

January 15, 2023

FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Providence of God Genesis 37–42

One of the great overarching themes of the Bible is God's providence, and no story illustrates providence like the story of Joseph. First, we see God's providence in the individual life of Joseph. God had a big plan for Joseph which He revealed to him through dreams. This plan would involve Joseph reigning over his family and them being in subjection to him. The problem was Joseph had not yet developed the personal qualities or character traits needed to fulfill those plans. We can see God's providence working through the situations Joseph was placed in. These situations provided opportunities for Joseph to develop qualities like humility, which all good rulers need, and the patience to accept that God's plan would unfold according to God's timeframe.

Second, we see the providence of God working through deliverance. One would be hard pressed to find a person in the Bible who went through more struggles than Joseph, with the exception of Job. It seemed that every time Joseph was "moving up the ladder," tragedy would strike and knock Joseph back to the bottom (see the reference to a pit in Gen 37:24 and 40:15; same word in Hebrew). At every struggle, even when Joseph was on the literal and proverbial bottom, God provided deliverance.

The deliverance through providence theme would continue with Joseph's family, the founding fathers of the tribes of Israel. Joseph's rise to power in Egypt, through the workings of God, would provide deliverance from a severe famine. This gave his family an opportunity to move to Egypt where they would not only survive the famine, but over the next few generations multiply and grow into the nation of Israel. It is through this nation of people that the Messiah would come who would offer ultimate deliverance to all of mankind, the deliverance from sin.

It is easy to see the providence of God as we read these stories thousands of years after they occurred. Seeing providence in our own lives seems to be the same way. It is only after the "pit" that we can see the purpose behind the struggles we face. So how do we recognize God's providence in real time? Can this be done or even should it be done? In my case, the jury is still out.

God's providence is so far reaching that this short message barely scratches the surface, and I by no means have all the answers. What I do know is this. We, like Joseph, have faith (Heb 11:22). Faith is not always knowing the who, what, where, when, why, and how God will provide, but knowing that (1) He is able (Dan 3:16–18; Heb 11:19), and that (2) He will provide in the proper time (1Pet 5:6–11). As we experience the trials and struggles of life let us patiently endure knowing that God is in control and that He will provide.

Dax Holt

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Worship: Sunday 9:00 am & 5:00 pm; Bible Class 10:15 am; Wednesday: 6:30 pm

Elders

Steve Clark
Jake VanDyke
Ken Vanhorn
Mark Willingham

Deacons

Greg Allen
Justin Beckman
Kevin Clemons
Jeffrey Cox
Mike Davidson
Kyle Dickson
Gregg Elrod
Nate Fulmer
AJ Gooch
Jamey Medley
Ronnie Putnam
Dave Schmidt
Mark Vanhorn
Don Williams

Minister

Austin Johnson

Youth Minister

John Birdwell

Secretary

Sonya Cox

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 292 / On Line Views: 144
Sunday School: 240 / On Line Views: 106
Sunday PM: 201 / On Line Views: 121
Wednesday: 201 / On Line Views: 112
Budget: \$13,300
Contribution: \$ 13,128

JANUARY MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Wayne Barrier (Burma)
PO Box 93
Cloverdale, AL 35633

BABY BOY DIAPER POUNDING

We are having a Baby Boy Diaper Pounding, for Kristy Hinton, that will go through January 22nd. A basket is located, on the bench, in the foyer.

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UPCOMING EVENT

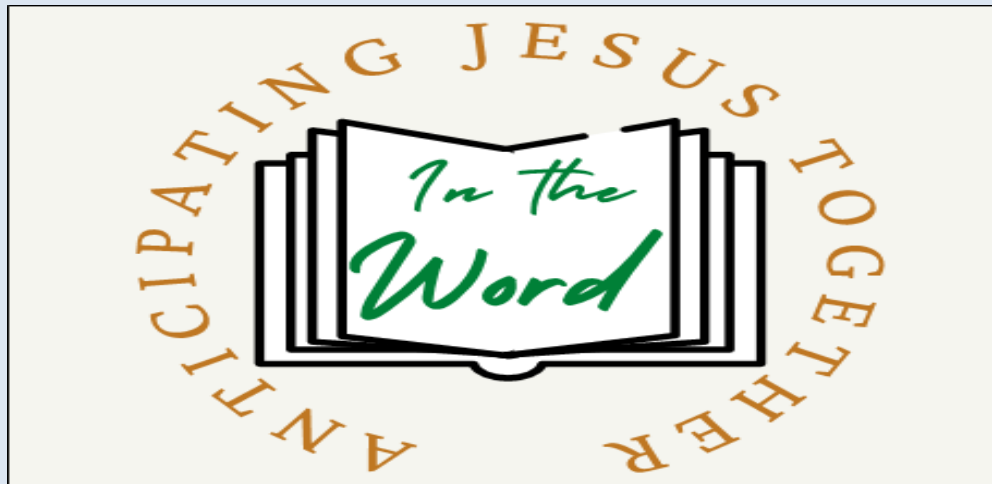
Benefit Trail Ride/Auction/Yard Sale, for the NACCH will be March 10th and 11th. Yard Sale items can be brought to the church building and placed in the stairwell located beside the church library. Please no clothes or books. Any questions, please contact Don Williams.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who prayed for and encouraged Mother, in the last year. Thank you also for the flowers that were sent to her Memorial Service and to those of you who came to the visitation and funeral. Thank you to everyone who prepared the meal for the family that followed the service. We appreciate your kindness.

*With appreciation,
The family of Imogene James
Milton, Pam, and Marty*

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The entire Bible can be summarized as Jesus is coming, He came, and He is coming again. **Our theme for 2023 is “In the Word: Anticipating Jesus Together.”** We are going to read through the Bible together as a congregation in 2023.

As you read, take notes, ask questions, and see how each scripture can point to Jesus. No doubt there will be places of Scripture that we read through that may be confusing and you might need help understanding.

We have created an email account for this purpose. Email: intheword@florenceblvd.org with your questions and comments. People can also post on our church Facebook page, call the office, or write down questions and turn them in to Austin or any of our Shepherds. Who knows, your question may be covered in a sermon, bulletin article, Bible class, or Facebook post. Regardless, our aim in 2023 is to make a collaborative effort to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Be excited and prayerful, God is on the move!

Please pick up a brochure and bookmark on the tables in the foyer with the reading schedule.