

The Harvester



Preparing Souls

To Serve The Lord



Volume 32

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Number 2

Moving Toward The Goal

By Brian R. Kenyon

The beginning of each school year – whether public, private, home school, or university – provides a fitting opportunity for us to think about our future. It is a good time to set not only goals for the school year, but to also consider general goals in life. All of us will have one major goal in common – spending eternity with God! As supporters, students, staff, alumni, and others associated with the school, the goal for us and as many as we can influence is heaven! Let us be encouraged by Paul’s words to the Philippians to help us realize that goal!

Reach For Final Salvation

In order to attain that most precious goal, we must reach for our ultimate home. There is a sense in which we have salvation now (1 Cor. 15:1-2), but in the sense of final salvation, we must await our resurrection at the Lord’s return (Phil. 3:9-11 cf. Heb. 9:28). Until then, Paul says we must continually reach for that final salvation.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (Phil. 3:12, NKJ)

Paul does not live as though he has already attained perfection, or completion, which would include the state associated with final salvation. Rather, he continuously strives for that goal. Although he has made great progress toward Christ-likeness and the perfection resulting from the resurrection (Phil. 3:4-8), the goal is still in front of him! Conversion is actually the beginning of the race, not the end. In

addition to being called (2 Thes. 2:14), we must run with patience (Heb. 12:1), and finish (Mt. 10:22)!

Forget What Is Behind

In order to attain that most precious goal, we must not allow the past – whether good or bad – to hinder our progress. Paul writes,

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind . . . (Phil. 3:13a)

The word “apprehended” simply means to receive. Concerning forgetting, obviously Paul could not completely rid his mind of every memory concerning his past (cf. Phil. 3:6; 1 Cor. 15:9; 1 Tim. 1:13). Rather, the apostle did not allow his past to keep him from attaining the goal! Likewise, we must not allow our past to dominate our present!

Booster Banquet to Be Held

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

The “Booster Banquet” for this school year will be held in conjunction with our 37th Annual Lectureship. This will provide us the opportunity to thank many of our out of town supporters who will already be here for the lectureship. This will also provide an opportunity for potential supporters to learn more about how they can become “fellowhelpers to the truth” (3 Jn. 8), through the work of training preachers. Mark your calendars now for January 17, 2012!


Press Toward The Goal

In order to attain that most precious goal, we must, as it were, stretch forward to attain heaven, as an Olympic runner races for the finish line and lunges his body forward to cross the tape first. Paul writes,

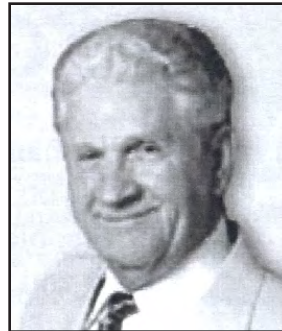
... [R]eaching forward to those things which are ahead,
¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 4:13b-14)

The word "press" comes from a Greek word (dioko, διώκω) that is often translated by a form of the verb "to persecute" (Phil. 3:6). The point here and in verse 12, which uses the same word, is that pressing toward the goal of heaven takes deliberate, focused effort that is persistent (cf. Rom. 9:30-31; 14:19; 1 Tim. 6:11). The prize is real and consists of the "upward call of God in Christ Jesus," which certainly includes the completeness attained in the resurrection and our final salvation!

Conclusion

The prize of heaven is available to all who will answer the Gospel call (cf. 2 Tim. 4:7-8). We must run the race (1 Cor. 9:24-25), and endure temptation (Jas. 1:12). May the Lord bless us with the strength and endurance to reach that ultimate goal! 

Former Board Member, Jack Cronk, Sr., "Gone to Be with God"



On Thursday, August 4, 2011, Jack Dillon Cronk, Sr. passed from this life at ninety-two years of age. Brother Cronk was a faithful member of the church for many years. Though many of our readers may not know, Jack made great contributions toward the success of

the school and its present standing. Not only did he serve on our board of directors from 1992-2002, perhaps even more significant, his being a part of Clearwater's Central church of Christ's eldership did much to shape the direction of the school. I have always admired that eldership for standing with Jackie Stearsman through some of his most difficult trials. Through that eldership's encouragement, Jackie was able to continue preaching, eventually working with the school full-time for many years, including being its director from 1992-2009. As the school's present director, I am thankful for all the Lord has done through Jackie toward the betterment of the school, and Jack Cronk, Sr. had a lot to do with that! Funeral services were held August 6 in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be sent to the Florida School of Preaching or to the Tennessee Bible College.



First Tuesday of the month ladies class starts again in September. All ladies are invited, not just students' wives. Make plans now to come!

Women's Bible Study

The Harvester

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Out of State Churches of Christ: Alabama (Double Springs, Shiloh, Prattville); Georgia (Barnesville); Michigan (Waynecorse).

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Memorials: J. H. Blackman (M/M James R. Brooks); Beverly Bowman (M/M Sam Bolding, Penny Haynes, M/M Duane Nelson); B. C. Carr (Sybil Carr); Dewey Craig (M/M Ira Walling); Dora Mae Dryer (M/M Sam Bolding, Charlie M. Deal, M/M Duane Nelson); James Judd (Charlie M. Deal, Penny Haynes); Joe Tyler (Brian R. Kenyon); Jack Williams (Beville Road church of Christ, M/M Richard Eads, Brian R. Kenyon, M/M William Phillips, M/M Emelle Woodham).

*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.



Steve Atnip



Brooks Boyd



British Carlton



Jimmy Clark



Freddie Clayton



Keith Cozort



Bruce Daugherty



Eric Dawkins, Sr.



Teral Walker

Florida School of Preaching

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“Do You Understand the Local Church?”

37th Annual Lectureship **Jan. 16-19, 2012** Brian R. Kenyon, Director



Earl Edwards



Steve Vice

MONDAY

9:00 The Local Church in Reality Teral Walker
 9:40 The Local Church in God’s Purpose Jackie M. Stearsman
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Christ’s Authority Over Local Churches (Rev. 1) Sam Hester
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Functional Issues And The Local Church

1:30 What Is Local Church Autonomy? Bruce Daugherty
 2:00 Abuses of Local Church Autonomy David Stearsman
 2:30 Church Cooperation and Autonomy Sam Hester
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Insights from the Church at Jerusalem Keith Cozort
 7:45 Revealing God’s Manifold Wisdom Eric Dawkins, Sr.

TUESDAY

9:00 The Godhead’s Role in Local Churches Steve Atnip
 9:40 Apostles and Prophets in First Century Local Churches Earl D. Edwards
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Christ’s Complete Knowledge of Local Churches (Rev 2-3) Brooks Boyd
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Weaker Or Stronger Local Church?

1:30 Elderships and Shepherding the Flock Johnie Scaggs
 2:00 Scriptural or Unscriptural Practices? Bruce Daugherty
 2:30 Stable or Unstable Members? Eric Dawkins, Sr.
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Insights from the Church at Antioch British Carlton
 7:45 The Local Church in Three Figures Jimmy Clark



Chad Tagtow



Logan Summers



Jackie Stearsman



David Stearsman



Johnie Scaggs



Ben Radford, Sr.

concerning the local church is beneficial in any climate. Study and learn about these important topics among others who love God, His word, and the fellowship we have with one another. Understanding the local church will help us better glorify God!

WEDNESDAY

9:00 Each Member’s Role in a Local Church Joseph DeBose
 9:40 Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers in the Local Church Today Earl D. Edwards
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Christ’s Demands for Local Churches to Repent (Rev. 2-3) Jimmy Clark
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Preaching And The Local Church

1:30 From Where Do Preachers Come? Rick Kenyon
 2:00 Taking Heed to Self and Doctrine Mike Elledge
 2:30 Preaching What Is Profitable Freddie Clayton
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Insights from the Church at Corinth Benjamin L. Radford, Sr.
 7:45 Importance of Local Church Membership Billy Lambert

THURSDAY

9:00 Deacons Serving Well Chad Tagtow
 9:40 Women in Local Church Development Billy Lambert
 10:20 BREAK
 10:50 Christ’s Promises to Local Churches Who Overcome (Rev. 2-3) Melvin Otey
 11:30 LUNCH

Forum: Local Churches And Evangelism

1:30 Evangelistic Insights from Paul Jackie M. Stearsman
 2:00 Personal Work in the 21st Century Steve Vice
 2:30 Taking the Gospel to the Masses William Howard
 3:00 BREAK
 3:30 Questions And Answers On Forum Topic
 4:30 DINNER
 6:30 Congregational Singing
 7:00 Insights from the Churches of Galatia Logan Summers
 7:45 A Local Church with Proper Direction Melvin Otey



Mike Elledge



Sam Hester



William Howard



Brian Kenyon



Melvin Otey



Billy Lambert



Rick Kenyon

Broadcast Live at www.fsop.net

Come join us for this important study! Central Florida is a great place to be in January! Not only is the weather usually nicer than elsewhere in the country, but even more importantly, a study of God’s word

Obtain a copy of our 2012 book:
Do You Understand the Local Church? \$16

A new CD containing all our lectureship books (1994-2012) plus other FSOP works will be available by January. Reserve your copy for \$35 by emailing (fsop@fsop.net) or calling the office (800) 320-9780!



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Join us in January for this beneficial study! We must take seriously our role in strengthening the local church of which we are members! This study is a crucial step in that direction!

Beginning Our 43rd School Year!

Since our first semester started back in the Fall 1969, some things have changed about training preachers and preparing souls to better serve the Lord, while other things have remained the same.

On August 8, 2011, the Florida School of Preaching began its forty-third school year. Two major things come to mind when thinking of changes. First, on the negative side, students' cost of living is significantly higher than in 1969, even when rates of inflation are taken into consideration. Thus, our students need to raise more funds. Second, on the positive side, the advances in technology, when properly used, make for much more productive study and learning. One major thing comes to mind when thinking of things that remain the same. The Bible, as the all-sufficient inspired word of God, is the emphasis of our two year college level program. Whether things change or remain the same, the Lord blesses us through our supporters. Since 1969, your generosity has been much appreciated. We could not operate as we do without your sacrificial help!



Fall 2011 Students and Staff! Front row: Bryant Johnson, Jackson Bonnet, Thomas Wise; Middle row: Kristy and Darrin Morehouse, Wilken Roger, Jackie Stearsman; Top row: Alex Antenor, James Egolf, Fharis Williams, Brian Kenyon, Creston Frizell. We look forward to a great school year! Thanks for your help!

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