

# FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

## **Elders**

Steve Clark
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham
Jake VanDyke

## Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

# Minister

**Austin Johnson** 

Youth Minister
John Birdwell

Secretary Sonya Cox

# YOU MUST BE IN BIBLE CLASS!!!

Bible study has come alive for me as of late. I cannot put a finger on the reason but am grateful it is happening. Currently I am teaching through Joshua for our Sunday morning auditorium Class. I must share some of the lessons I learned last week in Bible class. Please consider the following: What does it mean when the Bible says, "they did not ask counsel from the Lord"?

Joshua 9:14 is where this quotation is found. The Israelites were guilty of not seeking counsel from the Lord before making a treaty with and promise to the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites heard of the conquering power of Israel and thus formulated a plan to deceive Joshua to think they were from a "distant country" and in need of help. Joshua, then, made his treaty. Eventually it was found out that these people were not in fact from a distant country, but were the Gibeonites and were supposed to be eradicated from the land. While the Gibeonites were deceptive and deserving of punishment, so was Joshua and Israel as a whole. What was their mistake? They did not ask counsel from the Lord.

What does it mean to "ask counsel from the Lord"? Most people would probably answer this question by saying, prayer. Pray to the Lord and He will provide the counsel we are (they were) in need of. That answer would suggest that Israel not make the treaty, and instead, go to God in prayer and wait for Him to answer them. The answer supposes that God would communicate in some miraculous conversation (Moses & the burning bush), dream (King Nebuchadnezzar Daniel 2, King Belshazzar Daniel 7), regular conversation (Joshua 1:1f; 4:1f), or in a manifestation of His presence (Joshua 5:13–15). This could be the case. But what if there is another meaning? What if in this meaning, there is a great present-day application for life in the here and now?

It was suggested in Bible class that the guilt of Israel for "not asking counsel from the Lord" was an accusation that they, Israel, having the Law of the Lord in their hands were unwilling to search through the Law to know what God would have them to do. Here is the power of that suggestion and subsequent accusation. Joshua 1:7–8 say, "7Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success[a] wherever you go. §This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." In his interaction with the foreign people, he should have gone back to the Law of the Lord and sought God's counsel that way (Deuteronomy 20; 2 Samuel 21:1–14).

We should seek the Lord's counsel this way as well. Search the Scriptures prayerfully and daily so we may know what the will of the Lord is for the lives we are living (*Matthew 22:29; Acts 20:27; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 1 John 4:1; 5:13–15*). So, come to Bible Class! Be blessed in the pursuit of the knowledge of His will.

Austin Johnson

## 2502 FLORENCE BOULEVARD

www.florenceblvd.org

PHONE (256) 766-3617 email: office@florenceblvd.org FAX (256) 766-3546

Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am

Wednesday: 6:30 pm

#### FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 332 / On Line Views: 81 Sunday School: 227 / On Line Views: 50 Sunday PM: 191 / On Line Views: 107 Wednesday: 201 / On Line Views: 87

Budget: \$13,300 Contribution: \$ 18,173

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#### SUNDAY CLASSES

Auditorium: Judges; taught by Austin Johnson

49er's (located behind auditorium): Interesting Passages of

the Bible; taught by Mark Willingham

Young Professionals (located upstairs): Marriage; taught

by Kyle Dickson

**Ladies Class** (opposite hallway of Route 66)

#### MAY MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Fred Asare
Village of Hope
PO Box 18169
Accra, Ghana
fredasare@gmail.com

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Bill & Kim Crunk are the proud grandparents of a little girl. Annie Gayle Stevenson was born on April 30<sup>th</sup>. She weighed 8 lbs 2 oz. and measured 19.5 inches long. Proud parents: Ben & Linzee Stevenson; Proud big brother: Billy Mac; Proud great-grandparents: Myron & Carole Crunk and Joyce Trousdale.

# COLLEGE GRADUATES

Will Clemons, Master of Business Administration; University of Tennessee Southern

Amelia Elrod, Master of Special Education (K-6); University of North Alabama

Barkley Hunter, Honors Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering (Summa Cum Laude); University of Alabama Huntsville

Daniel Ross, Bachelor of Science in Bible; Magna Cum Laude, Honors College Scholar (Youth and Family Ministry emphasis); Freed-Hardeman University

Seth Swinea, Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering (Summa Cum Laude); University of Alabama

#### CONTRIBUTION

Beginning on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, we will begin passing the contribution trays again. We will not be passing the communion trays, so please make sure you get your communion when you walk in the door, like you have been doing.

#### CHURCH -EAT-CHURCH

We will be having "Church-Eat-Church" on Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

9 AM: Worship

10:15 AM: Sunday School

11:00 AM: Church wide fellowship meal

12:30 PM: Afternoon service

Dismiss for the day. NO 5:00 pm service

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#### THANK YOU

Thank you, my precious, godly family, for helping me through my recent struggle. I knew you would, that's why God gave us each other. He has provided, through you, a step away from it every day. God bless you for the strength you gave me. I love you.

Cheri Suns

## 52 WEEK BIBLE READING PLAN

Week 20

Sunday (Epistles) 2 Cor. 9-10

Monday (The Law) Exodus 25-28

**Tuesday** (History) 2 Samuel 15-19

Wednesday (Psalms) Psalm 57-59

Thursday (Poetry) Job 39-40

Friday (Prophecy) Jer. 37-41

Saturday (Gospels) Luke 3-4