



SUNDAY AM MAY 17, 2015

Announcements..... Billy Bowles
 Prayer..... Billy Bowles
 Song Leader Jimmy Spivey
 Communion Rick Harrell
 Server Jeff Hale
 Server Eddie Stewart
 Server Matt Stubbs
 Prayer..... Jeff Hale
 Scripture
 Lesson Deland Guthrie
 Closing Prayer Jonathan Wilson
 Nursery..... Bonnie Guthrie
 Foyer Monitor Jonathan Wilson
 Greeters.....
 Lock Building Jonathan Wislon

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

Song Leader Adam Guthrie
 Prayer..... Jonathan Wilson
 Communion Rick Harrell
 Lesson Deland Guthrie
 Closing Prayer Billy Bowles

WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 2015

Song Leader Chad Smith
 Prayer..... Jeff Hale
 Lesson Matt Stubbs

Gospel Plan of Salvation

Hear the Gospel
Romans 1:16 Romans 10:15-17

Believe the Gospel
Mark 16:15-16

Repent of Your Sins
Acts 3:19 Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as the Son of God
Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized for the Remission of Sins
Acts 2:38 Galatians 3:27

Live Faithful
Revelation 2:10

Study the Word
2 Timothy 2:15

For the Record

Bible study----- 19
 Worship
 Sunday morning----- 50
 Sunday evening----- 23
 Contributions----- \$2155
 Wednesday evening ----- 17

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May 17, 2015

Family Matters

A Weekly Publication of the St. Augustine Rd. church of Christ

Three Years to Spiritual Maturity

(A Biblical Example for Growth)

Introduction: There has been a huge falling away in the Lord's Church and if you talk to 25 different people you will get 25 various reasons for the apostasy. When you put all those reason in a paper bag and shake it up and dump them out on the table the answer begins to take shape. God in His infinite wisdom I believe left us the blue print to maximize growth and minimize the loss that we have seen for so long plague the Body of Christ. The plan is not really hidden from view, but may be overlooked for the same reason the Jews couldn't see or hear the words of Jesus (Mark 8:18). The Jews had a plan for God, but God was not interested in their plan since He had a plan already in place. Even Jesus had to teach and train the men He had hand selected for a period of some three and a half years. We also see the example of Paul after his conversion spend about three years in Arabia (Gal. 1:17-18). In John chapter 15 Jesus uses a metaphor (Merriam-Webster: a figure of speech in which a term or phrase is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable in order to suggest a resemblance) to describe the relationship between The Father, Son and man. Is it just by chance that Jesus used this concept to explain the pattern for correct spiritual growth? It was and still is a common practice in Palestine that after a vine is planted it would be prohibited from producing fruit for the first three years. Grape vines would be pruned and trained for the period of three complete years to strengthen the ability for the branches to bear fruit. The healthier the vine is (The Word) in our heart the greater the ability for the branches to get essential nutrients for sound, solid, and correct growth.

In the following we will be looking at biblical examples for consistent growth for Christian living and growing in the grace of our Lord. One of the most important parts of being strong is the allowing of God to prune our lives to help us become the branch that produces much fruit (John 15:8). In the book of Acts Paul would again demonstrate the pattern of teaching during the three years he spent with the Ephesians for the period of time that he would be able to teach night and day (v27) and declare that he declared "all the counsel of God." (Acts 20:26-31)

Another passage that might give us insight into the biblical pattern for teaching is found in Luke 13:6-9. In this passage we have a parable about the time frame that Jesus taught on earth and the expectations of the Father. He (God) expected to see fruit after a period of teaching. When there is no fruit after three years of earthly ministry He says to cut the tree down, but the dresser (Jesus) asked for another year to produce fruit. There is an honest expectation from the master and rightly desired. Fig trees have the purpose to produce and so do we as Christians. Would God not cut us off if we are barren and unfruitful? Are you and I producing fruit fit for the master? Some people who decide to follow Jesus never realize what is involved in their decision. May we never be those that minimize our choice for serving God, and help us understand the consequences for not being fruitful.

Deland

Announcements

- ❖ Ladies Bible class Tuesday mornings @ 10 am
- ❖ To be announced ~ **6:30 pm** ~ "Struggle Seek Grow" ~ Ladies Bible class ***Please bring finger foods***

In our Prayers

Ruth Starling, Johann Sluss, Marsha Swain, Charles White, Irene Horne, Haden Vinsen, Addison Johnson, Wanda Hamm, Glenda Hyatt, Joe Cone, Bob Myers, Beverly Strange, Faye Johnson, Deborah Croft, Jean Campbell, Kim McDowell, Hal Presnell

Area Meetings

May 17-20 ~ Gospel Meeting ~ Charles Box ~ Madison Church of Christ, Madison, FL. ~ Sunday, 10:00, 11:00, and 6:00. Monday thru Wednesday, 7:00.

Weekly Bible Verse

Luke 12:13-21 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹³ Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness,[a] for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." ¹⁶ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. ¹⁷ And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' ¹⁸ So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' ²¹ "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."