

THE BANNER HERALD

OWNERS / EDITORS: Elders Emerson Proctor, Pat McCoy, Dean Robbins, Craig DeLoach

E-Banner Herald Editor & Webmaster: Elder Andrew M. Tucker

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THE BANNER HERALD

c/o Teresa Robbins
P.O. Box 125
Statesboro, GA 30459-0125
(912)-541-6090
tegrace3@hotmail.com

THE BANNER HERALD
P.O. Box 125

Statesboro, GA 30459-0125 thebannerherald1918@outlook.com

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BANNER HERALD
CHURCH DIRECTORY

c/o Elder Pat McCoy
P.O. Box 69
Culloden, GA 31016-0069
(478)-994-2558
pm4dmi@outlook.com

<u>ALL ITEMS</u> submitted to the Banner Herald must be typed and received by the 1st of the month prior to publication. Church news must be limited to 250 words. All materials received are subject to editing.

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All contributions above the subscription price are now tax deductible.



Introduction

In J. Edwin Hartill's Principles of Biblical Hermeneutics, he addresses a principle titled "The Application Principle." He defines that principle as "The principle by which an application of truth may be made only after the correct interpretation has been learned" (Hermeneutics 44). The author goes on to state the following:

This means that when you study the Bible you must first seek the proper interpretation of the text, the exact meaning always, and the literal meaning. You ought never to take a text and preach on it without examining the words of the text. Discover—(1) Why that passage was given. (2) What was the original purpose of God in writing the Scripture. (3) What was in the mind of God when He caused it to be written. . . . There may be many applications, but there is only one correct interpretation (Hermeneutic 44).

It is my intent in writing this article to apply the application principle to 2 Samuel 9:1-13. The interpretation is rather straight-forward. The narrative reveals David's kindness to the household of Saul for Jonathan's sake (cf. 2 Samuel 9:1). David's actions are initiated by his faithfulness to the covenant he and Jonathan had entered into many years before (cf. 1 Samuel 20:10-17). Once we have determined that this is the literal interpretation of the passage, we may then pursue its application.

Application

What immediately stands out from the passage is its amazing application to our salvation in Jesus Christ. In the normal course of assuming the throne once held by another, it was the practice of the new ruler to round up all remaining

descendants of the disposed king and have them executed. This eliminated any future challenges to the throne. David was true to his covenant with Jonathan, and mercy reigned rather than brutality.

Mephibosheth was Jonathan's son. Scripture tells us that Mephibosheth was lame in both of his feet. Second Samuel 4:4 states that ". . . He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame." Mephibosheth was lame because of a fall. It is not a difficult transaction for us to see the typical significance of this verse. Mephibosheth's nurse dropped him while fleeing for their safety. Mephibosheth's fall was not of his own doing. Doctor Hartill remarks that "He had fallen at the hands of another" (Hermeneutics 45).

All mankind is in a fallen state and "at the hands of another." Adam, of course, is the source of our fallen condition. To use the language of the passage before us, we are all lame in our feet just as Mephibosheth was. Mephibosheth, of his own ability, was not able to come to the king's house; nor was he inclined to, knowing the danger that possible awaited him. Second Samuel 9:4 states that "... Behold, he [Mephibosheth] is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lodebar." Nothing in Scripture is accidental. Every word is purposeful. Machir means "sold." This is typically significant to the application. It is not a stretch for us to acknowledge that Mephibosheth was dwelling in a house of bondage. Once again, we note Paul's language in Romans 7:14, "For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin" (Emphasis added), there is not one of us that is not carnal, sold under sin, dwelling in a state of bondage to our sinful condition. Further, the

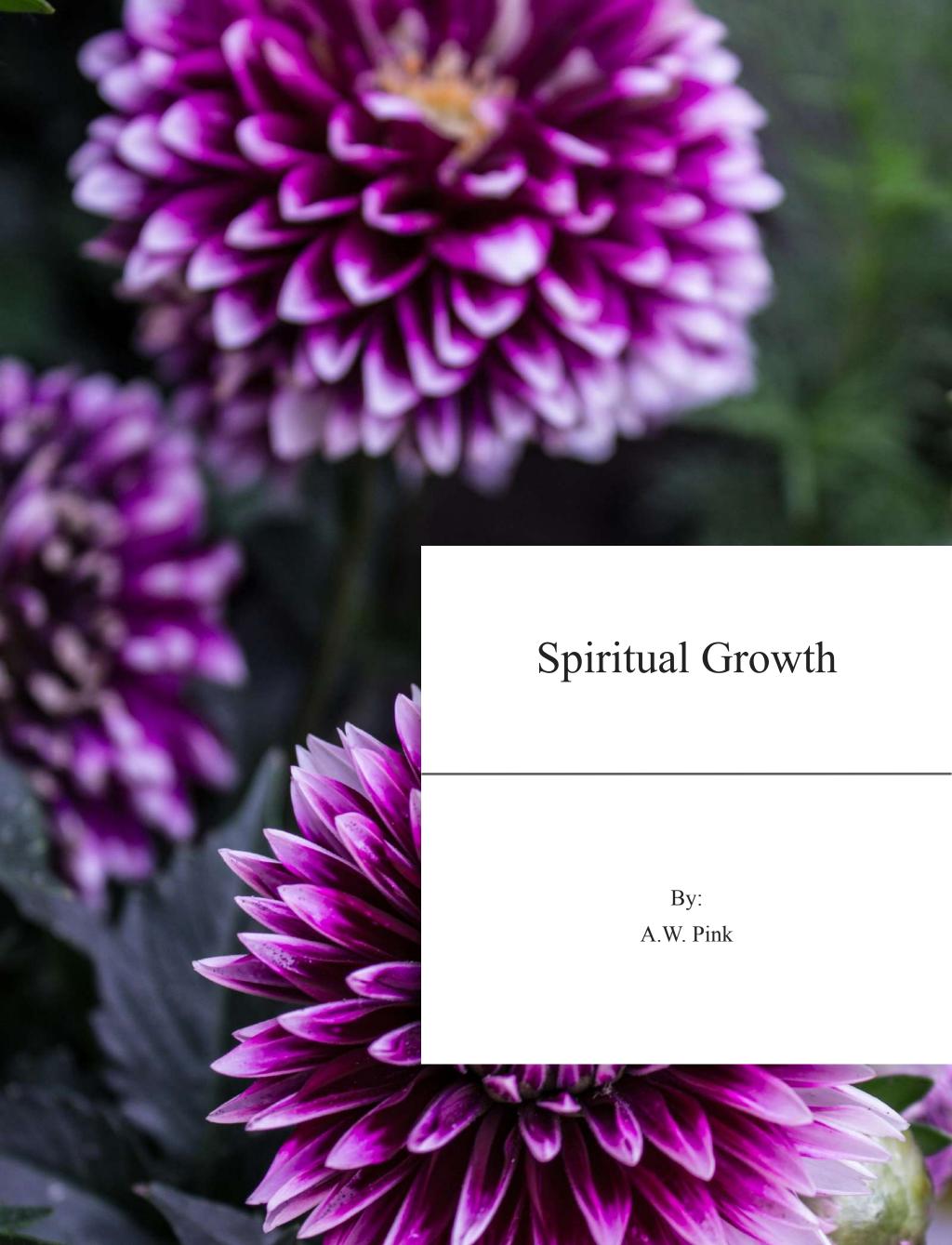
house of Machir was in the land of Lodebar. Lodebar means "pastureless" or "no pasture." In Lodebar there is no satisfaction nor comfort.

Once King David learned of Mephibosheth and his location, "Then the king sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lodebar" (2 Samuel 9:5). That word "fetched" is a strong word. It means "to be taken unto, be brought unto, to be taken out of, to be taken away." The reality is that Mephibosheth had no choice. He would be brought to the king and that by force.

It should be noted that Mephibosheth was not seeking David. He was not able to go to David himself, even if he was inclined to do so. That is true of us also. We were not seeking God when God sent and fetched us out of our house of bondage. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:4, "But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved). You see, it had to be this way because, as Paul writes, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:10-11).

Conclusion

Doctor Hartill's application principle has enabled us to rightly interpret 2 Samuel 9 and then make the beautiful application we have made based upon the sound biblical precepts as mentioned in the introduction to this article.



"Grace is favor shown to the undeserving; and the more we grow in grace the more we perceive our undeservingness, the more we feel our need of grace, the more sensible we are of our indebtedness to the God of all grace." – A. W. Pink

The name which is usually given to our subject by Christian writers is that of 'Growth in Grace' which is a scriptural expression, being found 2 Peter 3:18. But it appears to us that, strictly speaking, growing in grace has reference to but a single aspect or branch of our theme: 'that your love may abound yet more and more' (Phil. 1:9) treats of another aspect, and 'your faith groweth exceedingly' (2 Thess. 1:3), with yet another. It seems then that 'spiritual growth' is a more comprehensive and inclusive term and more accurately covers that most important and desirable attainment: 'may grow up into him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ' (Eph. 4:15). Let it not be thought from this that we have selected our title in a captious spirit or because we are striving after originality. Not so: we have no criticism to make against those who may prefer some other appellation. We have chosen this simply because it seems more fitly and fully to describe the ground which we hope to cover. Our readers understand clearly what is connoted by 'physical growth' or 'mental growth,' nor should 'spiritual growth' be any the less intelligible.

This Subject Is A Deeply Important One

First, that we should seek to understand aright the Spirit's teaching on this subject. There seems to be comparatively few who do so, and the consequence is that the Lord is robbed of much of the praise which is His due, while many of His people suffer much needless distress. Because so many Christians walk more by sense than by faith, measuring themselves by their feelings and moods

rather than by the Word, their peace of mind is greatly destroyed and their joy of heart much decreased. Not a few saints are seriously the losers through misapprehensions upon this subject. Scriptural knowledge is essential if we are better to understand ourselves and diagnose more accurately our spiritual case. Many exercised souls form an erroneous opinion of themselves because of failure at this very point. Surely it is a matter of great practical moment that we should be able to judge aright of our spiritual progress or retrogression that we may not flatter ourselves on the one hand or unduly depreciate ourselves on the other.

Some are tempted in one direction, some in the other — depending partly on their personal temperament and partly on the kind of teaching they have received. Many are inclined to think more highly of themselves than they ought, and because they have obtained considerably increased intellectual knowledge of the truth imagine they have made a proportionate spiritual growth. But others with weaker memories and who acquire a mental grasp of things more slowly, suppose this to signify a lack of spirituality. Unless our thoughts about spiritual growth be formed by the Word of God we are certain to err and jump to a wrong conclusion. As it is with our bodies, so it is with our souls. Some suppose they are healthy while they are suffering from an insidious disease; whereas others imagine themselves to be ill when in fact they are hale and sound. Divine revelation and not human imagination ought to be our guide in determining whether or not we be 'babes, young men, or fathers'—and our natural age has nothing to do with it.

It is deeply important that our views should be rightly formed, not only that we may be able to ascertain our own spiritual stature, but also that of

our fellow Christians. If I long to be made a help and blessing to them, then obviously I must be capable of deciding whether they are in a healthy or unhealthy condition. Or, if I desire spiritual counsel and assistance, then I will meet with disappointment unless I know to whom to go. How can I regulate my course and suit my converse with the saints I contact if I am at a loss to gauge their religious caliber? God has not left us to our own erring judgment in this matter, but has supplied rules to guide us. To mention but one other reason which indicates the importance of our subject: unless I can ascertain wherein I have been enabled to make spiritual progress and wherein I have failed, how can I know what to pray for; and unless I can perceive the same about my brethren how can I intelligently ask for the supply of what they most need?

Our Subject Is A Very Mysterious One

Physical growth is beyond human comprehension. We know something of what is essential to it, and the thing itself may be discovered, but the operation and process is hidden from us: 'As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child, even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all' (Eccl. 11:5). How much more so must spiritual growth be incomprehensible. The beginning of our spiritual life is shrouded in mystery (John 3:8), and to a considerable extent this is true also of its development. God's workings in the soul are secret, indiscernible to the eye of carnal reason and imperceptible to our senses. 'The things of God knoweth no man' save to whom the Spirit is pleased to reveal them (1 Cor. 2:11, 12). If we know so little about ourselves and the operation of our faculties in connection with natural things, how much less competent are we to comprehend ourselves and our graces in connection with that which is supernatural.

The 'new creature' is from above, whereof our natural reason has no acquaintance: it is a supernatural product and can only be known by supernatural revelation. In like manner, the spiritual life received at the new birth thrives as to its degrees, unperceived by our senses. A child, by weighing and measuring himself, may discover that he has grown, yet he was not conscious of the process while growing. So it is with the new man: it is 'renewed day by day' (2 Cor. 4:16) yet in such a hidden way that the renewing itself is not felt, though its effects become apparent. Thus there is no good reason to be disheartened because we do not feel that any progress is being made or to conclude there is no advance because such feeling is absent. 'There are some of the Lord's people in whom the essence and reality of holiness dwell who do not perceive in themselves any spiritual growth. It should therefore be remembered that there is a real growth in grace where it is not perceived. We should judge of it not by what we experience of it in ourselves, but by the Word. It is a subject for faith to be exercised on' (S. F. Pierce). If we desire the pure 'milk of the Word' and feed thereon, then we must not doubt that we duly 'grow thereby' (1 Peter 2:3).

To quote again from Pierce: 'Spiritual growth is a mystery and is more evident in some than in others. The more the Holy Spirit shines upon the mind and puts forth His lifegiving influences in the heart, so much the more sin is seen, felt and loathed as the greatest of all evils. And this is an evidence of spiritual growth, namely, to hate sin as sin and to abhor it on account of its contrariety to the nature of God. The quick perception and

insight which we have of inherent sin, and our feeling of it, so as to look on ourselves as most vile, to renounce ourselves and all that we can do for ourselves, and to look wholly and immediately to Christ for relief and strength are growth in grace, and a most certain evidence of it.' How little is the natural man capable of understanding that! Having no experience of the same it sounds to him like a doleful delusion. And how the believer needs to beg God to teach him the truth about this! As we know nothing whatever about the new birth save what God has revealed in His Word, so we can form no correct comprehension about spiritual growth except from the same source.

Our Subject Is Also A Difficult One

This is due in part to Satan's having confused the issue by inventing such plausible imitations that multitudes are deceived thereby, and knowing this the conscientious soul is troubled. Under certain influences and from various motives people are induced suddenly and radically to reform their lives; and their absence from the grosser forms of sin accompanied by a zealous performance of the common duties of religion is often mistaken for genuine conversion and progress in the Christian life. These are the 'tares' which so closely resemble the 'wheat' that they are often indistinguishable until the harvest. Moreover, there is a work of the law, quite distinct from the saving effects wrought by the gospel, which in its fruits both external and internal cannot be distinguished from a work of grace except by the light of Scripture and the teaching of the Spirit. The terrors of the law have come in power to the conscience of many a one, producing poignant convictions of sin and horrors of the wrath to come, issuing in much activity in the works of righteousness, but resulting in no faith in Christ, and no love for Him.

Again: spiritual progress is difficult to discern because growth in grace is often not nearly so apparent as first conversion. In many cases conversion is a radical experience of which we are personally conscious at the time and of which a vivid memory remains with us. It is marked by revolutionary change in our life. It was when we were relieved of the intolerable burden of guilt and the peace of God which passeth all understanding possessed our souls. It was being brought out of the awful and total spiritual darkness of nature into God's marvellous light, whereas spiritual growth is but the enjoying further degrees of that light. It was that tremendous change from having no grace at all to the beginnings of grace within us, whereas that which follows is the receiving of additions of grace. It was a spiritual resurrection, a being brought from death unto life, but the subsequent experience is only renewings of the life then received. For Joseph suddenly to be translated out of prison to sit upon the throne of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh, would affect him far more powerfully than to have any new kingdoms added to him later, such as Alexander had. At first everything in the spiritual life is new to the Christian; later he learns more perfectly what was then discovered to him, yet the effect made is not so perceptible and entrancing.

Further: the spiritual life or nature communicated at regeneration is not the only thing in the Christian: the principle of sin still remains in the soul after the principle of grace as been imparted. Those two principles are at direct variance with each other, engaged in a ceaseless warfare as long as the saint is left in this world. 'For the flesh lusteth against the spirit, and the spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would' (Gal. 5:17). That fearful conflict is

apt to confuse the issue in the mind of its subject; yea, it is certain to lead the believer to draw a false inference from it unless he clearly apprehends the teaching of Scripture thereon. The discovery of so much opposition within, the thwarting of his aspirations and endeavors, his felt inability to wage the warfare successfully, makes him seriously to doubt whether holiness has been imparted to his heart. The ragings of indwelling sin, the discovery of unsuspected corruptions, the consciousness of unbelief, the defeats experienced, all appear to give the lie direct to any spiritual progress. That presents an acute problem to a conscientious soul.

Our Subject Is Both A Complex And Comprehensive One

By this we mean that this is a tree with many branches, which bears a different manner of fruits according to the season. It is a subject into which various elements enter, one that needs to be viewed from many angles. Spiritual growth is both upward and downward, and it is both inward and outward. An increased knowledge of God leads to an increased knowledge of self, and as one results in higher adoration of its Object, the other brings deeper humiliation in its subject. These issue in more and more inward denials of self and abounding more and more outwardly in good works. Yet this spiritual growth needs to be most carefully stated lest we repudiate the completeness of regeneration. In the strictest sense, spiritual growth consists of the Spirit's drawing out what He wrought in the soul when He quickened it. When a babe is born into this world it is complete in parts though not indevelopment: no new members can be added to its body nor any additional faculties to its mind.

There is a growth of the natural child, a development of its members an expansion of its

faculties with a fuller expression and clearer manifestation of the latter, but nothing more. The analogy holds good with a babe in Christ. 'Though there are innumerable circumstantial differences in the cases and experience of the called people of God, and though there is a growth suited to them, considered as 'babes, young men and fathers,' yet there is but one common life in the various stages and degrees of the same life carried on to its perfection by the Holy Spirit until it issues in glory eternal. The work of God the Spirit in regeneration is eternally complete. It admits of no increase nor decrease. It is one and the same in all believers. There will not be the least addition to it in Heaven: not one grace, holy affection, desire or disposition then, which is not in it now. The whole of the Spirit's work therefore from the moment of regeneration to our glorification is to draw out those graces into act and exercise which He hath wrought within us. And though one believer may abound in the fruits of righteousness more than another, yet there is not one of them more regenerated than another.' (S. E. Pierce) The complexity of our subject is due in part to both the Divine and the human elements entering into it, and who is competent to explain or set forth their meeting-point! Yet the analogy supplied from the physical realm again affords us some help. Absolutely considered, all growth is due to the Divine operations, yet relatively there are certain conditions which we must meet or there will be no growth—to name no other, the partaking of suitable food is an essential prerequisite; nevertheless that will not nourish unless God be pleased to bless the same. To insist that there are certain conditions which we must meet, certain means which we must use in our spiritual progress is not to divide the honors with God, but is simply pointing out the order He has established and the

connection He has appointed between one thing and another. In like manner there are certain hindrances which we must avoid or growth will inevitably be arrested and spiritual progress retarded. Nor does that imply that we are thwarting God, but only disregarding His warnings and paying the penalty of breaking those laws which He has instituted.

The Difficulty Of Expounding Our Subject

The very complexity of our subject increases the difficulty before the one attempting to expound it, for as is the case with so many other problems presented to our limited intelligence, it involves the matter of seeking to preserve a due balance between the Divine and the human elements. The operations of Divine grace and the discharge of our responsibility must each be insisted upon, and the concurring of the latter with the former, as well as the superabounding of the former over the latter must be proportionately set forth. In like manner our contemplation of spiritual growth upward must not be allowed to crowd out that of our growth downward, nor must our deeper loathing of self be suffered to hinder an increasing living upon Christ. The more sensible we are of our emptiness the more we must draw upon His fulness. Nor is our task rendered easier when we remember what we write will fall into the hands of very different types of readers who sit under varied kinds of ministry the one needing emphasis upon a different note from another.

That there is such a thing as spiritual growth is abundantly clear from the Scriptures. In addition to the passages alluded to in the opening paragraph we may quote the following. 'They go from strength to strength' (Ps. 84:7). 'The path of the just is as a shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day' (Prov. 4:18). 'Then shall we

know if we follow on to know the Lord' (Hos. 6:3). 'But unto you that fear the Lord shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings, and ye shall go forth and grow up as calves of the stall' (Mal. 4:2). 'And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace' (John 1:16). 'Every branch in me that beareth fruit he purgeth it that it may bring forth more fruit' (John 15:2). 'But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory as by the Spirit of the Lord' (2 Cor. 3:18). 'Increasing in the knowledge of God' (Col. 1:10). 'As ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye abound more and more' (1 Thess. 4:1). 'He giveth more grace (James 4:6).

The above list might be extended considerably but sufficient references have been given to show that not only is such a thing as spiritual growth clearly revealed in the Scriptures, but that it is given a prominent place therein. Let the reader duly observe the variety of expressions which are employed by the Spirit to set forth this progress or development—thereby preserving us from too circumscribed a conception by showing us the many-sidedness of the same. Some of them relate to what is internal, others to what is external. Some of them describe the Divine operations, others the necessary acts and exercises of the Christian. Some of them make mention of increased light and knowledge, others of increased grace and strength, and yet others of increased conformity to Christ and fruitfulness. It is thus that the Holy Spirit has preserved the balance and it is by our carefully noting the same that we shall be kept from a narrow and one-sided idea of what spiritual growth consists. If due attention be paid to this varied description we shall be kept from painful mistakes, and the better enabled to test or

measure ourselves and discover what spiritual stature we have attained unto.

This Is An Intensely Practical Subject

From what has been pointed out in the last few paragraphs it will be seen that this is an intensely practical subject. It is no small matter that we should be able to arrive at the clear apprehension of what spiritual growth actually consists of, and thereby be delivered from mistaking it for mere fantasy. If there be conditions which we have to comply with in order to the making of progress, it is most desirable that we should acquaint ourselves with the same and then translate such knowledge into prayer. If God has appointed certain means and aids, the sooner we learn what they are and make diligent use of them the better for us. And if there be other things which act as deterrents and are inimical to our welfare. the more we are placed upon our guard the less likely we are to be hindered by them. And if Christian growth has many sides to it this should govern our thinking and acting thereon, that we may strive after a fitly-proportioned and well-rounded Christian character, and grow up into Christ not merely in one or two respects but 'in all things' that our development may be uniform and symmetrical.





Southern States Bible Conference

Just three months until the annual Southern States BibleConference at beautiful Epworth By The Sea! Last year some folks were still afraid of COVID and elected not to attend, but we hope that is now a non-fond memory. The Program Committee has announced the following sermon topics for the upcoming Conference:

- Introduction: Philippians 4:4-7
- Whatsoever things are true
- Whatsoever things are honest
- Whatsoever things are just
- Q&A Session
- Whatsoever things are pure
- Whatsoever things are lovely
- Whatsoever things are of good report

If there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things' These things, which ye have both learned, and Received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.'

There are lots of worship and fellowship opportunities during the Conference. There is also plenty of "free time" for relaxation or exploring lovely Saint Simons Island and surrounding area. We can use a lot of both with all the crazy things going on in the world today!

Not yet registered for the Conference? You can Download a registration form by following the link below:

https://www.progressivepb.org/southern-states-bible-conference-2024.html

Complete the form and send it to our Secretary/ Treasurer, Kasey Hagan. This information helps us estimate total attendance. Make check payable to "Southern States Bible Conference." Send completed form and payment to:

Kasey Hagan, Treasurer; 602 Honeysuckle Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458 – kaseyh27@gmail.com - (912)-618-0083

Please contact Sister Kasey or me if you have questions or need more information.

See you at Epworth in July!

Darryl Harris, Chairman
Southern States Bible Conference
109 Manor Ridge Drive
Woodstock, GA 30188
darlynhar@aol.com
770-639-2948



Progressive Primitive Baptist Foundation 2024 Annual Meeting

Goshen Primitive Baptist Church Hartsburg, MO

April 24, 2024 – Executive Committee Meeting

April 25, 2024 – Directors Meeting

Greetings to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. Good news from your Primitive Baptist Foundation!

Our next Annual Meeting is being planned for Wednesday and Thursday, April 24 and 25, at Goshen Primitive Baptist Church, Hartsburg, MO. We are delighted to be invited to the 'Show Me' state for our first Foundation Annual Meeting in the Midwest. Goshen has invited us for three years. We had to cancel in 2022 due to the COVID pandemic. The 2023 meeting was relocated to central Georgia where most of our churches are located in an effort to regain some of the lost momentum after three cancelled meetings. And it was indeed a very successful meeting. Best attendance in recent years. Special thanks to Metter Primitive Baptist Church for the outstanding job they did in hosting the meeting.

We are very thankful for Goshen's patience and enthusiasm while working with us on meeting arrangements. We look forward to a great meeting! Please pray for Goshen Church and our Foundation Officers/ Directors as we prepare for this special event. We will share updates as we move toward the meeting time.

See you in Missouri in April 2024!

Elwyn Deal, President



Lighthouse Radio Bible Study

The Lighthouse Foundation Inc. is an organization associated with the progressive Primitive Baptist Church whose main purpose is to broadcast the gospel through any means possible. It was originally founded to produce a television program in 1973, which was aired on WJCL-TV for several years in Savannah, Ga. In 1983, a group, which included ministers and lay-people, met to discuss reactivating the Lighthouse Ministry and formed the Lighthouse Radio Bible Study and began production of weekly half-hour Bible teaching programs.

Elder Loren Wilson was the first producer/speaker. After a year, he gave up the work and Elder Arthur DeVane became the producer/speaker and served for 11 years. Elder David Summerford succeeded Elder DeVane and served through January 2006. In February 2006, Elder Scott Riner succeeded Elder Summerford. In June of 2023, Elder Ben Fordham succeeded Elder Riner.

Since 1983, 1,200+ programs have been produced. The program is currently being broadcast on three domestic stations, one international station and over its website on the internet. In addition to the ongoing weekly broadcast, the Lighthouse Foundation was instrumental in the founding of our sister organization, the Donetsk Ministry, an outreach to the Ukraine region of the former Soviet Union. We have also had various efforts to supply Bibles and teaching materials to other locations around the world.

It is our hope and prayer that God will continue to use this work to His glory and edifying of His people whenever and wherever they hear these broadcasts. For more information about this Radio ministry, write to: <u>LHRBS01@gmail.com</u>.





Olney Church

Oak Park, GA

We at Olney Church cordially invite you to attend our Spring Revival Meeting. It will be held on Tuesday, April 9th, Wednesday, April 10th and Thursday, April 11th. Elder Scott Riner of the Lake Church of Metter will be our guest minister. We will serve supper in the annex at 6 PM on Tuesday. The worship services begin each evening at 7 PM. We hope you can make plans to join us for this time of fellowship. May we continue to remember the sick ones and those that have suffered the loss of a loved one. We pray for each and everyone during this spring season. We continue to ask the Lord to bless the leaders of our nation as they strive to solve the issues in our country. May you ,Lord, keep us in the palm of your hand! God bless you all!

Sister Debbie V. Dees, Reporter



BOULINEAU, Cecile Hagans -February 14, 1944 to March 11, 2024 Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

MORGAN, Jennie Faye – December 15, 1936 to March 17, 2024. Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

PIPPIN, Sauney -August 30, 1945 to January 11, 2024. Ramah Primitive Baptist Church, Barnesville, Georgia.

KNIGHT, Betty Harden – October 28, 1934 to February 20, 2024. Lanes Primitive Baptist Church, Stilson, Georgia.

KNIGHT, Trista "Trissy" Newman - September 23, 1975 to February 26, 2024. (Trissy is the Daughter of Elder Mike & Kathy Newman)

LANIER, John B. (Deacon) – November 21, 1944 to January 2, 2024. Brooklet Primitive Baptist Church, Brooklet, Georgia.

ROBBINS, Hilda –

October 19, 1939 to February 26, 2024 Middleground Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

SCOTT, Rachel Ranew – September 1, 1940 to March 4, 2024. Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

In accord with the historical position of the Primitive Baptists, the editors of the Banner Herald subscribe to the scriptural principles stated in the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith. The following is an abbreviated statement upon that confession.

- We Believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, inspired and inerrant, and the only rule of faith and practice.
- We Believe in the only true and living God. That there are three persons in the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that these three agree in one, are coequal, coeternal, and coexistent.
- We Believe in the total depravity of the entire human family; that is, sin pollutes man's faculties; his heart, mind, and will and he is unable to recover himself from his lost and ruined estate.
- We Believe in particular, eternal, and unconditional election, the effectual calling of the elect, and the final perseverance of the saints.
- We Believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God, the only Savior and Redeemer, and that Salvation is by His grace alone.
- We Believe that believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the ordinances of the church of Jesus Christ. We Believe the only baptism taught and recognized in the Bible is immersion.
- We Believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of our Lord's death and should be regularly observed in the church. We Believe that the washing of the saint's feet is an example of humility and service to be observed by the church.
- We Believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper but such as are called by God and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.
- We Believe in the resurrection of the just and the unjust; that the just shall be raised, changed, and fashioned like unto the glorious body of the Son of God, to dwell in heaven forever, soul and body reunited; and, that the unjust shall be raised, soul, and body reunited, and consigned to punishment in hell forever.