

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



Volume 36

November 2015

Number 4

A LIFE'S JOURNEY LIKE ABRAHAM'S

By Brian R. Kenyon

Other than Jesus, Abraham is one of the greatest examples in the Bible. He is referred to as a “friend” of God (2 Chr. 20:7; Isa. 41:8; Jas. 2:23) and the “father” of the faithful (Rom. 4:12, 16; Jas. 2:21). Even those baptized into Christ are said to be his spiritual offspring (Gal. 3:29). More verses involve Abraham in Hebrews 11 than any of the other worthies of faith. From this section of Scripture, there are at least four characteristics of the way he lived that are worthy of emulation. If the Christian’s life’s journey is to be like Abraham’s, he or she must journey in the same manner.

JOURNEY OBEDIENTLY

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went” (Heb. 11:8). Of this incident, Moses wrote, “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee” (Gen. 12:1). Today’s reader must not underestimate the significance of a man in Abraham’s time and culture leaving his homeland, his home clan, and his home structure. Just that leaving itself took a great deal of courage from Abraham, but to leave all that for a land he had never seen, took tremendous trust in

God! Abraham did not just wander aimlessly, he *obeyed* God! Though he made mistakes (Gen. 12:14-20; 20:1-7), he exemplified great obedience. Christians must take seriously their call to live in harmony with God’s will (cf. Eph. 4:1-3; 1 Thes. 2:12), no matter what might have to be left behind along the way (Lk. 18:28-30)!

JOURNEY TEMPORARILY

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ¹⁰For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Heb. 11:9-10)

The word translated “sojourned [dwelt, NKJ; lived as an alien, NAS]” is from *paroikeo* (παροικέω), which means to make a temporary home, live as a stranger. The only other place the Greek word is used is Luke 24:18, where one of those disciples on the road to Emmaus asked the unrecognized Jesus, “Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?” A pilgrim is one who temporarily lives in a land that is not his home. The Hebrews writer went on to say of Abraham and his fellow patriarchs,

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. ¹⁵And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. ¹⁶But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. (Heb. 11:13-16)

New Ways to Make Contributions!



Our website gives convenient electronic options to donate funds. Also, if you shop Amazon.com, go first to www.smile.amazon.com, and



choose Florida School of Preaching. They will give a percentage of your purchase to FSOP.

Christians today must realize "This world is not our home." Their true homeland is with God (Phil. 3:20). This also implies a certain behavior, as Peter declared, "Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul" (1 Pet. 2:11).

JOURNEY INFLUENTIALLY

Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. (Heb. 11:11-12)

God's people can have great confidence in Him because He can resolve the seemingly impossible (cf. Lk. 1:37). God could take Abraham and Sarah when they "were old and well stricken in age," and Sarah's reproductive capabilities "ceased to be ... after the manner of women," and then declare, "Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son" (Gen. 18:11-15). Paul said of this event that God is able to give life to the dead and call into existence that which did not formerly exist. He then praised Abraham,


Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be ... He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; ²¹And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he

was able also to perform. (Rom. 4:18-21)

Abraham not only influenced Sarah to become the mother of Isaac, but he also influences righteousness on God's people today (Rom. 4:23-25). When God's people live by complete trust in Him, against the seemingly impossible, they will also influence others to do the same (cf. Heb. 11:32-40)!

JOURNEY SACRIFICIALLY

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, ¹⁸Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: ¹⁹Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure. (Heb. 11:17-18)

For God, Abraham was willing to give up the very best that he had. He trusted in the power of God, though he considered He would raise Isaac from the dead. Abraham, however, was nonetheless sacrificial. Some Christians today seem so tied to this world that they seem willing to forfeit the journey on account of it. Some hold to their families so tightly that they are willing to let go the reward of completing the journey. Not Abraham! He was willing to sacrifice his only son of promise! He trusted enough in God's working out the situation that he did not hesitate to sacrifice what he highly valued! Are we journeying obediently, as pilgrims, influencing others as we live our lives in sacrifice to God? 

The Harvester

Published Monthly
Florida School of Preaching
1807 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803
(863) 683-4043

Editor: Brian R. Kenyon, Director

Board of Directors

Ted Wheeler, Chairman
Brian Kenyon, Vice-Chairman
Tim Simmons, Secretary
Chad Tagtow, Treasurer

Steve Atnip Philip Lancaster
James George Walter Podein
George K. French Ben Radford, Sr.
Bruce Daugherty Uleysses Richardson

Training Preachers Since 1969

Special Thanks To Our Generous Supporters In September 2015

Florida Churches of Christ: Auburndale (Orange Street); Branford (Burlington); Callahan (First Coast); Daytona (Beville Road); Eagle Lake; Gainesville (Thirty-Ninth Avenue); Haines City (Oakland); Jacksonville (Paxon, Wesconnett); Kissimmee; Lakeland (North Lakeland, Sixth Street, South Florida Avenue); New Port Richey (River Road); Parrish (North River); Plant City (Laura Street); Poinciana; Sanford; Sarasota (Osprey); Sebastian; Stuart; Wildwood.

Out of State Churches of Christ: Alabama (Double Springs, Shiloh, Prattville); Indiana (Columbus Avenue, Lynn, Town Acres, West Side); Michigan (Wayne Road); North Carolina (Pike Road); Tennessee (Leanna, Livingston, Walnut Grove); Texas (Blyth Road).

Individuals: M/M Rodrigue Aleandre, M/M Robert Bauer, M/M Jerry Bennett, bettye bolding, M/M Manuel Brown, Annie Chambers, M/M Reginald Colton, Toni Radford Daniel, David Deal, M/M David Dix, M/M John Donalson, M/M Matthew Faneuf, Judy Ford, H. Joyce Foster, M/M George K. French, Mauricio Garcia, M/M John Greene, M/M James E. Hall, Bridgette M. Howard, Brian Huffman, Joan Humphrey, Deborah Jones, M/M Leonard Jones, Laura Jordan, M/M Darnell Kirkland, Carla Lee, M/M Henderson Mack, M/M C. E. Manning, Marilee D. Martinson, M/M Nathaniel McCray, Maudeann McKendree, George Meadows, Theodora J. Mears, Nancy Norton, M/M Chuck Opperman, Tammi D. Paye, Betsy G. Perry, M/M Larry Pfettscher, Linda J. Pinckney, M/M Jack Pinckert, Jr., Mary C. Powell, Uleysses Richardson, Roger Rosie, Fred and June Selby, Johnye Sims, M/M Daniel Stearsman, M/M Jackie M. Stearsman, Wayne A. Steenberg, M/M Jimmie Stokes, Mrs. James Sullivan, M/M Charles Thornhill, M/M James Walker, Jr., M/M Ira Walling, Roger Ward, M/M Lazaros J. Watson, Michael B. White, M/M Art Wilkins, M/M Glen Willcut, M/M Larry Williams, Debbie Milton Winkle.

Memorials: Ken Blewett (Mrs. Nancy Blewett); Sam Bolding (James R. Brooks); Sarah Webster Dance (Anonymous).

Special Contribution: Publix Supermarkets Charities.

*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.



F. Antemasaris



Stephen Atnip



Robert Bauer



J. Brooks Boyd



Rico Brown



Doug Burleson



Jimmy Clark



Russ Crosswhite



Thomas Wise



Will Vann



Jackie Stearsman



David Stearsman



Paul Sain



U. Richardson



Ben Radford



Jeremy Padilla



Melvin Otey



Rick Kenyon



Brian Kenyon



Hiram Kemp



Tim Hayes

Florida School of Preaching

1807 South Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33803 ✧ (800) 320-9780

"Do You Understand Sin?"

41st Annual Lectureship **Jan. 18-21, 2016** Brian R. Kenyon, Director

MONDAY

9:00 Before Sin Entered the World
9:40 The Devil and His Work
10:20 BREAK
10:50 The Effects of the First Sin
11:30 LUNCH

Doug Burleson
Jackie M. Stearsman

Russ Crosswhite

Forum: Young People and Overcoming Sin

1:30 Peer Influence
2:00 Wisdom on WiFi
2:30 Defeating Worldliness
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 The Anatomy of Sin
7:45 The Promised Savior

Thomas Wise
Forest Antemasaris
Hiram Kemp

Will Vann
Paul Sain

WEDNESDAY

9:00 Calvinism's Influential View of Sin
9:40 Jeroboam's Sinful System of Worship
10:20 BREAK
10:50 The Apostasy of Israel
11:30 LUNCH

Rick Kenyon
David Dixon

Jimmy Clark

Forum: Worship and Overcoming Sin

1:30 Nadab and Abihu
2:00 When Gender Roles Go Too Far
2:30 Evaluating Current Trends in Worship
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 "Repent and Be Baptized"
7:45 Jesus' Life and Its Effect on Sin

Cameron C. Freeman
Earl D. Edwards
Rico Brown

Jeremy Padilla
Bill Davis

TUESDAY

9:00 The Old Testament Sacrificial System
9:40 The Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Sin and the Antediluvian World
11:30 LUNCH

David Stearsman
Stephen Atnip

Rick Kenyon

Forum: Families and Overcoming Sin

1:30 Eli: Failures in Parenting Lead to Sin
2:00 Sin in David's Family
2:30 Breaking Sin's Cycle in the Family
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 Sins of God's People: Then and Now
7:45 Jesus' Birth and Its Effect on Sin

Jon Podein
Mike Elledge
J. Brooks Boyd, Jr.

Ben Radford
Jimmy Clark

THURSDAY

9:00 Korah and His Cohorts
9:40 Dealing with Divisive Brethren
10:20 BREAK
10:50 Gentiles Condemned
11:30 LUNCH

Cameron C. Freeman
Robert Bauer

Melvin Otey

Forum: Dealing with Sin

1:30 Between Individuals
2:00 What About "Congregational Sin"?
2:30 Withdrawing Fellowship
3:00 BREAK
3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
4:30 DINNER
6:30 Congregational Singing
7:00 The Christian's Relationship to Sin
7:45 Jesus' Death: Reconciliation and Justification

Ulysses Richardson
Jackie M. Stearsman
Tim Hayes

Brian R. Kenyon
M. Otey



Bill Davis



David Dixon



Earl D. Edwards



Mike Elledge



Cameron Freeman

Broadcast Live at www.fsop.net

Obtain a copy of our 2016 book:

Do You Understand Sin? \$16

A new CD containing all our lectureship books (1994-2015) plus other FSOP works will be available by January. Reserve your copy for \$25 by emailing (fsop@fsop.net) or calling the office (800) 320-9780!



Previous Lectureship Books Still Available:

Do You Understand Jesus' Sermon on the Mount? ('15)
Do You Understand Truth? ('14)
Do You Understand Biblical Morality? ('13)
Do You Understand the Local Church? ('12)
Do You Understand the Biblical Value of Women? ('11)
Do You Understand Expediency? ('10)
Do You Understand Restoring the Erring? ('09)

**Each Is Just
\$16.00**

Book Specials: entire set of 17 available books \$100 or buy 3 books and get a 4th free! You pay postage.

Special Monday Forum with Youth in Mind! Take Advantage of the MLK, Jr. Holiday to Learn! God's Word!

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

Fax: (863) 683-0750

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Lakeland, FL
PERMIT #235

Return Service Requested

Please Do Not Re-Send
without affixing
correct postage!

The Harvester

November 2015

Page 4

Spring 2016 Semester Begins Jan. 4

Register on-line, by calling the office, or by selecting classes from this form and mailing it to the office with your name, address, and phone number!

Great Selection of Classes! Come Study with Us!

Day	Time	Lakeland Classes	Instructor	Credit
Monday	__ 8:30-12:00	Denominational Dogmas (131)	Bauer	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Marriage and the Family (254)	Richardson	3
Tuesday	__ 8:30-12:00	Psalms I (268)	Wheeler	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Life of Christ (117)	Wheeler	3
Wednesday	__ 8:30-12:00	* Personal Evangelism (120)	Patterson	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Book of Acts (118)	D. Stearsman	3
Thursday	__ 8:30-12:00	Holy Spirit (250)	Kenyon	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	* English II: Composition (125)	Kenyon	3
Friday	__ 8:30-12:00	Cults (252)	Franson	3
	__ 1:00-4:15	Isaiah and Jeremiah (113)	Elledge	3
Extension Classes				
Tuesday	__ 7:00-9:30	Revelation (259) (Livingston church of Christ, Livingston, TN)	J. Stearsman	2.5
Thursday	__ 6:00-8:30	Old Testament History (239) (Orange Street church of Christ, Auburndale)	Bauer	2.5
	__ 7:00-9:30	Between the Testaments (220) (Wesconnett church of Christ, Jacksonville)	Dixon	2.5

* These classes switched days from what they were originally scheduled as published in the 2015-2016 school catalog.