



First Baptist Church Pelham, Georgia

The Crier

Volume 61 Issue 9

Phone: (229) 294-8073

www.pelhamfbc.org

September 2024

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Ephesians 4:1-6)

“Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.” (Ephesians 5:1-2)

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8-10)

“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” (Ephesians 5:15-17)

*“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with **truth**, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel of peace**; above all, taking the shield of **faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**; praying always **with all prayer and supplication** in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (Ephesians 6:10-18)*

These are all instructions to the church at Ephesus. In Paul’s instructions, he gave the most important and crucial aspects of church. Have you ever thought the question, “what if we picked up a church from the 1st century and placed it in the 21st century, would it resemble anything like what we have today?” We would likely judge that 1st century church to be backwards. They don’t have the organization, the finances, the rules, the influence, or any number of other things we might see as assets. Yet, that 1st century church “turned the world upside down”, or as I translate it, right-side up.

What made these instructions given by Paul effective? Why was the 1st century church so potent? They did not make church something different from God’s original plan. Church was the Body of Christ, the Family of God, and the Bride of Christ. Anything other than what the bible defines the church to be, cheapens the work of God and confuses the children of God. When we make church something other than God’s original plan, we spend our time and energy propping up man-made agendas to make a name for ourselves rather than making God’s name known.

Notice, the heart of the child of God must be the first thing conformed before the work of God takes place. In Ephesians 4:1-6 the charge of “*walking in lowliness and gentleness with longsuffering*” are the essential character traits that makes “*walking worthy of your calling and keeping the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*” possible. And all of it is enabled through “*bearing with one another in love*”.

The charge to imitate God in Ephesians 5:1-2 can only take place when we mirror the love of Christ as our procedure.

Walking as “*children of light*” is only realized as we find out what is “*acceptable to the Lord*” as our process.

A circumspect walk is only possible by “*discovering the will of the Lord*” as our agenda.

Paul finishes his instructions, instructions that should be observed to a higher standard than any other instructions written since the bible, with a charge to suit up in the full armor of God. This “full armor” raises the most important pursuits of every Christian and every church to God’s highest calling to preoccupy our business. That of truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and His Word are to be our pursuits as all of this is wrapped in prayer.

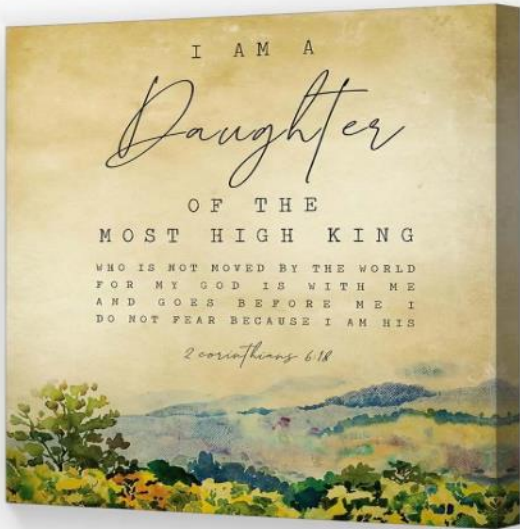
The heart is first shaped, then the walk, as we wear the right divinely tailored gear. The Word and work of God is what we must major on and the lesser things that we attend to must be our minor. If we are diligent to keep ourselves in the proper order, then we can experience what God, and God alone can do. I don’t know about you, but I’d certainly want to have God’s best over what I can do through my own works.

Reread the above verses again. Let that be your devotion. Let God’s will be your agenda.

Pastor Leroy

BIBLE READING PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER 2024

September 1	Ezekiel 20-21
September 2	Ezekiel 22-23
September 3	Ezekiel 24-27
September 4	Ezekiel 28-31
September 5	Ezekiel 32-34
September 6	Ezekiel 35-37
September 7	Ezekiel 38-39
September 8	Ezekiel 40-41
September 9	Ezekiel 42-43
September 10	Ezekiel 44-45
September 11	Ezekiel 46-48
September 12	Joel 1-3
September 13	Daniel 1-3
September 14	Daniel 4-6
September 15	Daniel 7-9
September 16	Daniel 10-12
September 17	Ezra 1-3
September 18	Ezra 4-6; Psalm 137
September 19	Haggai 1-2
September 20	Zechariah 1-7
September 21	Zechariah 8-14
September 22	Esther 1-5
September 23	Esther 6-10
September 24	Ezra 7-10
September 25	Nehemiah 1-5
September 26	Nehemiah 6-7
September 27	Nehemiah 8-10
September 28	Nehemiah 11-13; Psalm 126
September 29	Malachi 1-4
September 30	Luke 1; John 1:1-14



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Sponsored by Pelham FBC WMU & Women's Ministry
 Saturday, **September 14 from 10 till 1 pm**
 Cherrie Bardshaw & The Potters House Ladies will
 have the program this year. Come share in the fun,
 food fellowship & give God all the glory!
Tickets are \$10.
 Child care will be provided

GOLDEN AGE

**Will resume on Monday, September 9
 at 2:00 pm.
 Come and make your own Sundae**



**FAMILY FIRST NIGHT
 New Voice in Concert
 presented by**

**the Women's Ministry,
 September 22, at 6:00 pm
 Finger Foods will be provided**



FROM YOUR YOUTH PASTOR

As we start another school year with the youth, we are focusing our Bible study on the Gospel; the good news that Jesus died on the cross as a payment for our sins, that He was buried and that He arose from the dead 3 days later to show His authority over sin and death. We have studied that it is a personal decision that we make to receive that gift!

Now we are looking at how the gospel has changed us, how we are completely different from the unsaved world as believers in Christ's salvation! Colossians 3:1-17 gives us some points where we are different, I like to call it the five "S" words! Let's look at the first three.

1. **Seek** - Paul challenges us as believers to worship Christ as more than just our Savior but to make Him the Lord of our life
2. **Set** - The second encouragement is to daily set our minds on the plan, purpose and promises God has for each one as believers
3. **Separate** - Here God commands us to first separate (put to death) ourselves from a lifestyle of sin. We should never be okay knowing we are living in sin! The second command is to separate (lay aside) sins that are a snare to us and others. What's the difference? Life snares are sins we commit not meaning to and are repentant for them, Lifestyle sin is when we know it is sin and we are okay living that way!

1 John 3:4-10 makes it really clear, if we confess Christ as Savior and Lord, we will not desire sin or be okay with it in our lives! May we live a life that pleases our Lord so He can use us to reach others with the gospel!

In Christ, Bro. Harold

Will You Be Sleeping?

*United States of America looks like another silent night
As we're sung to sleep by philosophies that save the trees and kill the children
And while we're lying in the dark there's a shout heard 'cross the eastern sky
For the Bridegroom has returned and has carried His bride away in the night*

*America, what will we miss while we are sleeping
Will Jesus come again and leave us slumbering where we lay
America, will we go down in history as a nation with no room for its King
Will we be sleeping, Will you be sleeping*

(Lyrics from the Song "While You Were Sleeping" by Casting Crowns, Beachstreet Records/Reunion, 2005)

The lyrics of this cherished song by *Casting Crowns* clearly point out how during the time of Christ's birth and crucifixion, people missed Bible prophecy being fulfilled. Then the lyrics pose the question asking if we will respond the same way to the signs of His return. We see the signs of the "Birth Pains" (**Matt 24:8**) spoken of what has been called the Olivet Discourse found in **Matthew 24, Luke 21, and Mark 13**. Allow me to briefly summarize some of Jesus' spoken words to His disciples:

First we have **The Rise of Deception (Matt 24:3, 11, 24-26)**. Jesus stated that many will come in His name and deceive the multitudes and following His ascension (**Acts 1**) numerous people have come claiming to be Christ incarnate. We are also warned of the Great Deceiver (The Antichrist) who is also called the Abomination of Desolation, Man of Lawlessness, and the Beast that is coming as prophesied in **Matt 24:15, 2 Thess 2:3-4, and Rev 13:4**.

Second we have **The Resurgence of Wickedness (Matt 24: 6-12)**. Jesus states that there will be wars and rumors of wars among the nations which includes mass destruction, famines, and widespread diseases. There will also be a growing hatred toward believers in Christ and to one another. People will be easily offended and there will be an epidemic of injustice, immoral behavior, crime, and godlessness. The love of many will grow cold and there is to be a great falling away of the faith as prophesied by Paul in **1st Timothy 3:1-5**.

Third we have **The Resilience of Nature (Matt 24:7, 29)**. Jesus spoke of earthquakes in various places, the sun becoming dark, the moon losing its light, and the heavenly bodies being shaken. There will be devastating hurricanes and storms as stated in **Luke 21:25**.

But rejoice for we will see **The Return of the King (Matt 24:27, 30-31)**. At Christ's return lightning will fill the sky, all the nations of the earth will mourn, and a trumpet will sound and His faithful will be gathered together (**1 Thess 4:16-18**). We are encouraged to remain diligent and faithful (**24:13-14**), and not to be alarmed (**24:6**) for our redemption is coming as it says in **Luke 21:28**. No one knows the day or hour of Christ's return but we know the Rapture is coming so we are to keep alert! (**Matt 24:36-37, 42**)

We may be facing the most difficult and challenging days ever for us as Christians. As the time gets closer, we could be that last generation of believers on this earth that see all prophecies come true. If not, then it may be our children, or our grandchildren, friends, or fellow church members. It is our commission (**Matt 28:18-20**) to tell them what is to come and to share the Gospel of Christ.

1st Thessalonians 5:6, 9-10 says: ***"So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him."***

"When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." (**Luke 21:28**)

Bro. Andrew

Members Birthdays in the Month of August

Sept. 4 Glenda Rich
Sept. 5 John Gray
Sept. 7 Kaleb Bentley
Sept. 11 Judy Adams
Sept. 11 Pam Harris
Sept. 16 Jimmy Godwin
Sept. 18 John Butler
Sept. 21 Austin Bentley
Sept. 24 Meagan Kitchens
Sept. 26 Judy Conley
Sept. 26 Eleanor Pollock
Sept. 28 Russell Leasburg
Sept. 30 Lula Scott



Due to several conflicts, our Ladies Bible Study won't begin until September 29 at 4:30 pm in the old Fellowship Hall.

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed on Friday

Activate The Prayer Chain



Tina Sellers 294-8443
Helen Schmidt 294-2818
Sandra Peck 294-8073

Deacons of the Month:

Wesley Palmer (229) 403-2340

JT Thompson (205) 717-0013

**Baby Shower for Meg & Kaleb Bentley
September 29, Fellowship Hall, 2:00-3:30 pm**

Staff at Home

Rev. Leroy Williams Pastor	321-292-9650 leroy.j.williams43@gmail.com
Rev. Harold Smith Minister of Youth	229-221-1565 harold@pelhamfbc.org
Rev. Andrew Chaffer Minister of Music	229-319-0472 revchaffer@gmail.com
Sandra Peck Ministry Assistant	229-327-6026 eshiver@pelhamfbc.org
Donnie Palmer Deacon Chairman	229-221-8907 donnienamy@yahoo.com

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"In God We Trust"

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
P. O. Box 287
Pelham, GA 31779

Prayer List

MEMBERS

Larry Frosteg	medical
Jimmy Godwin	medical
Shirley Humphries	medical
RayJean Leggett	medical
Amy Lock	physical therapy
Tommy Palmer	surgery
Helen Schmidt	medical
Betty Sellers	medical
Judy Sherrod	medical
Sue Taylor	medical

FRIENDS AND FAMILY

David Chapman (Nan)	medical
Ann Davis(daughter Brim)	cancer
Mark Davis(son-inlaw Brim)	cancer
Sharon Dixon (Maloy)	medical Heart
Connor Fielder (Theressia)	coma (wreck)
Randy Harris (James)	cancer
Rick Herren (nephew Hurst)	brain tumor
Harley Johnson (Fenn)	melanoma
Jeanine Mellow (Lock)	cancer
Chris Mobley (Campbell)	cancer
Lance Morrell (Moltz)	cancer
John & Jean Murphy (Monday)	medical
David Parr (Anderson)	medical
John Rich	dementia
Lynn & Chris Struck (Wallace)	both have cancer
Brenda Taylor (Lenora Butler)	cancer
Candace Trimble (Monday)	medical
Cindy Warren (Bishop)	cancer
Walt Younkin (Godwin)	cancer

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Don Bodin, @ Parkway, #307
 Lane Butler, Mitchell County Convalescent Center
 Buddy Campbell, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie
 June Carter, Legacy Village, Rm 208, Thomasville
 Leon Davis, Parkway
 Eunice Hatcher, Parkway
 Gary Hurst, Bainbridge Healthcare
Shirley Sellers Nazworth, Magnolia Manor, Moultrie
 Lula Scott, Savannah Court, Camilla
 Joyce Walton, Southern Pines
 Bill Willis, Parkway

GBCH 2024 TRUCK LOADING

First Baptist Items

BLACK EYED PEAS (gallons preferred)

Significant request:

WALMART GIFT CARDS

(To be used for purchase of perishable items throughout the year)

COLLECTION DEADLINE

FRIDAY, SEPT. 27

Staff Meeting

Tuesdays, September 3 & 17

Council Meeting

Thursday, September 12 @ 5:00 pm

First Baptist Church - Pelham

SUNDAY

9:15 am	Morning Mingle - Breakfast
9:40 am	Children's Sunday School Opening Rally
9:45 am	Adult & Teen Sunday School Classes meet
10:00 am	Children's Sunday School Classes meet
11:00 am	Morning Worship Service and on Facebook @First Baptist Church Pelham
4:30 pm	Ladies Bible Study Resumes on (9/29/24)

Monday

6:30 pm Men's Bible Study **(Will resume 9/9/24)**

Tuesday

12:00 Noon Men's Lunch/Bible Study
 7:00 pm Men's Prison Ministry

Wednesday

5:00- 5:30 pm	Kid's Choir
5:00- 6:00 pm	Supper
6:45- 7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting
5:00- 7:30 pm	Children Program
5:45 -7:30 pm	Youth Meeting
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Choir

SAVE THE DATE
Operation Christmas Child
Coming in November

FBC Prison Ministry

1st Tuesday, Sept. 3	Neal Hilliard, Gene Sellers
2nd Tuesday, Sept. 10	Harold Smith, Donnie Palmer
3rd Tuesday, Sept. 17	Leroy Williams, Gene Sellers
4th Tuesday, Sept. 24	Andrew Chaffer, Keith Norman

Morning Mingle Breakfast

Please come and join us @9::15 am

Breakfast Teams

Sept. 1	Laura Jane Gray Class
Sept. 8	Dianne Fenn Class
Sept. 15	David Drury Class
Sept. 22	Children & Youth Teachers
Sept. 29	Nichole Hilliard Class

Nursery Volunteers

Sept. 1	Kimberly & Jamie NeSmith, Melodie Chaffer
Sept. 8	Melea & Duane Bentley, Lynne Aldridge
Sept. 15	Nichole & Neal Hilliard, Amy & Donnie Palmer
Sept. 22	Kristy & Wesley Palmer, Marlene Bishop
Sept. 29	Katie & JT Thompson, Lucy, Tina Sellers

