

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



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Going into All the WORLD

This is one of the school's most favorite times of the year! Not only do students and faculty get a well deserved break from the sometimes difficult and stressful work of preacher training, but even more importantly, we are blessed to celebrate students who complete their studies with us and enter more fully into the work of a Gospel preacher. The always abiding need for faithful preachers is summarized

in Paul's words, "How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10:14). The Lord has blessed us with these "faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). We pray God's blessings upon them as they go and "preach the Gospel" (Mk. 16:15-16).



Troy Postlethwait came to us from the South Hillsborough church of Christ in Ruskin, Florida. He has been a Christian since October 1972. Before coming to FSOP, he successfully worked as air conditioning and heating technician, which skills he has used in helping others. He and his wife of almost thirty years, JoAnna, have three children and are expecting their first grandchild this month. While a student at FSOP, he has organized and spoken in Gospel meetings, and he has led by exemplifying balancing responsibilities. At the time of this printing, he was looking for work as a full-time preacher.



Cody Walling came to us from the Springhead church of Christ in Plant City, Florida, where his dad, a 2010 graduate of FSOP, serves as the preacher. In his second year at FSOP, Cody began serving as an associate minister with the Eagle Lake church of Christ, a long time supporter of the school. He was working with an automobile parts store before enrolling at FSOP. He has been involved with Bible camps as a counselor and speaker since he was old enough. He has also spoken in Gospel meetings. At the time of this printing, he was looking for a full-time work as an associate or full-time preacher.



Taj Williams came to us from the 201 church of Christ in Bradenton, Florida, where his dad, a 1989 graduate of FSOP has preached since he graduated. Before enrolling at FSOP, Taj was working for Walmart. During his time as a student he has received on-the-job training by assisting with the preaching and teaching responsibilities at 201. He has also spoken in Gospel meetings. He is active with the youth of his community, having served as coach for youth football. He plans on continuing to work in the vineyard of the Lord. At the time of this printing, he was looking for a full-time preaching work.

Fellowship in the Gospel

By Brian R. Kenyon

A spiritual advantage preaching students gain from having to raise their financial support from other Christian individuals and/or local churches of Christ is the fellowship they share with brethren. Such a fellowship relationship was at the heart of Paul's appreciation for the church at Philippi. Students and staff of the Florida School of Preaching have this same type of fellowship and appreciation for those who financially support us. Let us consider Paul's words of thanks to this church and some practical applications involved with preacher training.

Paul's Thankfulness

Paul opened his letter to the Philippians in his usual way, which included a reason why he thanked the Lord for them. He wrote, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy" (Phil. 1:3-4).

God was the one who ultimately deserved the thanks. The word translated "thanks" (*eucharisteo*, εὐχαριστέω) means to be thankful, grateful and is used quite often by Paul (Rom. 1:8; 16:4; 1 Cor. 1:4, 14; 10:30; 14:18; Phile. 4). "My God" reflects more of the personal relationship Paul has with God than a mere possession of God. Harrell commented, "God is Paul's precisely because Paul is God's" (cf. Acts 27:23) (49).

Paul's thanks for the Philippians was continual (Phil. 1:3b-4). "Every remembrance [all my remembrance, NAS]" has been taken by some to refer only to the Philippians' financial support of Paul (i.e., the Philippians' remembrance of him in sending support), but it seems best to take this as Paul's general remembrance of them. Paul uses this word "remembrance" (from *mneia*, μνεία) elsewhere with the same construction to show his remembrance of others in a general way (Rom. 1:9; Phile. 4). "Every prayer" Paul prayed on their behalf was always made with joy (Phil. 1:4), which shows that even in the midst of potentially negative circumstances (i.e., being in prison), Paul had "joy" and reason to "rejoice" (cf. Col. 1:24; 1 Thes. 5:16).

Paul's Reason

The main reason for Paul's thankfulness to God for the Philippians was "For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now" (Phil. 1:5). The Philippians had participated with Paul in the Gospel from the start. The word translated "fellowship [participation, NAS; partnership, ESV]" (from *koinonia*, κοινωνία) means close mutual relationship; participation, sharing in; partnership (Phil. 2:1; 3:10; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:16; 2 Cor. 6:14; 8:4; 9:13; 13:13;

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1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 683-4043

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Gal. 2:9; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 13:16; 1 Jn. 1:3, 6-7). Their fellowship with Paul is seen throughout the letter.

Bruce observes the evidence of this fellowship with the Philippians by noting: (1) they regularly prayed for Paul (Phil. 1:19); (2) they continued living the Gospel they learned from Paul, even when he was not with them (Phil. 2:12); (3) they maintained contact with Paul by Epaphroditus (Phil. 2:25-30); (4) they labored with Paul in the Gospel (Phil. 4:3); and (5) they participated in the collection Paul spearheaded for the saints in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:1-5) (31). "From the first day until now" indicates that from Paul's initial contact with them (Acts 16:15, 33-34) to the time he wrote this letter, the Philippians had participated with him in the Gospel (cf. Phil. 4:16; 2 Cor. 11:9).

Paul's Confidence

Paul expressed confidence that the Philippians would keep on being faithful with him in the Gospel until the Lord returns. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6). The word translated "being confident [I am sure, ESV]" means to persuade, convince, win over. In the perfect tense, as here, it means to trust, have confidence, be confident; be sure (Phil. 1:25; 2 Cor. 2:3; Phil. 21; Heb. 2:3). Since God was the one who began their life in Christ, He will also bring it to its ultimate fruition (cf. 1 Thes. 5:24). The "good work" that God began in them refers to their salvation (cf. 1 Cor. 1:4; Col. 1:5; 1 Thes. 1:5-6; Phil. 5-6).

The salvation that the Lord had begun He also "will perform." The word translated "will perform [complete, NKJ; perfect, NAS; bring it to perfection, ESV]" (from *epiteleo*, ἐπιτελέω) means to complete, accomplish; finish, end; perform a duty (2 Cor. 7:1; 8:6, 11). Nothing in this life or the next can keep the Lord from accomplishing His ultimate will (cf. Mt. 16:18; Rom. 8:31-39)! Galatians 3:3 reads, "Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?" It contains both words, "begun" (*enarchomai*) and "will perform" (*epiteleo*) to show that this refers to their Christianity! Thus, God has done and will do everything on His part to see our salvation through to the end, but we must also do our part (cf. Jn. 14:15; Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 2:12).

Paul mentions the time frame the Lord will be doing His part to complete their salvation as "unto [until, NKJ] the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6c). This refers to Jesus' Second Coming, the time when

Christ comes back for his church (Phil. 1:10; 2:16; 1 Cor. 1:8; 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14 cf. "day of the Lord," 1 Thes. 5:2). This term is similar to the Old Testament's "the day of the LORD" (Amos 5:18-20), which emphasized the Lord's judgment upon all who were specified. The main difference, however, is that in the New Testament, "the day of Jesus Christ" is only associated with His church.

Our Thanks & Confidence

The Florida School of Preaching has been faithfully training preachers since 1969. Throughout the years since, we are thankful for the blessings of fellowship we have had with many individuals and local churches of Christ who have helped us do the Lord's work of training preachers and better preparing souls to serve the Lord (2 Tim. 2:2). Since those beginning years, the cost of everything has also increased, some things more proportionately higher than others. As with any living, growing, vibrant organization, money is needed to maintain its growth and to keep the momentum going. Since human instrumentality through preaching is an essential part of perpetuating the Lord's church (Mt. 16:18-19; Rom. 10:13-15), training preachers is also an essential part of perpetuating the Lord's church. Yes, there are other ways to train preachers, but preaching schools, such as the Florida School of Preaching, give tremendous advantage to the training process. We have a proven track record!

Like Paul's confidence in the Philippians with the Lord's working in them, we trust that God will continue blessing the Florida School of Preaching with the fellowship of supporters to carry on the work of training preachers. Will you fellowship with us? We need and appreciate your help. The Lord continues to want men to "Preach the word"!

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For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God ... Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Cor. 1:18, 25)

Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Avenue

Lakeland, FL 33803

www.fsop.net email: fsop@fsop.net

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

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