



The Harvester

*Preparing Souls
To Serve The Lord!*

Volume 41

February 2021

Number 7

Continuing to Serve Our Unprecedented God

Brian R. Kenyon

By God's grace, we held our annual lectureship, January 18-21, 2021, as we have for forty-six years. We took precautions such as distancing, mask wearing, and thoroughly disinfecting the auditorium and common areas at the end of every day. Lunch was pre-packaged and seating was spaced out with outdoor options available (in the beautiful Central Florida weather). As expected, our numbers were down from previous years. We had about 35-50% our usual crowd for most sessions, with exceptions during the night lessons, where they were around 80-85% normal. Thanks be to God, as far as I know, the only covid incidents affecting our attendees were minimal. A married couple, who tested positive a month and a half previous to the lectureship, got the vaccine during the lectureship but did not know they were to wait ninety days after testing positive. Their symptoms were intense, but they stayed at home from that point. One of our speakers, who has also been very active in local church work, also tested positive sixteen days after our lectureship. Fortunately, his symptoms were mostly mild. Other than that no one else reported being sick who attended the lectureship.

Six speakers, which represented about one-third of our scheduled lessons, did not come. One's not coming had nothing to do with covid. His wife had a baby on the first

day of our lectureship. One speaker was in the hospital very ill from "covid aftermath" and another exhibited covid-like symptoms so stayed home. The other speakers chose not to come as a precaution. In all, ten lessons had to be substituted. At first, we considered having the absent speakers give their lessons live through conferencing software, but upon further review, we did not want to risk all the potential problems that could occur. Then, we thought of having the absent speakers pre-record a video that we could play in their time-slots, but upon further review, we knew people were making great sacrifice to attend in-person, and we figured they would be disappointed listening to a video presentation, something they could have done from home. We realized that God's providence provided us with plenty of quality speakers who could do (and did) a great job filling-in for the needed lessons. Speakers already here took on added lessons and FSOP personnel filled-in for the remaining lessons. We have a tremendous brotherhood of talented, sacrificial, and Scriptural preachers and teachers!

One almost forgotten aspect of the covid shut-downs of lectureships and brotherhood events over the past year is the deprivation of fellowship and recharging of the human spirit. This void is especially felt by preachers. Only preachers can

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Our 46th Annual
Lectureship
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fully know and appreciate the roller-coaster ride they must sometimes endure in their daily work. One beautiful aspect of lectureships is that preachers can get together to renew and establish friendships. They also make valuable time to vent, to laugh, to brainstorm, and to encourage each other in their work. There is nothing comparable to fulfil this than lectureships and/or lectureship-type programs. These times are real “pick-me-ups,” especially for preachers! I have never been to a lectureship that I was not recharged and encouraged when I left, and that “high” lasts for weeks! We are thankful to God for allowing us to conduct this forty-sixth annual lectureship about God-breathed Scripture and for keeping us safe in the process.

I also want to commend our lectureship speakers and their “endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). Most of the speakers were lined-up before the covid pandemic hit, and all of them were set before the presidential election. Turns out, some of our speakers had very strong opinions on opposite sides of how the pandemic should be handled and about the issues that separated the candidates for president. Yet, none of them allowed their opinions to break spiritual unity by “quitting” the lectureship over these differences. This may not seem like a big deal, but there have been congregations who split or came near splitting over how these issues

were handled. Some preachers even left congregations over these potentially polarizing issues.

As we have learned during these unprecedented covid times, unexpected glitches are more common than ever before. There was a glitch with the lectureship book in that for some reason the manufacturer’s computer took the information from someone else’s lectureship and transposed it on pages 129-192 of our lectureship book. Thus, we had to print a supplemental booklet, titled “The ‘Lost Chapters’ of the Lectureship Book,” which comes free with every book purchase. The digital copy of our lectureship book, of course, was unaffected by this glitch. It is as it should be.

A big thanks goes out to our supporters. While it is true our expenses were not as high as usual due to the travel and lodging we did not have to pay for the speakers who did not come, our attendance was also down. In spite of that, contributions covered the entire lectureship (not including the cost of producing the book, which we hope to get back through sales). We are thankful for our supporters’ allowing God to work through them in getting out to the public His soul-saving and encouraging word!

Special Thanks To Our Generous Supporters In December 2020

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Special Contribution: Atlantic Christian Fund, Denis L Fontaine Foundation Inc, Empyrean Townhomes, LLC

*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
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Lakeland, Florida 33803
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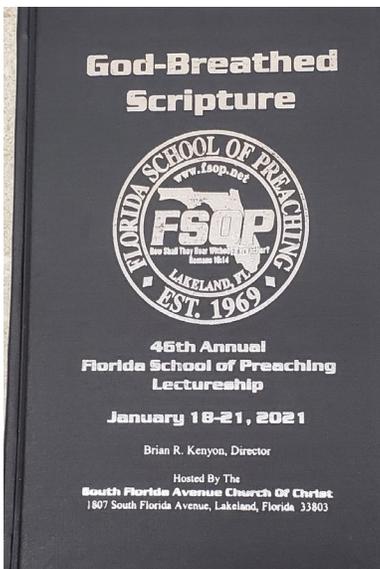
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Bring Home the Lectureship!

Our 46th annual lectureship is history. The accompanying 623 page book is a treasure chest of useful information on God-Breathed Scripture! It is available for \$16 plus tax and postage. This was an unusual lectureship in that we had to work around many challenges brought about by covid-19. Ten lessons had fill-in speakers and, thus, were not in the lectureship book. The following lessons are only available through the video and audio recordings:



George Beals, "Ascertaining Bible Authority"

Bruce Daugherty, "Cheerful Words: John 16:33"

"My People Are Destroyed for Lack of Knowledge"

Brian R. Kenyon, "The Word of God Under Fire" (Jer. 36)

Stephen Atnip, "Jesus' Application of Hermeneutics"

Terrance Brownlow-Dindy, Sr, "God's Word for Preachers"

Neal Pollard, "Preach the Preaching (Jonah)"

Hiram Kemp, "Sincerely Disbelieving God's Word" (1 Kgs. 13)

"Reintroducing the Bible (Josiah)"

Joshua Cantrell, "I Commend You to God and the Word of His Grace"

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