



April 16, 2023

# FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

**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  
David Gooch  
Lee Handley  
Will Hodge  
Brian McManus  
Jamey Medley  
Ronnie Putnam  
Dave Schmidt  
Mark Vanhorn  
Don Williams

**Minister**  
Austin Johnson

**Youth Minister**  
John Birdwell

**Secretary**  
Sonya Cox

## David the Parent

In 2 Samuel we read of King David's sin with Bathsheba and the subsequent murder of her husband Uriah. David confesses his sins before God after being confronted by Nathan. David's sins are forgiven but there would be consequences. The son that David conceived with Bathsheba would be stricken with illness after birth and die 7 days later. Next, David's eldest son Amnon forces himself upon his half-sister Tamar. Tamar's full brother Absalom has Amnon killed for his evil deed. Absalom is then banished from Jerusalem. Later, Absalom desires to kill his father David and assume the throne as King of Israel. Absalom's insurrection is opposed successfully and he is killed by Joab after becoming entangled in a large oak tree.

The holy scriptures present in detail the lives and deaths of David's sons Amnon, Absalom and the un-named infant, all who died before David's decease. No parent should have to witness a death of a child, but it happens.

Just how does David respond to the death of his sons? In the death of Amnon, David grieves for 3 years before he "comes to terms". With the death of Absalom, David grieves, "O my son, Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died for you, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33). David grieves to the point that Joab rebukes his grief. But in the news of the death of his infant son, David arises to worship God.

It is clear by David's response to his son's death that he believed in eternity. In the deaths of Amnon and Absalom there is obvious concern toward each one's fate due to the evil lives they had lived. David had a very extended time of grief, which could speak to his reflection on the fate of each son and the part he played with his indulgent parenting and poor choices.

The positive we see in David's prolonged grief could indicate a heart towards Divinity. Perhaps the closest we come to a God-like love is when we are long-suffering parents. A parent never gives up on a child, even in times of tough love, no matter what that child has done. And God never gives up on us no matter how bad we have been. "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

As to the infant son, David fasted and prayed while the child was living that he might live. Then, upon news of the infant's death, David ended his fasting and arose to worship God. When David's response is questioned he proclaims, "I shall go to him, but he will not return to me". (2 Samuel 12:23)

Should David have spent more time in prayer to God for Amnon and Absalom while they were living? Or could David, a man after God's own heart made better life choices?

Should we spend more time in prayer for our children and their eternal destiny? And what manner of life are we leaving for our children to follow?

KenVanhorn

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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: 278 / On Line Views: 134  
Sunday School: 193 / On Line Views: N/A  
Sunday PM: N/A/ On Line Views: N/A  
Wednesday: 214 / On Line Views: 80  
Budget: \$14,620  
Contribution: \$ 15,245

**APRIL MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH**

**K.B.B Chandrapaul  
Jack Nelle Institute  
Nidamanuru-521104  
Vijayawada, A.P.  
India**

[lovefaithhope@yahoo.com](mailto:lovefaithhope@yahoo.com)

**THANK YOU**

*Thank you church family, for the delicious breakfast delivered to our front door. It was very much appreciated. The home made biscuits were wonderful. We love and miss all of you very much!  
Tommy & Martha Smith*

**CHURCH LIBRARY**

The following children’s book, “Bible Stories,” by Miles Kelly, has been donated to the church library, in memory of Joseph Hinton, infant son of Kristy Hinton, by Kristy and Sierra Hinton and family.

**CEDAR VIEW ASSISTED LIVING**

We are in charge of the services **TODAY**, at Cedar View, at 2 pm. If you can help with this, please see Jake VanDyke.

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

Robert & Taylor Aldridge are the proud parents of a little girl. Adeline Rae was born on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:07 am. She weighed 8 lbs. 15 oz. and measured 22.5 inches long. Proud big brother: River.

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**SENIOR NIGHT**

Senior Night will be on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, following evening services, in the Fellowship Hall. There will be tables set up to leave gifts for our seniors. Our graduating seniors include: Kaden Agee, Ella Embry, Garret Gean, Remington Medley, Katelin Risner, Elijah Sampson, and Ellie South.

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**AREA EVENT**

UNA Christian Student Center 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament; RTJ of the Shoals, Monday, April 24, 2023; 11:30 Lunch; 1 pm Tee time; \$100 dollars per player-4 Man Scramble Teams; Mulligans available for purchase; Hole Sponsorships available; Email: [unacsf@comcast.net](mailto:unacsf@comcast.net) Or call 256-764-9439; Register by April 17<sup>th</sup>.

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**THOUGHTS TO PONDER**

“Be mindful. Be grateful. Be positive. Be true. Be kind.”

“Focus on your strengths, not your weaknesses.  
Focus on your character, not your reputation.  
Focus on your blessings, not your misfortunes.”

“Stop doing what is easy. Start doing what is right.”