

## Weekly Bible Reading – Week 12

- ✦ Sunday Acts 5:33 – 7:16
- ✦ Monday Acts 7:17 – 8:8
- ✦ Tuesday Acts 8:9 – 9:19
- ✦ Wednesday Acts 9:20 – 10:23
- ✦ Thursday Acts 10:24 – 11:26
- ✦ Friday Acts 11:27 – 13:12
- ✦ Saturday Acts 13:13 – 14:7

*“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise” (James 5:13).*

Bryan Bailey Sr’s father, Elwood Gaskins  
Marissa Black’s grandmother • Jo Byrnes • Joyce Coones  
Sleatha Gore • Faye Kilpatrick • Pat Hunt *improving*  
Gary Ogden

### *Gospel Meetings*

**OCT 19–24** • *Cherry Sink* • Different speakers each night:

7:30 nightly (Sunday through Friday).

**OCT 26–31** • *Palatka* • Bob Waldron, preaching: 7:30 (Monday through Friday).

**NOV 2–7** • *Chiefland* • Jeff Himmel, preaching: 7:30 (Monday through Friday).

**NOV 7–9** • *Old Town* • Buddy Payne, preaching: 7:30 (Friday through Sunday).

### *Birthdays*

Beau Bender (*today*) • Chris Brown (*Thursday*) • Avilene Smith (*Friday*)

## CHIEFLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida  
Post Office Box 2539, Chiefland FL 32644 • (352) 493-1242

# Things Above

“If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.”

— Colossians 3:1-2 —

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## Young People: Should God Wait?

By Gary Henry

*Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say,*

*“I have no pleasure in them” (Ecclesiastes 12:1).*

Solomon, a King who was hardly naïve about what the world has to offer, counseled that we should remember our Creator while we are young. To defer dealing with God until we are out of our youth is a costly error. And if we’ve not yet decided whether we’re going to take God seriously, there is something we need to know: *the question only gets tougher the longer we delay answering it.* We’re only deceiving ourselves if we think we need to take care of more important matters first. There is no such thing as a more important matter than God.



Particularly in our youth, the thing that tempts us to postpone dealing with God is the myth that godliness requires us to forfeit our pleasure. Because the life of serious spirituality seems so dull, it's only natural to defer doing anything about it until after we've drunk as deeply from the world as we want to drink. Our adversary would like us to believe that the only young folks who follow God are the losers who don't know what they're missing. One of the saddest things about this myth, however, is that it misrepresents a God who has never wanted anything but our good and who has never forbidden anything except what would hurt us or degrade us. We would do well to go back and reconsider Ecclesiastes. The very God whom Solomon advised us to "remember" is also the God who said, "Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth" (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

Many other reasons for taking a responsible approach to God in our youth are powerfully *practical*. One of the most practical (and also one of the most important) is that the basic shape of our personal character is set while we're in our younger years. The ideal time to commit ourselves to godly principles and begin adjusting our lifestyles to those principles is when our minds and hearts are still open and we've not yet begun to suffer "hardening of the categories." If we say no to God at the time when it is most crucial to say yes, it is not likely that our minds will be changed by anything later on — except circumstances that are truly tragic.

*If you refuse to be made straight when you are green,  
you will not be made straight when you are dry.*

**African Proverb**



# Honor the King

By Jamey Hinds

It should interest us that the Son of God came to earth when Roman imperialism was the government system in Judea — the gospel was planted, germinated, and *blossomed* under this sometimes oppressive system of government. Maybe even more astounding to us is that *all* government systems come from God — "For there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1).

We who are Christians living in the United States are a most blessed people. But not just because we are Americans; most especially because we are saved by the grace of God! We should never lose perspective on this point . . . *ever* — Christians first, Americans second.

Every election campaign bears concern. But as a Christian first, my loyalties are with my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His apostle Peter wrote to Christians living under Roman imperialism, admonishing them to submit themselves "to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men — as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king" (1 Peter 2:13–17).

However this election turns out, we must remember that we are first and foremost Christians . . . "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself" (Philippians 3:20–21). "The world is passing away . . . but he who does the will of God abides forever" (1 John 2:17).

