

# Preparing Souls To Serve The Lord

Volume XXI

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Number 5

## Do I Really Show I Am a Christian?

By

J. H. Blackman, Jr.

The last few weeks and especially the last few days of the campaigning for various candidates have been of great interest to me and prompted the writing about "Do I really show I am a Christian?" I would like to use the events during the campaigning that have recently been before us, to cause us to give some serious thought about our actions and to let others know where we stand on issues and what we believe in. Take a few minutes and give the following some prayerful thought.

### Support Given To a Candidate

People will promote a cause, or a candidate for some office, because they believe in that which he has said and stands for. People will dig deep into their finances to support their candidate to get his message out to the masses of people. People will stand on the street corners; shout to draw attention to what they have to say; hold banners high promoting the one they believe in; and stop anyone that passes by them to tell them about their candidate and his being the savior of the cause he is running for. They will say now is the day to let your voice (vote) be heard for the

time has come to decide. They will take time off from their jobs, their families, and even miss church services to attend rallies to voice their support for that which their candidate stands for.

### Support Given to Christ

Will you promote the cause of Christ, because you believe in what He has said and done? Will you dig deep into your finances to support the work of Christ, to get His message out to the masses of people? Will you be willing to stand on the street corners, shout out to others to draw their attention to what you have to say about Christ, and stop anyone that passes by to tell them of Christ and His being the Savior of the world? Will you tell others that "now is the day of salvation" (II Cor. 6:2)? Will you tell others as did Paul in Romans 13:11, "..., Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." Will you take time off from your job to do this? Will you take time off from your families to do this? Will you miss other activities to attend the assemblies of the Church to voice your support

for that which Christ stands?

### Somewhere Priorities Have Changed

We are told in Matthew 6:33, "But see ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." It seems that many hold their candidates, or causes, in greater esteem than we do the Lord and His church. Brethren, we are more involved in worldly activities today than I have seen in more than fifty years of preaching.

I have seen church members more supportive of a candidate running for office than being supportive of Christ that sits at the right hand of God in heaven (Mark 16:19; Heb. 8:1). They have held up a candidate's sign—when you could not get them to hold up a sign advertising a gospel meeting or the location of a church building. They will talk to strangers about their candidate and the need of switching to his "party" that have said they do not know how to talk to a stranger about being a Christian (Heb. 5:12; James 5:20). I have talked to members of the church that have attended rallies for candidates during the campaign time and time again that have said

they do not have time to attend church services due to busy schedules (Heb. 10:24-27). I have had church members say that this election was the most important thing in their lives, when we can read in God's Word about the importance of the soul and its salvation (Mark 8:34-38).

What benefit will you receive from your candidate? What has he done for you? What has he promised you? Will he keep his promises?

What benefits will you receive from Christ? We know He died for you (John 3:16; I Thess. 5:10). We know He has already paid the redemptive price for our sins (I Peter 1:18-19). He has promised to the faithful a crown of life (Rev. 2:10). He has asked His Father to grant to all those that have been obedient to God's Word the privilege to be with Him "where I am," and that is in heaven, and to "behold my glory, which that hast given me" (John 17:14-24, note especially verses 20-24). And one thing we know for certain is that it is impossible for God to state a lie (Heb. 6:18). **Note:** Could that be said of your candidate?

Be honest and answer these questions: (1) Did you make more of a sacrifice for your candidate that you do for Christ? (Rom. 12:1-2). (2) Where do your priorities lie? (3) Do I really show I love the Lord and am proud to be a Christian?

The time for making your calling and election sure is now. "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:10-11).

## Feature Student



Denet Pericles

Denet Pericles is a native of Haiti. He is married to the former Esena Antoine and they have one child. While in school he has been a member of the Orange Street congregation in Auburndale, Florida. Denet will complete his two year studies in the school in December 2000.

Denet hopes to reach souls in his native country by establishing congregations in Northwest Haiti, near Mole St. Nicolas.



PIN THE WHAT?

This is a picture made by brother J. H. Blackman of brother Billy Davidson and Scott Gerhardt installing new carpet in the class room.

Billy and Scott are elders of the Central congregation in Clearwater, Florida. Billy also teaches a class at school. Scott's son Justin finished school here last year. He has since married and is

furthering his education at Freed-Hardeman University.

We appreciate the contribution made by these brethren.



## Extension Classes

On page four you will find listed the classes taught at the school. The following evening classes (7:00-9:30) will begin in January at these locations:

### Auburndale, Florida

Thursday

Instructor is Blackman  
1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians

### High Springs, Florida

Monday

Instructor is Burgett  
Old Testament History

### Jacksonville, Florida

Thursday

Instructor is Atnip  
Matthew

### Warner Robbins, Georgia

Tuesday

Instructor is Stilwell  
Survey of the Old Testament

Additional information is available from the school office.

## The Harvesters

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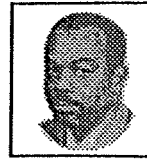
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Jeff Clark

# FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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



Ulysses Richardson

## "Do You Understand Leadership?"

26th Annual Lectureship — January 15-18, 2001

Jackie M. Stearsman, Director



Jimmy Clark



B.J. Clarke



Freddie Clayton



Bruce Daugherty



Derrel Davis



Roy Dicks



Paul Ditoro



Justin Gerhardt



Barry Gilreath



Bobby Green



Terry Hightower



Ben Radford



Dub McClish



Neil Lopez



Timothy Kidwell



Nathan Kidwell

### Monday

9:00 Male Responsibilities  
9:40 Abraham  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Youth Directors  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Potential Difficulties: No Eldership

1:30 Evangelistic Oversight Bernard Smith  
2:00 Committee/Trustee Rules, Reaffirmation Dub McClish  
2:30 Men's Business Meetings Barry Gilreath  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Forum: Leadership Problems with No Elders  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Singing  
7:00 Paul: A Reformed Leader Bobby Green  
7:45 Essentials of Leadership Tom Holland

### Tuesday

9:00 Joshua: A Key to Successful Leadership David Wade  
9:40 Eli V.P. Black  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Jeroboam: Consequences of Disobedient Leaders Tim Shoulders  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Potential Difficulties: The Role of Women

1:30 Unauthorized Role Jimmy Clark  
2:00 Unbiblical Restrictions Terry Hightower  
2:30 Commending Women Derrel Davis  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Forum: The Role of Women  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Singing  
7:00 King Saul: A Leader Like the Nations Justin Gerhardt  
7:45 Faithful Women Leading Jimmy Clark

### Wednesday

9:00 Caring for the Bereaved Micky Bell  
9:40 Samuel V.P. Black  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 Young Preachers Need Elders Nathan Kidwell  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Potential Difficulties: False Teachers

1:30 Preacher-Elders Harmony Paul Ditoro  
2:00 Identifying False Teaching Ulysses Richardson  
2:30 Stopping False Teaching Freddie Clayton  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Forum: False Teaching  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Singing  
7:00 Teaching Privately Anthony Weeks  
7:45 Manipulating Leaders Roy Dicks

### Thursday

9:00 Joseph: Training for Leadership Tommy Blewett  
9:40 Nehemiah: A Model Leader Bruce Daugherty  
10:20 BREAK  
10:50 What Elders Should Expect Timothy Kidwell  
11:30 LUNCH

#### Potential Difficulties: Encouraging Leaders

1:30 How Do We Honor Leaders? Tom Holland  
2:00 Do Elders Have Authority Only In Example? B.J. Clarke  
2:30 Are All Elders Worthy of Honor? Terry M. Hightower  
3:00 BREAK  
3:30 Forum: Encouraging Leaders  
4:30 DINNER  
6:30 Singing  
7:00 Following a Leader Neil Lopez  
7:45 Leadership and the Future Tom Holland

Broadcast Live  
on the Internet  
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### Book Prices

All Prices  
Include Postage  
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"Do You Understand Leadership?" .....	\$16 <sup>00</sup>
Available books from previous years:	
<i>Do You Understand Preaching?</i> ('00) .....	\$16 <sup>00</sup>
<i>What Does It Mean To Be A Christian Like Paul?</i> ('99) .....	\$15 <sup>00</sup>
<i>Meeting The Challenging Tests Of Life</i> ('98) .....	\$14 <sup>00</sup>
<i>If The Foundations Be Destroyed, What Can The Righteous Do?</i> ('97) .....	\$14 <sup>00</sup>
<i>Good News That Troubles The World</i> ('95) .....	\$14 <sup>00</sup>

# Registration Schedule

## Florida School of Preaching

Spring Semester Begins January 8, 2001

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

✓ ..... Check Classes Desired			
Hours	Course	Instructor	Credit
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Timothy and Titus 22388 Introduction to the New Testament 22321	Davis Kenyon	3 3
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	English 12325 General Epistles 22349 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12335	Kenyon Stearsman Blackman	3 3 2½
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Wisdom Literature 22248 Preparation and Delivery of Sermons 22302	Stearsman Blackman	3 3
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.	Eschatology 32376 Gospel of John 22327 Eschatology 32376	Stearsman Davidson Kenyon	3 3 2½
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 to 12:00 1:00 to 4:15	Restoration History 22342 Ethics 32385	Blackman Kenyon	3 3

Please Include \$5.00 Registration Fee When Preregistering.

### FLORIDA SCHOOL OF PREACHING

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