

January 22, 2023

# FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST



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Ken Vanhorn  
Mark Willingham

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Gregg Elrod  
Nate Fulmer  
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## Minister

Austin Johnson

## Youth Minister

John Birdwell

## Secretary

Sonya Cox

We are wrapping up the portion of our Bible reading challenge that covers Genesis 43-Exodus 12. I imagine you are experiencing many of the same responses and reactions I am having when reading about the unique experiences addressed. We may struggle at first to decide what to do with the rich Inspired History we find when we dive into our reading. I want to preface this article with the New Testament reminder that as 2 Timothy 3:16-17 states, “[16] All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. We know this endeavor we are on as a congregation is profitable, worth our time, and our aim is to be complete and equipped. Although we may struggle with how to make sense of some of The Text, it is a noble endeavor.

Furthermore, when we think about HOW we approach The Text, it is necessary to state that these portions are from the first two books in the “Torah” in Hebrew (Law) Or “Pentateuch” in Greek (Five-volumed). (P138 ESV Study) When reading, we must be mindful of the genre of Literature. I have heard the analogy used from Dr. Nathan Daily as unpacking the suitcase or thinking about the Scripture like a dog chews on a bone. There are multiple genres such as Wisdom Literature, Love language, and so on, but this section is from the Law. Genesis 40-50:26 falls into the “Patriarchal History” of Jacob’s descendants (P47 ESV Study)

Are you SELF-trusting, or GOD-trusting in your life?  
Rather than trying to cast a wide net of discussion, I would like to bring your attention to one particular place and concept regarding Genesis 50:15 and “God’s Good Purposes”.  
The brothers fabricated a lie in fear. Even in the death of their father they are jumping to the bad conclusion that they will be harmed. Even during their “peace-keeping” deceptive maneuvers they are trying to carry out, Joseph is still relying upon and trusting His relationship with GOD. The motif of human sin, distrust and deception is overcome with the Awesomeness of GOD. Have you had that realization in your life? Times when you are called into the bosses office, get a phone call, hear an ambulance go by, and are fearful or expecting the worst because it seems out of your control but then realize it was all okay and GOD was in control the whole time?

It is like Joseph almost feels sorry for them or takes pity on them because they are so concerned with their lives although they hastily casted him aside years ago. Some people are unable to experience the peace of total forgiveness. Although it may be classified as human nature or natural to fear retaliation for a wrongdoing of this magnitude, it is evident that God’s peace truly transforms the lives of believers and this is evident by the response of Joseph again with his brothers fabricating a lie while fear of being harmed in regard of their Father’s passing. They are still distrusting and unable to move past the possibility of punishment.

Does this hit home with anyone? Has anyone lived against God’s Will and failed to remember that we are saved by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? Despite His Blood washing us and moving our transgressions as far as the East is from the West, are we still unable to move past ourselves today to fully experience salvation in Jesus like the Brothers? Or are we fully transformed by faith and confident we are living by God’s gracious Will that He would have any be saved that are willing.

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2502 FLORENCE BOULEVARD

[www.florenceblvd.org](http://www.florenceblvd.org)

PHONE (256) 766-3617

email: [office@florenceblvd.org](mailto:office@florenceblvd.org)

FAX (256) 766-3546

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

