

Freedom of Religion (Part Two)

by Dave Rogers

We Must Make a Choice

Last week, we noted that our Creator endowed us with the **ability** (and thus, the responsibility) to either recognize and fulfill or ignore and defy His will for us. We also pointed out that while the concept of “freedom **OF** religion” is a cherished principle in our land, this very idea rests on the nature of our own relationship with the Almighty. By creating us with the ability to choose our own path (and our eternal destinies), He established the possibility that we might choose the **wrong** course. The Lord did not exempt us from the consequences of foolish and wrong choices, however: The biblical principle of harvesting what we plant (note Galatians 6:7-8) clearly operates in our world! This is true for both the natural world (Matthew 7:16 & Luke 6:44), and the realm of human society. If we choose to live righteously, we “harvest” blessings, but if we choose to live wickedly we “harvest” the destructive consequences of that choice (cf. Numbers 32:23b). There is no way to **avoid** making decisions that impact our eternal destinies, for God’s will **requires** positive actions (Acts 16:31; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38, etc.) **and** it **prohibits** negative ones (Exodus 23:2; Galatians 5:19-21). To choose “nothing at all” is a failure with respect to the things He requires of us (James 4:17).

Concerning things we are authorized to do as part of “religion,” God is Who prescribes what qualifies as “righteousness.” Solomon warned long ago that **our perceptions** of what “should” please God are not trustworthy guides in this matter (Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25). Remember; the ability to choose means we can make the wrong choice! The fact that it was God who gave us this ability in NO way “sanctifies” or “excuses” us for making **wrong** choices. Our ability to choose His way, along with the opportunity to choose it (and He **has** given us that opportunity, by revealing His will, John

17:17) means we have the **responsibility** to live by His instructions. Because we have been created “in His image, and after His likeness,” our responsibility is to choose well and wisely where eternity is concerned. Wisdom is based on knowledge, but is defined by proper, accurate **use** of what we know. “Freedom of religion” is not a license to believe or do whatever pleases me and call it “religion,” but a blessed opportunity to recognize that what pleases God is what counts!

“Predestined” to Glory or Damnation

God “predestined” EVERY person to heaven or eternal hell by predefining the outcomes of our choices, and we are blessed by being able to know what those consequences are! Our **hope** is real because that it is founded on fact instead of fantasy. We have hope in Christ because He is the fulfillment of God’s promises of a Savior. We have hope for life beyond the grave because He could not be contained by death (Acts 2:24). We have confidence in the forgiveness of our sins and hope for an existence with God because He did not leave His people in bondage or captivity even in ancient days, but redeemed them and brought them to the land He had promised (from Egypt and Babylon to Canaan). The “freedom” God gave us – to choose for ourselves what will happen to us in eternity – is a wonderful blessing: It enables us to appreciate the goodness of His grace. He didn’t “just” release us from the condemnation of our sins, He also made it possible for us to be justified at the same time (Romans 3:26). By giving us the blessing of choice, He vindicated Himself over the evil one once and for all. In its fullest sense, “freedom of religion” is really all about God making it possible for us to be redeemed from the consequences of our wrong choices: In Christ, He has given us the “freedom” to come home.

Excellent Facts

(Compiled by Paul Sain, East Hill church of Christ, Pulaski, Tennessee)

1. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
2. I have a problem. It's me.
3. Growing old is inevitable. Growing up is optional.
4. There is no key to happiness. The door is always open.
5. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
6. Do the math – count your blessings.
7. Faith is the ability to not panic.
8. Laugh every day. It's like inner jogging.
9. If you worry, don't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
10. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
11. Blessed are the flexible for they shall not be bent out of shape.
12. The most important things in your home are the people.
13. When we get tangled up in our problems, we should be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. True greatness is to serve unnoticed and to work unseen.
16. He who dies with the most "toys" is still dead.
17. We do not remember days, but moments. Life is moving so fast – so enjoy every precious moment.
18. God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.
19. You can never do a kindness too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late.
20. Your final exit will be your greatest entrance.

Intelligent Insect, or a Great God?

By Rick Laing, Austin, Texas

A tiny little wasp crawls up next to a ladybug unnoticed. The wasp raises its abdomen and delicately inserts an egg under the wings and shell of the ladybug. That egg moves into place and begins to grow. Its host, the ladybug, does not even know it's there. The egg develops into a larvae, which lives off the ladybug but does not eat any major organs until it is ready to come out. Before exiting, it bites the nerves that control the ladybug's legs. The ladybug falls over, and the parasite crawls out and consumes some more of its benefactor. This is brilliant strategy and awesome timing.

If you believe this happened by chance, or even worse, that the insect developed its' own strategy, and only likes ladybugs, you need to stay away from con artists because you are gullible. If the insect was smart enough to develop such a strategy, how did it survive before it discovered ladybugs?

What we are looking at here is another awesome piece of evidence for our Great God and Creator. Romans 1:18-20 concludes that, "...His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse".

I choose to give the glory to a Great God rather than an intelligent insect.

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

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

**July 21-23 The Godhead,
Instructor, Phil Sanders**

Family Matters

Equillar Butler – Is in Southern Regional Hospital (room 473), recovering from a stroke.

Becky Higginbotham – Has an infection that may need surgery in June.

Lillian Gray– Broke her feet a couple of weeks ago. Her new address is 540 Rabbit's Run, Fayetteville, Ga 30214.

Joann Trawick - Had a stroke in her left eye and will start treatments in a few weeks.

Mr. Moore—Friend of Una Fortson's that has cancer, was told there is no other treatments.

Members With Health Problems: Missy Campbell, Theresa Green, Bob Howell, Ruby Fowler, Bill Benton, Shirley Jones, Lucille Amon, Becky Higginbotham, Marlene Etheridge, RuPearl Sharpe, Mattie Williams, Sally Wallace, Brenda Mitchell, 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: Allen Baker (Linda Howell's nephew), 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), Xernonia 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

FEMA: Sylvester Campbell has been deployed to Louisiana for a few months.

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

Georgia Agape
Next series of trainings for
AGAPE foster parents
May 14/15; 21/22 and June 4/5



**Camp
Inagehi
2nd Annual
5K and Fun
Run, May 7th**



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Calendar

- May 1** – Senior Recognition Dinner after the PM Service.
- 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:

May 14 - Area Wide Ladies Brunch at Newnan Church of Christ at 9:30am, Speaker: Judie Reagan, a missionary to Rwanda



2016 VBS
July 10th-13
The
VOYAGE

Youth Events

- May 1** – Senior Recognition Dinner after the PM Service.
- May 7** - Camp Inagehi 2nd Annual Cross County 5K & Fun Run
- May 14** - Bremen COC Youth Day
- June 12-17** – Camp Inagehi Week
- June 24** - Faulkner University Six Flags Day
- July 10-13** – VBS "The Voyage"

WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

<u>Call To Worship</u>	<u>5/1</u>	<u>5/8</u>	<u>5/15</u>	<u>5/22</u>	<u>5/29</u>
Scripture Reading	Zeke Poskevich	Jordan Madison	Zeke Poskevich	Jordan Madison	Zeke Poskevich
Prayer	Thomas Quinn	Rory Bell, Sr.	Paul Lyons	Larry Rose	Curtis Hurt
Song Leader					
Preside Lord's Supper	Rick Sharpe	Hugh Kelly	Rick Sharpe	Hugh Kelly	Rick Sharpe
Server	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender	Shirley Allender
Server	Randal Bell	Randal Bell	Randal Bell	Randal Bell	Randal Bell
Server	Ray Russell	Ray Russell	Ray Russell	Ray Russell	Ray Russell
Server	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey	Gayle Pelfrey
Server	Jake Garner	Jake Garner	Jake Garner	Jake Garner	Jake Garner
Server	Jimmy Garner	Jimmy Garner	Jimmy Garner	Jimmy Garner	Jimmy Garner
Server	Morris Jones	Morris Jones	Morris Jones	Morris Jones	Morris Jones
Server	Cliff Nash	Cliff Nash	Cliff Nash	Cliff Nash	Cliff Nash
Sermon	Rick Sharpe	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers
Response Elder	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Announcements	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash	Greg Nash
Song					
Closing Prayer	Wayne Nash	Lewis Armstrong	Jim Garner	Jim Pelfrey	Tom Durden
<u>Evening Service</u>					
Prayer	David Riley	Anthony Stinson	Hugh Kelly	Anthony Stinson	David Riley
Sermon		Dave Rogers	Dave Rogers	Song Service	Service Sunday
Server	Rory Bell, Jr.	Bill Ruffer	Ron Biles	Morris Jones	Anthony Ravenell
Server	Randal Bell	Hugh Kelly	Bob Howell	Brad Hopkins	Rick Sharpe
Closing Prayer	Keith Killingsworth	Tom Durden	Jimmy Garner	Gayle Pelfrey	Jim Obrien

Communion Preparation

Linda Howell

Nursery

1 Danielle Fincher, 8 Amy Nash
15 Susan Fincher, 22 Gail Chapman
29 Michelle Chapman

Care of Building

1-15 Shirley Allender/Tommy Chapman
16-31 Paul Lyons/David Poskevich

Ushers

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

1 & 8 Rory Bell, Jr.
15 & 22 Brad Hopkins

Open Arms

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

4 Gayle Pelfrey, 11 Tom Durden,
18 Jim O'Brien & 25 Jimmy Garner

Fayetteville Church of Christ 2016 Goal - Evangelism

**Donna Hagin will continue
taking family pictures
in the foyer on May 15 & 22**

Register on:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/
go/20F044AA4A72AA5F49-](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F044AA4A72AA5F49-)

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)

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!

Our Missionaries



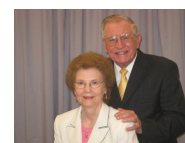
Graham, Elizabeth, Joshua, Megan,
Bethany & Elijah McDonald
Scotland, 11 Woodhead Ct,
Westfield, Cumberland,
North Lanarkshire, G68 9DB
Email: graham@gmcd.net
Skype: gmcd105 or www.gmcd.net



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		
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