

# New Hope Newsletter

A Publication of Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church

Volume 19, Issue 4, July/August 2013

## Legislating From The Pulpit

By Elder Dolph Painter

Congress has recently replaced a Supreme Court Justice, and is in the process of replacing another. Congress has and will question a candidate's position on a host of issues. One of their objectives is to determine whether or not the candidate will legislate from the bench. In other words, Congress wants to know whether the candidate views the Constitution as a set of laws which evolve with the times or whether the candidate views the Constitution as a set of laws which ought simply to be interpreted.

Americans with a "liberal bias" view the Constitution as a dynamic document, one that ought to evolve with the times. This group desires a Justice who will be progressive; whereas Americans with a "conservative bias" view the Constitution as a static document, one that ought to be interpreted only. This group desires a Justice who will uphold the Constitution. With the replacement proceedings imminent, political maneuvering continues.

From time to time local churches find themselves replacing a preacher. Members, or a committee, question a candidate's position on a host of issues. One crucial objective is to determine whether or not the candidate will legislate from the pulpit. In other words, they

should know whether the candidate views the Bible as a dynamic book, or as a book that ought to be interpreted only.

Thus sayeth the word of God is clear whether we ought to view the Bible liberally or conservatively, whether the Bible is static or dynamic. The Bible says: (1) *Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it Deut 4:2.* (2) *Add thou not unto His words, lest He reprove thee, and thou be found a liar – Prov 30:6.* (3) *If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him plagues...if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life... – Rev 22:18-19.* May we protect, defend, and uphold His Holy Word. ■

**Elder Chris McCool and his family from AL met to worship with us. Elder McCool was blessed to preach a rich message we rejoiced to hear.**



**Elder Jeff Winfrey, from KY, pictured above with Elder Blanchard, preached our Annual meeting to the glory of God.**

Winter Garden Primitive Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 771048  
Winter Garden, FL 34777  
407-656-7007  
[www.wintergardenpbc.com](http://www.wintergardenpbc.com)

Worship Service  
Sunday 10:30am  
Bible Study  
Wednesday 7:30pm

Elder Glenn Blanchard  
771 Bending Oak Trail  
Winter Garden, FL 34787  
407-905-5627  
[primitivebaptist@embarqmail.com](mailto:primitivebaptist@embarqmail.com)

Tapes (subscription or address information):  
[tapes@wintergardenpbc.com](mailto:tapes@wintergardenpbc.com)



Volume 19, Issue 4

# Pastor's Letter

**Elder Glenn Blanchard**

On the last weekend in April I was invited to preach the Annual Meeting at Little Zion PBC in Jasper, Alabama. The church's pastor is Elder Charles Kitchens. We had a wonderful meeting and the Lord especially blessed the Communion Service. Other ministers there were Elders Buddy Abernathy, Sam Bryant, Phillip Dukes, and Vaughn Winslett. I'm sure I'm leaving out some – please forgive me.

The next weekend I was invited to preach the Annual Meeting with Elder Dickie Halbgewachs at Camp Creek PBC in Lilburn, Georgia. The pastor there is Elder John Melvin. Elder Coy Thomas is also a member there. This was a wonderfully spiritual meeting.

Later that week I was able to attend a special Thursday evening meeting at Little Union where Elder Chris Crouse is the pas-

tor. Elder Sam Bryant was the invited speaker and the Lord really blessed Elder Bryant in the preaching service.

On Memorial Day weekend we held our Annual Meeting at Winter Garden. Elder Jeff Winfrey from Dawson Springs, Kentucky was our invited speaker. The Lord blessed him to preach spirit filled messages that we are still talking about. He also took the entire Communion Service for us so that we could hear a fresh presentation of that service.

All four of the churches mentioned above are active and worshiping in spirit and truth. Needless to say, I've had a great start to the summer. ■



## Winter Garden News



**Congratulations to Brother Ray Blanchard! Ray graduated from the University of Central Florida with a BS in Education. He is shown above with his mother, Noreen Blanchard and sister, Jamie Engel. God Bless you, Ray, in your future endeavours!**

**Pictured below is Sister Edna Gordon, who recently joined us in our efforts to serve the Lord at Winter Garden. Sister Ruth has moved here from Texas. She is a delightful addition to our congregation.**



**Photo above features Brother Mitchell Ulmer and Brother Don Watkins, our brothers in law enforcement. Brother Mitchell recently joined the force in Orange City while Brother Don retired from the police force in California. These are the guys that help keep us straight around Winter Garden.**



# Meeting Notices

## Little Union PBC, Lithia, FL

Little Union will be holding their Annual July Meeting Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, July 21, 2013. Elders Ronnie Loudermilk of Georgia and Mike Montgomery of Texas are the invited speakers. The church is located in Lithia, Florida and their website is [www.littleunion.com](http://www.littleunion.com)

For details, call Little Union PBC at 813-634-4754. Hope to see you there.

## Annual Meeting, PB Association of Oklahoma

The First Primitive Baptist Association of Oklahoma will be holding their 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on July 11-14, 2013. The meeting will be held at Bethlehem PBC. The address is 9010 S. Fairview Drive, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. 73159-6408. Their phone number is 405-703-1728. Please call them for the details. Their pastor is Elder Randy McCarthy.



The Spezzano family from Little Union joined us at our Annual meeting; Kelly, Jim and Joshua.

# Obituaries

**Sister Helen Florine Parker Cagle**, 81, of Canton, Georgia, died March 14, 2013. Born in Roswell, GA to William and Levi Moore Parker, she was preceded in death by her grandson, Trae Cagle, six sisters, and three brothers. She is survived by her husband, Elder Raymond Edward Cagle; children, Stanley and Dianne Cagle, Randall and Debra Cagle, Nathan and Mary Jane Cagle, and Steven and Terri Cagle. She is also survived by one sister, one brother, and two sisters-in law, ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held with Elders Marty Smith, Randall Cagle, and Dolph Painter officiating. *[Sister Florine was a faithful preacher's wife, and a hospitable hostess to me and many of God's ministers and servants down through the years. We will all miss her. Elder Blanchard]*

**Elder Marvin Loudermilk**, 76, of Mt. Airy, Georgia, passed on Sunday, March 10, 2013. Elder Loudermilk was born on July 26, 1936, in Habersham County, Georgia, to the late Ben L. and Flornett Pless Loudermilk. He was a member of Faith Primitive Baptist Church and was pastor there from 1991 to 2012. Survivors are his wife, Faye Murphy Loudermilk, daughter, Donna (Vince) Scafiti, sons, Bobby (Betty) Loudermilk, Ronnie (Jennifer) Loudermilk, and David (Sandy) Loudermilk. He is also survived by four sisters and two brothers, fourteen grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held at Faith Primitive Baptist Church with Elders Charles Chapman and Kerry Lathrop officiating. - *Both obituaries were edited, then copied from The Atlanta Area Newsletter* -

Special visitor, Brother Austin Wauters from Jasper AL. was joyfully received at our Annual meeting.



## Contributions

Leta Dunn  
Larry & Rachael Hanna  
Mike & Lorelei Lopez  
David & Leola Lindsey  
Elder Gary & Becky Harvey  
Julian & Bea Cunningham  
Paul & Lorene Deason  
Fred & Jeanne Herrmann

Warren Family  
Joe and Hazal Brooks  
Thank you to all that contribute to our newsletter. When you do you not only bless us but many others that receive the publication.

# Thy First Love

– Reprinted from Elder Neil M. Phelan, Jr. Book:  
“The Daily Record” - *The First Year in Retrospect*

*“Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love” – Revelation 2:4*

Perhaps the pastor of the Church at Ephesus thought things were “in order” at the Church he served until one day he received an epistle from John written to all seven of the Churches in his area....and he read these words: “nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love.”

It would not have been such an awesome statement had the letter been written by a fellow minister, or from one of his members. But the admonition was from a much higher source: “I” (Jesus) have somewhat against thee.” Though the letter was from the pen of John, its author was the head

of the Church; the One who walks amidst the seven golden candlesticks: the Church in every age. The problem at Ephesus was clearly defined: “You have left ME”.

As a CAT scan penetrates every fiber, looking for abnormalities and deadly cancers within the body, He whose “eyes were as a flame of fire” had searched the heart of every member of this Church as well as her pastor. These penetrating eyes detected a disease within the bosom of Ephesus, a disease so deadly that immediate action was required, or the living organism, the Church of Ephesus, would die and their candlestick would be removed.

The Lord was kind in His admonition. He first noted the positive attributes of this church. He wanted Ephesus to recognize that His judgment was based upon all the facts and that His knowledge was perfect: “I know thy works”. Jesus was saying this, “Your lives are an open book before Me: I see it all, both good and bad.” Has His vision altered over the centuries?

There were still those at Ephesus who were laborers in the Kingdom: “Thy labor”. These members were busy taking care of the immediate needs of the church. The specific labors they were involved in we are not told. But the Lord knew.

In these labors, they had not grown weary in well doing: “Hast not fainted”. They had not allowed others to rob them of their joy nor ceased their efforts because of persecutions from the enemy or criticisms of their peers.

They were also patient in the midst of these persecutions and tribulations: “Thy patience”. The word patience implies, ‘cheerful endurance’, which means that they were not only enduring the trials of discipleship, but they harbored the correct spirit in the midst of their difficulties.

The discipline in their church was orderly, “thou canst not bear them which are evil.” They were doctrinally sound. They were quick to pick up on the erroneous teaching of the false “apostles”.

From an outward perspective, it seems that much of the body of Ephesus was intact and functioning properly. But in the eyes of her judge, her sin was one that would, in time, destroy the whole body in spite of the good.

The word “first” can refer to nothing other than the love that each member had at one time felt for Jesus Christ. “First” simply means what it says, ‘foremost in time, place, order, and importance’. Who, or what else, should hold such a distinguished position in the hearts and minds of the “general assembly and church of the firstborn?”

Slowly, by minute increments, Ephesus had altered her affections; Her priorities had shifted. Christ was no longer at the top of her list. Rather than a labor of love, Ephesus had become what any church can become: they had become



Sister Zelma Trotter shared our meeting with family members, daughter, Nancy, sister, Norma and daughter, Margaret.

Frequent visitors, Sophie and Daphnie with their father Dieuner Petit-Frere have become like part of our family.





mechanical. They had “works” in the Lord’s name but no longer were they motivated by love for their husband.

The Lord’s solution for their problem was threefold: (1) Remember; (2) Repent; (3) Do the first works. Briefly consider: (1) “Remember what you did when you first fell in love with Me.” (2) “Repent of your mechanics. Anyone can render labor without love.” (3) “Do the first works, those things you did when you first fell in love with me. Be as attentive; as faithful; as prayerful; as joyful; as loving; as giving; as studious; as dedicated as you were then. By this, you will find the joy you once enjoyed.” Lord let us never leave thee!!

## Book Review

I recently received a gift of a book from Brother Julian Cunningham. The book is entitled, “Day by Day” written by Elder Ralph E. Harris, from Bonifay, Florida. The book contains 365 daily readings on Biblical themes. It is a high quality paperback of 386 pages. The cover has a beautiful picture of Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee at sunrise. The price is 22.45 and is available from Sovereign Grace Publications, P. O. Box 23514, Lexington, Kentucky, or from their website: [www.sovgrace.net](http://www.sovgrace.net). I can highly recommend this as a great way to start the day and a sound way to focus our minds on spiritual things. –Elder Glenn Blanchard

## Letters

Thank you & God bless you. I love to read about all the church activity you do! May God continue to bless all of you to enjoy each other.

Leta Dunn, Zion, Ill

Dear Elder Blanchard,

Enclosed is a donation for the New Hope Newsletter. We do enjoy the newsletter, but know it requires a lot of work and time.

Larry has some health issues. He’s had chemo and radiation treatments, [must] have surgery this month, then chemo again. His prognosis is good. Through these months God has been with him, prayers and love from churches have helped him so much.

May God bless you.

Larry and Rachel Hanna  
Floris, Iowa



Brothers & Sisters,

We had a wonderful visit with Bro. Glenn and the other brethren that made the trip up to Jasper. We trust they had a safe journey home. Although we only made the Saturday service, it was apparent that the meeting was Spirit filled.

Jeanine and I continue to be thankful for all that your church does, and we pray God’s continued blessings on your endeavors.

In Christ,

Fred & Jeanine Herrmann  
Hoover, AL

### Answers To This Month’s Quiz

- |                            |                              |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. honeycomb, Pr. 16:24    | 6. night, Pr. 31:15          |
| 2. grandchildren, Pr. 17:6 | 7. purple, Pr. 31:22         |
| 3. poor, Pr. 28:27         | 8. linen, Pr. 31:24          |
| 4. rubies, Pr. 31:10       | 9. wisdom, Pr. 31:26         |
| 5. heart, Pr. 31:11        | 10. fear the Lord, Pr. 31:30 |

**Brandon, Robin and Conner King enjoyed a day of special visitors, parents, Sheila and ML King and grandmother, Lessie from MS.**

**We delighted in a visit from Bill and Judy Kemper from Oklahoma City.**



# Is It God's Will?

by Elder Buddy Abernathy

"It was just their time to go." How many times have you heard this statement at a funeral? Does it trouble you when someone makes this statement following a tragic death? For example, suppose a young person was killed in a car accident because the driver of the other vehicle was intoxicated and driving on the wrong side of the road. If it was your child who died, would this explanation bring comfort to you? Is every tragic event a result of God's will?

The answer to this question lies between two extreme views which are occasionally presented. One extreme teaches that God's role in creation is like that of a watch maker. He did what was necessary to set things in motion and now he is simply a passive observer as time "unwinds." He has completely removed himself. He has no influence over the course of history. Everything happens by chance. The other extreme teaches that everything happens according to God's predetermined decree. He micromanages everything in the universe he created. Everything that transpires in your life, good or evil, is according to his absolute and unalterable will. The proponents of this view often say that to believe otherwise is to call into question the sovereignty of God.

The sovereignty of God, when accurately explained, involves two basic components. The first component is God's power. The Bible makes it clear that He is the only being with unlimited power (Deut. 4:39; I Kings

4:34-35; Mat. 28:18). The second component is God's discretion. Because He is all powerful, He does what He pleases (Ps. 115:3), when He pleases (Gen. 21:2), how He pleases (2 Kings 5:9-14), where He pleases (Mic. 5:2), with whom He pleases (Luke 4:27, Heb. 11:31). It is this second component which is not properly considered when someone begins to associate everything that happens with the will of God. Jesus has power over **all** flesh (John 17:2a). He has adequate power to give eternal life to every human being without exception. However, He only utilizes his infinite power in regeneration (the new birth) to give eternal life to God's elect people (John 17:2b). It is his will to use his power to accomplish that which pleases the Father (John 6:38-39). If Jesus does not give spiritual life to someone, it is because it is not God's will to do so. Because God possesses all power, He can exert that power as it pleases him. This is the essence of what it means to be sovereign.

With his unlimited power, God could have designed man as a robot which operated exactly as programmed without deviation. However, it was God's will to create man as an intelligent being with the ability to make choices (Gen. 2:16-17). Adam made a rebellious choice (Gen. 3:6). As a result, we all suffer (Rom. 5:12). Consequently, the horrible influence of sin in the world causes bad things to happen. Because of sin, our bodies are cursed with the aging process which brings disease, sickness, and suffering. Cancer does not distinguish between the godly and the ungodly. Because of sin, our environment is cursed (Gen. 3:17-19). The godly farmer, who prays, reads his Bible and loves his neighbor must battle weeds the same as the ungodly farmer who has no thought of God and mistreats his neighbor. Because of sin, other people do things to hurt us. How many godly people are killed each year by drunk drivers? Because of our own sinful conduct, we suffer according to the principle of "sowing and reaping" as taught throughout the scriptures (Isa. 1:19-20, Gal. 6:7, Eph. 6:2-3).

Based on a correct understanding of the sovereignty of God, the ability of man to make choices, and the consequences of sin in the world; we can logically conclude that many things happen which are not a result of God's will. For example, when the children of Israel burned their children in the fire as a sacrifice to Baal, the Lord said these wicked acts didn't even



Elder Perry and Brother Danny Terrell share a day together during our meeting.

Brother Chris Morton welcomed special guests, Virginia and Alan Kramer from Apopka.





come into his mind (Jer. 19:5, 32:35). Abortion is essentially the same sin. Israel caused their sons and their daughters to “pass through the fire” (Lev. 18:21, Deut. 18:10, 2 Kings 17:17). One of the early methods of abortion in this country involved the injection of a saline solution which burned the baby in the womb.

God’s will needs to be understood in terms of his decreed will and his will with regard to what He would have us to do. The eternal salvation of God’s people is an example of his decreed will (Rom. 8:28-31, John 6:38-40, 17:24, Heb. 10:9-10). Before the world began, God loved a great multitude of people in Christ and purposed to save them from their sins (Eph. 1:3-5, 1 Pet. 1:2). Jesus came into the world to accomplish God’s will (Mat. 1:21, Heb. 9:26, 10:14). In accordance with God’s will, all of his elect people will be born of the Spirit (John 3:8, 5:25, Gal. 4:6). Ultimately, all of them will inherit eternal glory (Mat. 25:34). None of God’s people will be eternally lost because their salvation is based on God’s absolute, unalterable will. However, God also has a will which is conditioned upon man’s obedience. The Ten Commandments are God’s will (Exodus 20:3-17). When people disobey the commandments, they are not doing God’s will. Therefore, when someone is murdered, it is not God’s will because God said, “Thou shalt not kill.” (v. 13). When someone is robbed, it is not God’s will because God said, “Thou shalt not steal.” (v. 15). When a man is unfaithful to his wife, it is not God’s will because God said, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” (v. 14).

In the initial stage of Job’s trial, he was commended because he “...sinned not, nor charged God foolishly” (Job 1:22). Let us not be guilty of blaming God for the bad things that happen in our lives. Because of the sin nature passed down from Adam, we all live in an aging, dying body. We will all die because of the general curse of sin. Arthritis, cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and many other ailments afflict us because we are contaminated with sin. Diet and exercise can greatly improve our health and lengthen our days but ultimately the body will die because it is cursed by sin. However, because of God’s unalterable will to save his people, our bodies will ultimately be raised from the dead and changed into an incorruptible, immortal body; fashioned like unto the glorious body of Jesus our Savior (1 Cor. 15:50-57).

Furthermore, living according to the

wisdom of God’s word can deliver us from much danger, evil, trouble, and heartache. A sinful lifestyle brings about many grievous consequences. However, the sinful behavior of others often destroys the life of those who are striving to honor God. Many people are killed each year because of the irresponsible choices and sinful deeds of others.

In the final analysis, let us conclude that man’s sin, not God’s will, is the cause of much evil and suffering in this world. However, let us also adopt the perspective which Paul had as described in his second epistle to the church at Corinth, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” (2 Cor. 4:17-18). After one minute in heaven, we will never again ask, “Why?” We will be eternally delivered from the very presence of sin, never again to be affected by its influence. ■



**We were overjoyed to welcome Little Union members, Bob and Sarah Griffin with their daughter Harrow.**



**We enjoyed Annual Meeting visitors, Maddi Moore, Barbara and Kimmy Ruch, pictured with new friend, Lorianne Lawrence.**

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*New Hope Newsletter*

# Kid's Corner

## Proverbs

1. Pleasant words are like a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What is the crown of an old man?
3. He that giveth unto the \_\_\_\_\_ shall not lack...
4. A good woman is more valuable than what gem?
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of her husband doth safely trust in her.
6. The Proverbs 31 woman starts her day while it is yet \_\_\_\_\_.
7. What color does the Proverbs 31 woman wear?
8. She maketh fine \_\_\_\_\_ and selleth it;...
9. When a virtuous woman speaks, what quality do her words have?
10. What is more important than beauty in a good woman?