



FAMILY NEWS

JANUARY 12, 2025

Classes

Auditorium Class: Andy Scott
Teens: Arpoika Daniels
4th - 6th Grade: Lani Renner
1st - 3rd Grade: Ginger Posey

3yr - K: Lynn Grimes
Nursery: Miranda Hays

Sermons

AM: Tim Smith
PM: Evening Bible Study - Jack Mattingly, Sr.



IN **SEARCH**
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

Next Sunday on Search:

Jan 19 – Accountable To God

One day, when your life is over, you must give account to God for how you've lived, how you think, how you treat others, and how you talk. We must realize we are accountable to God for how we live in the present.

Daily Bible Reading

Sunday

Genesis 29-30 & Luke 6:27-49

Monday

Genesis 31-32 & Luke 7:1-35

Tuesday

Genesis 33-35 & Luke 7:36-50

Wednesday

Genesis 36-37 & Luke 8:1-25

Thursday

Genesis 38-40 & Luke 8:26-56

Friday

Genesis 41-42 & Luke 9:1-36

Saturday

Genesis 43-45 & Luke 9:37-62

"If you would test the character of anything, you only need to inquire whether that thing leads you to God or away from God."

- Watchman Nee

Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 (NIV)

*If I walk with the world,
I can't walk with God.*

5:00
Bible Study

Everyone is encouraged to attend the 5:00 Bible study, hosted by Meal Group 2, in the fellowship room on Sunday, January 12th.

In Our Hearts:

"Turge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone." 1 Tim. 2:1 (NIV)

Please continue to remember those on our long term prayer list.

Larry Waddell, Lee Daniels, mother of Arpoika Daniels, Pat Joslin & Barbara McKinney, sisters of Sue Alexander, LaRohnda Jones & Mary Ray, nieces of Johna Myers, Kenny Brewer, Sue Alexander, Talhia Vanlandingham, Steve Lashley, Alvis Campbell, Ted Criswell, Shirley Carson, the late Wayne Maxell's sister

Let's remember our shut-ins: *Peggy Jackson and Carolyn Self*

Memorial Service: The memorial service for Debbie Crane's mother, Velma Baxter, has been rescheduled for Friday, January 31st, at 4:00 pm in the fellowship room.

Daily Bible Reading: It is never too late to begin a daily Bible reading habit! Daily Bible Reading Schedules can be found in several different locations in the foyer. Pick one up and make a habit of spending time in God's Word on a daily basis!

Food Collection: There are collection boxes in the foyer for canned goods and non-perishable items for MaMa's Christ Van. This pantry helps feed the needy in Seminole. We will be collecting items until Jan. 26th.

It's not that God is silent, it's that our distractions are sometimes too loud.



Time With Tim

Letting God Help Us Through Anything

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped." Psalm 28:7

How are your new year's resolutions going? I am a week into 2025 and I have already failed in most if not all my resolutions. I love the start of a new year. It is a time of looking back, looking forward, a time of evaluation and a time of revival in our lives. This year my prayer to our God is that we allow Him to work in our lives in all of resolutions and goals that we may have individually and as a church family. That we start by praying for our success and growth, that we ask God to help us overcome temptation in our lives, and let Him lead in us the direction He wants for all us.

Life often throws challenges our way—whether it is financial struggles, health issues, broken relationships, or personal failures. In these months, we may instinctively turn to earthly advice, self-help strategies, or even our own strength to push through. While there is nothing inherently wrong with seeking counsel or practical solutions, leaning solely on human wisdom often leaves us feeling empty, frustrated, and still burdened.

In Nehemiah 1:4, Nehemiah shows us the power of turning to God first: **"When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven."** Nehemiah was overwhelmed by the broken state of Jerusalem, but instead of rushing into action or seeking human advice first, he went straight to God in prayer. Through his dependence on God, Nehemiah received guidance, strength, and success in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem.

Prayer changes everything because it aligns our hearts with God's will and invites His divine power into our circumstances. When we rely on God, we are no longer limited by our finite understanding or the weaknesses of others.

Proverbs 3:5-6 reminds us: **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."**

Trying to navigate life's challenges without God is like sailing without a compass. God offers us His wisdom, strength, and peace, but we must be willing to humble ourselves and seek Him earnestly. No matter what you are facing today, allow God to carry your burdens. Let prayer be your first response, not your last resort. God is faithful, and He will help you through anything.

"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." Ephesians 3:20

Salvation: Light and Glory

Shortly after Jesus' birth, His parents took Him to the temple "to present Him to the Lord." There was a righteous and devout man, Simeon, upon whom was the Holy Spirit, and who was "waiting for the consolation of Israel." The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah. When he saw Jesus, he took Him into his arms, blessed God, and said:

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." (Luke 2:22-32).

This is loaded with meaning. Simeon expresses his trust in the faithfulness of God. He sees the Messiah as the salvation and consolation for which God's people had been looking. God's plans and salvation were meant to be seen by all, "prepared in the presence of all peoples." The power of this is seen in the next couple of phrases: "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." Jesus was the fulfillment of light and glory for both Jews and Gentiles.

Israel was called to be a light to the nations around them. Perhaps this sounds surprising given that they were to enter the land and dispossess the pagan occupants. Those nations were being judged for their own sins, but God was still working His plan and Israel was a big part of it: "I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations..." (Isa 42:6). "I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isa 49:6). These passages were in a context describing what Israel was meant to be. However, while the people often failed in this because of their sins, Isaiah's message pointed to a greater fulfillment to be found in the Messiah, and Simeon recognized this. Jesus would be the light of revelation to the Gentiles. Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5; 12:35-36). "In him was life, and the life was the light of men" (John 1:4-5). Since light and life stand together, Jesus as the light provides life to those who trust in Him.

Jesus is also the "glory to your people Israel." The prophetic promise was glory for Israel: "I bring near my righteousness; it is not far off, and my salvation will not delay; I will put salvation in Zion, for Israel my glory" (Isa 46:13). "In the LORD all the offspring of Israel shall be justified and shall glory" (Isa 45:25). Israel, as God's people, held a special place in the plan of

God. As Paul would write even in the face of showing that both Jew and Gentile were equally guilty of sin, "Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were entrusted with the oracles of God" (Rom 3:1-2). God entrusted Israel with a special mission, and to be a part of the fulfillment of God's plan in Jesus was a glory to them.

Joseph and Mary marveled at what they heard on this day. Here was a prophet telling them that the promised Messiah was among them in the flesh. Salvation, comfort, and redemption came in the form of this infant to whom they were given stewardship to raise. Now both Jew and Gentile were provided the opportunity to take part in the completion of God's plan in Christ. Jesus would die and be raised again, overcoming death and providing eternal redemption for all who trust Him (Heb 2:14).

While Jew and Gentile come together as one body in Christ (Eph 2:11-18), we need to be careful not to minimize how God carried this out through Israel. Sometimes we hear people say that God "replaced" Israel with the church, but this isn't quite correct. "Replace" could sound like the plan was a failure and needed scratched. Rather, God fulfilled Israel's purpose in Christ and grafted in the Gentiles with faithful Israel so that the Gentiles become part of this new creation (Rom 11). In other words, it's not replacement, but fulfillment. Israel did produce the light by bringing about the Messiah according to God's purposes. As Jesus said of the Law and Prophets, "I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them" (Matt 5:17). God did not destroy Israel to raise up the church; He grafted Gentiles into the olive tree of faithful Israel to make them one in Christ. The nuance is important, for it speaks to a fulfilling of a plan that God put into place long before Israel was even a physical nation, as seen in Abraham (Gen 12; Rom 4). The Messiah is the glory of Israel in God's purposes, and this also means salvation to the Gentiles. Together, both Jew and Gentile become one body in Christ as a testimony to God's faithfulness and wisdom. God is ever faithful, and Scripture gives powerful testimony to this truth.

- Doy Moyer

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Deacons:

Ken Crane
Jim Grimes
Steve Johnson
Jerry Renner
Bob Swearingen

**Worship & Bible Study
Schedule**

AM

Sunday 9:30 - Bible Class

Sunday 10:30 - Worship

PM

Sunday 5:00 - Bible Study

Wednesday 6:00 - Bible Study

Worship Workers**January 12****In Charge:** Syd Morgan (405-380-7406)**Welcome AM:** Syd Morgan**Song Leader:** Tim Smith**Opening Prayer:** Steve Johnson**Closing Prayer:** Paul Alexander**Lord's Supper & Offering AM:** Jack Mattingly**Lord's Supper & Offering PM:** Jim Hardin**Scripture Reading:** Andy Scott**Heritage House****Thursday, January 16**

Judy Amos &
Debbie Ernst

January Nursery Attendants

Jan 5 - Ashley Noey

Jan 12 - Debbie Crane

Jan 19 - Ginger Posey

Jan 26 - Kay Lashley

January Worship & Bible Class Greeters**North Doors:** Larry & Janet Waddell**South Doors:** Jim & Donna Hardin