

THE HOUSE BUILT ON THE ROCK

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ASTONISHED FOOLISH MAN ROCK AUTHORITY FOUNDED SAND
 BUILT HOUSE SAYINGS FELL LIKEN WIND FLOODS RAIN WISE MAN

Black Creek Church of Christ

3216 County Road 218
 Middleburg, FL 32068
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E-Mail: stevea3@juno.com



Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning:
 Bible Class: 10:00 AM
 Worship: 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening:
 Worship: 6:00 PM

7:00 PM **MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS**

Visit our website at:
www.blackcreekchurchofchrist.org

Evangelism

- ◆ Bible Call
- ◆ Georgia Mission (Soperton Church of Christ, Soperton, GA)
- ◆ Bible Correspondance Courses & Tracts (By Request)

Works of Benevolence:

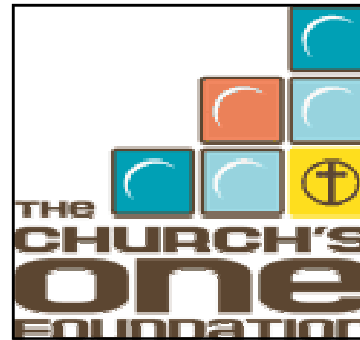
- ◆ Hospital Benevolence Basket ~ Orange Park Medical Center)
- ◆ Raintree Village Children's Home (Valdosta, GA)

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
 Galatians 6:9. NIV

Works of Edification:

- ◆ The Black Creek Courier
- ◆ Black Creek Christian School
- ◆ Visitation Program
- ◆ Vacation Bible School
- ◆ Bible Classes For All Ages
- ◆ Keenagers Group (Over -50)

THE LORD IS GOOD TO ALL; HE HAS COMPASSION ON ALL HE HAS MADE.
 Psalm 145:9



The Black Creek Courier

Published weekly by the Black Creek Church of Christ
 3216 CR 218 E., Middleburg, FL 32068

"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith" (1 John 5:4, ESV).

August 16, 2009

A Change in President - An Unchanging God

The American people elected a new president on November 4. They spoke their wishes; the Electoral College went into motion; and a new man, Barack Obama, will assume the role of President of the United States of America. Whatever we think of this new man, he will still rule the most powerful nation in the world. What changes he will bring might frighten us. There can be no doubt that the forces that oppose him will test him to the limits of his wisdom and patience. Being president is undoubtedly one of the hardest jobs in the United States.

Perhaps the greatest question we are asking is how this change in presidency will affect our freedoms and the ability to exercise our faith. The new president will have the opportunity to appoint Supreme Court justices who will make lasting decisions on questions about life, marriage, and religion. The day may come when partial birth abortion is again approved, when the Defense of Marriage Act is overturned, and when churches may not freely speak out against the sin of practicing homosexuality.

If politics follows the postmodern and liberal American culture, Christians will find themselves in an increasingly hostile environment. This change in culture leaves conservative Christians with the dilemma of how to live as an unwelcome minority. This

new role for American Christians is certainly not a new one for the Church. Christianity was illegal for its first three centuries, and those who profess Christ are suffering for their faith in many nations today.

The New Testament contains several helpful principles for living in a hostile environment. The book of Hebrews was written to give encouragement to Christians who were facing persecution from the Jews. The book of Revelation was written to the seven churches of Asia in order to encourage Christians to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus rather than give in to the Roman Emperor Domitian who insisted on being called "Lord Caesar." To the struggling church in Smyrna, Jesus revealed through John:

I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelation 2:9-10, ESV).

To give them hope, John revealed his invitation to visit the throne of

God in chapter four. The people knew how great and powerful Rome was, but they needed to be reminded of how much greater God is. "Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world" (1 John 4:4, ESV).

We must not forget the promise of God: "For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith" (1 John 5:4, ESV). The great story of the book of Revelation is that no matter how formidable the forces of evil seem to be, the Lord Jesus is still victorious in the end (Revelation 17:14).

God is still very much in control of the world. He created it; He sustains it; and He will one day determine when to end it (Colossians 1:15-17; 2 Peter 3:3-11). We do well to remember what God told Jeremiah:

Then the word of the Lord came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to



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The Black Creek Courier is published under the oversight of the eldership of the Black Creek Church of Christ.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?
 Hear the Gospel (Matthew 7:24-27; Romans 10:14,17) → Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6) → Repent of My Sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30) → Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10) → Be Baptized (Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21) → Be Faithful Unto Death (Matthew 10:22; Revelation 2:10).

it. And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will repent of the good that I had intended to do to it" (Jeremiah 18:5-10, ESV).

Perhaps no book, however, is as helpful to us as the book of 1 Peter. In this book God reveals through Peter five principles for Christians who are living in a hostile environment. Remember, Peter wrote this book only a few years before his own death in Rome in 68 A.D.

1. Be holy in all your behavior. "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct" (1:13-15). "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may on account of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation" (2:11-12, NASB).

2. Sanctify Christ as Lord. "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence" (3:15, NASB).

3. Love people fervently. "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaint" (4:8-9, NASB).

4. Use your gifts to serve. "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves, let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen" (4:10-11, NASB).

5. Stand firm in faith. "Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you" (5:8-10, NASB).

As we face an increasingly hostile environment, do not despair. Rather, let's deepen our faith and commitment to a great God Who controls the world and will bring us the ultimate, eternal victory. In America, we are in the midst of a change in President, but we serve an unchanging God.

~ Phil Sanders

Consider This...

When Jesus preached, "*Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17), those who heard Him understood the message. They knew He was calling for more than simply a change of mind or a new perspective on who He was. Repentance to them meant a complete surrender of their will and a change of behavior - a new way of life, not just a different opinion. They realized He was calling them to admit their sin and turn from it, to turn around, to forsake their sin and selfishness, and follow Him instead.

The Old Testament was filled with truth about repentance. Ezekiel 33:18-19 says, "*When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby. But if the wicked turn from his wickedness, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall live thereby.*" 2 Chronicles 7:14 is a prescription for repentance, "*If My people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin...*"

John the baptizer demanded to see good deeds as proof of repentance. When the religious hypocrites came to John for baptism, "*He said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance*" (Matthew 3:7-8).

What are the fruits of repentance? That is the question the tax-gatherers asked John the baptizer (Luke 3:10). His answer to them was, "*Exact no more than that which is appointed you*" (verse 13). To some soldiers who asked the same question, his response was, "*Do not take money from anyone by force, or accuse anyone falsely, and be content with your wages*" (verse 14; NASB). In other words, there must be a sincere change in one's lifestyle. One who has genuinely repented will stop doing evil and begin to live righteously. Along with a change of mind and attitude, true repentance will begin to produce a change in conduct.

Good deeds were also what Paul considered proof of repentance. Note his description of his ministry to King Agrippa, "*I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed...to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance*" (Acts 26:19-20).

True repentance results in a change of life!

~ Selected



Black Creek...This Week

Servants For the Month of August

	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Larry Russell	Larry Russell
Scripture Reading	Gordon Richau	Gordon Richau
Song Leader	Sam Sipper	Steve Atnip, Jr.
Opening Prayer	Gary Evans	Billy Smith
Lord's Table - Directing	Don Miller	Ted Copeland
Assistant	Floyd Grace	
Assistant	Frazier Blair	
Assistant	Stephen Hedgecock	
Assistant	Don Shaw	
Sermon	Steve Atnip, Sr.	Steve Atnip, Sr.
Closing Prayer	Steve Atnip, Jr.	Dick Morgan
Prepare Communion	(Aug) Cindy Lou	(Sept.) Brenda & Linda
Cleaning the Building	(Aug) The Evans'	(Sept.) Brenda & Linda
Nursery Attendant	(AM) ???????	(PM) ???????



Keep Them In Your Prayers...



Black Creek Family:

Keith Copeland, Cindy Copeland, Mitchell family, Wanda Cheek, Kathy Moore, Lackey family, Copeland family, Posey family, Morgan family, Dasher family, Shaw family, Sonny Best, Grace family, Dennard family, Dix family, Vaughn family, Blair family, Evans family, and Maloy family.

Away:

Lee Copeland, Irish family, Bob Teitz, Barbara Lonier, Dot Sitch, Clyde Howell, Brena Bishop & New Baby (Brenda's Niece), Pardue Family, Kay Van Horne, Jayne Imery, Steve Holiday (Mary Dennard's Nephew), Evan Chapman (5 yr. old who was just diagnosed with Leukemia), Thompson Family, Baxter & Mary Louis Forrester, Dwayne Seaman and family, Cindy Anderson, James Smith, Kay Taylor, Dorothy Wilson, Eileen Lacy, Donald Petteway, Gerri West, Terry Thompson, Gary Bartlett, Sloan Hunter, Bob Melson, Catherine Moon and Judy Angelo.



We are so happy that you have chosen to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us, please remain a bit after services so we can become acquainted and let you know how special you are to us. Also, if you have any questions concerning anything you saw in our services today, please ask any one of us here today. We will be more than happy to answer any of your questions.

NEWS Notes



There is a list on the bulletin board for anyone who could volunteer to watch the little ones during services if the need is present.

Volunteers Needed: There are still some months open for volunteers to do the building cleanup and preparing the communion. If you can do these, please sign up on the bulletin board in the foyer.

Ladies Bible Class: Ladies, come join our Bible class on Tuesdays at 10 AM. **Ladies, don't forget to do your homework.**

FSOP Class: The Florida School of Preaching will be offering a course beginning August 13. The class is entitled, "Difficult Texts of the OT Explained." It will be held at Wesconnett Church of Christ from 7PM—9:30 PM. It can be taken for credits if it is your desire. Cost for the class is \$5.

Updates: If there is anyone on the prayer list that needs to be taken off, please let Cindy know so that she can update the prayer list. Thank you.

New Member: We want to send out a warm welcome to Twain Dean. He placed membership on August 9. Please add Twains' address and phone number to your directories.

**5691 Carter Spencer Road
Middleburg, FL 32068
(904) 495-5435 (Cell)**

Dinner on Grounds: We will be having a fellowship meal on August 30th after the morning services. Please come and be a part of this time of fun, food, and fellowship. We will also be honoring those with birthdays or anniversaries in the month of August.

Check your mailboxes: They have been moved around. Make sure you are checking your box and not someone else's.

Ladies Day: At Chaffee Road on Saturday, August 22 at 9 AM. If interested in going, see Lisa Sipper. Please let her know by Wednesday night if you plan to attend, because Chaffee needs to know how many of us are going.