

Freedom of Religion (Part One)

by Dave Rogers

Perhaps no other images of the World War II era express what our nation's participation in that cauldron of conflict represented as eloquently as Norman Rockwell's paintings collectively entitled "The Four Freedoms." The inspiration for Rockwell's works came from the words of then-President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in the state of the union address delivered to the Congress on January 6, 1941. Although they preceded the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor by nearly a year, the principles Roosevelt expressed distilled some of the basic ideals for which our nation has always reached. The president stated,

"In the future...we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms. The first is freedom of speech and expression.... The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way -- everywhere in the world. The third is freedom from want.... The fourth is freedom from fear...."

We will focus on the second of these principles (with its inherent relationship to the first) in this article.

Humanity, in all our glory and shame, is the fiat creation of an omnipotent God; because He made us, without any assistance, we are the possession of the Almighty; "objects" with which He is entirely free to do as pleases Him. He "owns" us, by right of creation (compare Genesis 1:26-27 with Isaiah 29:15-16 and Jeremiah 18:1-6). As His creation, the property of God, we have an innate responsibility to "exist" (live our lives) in a way that pleases Him: If we do not, He is wholly within His "rights" to reshape, reform, or even dispose of us entirely (if He chose to do so). Conversely, we have NO basis on which we can object to or complain of His treatment of us because we are completely dependent on Him for our very existence

(Acts 17:6, Hebrews 1:3, et al.). Despite the arrogance of those who deny that they depend on Him, and proclaim that all of us exist as a mere "cosmic coincidence," the fact remains that "...every house is builded by **someone**;" (Hebrews 3:4). This is why Jesus urges us to "...seek, and you shall find;" (Matthew 7:7 and Luke 11:9), and Paul informed the great thinkers of Athens that it was the "unknown" God who had,

"...made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; 27 that they should seek **God**, if haply they might feel after **him** and find **him**, though **he** is not far from each one of us:" (Acts 17:26-27)

God, the omnipotent and gracious Creator of all, instilled in humanity the **ability** (the "freedom") to recognize and fulfill, to ignore, or even to defy our responsibility to acknowledge Him as our Maker. The ability to **choose for ourselves** the path we take (along with all its consequences!) is often described as free moral agency. By making us with the ability to accept or reject Him, God acknowledged the real possibility that we MIGHT reject His will for us. **That very thing happened** in the fall in Eden (Genesis 3:1-7). Since then, humanity's history has been that "...all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23), and thus "...there is none righteous, no, not one" (Romans 3:10). There is a rich irony in the term "freedom of religion" when we compare it with humanity's disreputable state apart from God! Some today want "freedom **of** religion" to mean "freedom **from** religion," but the reality is that it is

(continues on page 2)

ONLY because of **God's** graciousness in allowing us (actually, requiring us) to choose for ourselves how to respond to Him, that the very concept of "freedom" exists. What we choose to **do** with this blessing of choice inevitably impacts our eternal destiny.

"One Thing"

by Michael Thomas, Owensboro, KY (written in August, 2000)

The rich man who wanted eternal life was sincere enough to ask Jesus Himself for guidance. Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

How many times have we been "one thing" away from being completely right with God? This man's "one thing" was his love for money over a love for God; ours may be the same thing or something else. Sometimes the only thing keeping us from knowing God is pride, the love of praise, sexual immorality, laziness, a loose tongue, impulsive judging, revenge, a quick temper or any other work of the flesh. We may have a problem with several of these things, but it often stems from having a problem with one of them. The man who loves the praise of men more than the praise of God will by default be tempted to hate or seek vengeance on those who threaten his popularity. The woman who has a quick temper will inherently struggle with a tongue that both curses and gossips in the same breath. The teenager who is given to sexual immorality will also lend himself to other abuses in the flesh as drugs or alcohol. How true it is, when we have a problem with "one thing" it often causes us to do other evils, such as refusing to follow Jesus.

What is the one thing keeping you from God? Is it your pride that won't let you confess a public sin or apologize to save a relationship? Is it your

thirst for more of this world that keeps you distracted with the material instead of the spiritual? Or is it your fleshly impulses that plague you throughout the day with a love for pleasure instead of righteousness? Whatever your one thing is, will you do what the rich man should have done and sell all that you have, and follow the Lord? Behold the power of one thing, for "If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).

Providence

by Kevin Rhodes, Cleburne, Texas

Providence is one of the hardest concepts to understand in the Bible, yet it is taught, without any doubt. When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they did not have anything in mind other than ridding themselves of a "nuisance" and making a little extra money. Though Joseph handled the situation very well, working in Potiphar's house, rising to importance in prison, and eventually coming to be second in the kingdom, he did not—at the moment his brothers sold him—have a grand plan for saving his brothers from a future famine.

But after all of these things had passed and Joseph could look back on it all, he told his brothers, "Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life" (Genesis 45:5). Joseph did not mean to excuse the wrong that his brothers committed, but he did see the bigger picture – that events had turned out well in the long run, despite what had appeared to be a situation from which nothing good could come.

Providence does not interfere with nature. It is God using natural means to accomplish His will. Though we can never know for sure when something is providential, even in hindsight, we should always look back upon events to see the good that came from them instead of dwelling on the bad.

Family Matters

Missy Campbell – Has been diagnosed with shingles.
 Sonny Cook – Jean Johnson's brother will have a brain tumor removed.
 Annette Benefield – Has an infection.
 Equillar Butler – Will have an MRI in a few weeks.
 Allen Baker – Linda Howell's nephew is having heart issues.
 Kimber Beckwith – MRI results were good!

Prayer Request

Morris Jones came requested prayers last Sunday morning, for strength & wisdom.

Members With Health Problems: Theresa Green, Bob Howell, Ruby Fowler, Bill Benton, Shirley Jones, Lucille Amon, Becky Higginbotham, Marlene Etheridge, RuPearl Sharpe, Mattie Williams, Sally Wallace, Brenda Mitchell, Equillar Butler, Bernice Gillespie, Maylon Swann, Hick & Estell Higginbotham, Una Fortson, David & Shirley Lee, Butch & Joann Trawick,

Forrest & Burma Chapman
Shut-ins: Valorye Whittaker, Annette Benefield, Lillian Gray, David Nash, Audrey Shaw, Jane Lankford, Joe Clark & Frances Elder
Others With Health Problems: Terry Crump, Ronnie Johnson, Harry Johnson & Joanne Daugherty (David & Wayne Nash's B-in-L & Sister), Carol Bomar (Charity Nash's aunt), Cathy Cavenden (Tiffany Durden's M-in-L), Suzanne Odery (friend of Gayle Pelfrey), Dylan Carter (11 month-old daughter of the Hagins' friends), Loretta Russell (Ray's mother), Joyce Greene (Denise's mother), Pamela Morris (Mitchell's friend), Nelda Hayes (Jack Sorrell's aunt), Tom Holcomb and Jean Benefield (Annette Benefield's S-in-L and D-in-L), Nancy Ford (Joann Crook's sister), Virginia Poskevich (David's mother), Xemonia Fortson (Una's daughter), Eddie & Lil Cauthen (Joan Poskevich's B-in-L/Sis-in-L), Joe Hand (Jim Scoma's B-in-L) and Marvin Cook (Jean Johnson's brother)

Prayer Requested – Jamie & Jason Campbell (Sylvester & Missy's sons).

Military Members Deployed: Rosa Bell, ECC—A, New Kabul Compound (NKC), APO AE 09354
 AM3 Candace Butts (Connie Elder's daughter), US Navy

29th Annual Mother's Day Special Collection for Raintree Village Children's Home Sunday, May 8th

The church office needs High School Seniors
Ansley Fincher (Picture), Win Lindsey & Jordan Madison (Pictures and Bio)
College
Maggie Mae Mobley (Bio Only)



Camp Inagehi 2nd Annual

5K and Fun Run May 7th

2016 VBS
 July 10th-13
 The
 VOYAGE



Calendar

April 22 - SilverWings Dinner, soup-salad-sandwiches & dessert. Hosted by Barbara Cozart & Judy Beckwith.

April 24 - Donna Hagin's Baby Shower at 2:30pm. She is registered at Babies-r-us & Target.

May 2 - Raintree Village Children's Home Food Truck. Have your donations at the church building by Sunday May 1st.

May 8 - 29th Annual Mother's Day Collection for Raintree Village

May 10 - Tuesday Ladies' Night Out hosted by Sally Wallace

May 14-15 - Rose Show

May 20 - SilverWings, hosted by Sue Riley & Jo Hurt.

May 22 - Lauren Sorrell's Bridal Shower at 2:30pm

May 30 - Office Closed for Memorial Day

June 5 - Jordan Pyron's Bridal Shower at 2:30pm

June 14 - Tuesday Ladies' Night Out hosted by Linda Howell and Annette Benefield

June 26 - Singing @ Hope Center, 2pm

July 10-13 - VBS "The Voyage". Teachers are needed.

Aug 4-13 - Scotland Mission Trip

Aug 17 - Graham McDonald USA Visit

Aug 19-25 - Polishing the Pulpit Week

September 18-21 - Fall Gospel Meeting, Speaker: Joey Barkley

October 7-8 - Ladies' Retreat at Calvin Center. Please let Luann Rogers know if you would like to help organize it. If you plan to attend, please sign up; the cost will be \$80.00 for overnight (Dinner & Lunch) and \$15.00 for Saturday.



Area Events:

April 22-23 - Peachtree City COC, Reconnect Men's Conference, Lonnie Jones & Ben Hayes. Cost \$30 Adults & 15 Students.

Apr 22-23 - Buford Men's Weekend "Facing Your Giants", Speaker: Benji Slocumb

Apr 23 - McDonough Church of Christ, 9am-12:30pm, "How to Become an Effective Speaker in 10 Hours" - J.J. Turner, instructor

Apr 24-27 - Forest Park COC Gospel Meeting, Speaker: Greg Dismuke

April 30 - Buford Church of Christ Teaching Training Workshop, Speaker: Tish Housley

Youth Events

May 1 - Senior Recognition Dinner after the PM Service. We would like your Senior pictures and Bio by April 17th.

May 7 - Camp Inagehi 2nd Annual Cross County 5K & Fun Run

June 12-17 - Camp Inagehi Week

June 24 - Faulkner University Six Flags Day

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Call To Worship

Scripture Reading
Prayer
Song Leader
Preside Lord's Supper
Server
Server
Server
Server
Server
Server
Server
Sermon
Response Elder
Announcements
Song
Closing Prayer

4/24

Morris Jones
Ray Cozart

Jim Pelfrey
Mike Madison
Charles Nash
Anthony Stinson
Shirley Allender
Andy Johnson
Tommy Chapman
Larry Rose
Dave Rogers
Tom Durden
Greg Nash

K Killingsworth

Evening Service

Prayer
Sermon
Server
Server
Closing Prayer

Anthony Stinson
Song Service
Hugh Kelly
Jim Garner
Greg Nash

G.S.O.P. Summer 2016 Short Courses at Piedmont Rd church of Christ

June 16-18 1-2 Peter, Instructor, Eric Owens

July 21-23 The Godhead, Instructor, Phil Sanders

The Fountain of Life with Larry Acuff

Saturdays at 7 am

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Sunday at 7:30 am, on channel 57

May 1 - Were You There?, May 8 - Forgiving Yourself

May 15 - What God Wants For You, May 22—Thirsting For God

May 29—Search Me, O God!

Communion Preparation

May—Linda Howell

Nursery

24 Sally Wallace/Morgan Boelsterli

Care of Building

16-31 Jack Sorrell/Larry Rose

1-15 Shirley Allender/Tommy Chapman

16-31 Paul Lyons/David Poskevich

Ushers

24 Gayle Pelfrey/Rory Bell, Sr.

5/1 Gayle Pelfrey/Sammy Hugh

8 Jimmy Garner/Paul Lyons

15 Michael Madison/Thomas Quinn

22 Larry Rose/Bob Howell

29 Ron Biles/Jack Sorrell

Media Center Helpers

April 24 Ben Rogers

5/1 & 8 Rory Bell, Jr.

5/15 & 22 Brad Hopkins

Open Arms

4/24 Sally Wallace, Jean Johnson,

Jo Ruffer, Linda Armstrong,

Tommy & Gail Chapman

5/1 Susie Graham, Margaret

McCain, Barbara Edmonds,

Theresa Green,

Tom & Terri Durden

8 Martha Vickery, Jessa Quinn,

Connie Kelly, Ann Siebert, Hugh

Kelly & Ron Biles

Wednesday Evening

Devotional

27 Anthony Ravenell

5/4 Gayle Pelfrey, 11 Tom Durden,

18 Jim O'Brien & 25 Jimmy Garner

Fayetteville Church of Christ 2016 Goal - Evangelism

Address:

870 Redwine Road
Fayetteville, Georgia
30215

Monday –Friday , 9-4
Office Telephone
(770) 461-3617,
(770) 461-8231 Fax

Email: mail@fcoc.com

Web Page: <http://www.fcoc.com>



www.Facebook.com/Fayettevillecoc

Ministers:

Dave Rogers

(361) 649-6638

Dave.rogers@fcoc.com

Greg Nash,

(404) 455-1546 (cell)

gnash999@gmail.com

Office Secretary:

Susie Graham

celiagraham@bellsouth.net

Elders:

Tom Durden

(770) 652-7389

Jim Garner

(770) 461-3197

Greg Nash

(404) 455-1546

Jim Pelfrey

(770) 629-2061

Deacons:

Dennis Graham

David Hopkins

Hugh Kelly

Jerry Kendrix

Andy Johnson

Paul Lyons

Stan Mitchell

David Poskevich

Anthony Ravenell

Jack Sorrell

Assembly Schedule:

Sunday

9:00 am Bible Classes

10:00 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Worship Service

10:00 am Tuesday Morning

Bible Class

(September 11—May 14)

7:00 pm Wednesday Night

Bible Study

7:00 pm Thursday Night

Ladies Class

(September-May)

Our Missionaries



Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,

Bethany & Elijah McDonald

Scotland, 11 Woodhead Ct,

Westfield, Cumberland,

North Lanarkshire, G68 9DB

Email: graham@gmcd.net

Skype: gmcd105 or www.gmcd.net



Scott, Rebecca & Violet Shanahan

Pohnpel

scottshanahan@hotmail.com



Kenloy & Ivell Walker

Mandeville, Jamaica

Old Harbour Church of Christ,

876-569-2039



Forrest & Burma Chapman,

State of Georgia

email: ftc1952@alltel.com

May 2016

Evangelism

Response Elder - Greg Nash

"Look among the nations and watch -
Be utterly astounded! For I will work a
work in your days Which you would not
believe, though it were told you."
Habakkuk 1-5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
<p>1</p> <p>Andrew & Holley Dalman</p> <p>Anthony & Linda Ravenel</p> <p>Jim & Susan Pelfrey</p> <p>Senior Recognition Dinner</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>David Riley</p> <p>Jim Pelfrey</p>	<p>5</p> <p>GSOP-Thursday Night</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Game Night at 6pm</p> <p>Heather Couch</p> <p>Tom & Terri Durden</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Butch & Joann Trawick</p>																																																																																																		
<p>8</p> <p>Bible Q & A</p>	<p>9</p> <p>GSOP-Monday Night</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bill Benton</p> <p>Mattie Croix</p> <p>Susan Smith</p> <p>Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10am</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>GSOP-Thursday Night</p> <p>John & Bonni Lako</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Larry Rose</p> <p>Rose Show</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Rose Show 9-4</p>																																																																																																		
<p>15</p> <p>Area Wide Youth Devo- PTC</p> <p>Joe Clark</p> <p>Rose Show -1-4pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Byron & Becky Higginbotham</p> <p>Carson Hopkins</p> <p>GSOP-Monday Night</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10am</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>GSOP-Thursday Night</p>	<p>20</p> <p>SilverWings Reorganization Meeting/Potluck Dinner at 6pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Keith Killingsworth</p> <p>Malbry Chapman</p>																																																																																																		
<p>22</p> <p>Lauren Shorrell Bridal Shower</p> <p>Song Service</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>GSOP-Monday Night</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Election Day</p> <p>Jim OBrien</p> <p>Jo Hurt</p> <p>Wayne & Janis Libby</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Cliff Nash</p>	<p>26</p> <p>GSOP-Thursday Night</p>	<p>27</p> <p>School Ends</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Danielle Fincher</p> <p>God's Ranch-Service Day</p> <p>Jasi Hodgkinson</p>																																																																																																		
<p>29</p> <p>Lillian Gray</p> <p>Service Sunday</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Dave & Luann Rogers</p> <p>GSOP-Monday Night</p> <p>Memorial Day-Office Closed</p> 	<p>31</p> <p>Brad Hopkins</p> <p>Equillar Butler</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Apr 2016</th> <th colspan="7">Jun 2016</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> <td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> <td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> <td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> <td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Apr 2016							Jun 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2				1	2	3	4	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30		
Apr 2016							Jun 2016																																																																																																	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																											
					1	2				1	2	3	4																																																																																											
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																											
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																											
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																											
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																													