

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



Volume 38

April 2018

Number 9

Sidney Moore to Graduate May 13, 2018



Brother Moore is from Tampa and has spent his life in the Tampa Bay area. He was baptized in 1999, a few years prior to enrolling at USF, where he earned a bachelors of arts in Africana studies (2005). He has also taken several graduate classes toward a masters in educational leadership. He came to preaching school from the Bay Area church of Christ in Mango, Florida. Sidney served as a teacher with the School District of Hillsborough County for seven years, working with adults and youth in the Department of Adult and Community Education. He has been involved with local VBS programs and youth lectureships in the Tampa Bay area. He has also worked closely with the Twenty-Ninth Street church of Christ in Tampa with evangelistic efforts. He is currently developing a community initiative called “Pray and Play.” He and his wife, Cathleen, have

seven children (Sidney Moore, II, Desmond, Zane, James, Ava, Sariah, and Rebekah). After graduation, Sidney plans on preaching the Gospel and being more involved in evangelism. He looks forward to edifying the body of Christ through preaching and teaching the Gospel in whatever capacity the Lord wills.

Do We Recognize Jesus?

By Brian R. Kenyon

John’s account of the Gospel begins by introducing its readers to the eternal Word (Jn. 1:1-5), who “became flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn. 1:14). It also gives preliminary information about John the Baptizer’s mission of preparation in pointing to the one “whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose” (Jn. 1:19-28). In fact, the very reason, according to the Fourth Gospel, that John the Baptizer immersed Jesus was so “that He should be revealed to Israel” (Jn. 1:31). Following those events, the apostle John records four different ways people recognized Jesus (Jn. 1:37-51). These characteristics were particularly

attractive to those who encountered the Lord as He began His public ministry. When people today examine the evidence about Jesus, what do they recognize about Jesus?

Teacher

Two of John the Baptizer’s disciples began following Jesus after hearing his constant message. When He asked them, “What do you seek?” They said to Him, ‘Rabbi’ (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), “where are You staying?” (Jn. 1:37-38).

These two disciples acknowledged Jesus as “Rabbi.” The word “Rabbi” literally means “my great one,” but in Jesus’ time, as this verse indicates, it translated into “teacher.” The two disciples were Andrew (Jn. 1:40) and probably John (Jn. 1:37). Because they acknowledged Him as a teacher, they desired to learn from Jesus in a more private setting (Jn. 1:38b-39). They took an interest in learning from the Master Teacher and stayed with Him for the rest of the day. How many “disciples” today recognize Jesus as the Master Teacher? How many would desire to learn from Him all day?

Messiah

Andrew was the next to recognize Jesus (Jn. 1:40-42). Andrew, one of John the Baptizer’s disciples, “first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ)” (Jn. 1:41). In Scripture, Andrew was often seen bringing people to Jesus (cf. Jn. 6:8-9; 12:20-22). However, he began by introducing Christ to his own family! “Messiah,” which is a Hebrew word transliterated into Koine Greek, and “Christ,” which is the Koine Greek translation of the Hebrew word, both mean “the anointed one,” the chosen one of God (cf. Jn. 4:25). There were many great servants of God, but only one Messiah (cf. Mt. 16:13-16). It was on this occasion that Jesus prophetically changed the name of “Simon” to “Cephas,” which is translated “A Stone [Peter, ESV;

from *Petros, Πέτρος]*” (Jn. 142). How many “followers of Jesus” today truly recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the anointed One of God?

The One Prophesied

The day after Andrew brought his brother to the Messiah, Jesus “found Philip [who was from the same town as Andrew and Peter] and said to him, ‘Follow Me’” (Jn. 1:43). When Philip found Nathanael, Philip told him, “We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” (Jn. 1:45). While Philip cited no specific prophecy (cf. Lk. 24:27), it seems that Deuteronomy 18:15-19 would have been one of them. This passage spoke of a future all-authoritative prophet like Moses arising from among their brethren. It was referred to earlier when the priests and Levites who were sent from Jerusalem asked John the Baptizer, “Are you the Prophet?” (Jn. 1:21). Another passage possibly included would be Genesis 28:12, which was alluded to when Jesus told Nathanael, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man” (Jn. 1:51). This passage would confirm that Jesus was specially assisted and protected by God as His anointed One.

Special Thanks To Our Generous Supporters In February 2018

Florida Churches of Christ: Auburndale (Orange Street); Bartow (Fifth Avenue); Clearwater (Central); Daytona Beach (Beville Road); Haines City (Central); Jacksonville (Chaffee, Wesconnett); Kissimmee; Lakeland (Sixth Street, North Lakeland, South Florida Avenue); New Port Richey (River Road); Orange Park (Lakeside); Plant City (Laura Street); Poinciana (Poinciana); Sarasota (Osprey Avenue); Sebastian; St. Augustine; Stuart.

Out of State Churches of Christ: Alabama (Double Springs, Shiloh, Prattville); Georgia (Forest Park); Michigan (Grand Blanc; Wayne Road); North Carolina (Pike Road); Ohio (Tenth and Clairmont, Fishinger-Kenny, Alkire Road); Oklahoma (Seminole, Westside); South Carolina (Seneca); Tennessee (Finger, Albany, Walnut Grove, Leanna); Texas (Kamay).

Individuals: M/M Rodrigue Aleandre, M/M Blane Anderson, Forest Antemesaris, bettye bolding, Rosalyn M. Brown, M/M Manuel Brown, M/M Rico Brown, Annie Chambers, M/M William A. Clayton, M/M Reginald Colton, Roger Comstock, M/M Hollis Cress, M/M Emanuel B. Daugherty, David M. Deal, M/M Robert Doak, M/M John Donaldson, Tom Evans, M/M Matthew Faneuf, M/M George K. French, M/M Allen R. Gardner, Edward C. Guerrero, Dotty Gutzler, M/M James E. Hall, Mark Hanstein, Gloria Jones, Patrick B. Kelley, M/M Hiram Kemp, Carla Lee, M/M Henderson Mack, Samuel Martinez, Brenda Mask, Linda A Mathias, M/M Nathaniel McCray, Maudeann McKendree, M/M John L. McShane Jr., M/M Marion Mikell, Ola Mae Navarre, Gloria Nelson, Nancy Norton, Charles Paulin, M/M Stacey Paulin, Debra Pavlovic-Okolichany, Tammi D. Paye, M/M Jack Pinckert Jr., Linda J. Pinckney, M/M Robert Pratt, Lehman Ragan, M/M Jason Rhymes, M/M Ulysses Richardson, Roger Rosie, M/M Bobby Simpson, Johnye C. Sims, M/M Daniel K. Stearsman, Glenda Sullivan, M/M Jimmy Sweeney, Terri Temple, M/M Charles A. Thornhill, Ada Walling, M/M Lazaros J. Watson, M/M Art Wilkins, Sarah Williams.

Memorials: Diana Bailey (M/M Daryl E. Bailey); Gary Fish (M/M Daryl E. Bailey); Jackie Manning (M/M C. E. Manning); Mary Moore (M/M Daryl E. Bailey); George Peterson (Dorothy Peterson); Dennis Tracey (M/M Daryl E. Bailey).

Special Contributions: Amazon Smile.

*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.

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
George K. French Walter Podein
Bruce Daugherty Ben Radford, Sr.
Ulysses Richardson

Training Preachers Since 1969

“Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph” points out the specific, legal Jesus known to Philip (Jn. 1:45b cf. Mt. 1:1-16). In fact, this was the typical way a person would be known in first century Palestine, by the name of his village and the name of his father.

Nathanael’s response was a bit sarcastic—“Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (Jn. 1:46a). Nazareth was a small caravan town in no way connected with the Messiah—it was not even mentioned in the Old Testament! Nathanael’s shock at the suggestion of the prophesied one coming from Nazareth shows that he “possessed high spiritual standards and outspokenly maintained them” (Tenney, *Gospel of Belief* 81). Nathanael’s acceptance of Philip’s invitation to “Come and see” would change his view about Nazareth (Jn. 1:46b)! How many today would recognize Jesus as the fulfillment of long-awaited prophecy? Indeed, Jesus’ coming into the world for the work God had planned was highly anticipated by those familiar with the Old Testament!


Son of God & King of Israel

Having accepted Philip’s invitation to “Come and see,” Nathanael came to Jesus. Before he got there, Jesus saw him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” (Jn. 1:48). This struck Nathanael because he did not remember ever meeting Jesus. So he asked Him, “How do You know me?” to which “Jesus answered ... ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you’” (Jn. 1:48). Ancient Near Eastern fig trees, like some today, provided a canopy almost to the ground, which made a good symbol for security, privacy, or peacefulness (cf. Isa. 36:16; Mic. 4:4; Zec. 3:10). Because of its being a place of concealment, Jesus’ seeing Nathanael there would be remarkable! This proved Jesus’ omniscience! Thus, Nathanael responded with a two-fold acknowledgment, “Rabbi, You are the Son

of God! You are the King of Israel!” (Jn. 1:49). “Son of God” implies a recognition of Jesus’ divine nature (cf. Jn. 5:18; 19:7). “King of Israel” implies a recognition of divine appointment from God (cf. Mt. 12:13). Most Jews of Jesus’ day were looking for an earthly ruler to liberate them from Rome, and thus derided the idea that Jesus was King of Israel (cf. Mt. 27:42; Mk. 15:32). Nathanael was not looking for an earthly king and thus recognized Jesus as a king, but not of this world (cf. Jn. 18:36-37).

Because of his faith (Jn. 1:50), Jesus promised Nathanael greater blessings, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man” (Jn. 1:50-51). Jesus revealed that true access to heaven is through the “Son of man.” Jesus’ words are similar to what Jacob saw (Gen. 28:12), which may indicate that Nathanael was meditating on Genesis 28 while under the fig tree. Jesus remains the only true way to the Father (cf. Jn. 14:6). How many people today who examine the evidence for Jesus and the fulfillment of His mission come to the same conclusion as Nathanael, “You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” (Jn. 1:49)?

Conclusion

When Peter was told, “for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven,” after He confessed Jesus as “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16-17), a literal whisper from the Father is not what was meant. Rather, Peter’s acknowledgment was based on evidence that Peter had examined over a course of time (cf. Jn. 3:1-2; 5:36). Likewise, in John 1:37-51, Andrew, Philip, and Nathanael acknowledged Jesus as Teacher, Messiah, the One prophesied, the Son of God, and the King of Israel! Have we honestly examined the Jesus of Scripture? Have we rightly acknowledged His proper place in our lives? May God help us to acknowledge Him in all that we do and say! 

**Save
the Date!
Jan. 21-24,
2019**

Join Us for Our 44th Annual Lectureship!

**Do You Understand the Christian’s
Relationship to the Civil State?**

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

Electronic Service Requested

Please Do Not Re-send
without affixing
correct postage!

The Harvester

April 2018

Page 4

Thanks for Your Support!

As this semester begins coming to a close, we want to thank our supporters! Next August will begin our 50th school-year! Through all these years we have never charged tuition for our college-level program. The Lord has made this possible by the sacrificial help of local churches and individual Christians who see the value of preaching and appreciate the work God does through us in preparing men to preach the Gospel. While there is no charge for tuition, students must still provide their living expenses. If you are able to help these worthy men, please contact the school. If churches or elderships would like a personal visit by the director, please contact the school for available dates. If you know of young men (or older ones too) who would make good preachers, please let us know. Paul asked three, still relevant questions, "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?" (Rom. 10:14-15). Throughout our history, there have always been more churches looking for preachers than we can fulfill. Help us to increase the number of sound preachers!



Students and staff: Kathy (office manager), Vince, C.J., Hiram (instructor), Alex, Chad, Ted (instructor), Casey, Lenwood, Brian (director), and Jagie.