Florida School of Preaching, he worked as a security officer. While attending school, he has been a member of the Orange Street church of Christ in Auburndale, where he also met Christina Chambers, who recently became his fiancée. Kyle wants to preach the Gospel full-time, and at the time of this printing, he was in contact with some congregations interested in having him serve as their preacher.

Planters and Waterers Are on the Same Team

By Brian R. Kenyon

Paul's statement about planting, watering, and God's giving the increase (1 Cor. 3:6) was spoken in the midst of a context where the apostle was dealing with division in the church at Corinth (1 Cor. 1-4). The division, which resulted from carnal mindedness (1 Cor. 3:1-4), manifested itself in many ways. One of the ways, particularly relevant to the present study, was that they were aligning themselves under men, figuratively represented by Paul and his coworkers (1 Cor. 4:6). Paul wrote,

Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ."¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor. 1:12-13, NKJ)

Rather than aligning themselves according to carnality, Paul pointed out that his coworkers and he were humble servants on the same team with God! There are at least three truths gleaned from this context.

There Are No Human "Big Shots"

Members of God's team are not "big shots." Paul wrote, "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?" (1 Cor. 3:5). Rather than being worthy of exaltation, Paul and Apollos were simply "ministers." The Greek word (*diakonos*, δᾱκονος), which is found thirty times in the New Testament, from which "ministers [servants, ESV]" is translated is the same word that is elsewhere translated "deacon" (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8, 12). The

word basically means "whoever renders service of whatever kind" (Ferguson 83). Thayer defines it as "one who executes the commands of another" (138).

The point Paul made was that he and Apollos were merely servants on God's team. They should not be elevated to positions of glory. The glory belongs to God! "The Lord gave to every man" shows that the Master is in charge, not the servants (cf. Mt. 10:24; Heb. 3:1-6)! We must not seek to be "big shots in the brotherhood," but lowly servants of the Most High God!

Team Members Fully Rely on God

Paul and Apollos were themselves instruments who relied on God. Notice Paul's words,

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.⁷ So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

Paul planted the seed in Corinth (Acts 18:1-8 cf. Rom. 15:19-20), and Apollos instructed them in the faith (Acts 18:24-19:1), but neither made the harvest grow (1 Cor. 3:6)—God did! A significant truth is realized from the tenses of the verbs. "I have planted" and "watered" are aorist tense, which here refers to completed action in the past. That is, when Paul was in Corinth (a specific time in the past), he "planted;" when Apollos was among the Corinthians (a specific time in the past), he "watered." In contrast to this, however, "gave the increase" is in the imperfect tense, which refers to continuous [continued on page 4]

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(863) 683-4043

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"Do You Understand Truth?"

39th Annual Lectureship **Jan. 20-23, 2014** Brian R. Kenyon, Director

MONDAY

9:00 What Is Truth and Can We Know It? Jackie M. Stearsman
 9:40 Suppressing the Truth (Rom. 1:18-20) Charles Broyles
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Is Atheism Credible? Eric Lyons

11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Challenges to Truth

1:30 Postmodernism Daniel Stearsman
 2:00 Other Philosophical Challenges Rick Kenyon
 2:30 Modern Media Cloyd "Ben" Frock, Jr.
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Eve: Tricked About Truth Mike Elledge
 7:45 Jesus' View of Truth Tom Holland

TUESDAY

9:00 "Thy Word Is Truth" George F. Beals
 9:40 True Religious Authority Michael Shepherd
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Denominational Baptism and Truth Cameron Freeman

11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Truth and Religion

1:30 Roman Catholicism's View of Truth Earl Edwards
 2:00 Islam's View of Truth Trent Wheeler
 2:30 Mormonism's View of Truth Nathan Franson
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 The Young Prophet: Believing a Lie Vernon Sirmons
 7:45 Jesus: Bearing Witness to the Truth Jimmy Clark

WEDNESDAY

9:00 Mercy and Truth J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.
 9:40 Righteousness and Truth Sam Willcut
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Worship in Spirit and Truth Jimmy Clark

11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Truth and Worship

1:30 Truth Concerning Music in Worship Stan Mitchell
 2:00 Truth Concerning the Lord's Supper Alfred Woodard
 2:30 Truth Concerning "Tongue Speaking" Brian R. Kenyon
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Micahiah: Some Do Not Want Truth Brian Howard
 7:45 Jesus: Grace and Truth Cameron Freeman

THURSDAY

9:00 Truth and the Consequences of Sin David Stearsman
 9:40 Truth and "Same Sex Marriage" Mark McWhorter
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 The Spirit of Truth and the Spirit of Error Melvin Otey

11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Truth and Preaching

1:30 Preaching the Truth in Love Bruce Daugherty
 2:00 They "Went Out from Us" Jackie M. Stearsman
 2:30 Persecution and Preaching the Truth Rico Brown
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic

4:30 DINNER

6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Ananias and Sapphira: Lying to God Christian Torres
 7:45 Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life Melvin Otey



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Phone: (863) 683-4043; (800) 320-9780

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[continued from page 2] action in the past. God's work of causing to grow was ongoing, whereas the work of Paul and Apollos was only temporary and subservient to that of God's! Compared to God, the planter and the waterer were insignificant (1 Cor. 3:7 cf. 1:31; 2 Cor. 4:17). Both planters and waterers are merely the servants of One who is much greater. We must trust the Lord enough to plant and water as He desires, knowing that He always increases according to His will (cf. 2 Tim. 2:11-13)!

Team Members Are United

To be a team member, one must be united with the faithful. Paul and Apollos were united in a single purpose. "Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Cor. 3:8). Planting and watering are both important and necessary in God's plan (cf. Mt. 28:19-20). However, the one is not in competition with the other. Think of the family farm. Each member, whether he plants or fertilizes, works together for the common goal of reaping a harvest. Does one think these members are in competition with each other? Paul and Apollos did not think of themselves as competitors, seeing who would get the most credit. Rather, they worked together, realizing that "God gave the increase."

Teamwork, however, does not rule out individual responsibility. Note again Paul's statement, "each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Cor. 3:8). Although each

individual is of equal importance to the body of Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13-27), each will be judged by God individually (2 Cor. 5:10). There is no room for "slackers" on God's team. All are to put forth their best efforts and give Him the glory for whatever success there might be (cf. 2 Cor. 6:1). Planters and waterers must be willful "laborers together with God."

Conclusion

Are we planting and/or watering the seed of God's word? Are we part of God's team? Let us follow the examples of Paul and Apollos, giving ourselves to plant and to water the seed so that God can continue giving the increase!

Works Cited

Ferguson, Everett. *The New Testament Church*. The Way of Life Series. Abilene, TX: Biblical Research Press, 1968.
Thayer, Joseph Henry. *Greek-English Lexicon of The New Testament*. 1889. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1977.

Ladies Bible Class

with Katy Franson

November 19 Life in a Fish Bowl

All Ladies Are Welcome!