

February 5, 2023



FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Exodus 34:6-7 – The Character of God

If you were interviewing a potential employee you might ask the person, “Why don’t you tell me a little about yourself?” Or if you were being interviewed and you had to describe yourself by naming your top 5 characteristics, what would be on that list? Perhaps, “Christian, hard-working, creative, athletic, etc”...the list could go on! Did you know that in our Scripture reading this week (Exodus 33-Leviticus 13) that God gives Moses a list of characteristics that define His own nature?! Up to this point in the Torah, God has only revealed Himself to people in very subtle ways. For instance, it was not until speaking to Moses (not to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, or even Joseph) that God chooses to share His Name, i.e., “Yahweh!” Now let’s take a deeper look into this profound and awe-inspiring experience in Exodus 34:5-7 when Moses is in closer proximity to God’s presence than anyone since Adam and Even in the garden:

“The LORD came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name Yahweh. Then the LORD passed in front of him and proclaimed: Yahweh – Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers’ wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.” (HCSB, emphasis added)

If only there were more time and space to discuss how amazing this moment is! Yet, this side note must be mentioned—this passage in Exodus 34 is THE MOST QUOTED throughout the entire Scriptures—which is a pretty good sign we need to really focus on this event and how God reveals His own character!

Compassionate—the Hebrew word has connotations of a mother’s feelings towards her vulnerable infant. Not only does this attribute involve emotion but also action. Remember how God hears the Israelites’ cries in Egypt and He is compelled by His compassion to rescue them. We’ve seen over the last several chapters how God continues to care for the Israelites as His own child. Isn’t it amazing how we can see God’s compassion come to life in Jesus?! (Luke 7:13) Jesus calls us to the same life of compassion—to be moved by others’ pain, help the hurting, and do what we can to relieve the suffering of our neighbors throughout the world!

Gracious – God’s grace is not only evident here in the Exodus story but throughout all the Scriptures. Again, Jesus is God’s grace become human (John 1:14), sent into a world of people trapped in sin and death. God has handed humanity over to the destructive consequences of our selfish decisions, but through His grace we can be saved (Ephesians 2:8)! All of us who have been buried with Christ and raised up as new creatures have experienced His grace! (Titus 3:4-7)

Slow to Anger – the Hebrew phrase literally means “long of nose.” How does this even relate to being “slow to anger?” It essentially describes how a person’s face gets hot when filled with anger—so if someone is patient, then they have a “long nose” because it takes a long time for their nose to get “hot.” Obviously, these are metaphors referring to God’s balance of anger and patience. He allows time for repentance and escape from the destruction that comes upon those who persist in their sins (2 Peter 3:8-13).

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
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Sonya Cox

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

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday AM: 288 / On Line Views: 158
Sunday School: 240 / On Line Views: 84
Sunday PM: 231 / On Line Views: 238
Wednesday: 194 / On Line Views: 74
Budget: \$14,620
Contribution: \$ 12,077

FEBRUARY MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Jean-Claubert Belton
Carrefour Michaud #46 Route Malpasse
Entrée Double Harvest
Croix des Bouquets
Haiti

KID'S VALENTINE'S PARTY

This is for all kids, Cradle Roll-6th Grade, Saturday, February 11th, beginning at 10 am. Each child is asked to bring 25 Valentines to pass out.

49ER'S GROUP

The 49er's Group and whoever else who would like to come. You will be going to see comedian Karen Mills, at Shoals Theater, on Saturday, February 11th. You must purchase tickets online yourself and tickets are \$25.00 a piece. Also, we plan to meet at the church building and have a "Brown Bag" meal together in the Family Room. If you need any more details, please see Brian or DeeDee McManus.

Faithful Love – this is a translation of the Hebrew word *Khesed* which involves love, generosity, commitment and a promise-keeping loyalty motivated by a deep personal care. Over and over in the Old Testament we see God's *khesed* for the Israelites. Nevertheless, over and over we see them reject or ignore His faithful love. As we experience the beauty and power of God's faithful love through Jesus, we must focus on finding ways to show faithful love back to God and to those around us! (1 John 4:7-12)

Truth or Faithfulness – What we need to draw from this characteristic is that God is trustworthy. Moses calls God "a rock" because He is faithful, just, upright and consistent. However, just like the Israelites, sometimes our trust in God fails. But, unlike the Israelites, we have seen God's faithfulness fulfilled through Jesus! Because of Christ, we can join those who trusted in God, like Abraham, Moses, and David, and face the obstacles and struggles in our world knowing that God is overflowing with faithfulness! (Hebrews 11-12).

A.J. Gooch

BABY BOY SHOWER

All ladies are invited to a come and go baby boy shower honoring Dustin and Bailey Young (grandparents are Donny & Linda Young), on Saturday, February 18th from 10:30 am-12:30 pm, at Florence Blvd, in the Family Room. Selections are at Babylist.com. Shower is given by family and friends.

BABY GIRL DIAPER POUNDING

We will be having a Baby Girl Diaper Pounding for Taylor Aldridge, beginning on Sunday, February 12th and going through Sunday, February 26th. A basket will be placed in the foyer.

NEW MEMBER FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Sunday, February 19th, after morning worship we are having a potluck meal followed by our "New Member" recognition. Please come to get to know these new members and enjoy fellowship together! Bring enough food for yourself and a few more.



New Member Fellowship

Let's recognize all of those that have come our way in the last 12 months and get to know them better!

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19

After morning worship there will be a potluck fellowship meal followed by our "New Member" recognition

ALL MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

"Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." Ephesians 4:15-16 ESV