

May 15, 2022



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. ⁸This 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

