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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF PROGRESSIVE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS

THE BANNER-HERALD

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ALL ITEMS 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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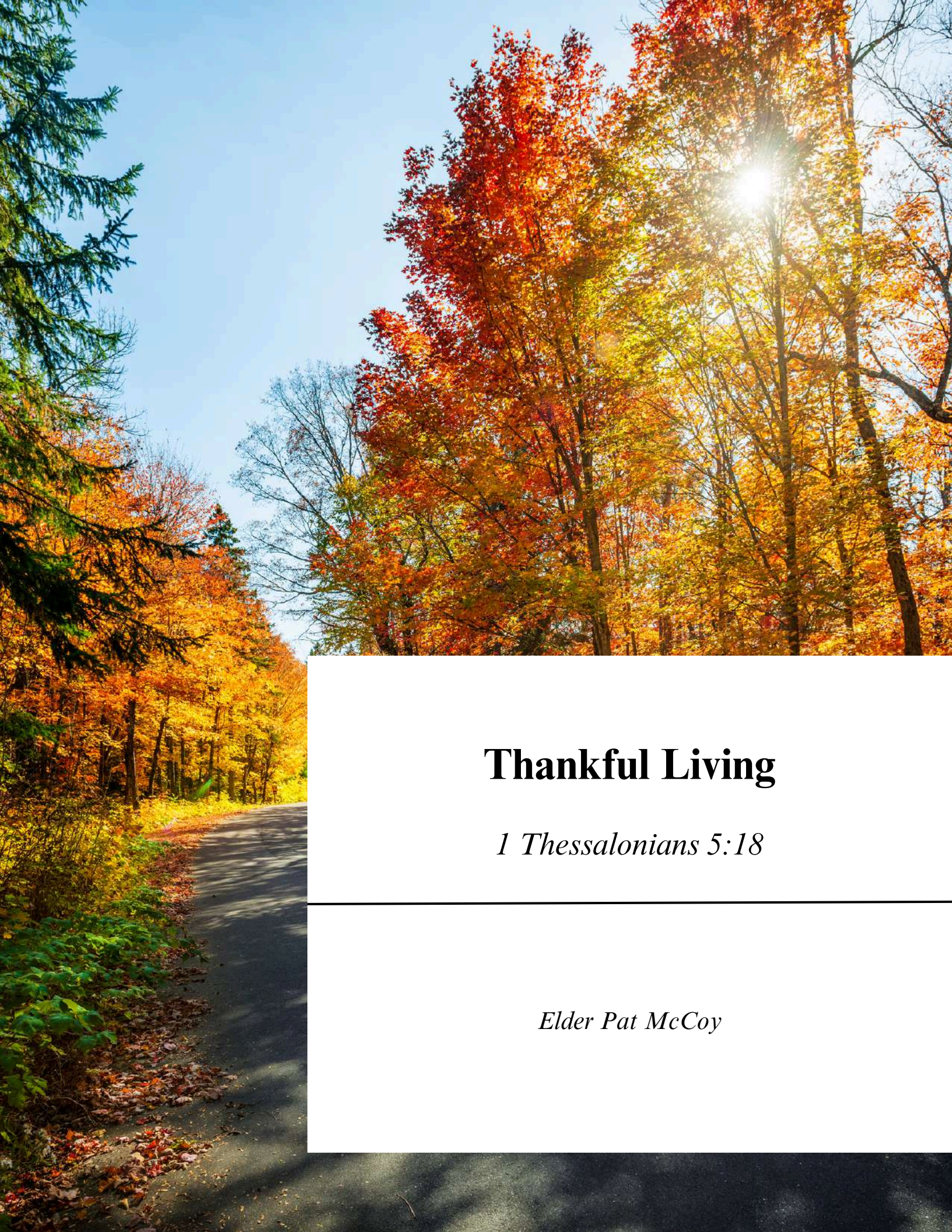


Thankful Living

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Elder Pat McCoy

I want to share a few thoughts about thanksgiving from God's word. Spend the next few minutes thinking about what you are thankful for and then share that with someone else.

I really think that taking time to openly share with one another what we are thankful for is a great thing to do. Verbally, corporately, declaring what we are grateful for is a very biblical thing to do.

Today I want to talk about what it means to live a life of thanksgiving. How can we take this annual holiday and turn it into a constant attitude? How can we live a life of gratitude and praise?

A GOOD mission statement FOR ANY CHURCH WOULD BE : to honor God in all we do, say and think. Today I am going to talk about being grateful in all we do, say and think. I want to start by talking about what it means to think thankfully.

Gratitude starts with our thought life. It begins with taking captive our every thought. It grows out of an attitude of appreciation, humility, and proper perspective. One of the best biblical descriptions of how thankfulness needs to be infused into our character is in Colossians 3:12-17;

> *(12) Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; (13) Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. (14) And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. (15) And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. (16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (17) And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

It's clear from this passage that thankfulness is supposed to be a regular part of our lives. I believe that gratefulness is emphasized here because it is the perfect antidote to pride and selfishness and a host of other sins.

After all, what is the opposite of thankfulness? Things like, complaining, arguing, selfishness, a sense of entitlement. Our sin nature wants to try and convince us that we deserve more, that we are in the right, that we have been taken advantage of, or that we really have it bad.

I have to admit; I have a low tolerance for that kind of mentality. I've ran across a few people in my life who always seem to be victims, they always seem to feel like they should get more, they always complain about what they have or what they are given.

That's not what we are supposed to be like as believers.

I. THINKING THANKFULLY

Philippians 4:6
(6) Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

In this passage the way in which we keep from anxiousness and worry is through prayer. When we present our requests to God, and give control over to Him, our load gets a lot lighter. When we pray with thanksgiving we are thanking God for the ability to pray, we are thanking him for answering our prayers, we are thanking Him for freeing us from worry.

When we pray with thankfulness to God it has a way of adjusting our thinking so that it falls in line with what God wants.

Worship also has a way of putting us in a mindset of thankfulness. Verse 16 of that passage in Colossians is a great example of that. "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*"

It's hard to be grumpy, and bitter, and selfish when we are singing joyfully to the Lord, although I think sometimes we try. Singing lifts our spirits, focuses our attention on God, and puts us in an attitude of praise. If that's not happening to you when you sing, then you might be doing it wrong.

Finally, thinking thankfully involves dwelling on the good. Our minds can sometimes be uncooperative. They keep wandering back to that nagging money problem, or to the liquor store, or to past failures, or other unproductive things. Have you ever noticed that sometimes when you are just chilling out or relaxing or spacing out in church, how a weird, random thought will cross your mind? Sometimes the strangest stuff just shows up there. You'll be lost in a daydream. Then you snap out of it and say to yourself, "What was that about?" Because of natural inclination towards evil, we have to train our minds to think about good things. We have to purposefully dwell on the good.

Philippians 4:8

(8) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, 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.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-- think about such things.

This is a great thought filter. Ask yourself; are my thoughts true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable? If not, it might be time to make an adjustment.

II. TALKING THANKFULLY

Well, along with thinking thankfully, we need to talk thankfully. It is important to express our gratitude from time to time. Talking thankfully involves praising others, praising God, and sharing our gratitude. When was the last time you told your spouse, "I'm really thankful that I'm married to you."? Do you tell you kids that you appreciate them? Do you thank your wife for cooking dinner and doing the laundry?

Do you let God know how thankful you are for what He has done in your life? If you are a believer in God, saved by grace, you have a lot to be thankful for. No matter how bad life gets, you still can't complain.

It is also important that we verbally tell others what we are grateful for. I know that it is kind of an expected tradition to go around the table at thanksgiving time and share what you are thankful for, and to be honest, for a long time I was not a big fan of that sharing time. But I'm beginning to learn how important doing that is.

We all have so much to be thankful for. And I want to take some time right now to give you the opportunity to share what you are thankful for this year.
It is so amazing what God is doing in our lives.

III. ACTING THANKFULLY

The last thing I want to talk about is acting thankfully. We need to demonstrate a life of thankfulness in everything we do. That begins with a heart of service. Serving is a demonstration of appreciation, respect, and love. It can be done in a selfish, ungrateful way, but when it is done right, it is a blessing both to the server and the servee.

1 Timothy 1:12
(12) And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.

Are you thankful for the area of service that God has called you to? Acting thankfully also involves sacrifice. It requires us to give something of ourselves. This is best demonstrated in our financial offerings to God. Giving back to God is a way of thanking Him for his blessing and provision. Even if we don't have a lot to give, when we give back to God we show that we understand that He owns it all anyway. Don't give out of guilt or compulsion. Every time you write an offering check or put a dollar in the offering plate, take a second to say, thank you God for everything you have given me.

Finally, we can act thankfully by sharing what we have. This might take the form of sharing some of our abundance with those who don't have as much. It might be sharing with the homeless or needy. People who really understand thankfulness and appreciation usually are very good at sharing with others. They know how great it feels to give.

This doesn't just apply to sharing our stuff, but, more importantly, sharing our faith. If you have a real understanding of who Jesus Christ is, what He has done in providing salvation for mankind, and what He has done in your life, you are going to be looking for every opportunity to share that with others.

We can best show our appreciation for our salvation by praising God and telling others. If our faith is truly transforming, and valuable, and important, we will share it with those who don't have it.

The best thing about living a thankful life is that it helps us put things into perspective. When we focus on the great things that God has done for us, the annoying junk in life has a way of losing its importance.

During this thanksgiving seasons let's begin to train our minds to think thankfully. Let's take the opportunity to talk thankfully, and let's demonstrate our appreciation by acting thankfully.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

(18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

If you are not giving thanks, you are out of God's will.

Fields White For Harvest

Elder Dean Robbins

John 4:35

(35) Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!

There are the precious moments when the Holy Spirit provides deeper insight and meaning to passages that you have read many times in your life. When this occurs, there ought to be a spirit of thanksgiving and praise expressed for God's grace and goodness. For in such experiences as these, God is revealing to us a deeper understanding of His character which then moves us to greater depths of love and worship. But not only is there a deeper understanding of His infinitely holy and wondrous character, but also there is a deeper understanding of His immeasurable grace and love poured out upon fallen people living in a fallen world.

I give thanks and praise to the Lord for such grace afforded to me recently. For it has opened my eyes and heart to experience a deeper meaning of a passage that is a familiar one to me, and I trust to you as well. It is Jesus' words recorded by John in his encounter with the Woman of Samaria. Now there is much in the way of teaching here about the way Jesus saves those who are given to him by the Father (See John 6:37-39). The point of emphasis here, though, is Jesus' words concerning the Elect. He speaks of them being like grain in the fields ready to be harvested. He says to the disciples, "*lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*" Jesus is the model for this reaping of souls into God's Kingdom. He confronts this woman about her sins and tells her that HE is God's anointed One to provide the way of forgiveness of sins. She joyously receives this message of deliverance and then she goes and shares this good news with everyone who hears her testimony.

Jesus uses this event to tell his disciples about the urgency of doing evangelistic outreach. This urgency is seen in Jesus' words, "*do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest*'"? Now I would suggest to you, that often we would understand these words of Jesus as a call to be faithful in

conducting the work he has given us to do. And that is a proper way of interpreting the passage. Yet do we really consider the sense of 'urgency' of Jesus' words here. The point of emphasis for me, as a pastor, has been on being faithful to do the work of harvesting. Perhaps you, as a follower of Jesus, have thought the same way. It is about faithfulness and duty. Again, this is a proper understanding. But Brothers and Sisters, what is also a proper interpretation of Jesus' words here is that of the "urgency" of the matter. And until recently, that was not as apparent to me.

Let me now share with you how I believe the Holy Spirit has provoked me to consider this greater emphasis of urgency. Perhaps many of you have heard of the tragedy of the recent death of Nikita Malov. He was killed on the front lines in the Russian Ukrainian War. Nikita is the son of Alexander and Tatiana Malov. Sasha, as we refer to him, is a dear brother in Christ whom we (Discipling Ministries International) have worked with for over 30 years. When Nikita was born, Pastors Pat McCoy and Keith Smith prayed over him as he had health complications after his birth. So, from the time of Nikita's birth, there has been this special relationship, not only with him, but with the whole family, including his sister, Nastia. We have seen Nikita grow up. There were joyous times of being with him early in his formative years. There were also tough times later in his life as he made poor choices involving the taking of illicit drugs.

He struggled greatly as people who are under such addictions do. However, by the grace of God and with help from being treated through a drug rehabilitation program, Nikita was able to overcome his disease of drug addiction and become a leader in a drug rehabilitation program. He did this work until he was drafted into the military. As a soldier fighting for his country, fighting to keep his country free, he became a drone operator on the front lines of the war. Being a drone operator on the frontlines brought added danger to already dangerous conditions. Drone operators were high priorities for Russian counter attacks. Nikita reported what he could to his parents about the dangerous conditions. His, and his follow comrades, were to have limited days of deployment. But such was

the heat of battle, is that their deployments in the field lasted weeks beyond the time appointed for the end of their deployment. Often, they would run short of food.

To give further understanding of the intensity of the battle, not long before Nikita was killed, he got a tattoo on his arm and sent a picture of it to his sister living in another country. He did this to help with the identification of his body should something terrible happen. Sadly, such was the condition of his body upon it being struck by artillery fire, that this was how they came to identify him. The point of sharing this sad event is to not only inform you of the circumstances he faced on the battlefield, but also to point out to you what he also was thinking about as he dealt with those difficult circumstances.

Nikita lived his last days with thoughts of urgency. In all the stress of war, he saw the urgency of telling people about Jesus. He would have bible reading and study with fellow soldiers when he was in base camp, between field assignments. He would pray with his team as they would leave camp for their deployment in the field. Among the last words spoken to his uncle on the day of his death he said to him, "the fields are white unto harvest." For Nikita, who had experienced God's mercy, grace, and love in delivering him from the darkness of sin's bondage with its accompanying shadow of death, there was this urgency to tell others that they too could experience this deliverance.

We prayed to God that Nikita would be delivered safely from the sorrowful ravages of war. But it was not God's will for those prayers to be answered as we prayed. While there is much grief being experienced by his family and by all who knew him, yet there is a rejoicing that when God determined Nikita would cross the finish line of his life here on earth, he did so by echoing the words of the Apostle Paul, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7). Please continue to pray for his family in these days of grieving.

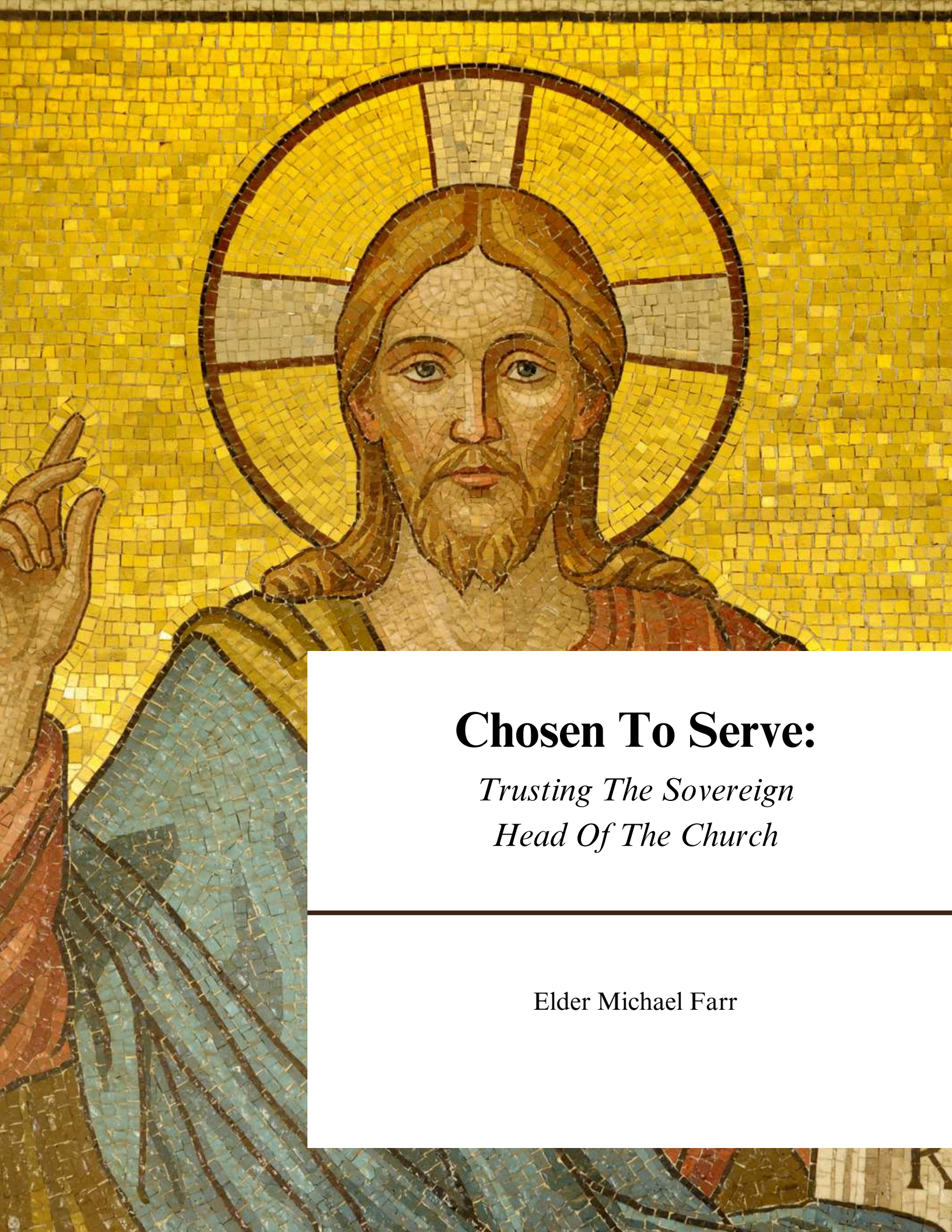
I am thankful for his life. I am thankful to the Lord for His grace in bringing salvation to Nikita. I am thankful for all those whom the Lord used as His instruments of grace in sharing the gospel and in helping Nikita to overcome the sin in his life. I am especially grateful the Lord has used Nikita's testimony of his faithful witnessing to others of the gospel message to teach me about the urgency of the work of the harvest of souls. Nikita knew the meaning of our Lord's question to his disciples. He understood the fallacy of the four months of waiting. Such was his love for his fellow soldiers and their eternal state, that he wanted them to know and experience what he knew and had experienced.

Thank you, Lord, for using the life of Nikita to teach us about the urgency of the work of evangelistic outreach. "*Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*"

As a way to honor the life of Nikita, his parents have desired to begin a ministry to troubled young people who have drug addiction issues. They are establishing a charitable fund that is dedicated to minister to at-risk youth in the community in which they live. DMI is currently helping to support Bro. Sasha and his wife with living expenses. If you would like to help with the support of the Malov family or to contribute to the Nikita Malov Memorial fund, you can send your donation to:

DMI
C/o Elder Pat McCoy
14194 Hwy 74
Culloden, GA 31016

(Please note on your donation for family support or Nikita Malov Memorial Fund)



Chosen To Serve:

Trusting The Sovereign Head Of The Church

Elder Michael Farr

Acts 1:15-26

(15) And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said, (16) "Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit spoke before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus; (17) for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry." (18) (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out. (19) And it became known to all those dwelling in Jerusalem; so that field is called in their own language, Akel Dama, that is, Field of Blood.) (20) "For it is written in the Book of Psalms: 'Let his dwelling place be desolate, And let no one live in it'; and, 'Let another take his office.' (21) "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, (22) beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection." (23) And they proposed two: Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. (24) And they prayed and said, "You, O Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which of these two You have chosen (25) to take part in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." (26) And they cast their lots, and the lot fell on Matthias. And he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

The period between Christ's ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit was a season of waiting. The disciples were not idle, but prayerful. They were not anxious, but united. They were not attempting to build Christ's kingdom through human ingenuity, but by seeking His will.

In Acts 1, Peter stands among the brethren and addresses the vacancy left by Judas. Recognizing that Scripture had foretold these events, the disciples sought a replacement from those who had faithfully accompanied Jesus throughout His earthly ministry. Two men were presented: Joseph called Barsabas and Matthias.

What is striking is that the disciples did not engage in what we would call political man euvering or a popularity contest. Instead, they prayed. Their

confidence rested in our Sovereign Lord who knows every heart. Before any lot was cast, they acknowledged that the choice ultimately belonged to God.

This passage reminds us of a precious truth: Christ is actively governing His church. The success of God's purposes does not depend on human wisdom. The Lord who chose the apostles also chooses, equips and directs His people according to His own good pleasure.

At the same time, this text shows the importance of faithful participation. The disciples searched the scriptures, gathered together, prayed earnestly and acted responsibly. Divine providence did not produce apathy. Rather, it motivated humble dependence upon God while diligently pursuing obedience.

As Primitive Baptists, we can appreciate both the absolute sovereignty of God and the practical responsibilities of discipleship. We trust that the Lord reigns over His church, yet we also recognize our calling to prayer, discernment, fellowship and faithful service. The early church moved forward not because they controlled the future, but because they trusted the One who did.

Perhaps today you face a decision, a transition, or a period of waiting. Like those first disciples, you may not see what comes next. Take comfort in this certainty: the Lord who knows every heart also knows every circumstance of your life. His wisdom is perfect, His timing is flawless and His purpose cannot fail.

Rather than being consumed by uncertainty, let us be found in prayer, trusting the Lord Jesus Christ to direct our steps and care for His people.

News & Information

Licentiates That Are Available For Supply

Churches that are in need of a supply speaker can look at the list below for contact information:

Ken Clouse
(703)-608-3978

Mark Dengate
(706)-726-4369

Peer Millar
(813)-961-0726

Scott Waters
(912)-690-3026

Jacob Yawn
(478) 508-2306

Click the link below to see the current speakers that are available.

Supply List

Obituaries

Akins, Faye -
January 13, 1935 to October 8, 2026.
Upper Black Creek Primitive Baptist Church, Brooklet, Georgia.

Altman, Christine Rogers –
November 15, 1926 to October 11, 2026.
Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

Andries, Patty B. -
November 26, 1942 to October 22, 2026.
Metter Primitive Baptist Church, Metter, Georgia

Brantley, William Jerry -
April 18, 1942 to September 28, 2026.
Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

Donaldson, Bonnie Jeane -
December 10, 1932 to October 1, 2026.
Statesboro Primitive Baptist Church, Statesboro, Georgia.

Kennedy, Dewey Donald "Don" -
1947 to April 28, 2026
Metter Primitive Baptist Church, Metter Georgia.

Motes, Raymond L (*Deacon*) –
December 6, 1939 to October 23, 2026.
Atlanta Primitive Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia.

Whitaker, Ken -
November 18, 1953 to August 29, 2026.
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.