

April 23, 2023



FLORENCE BOULEVARD CHURCH OF CHRIST

Serving Two Masters is a Formula for Disaster

Jesus says in Matthew 6:24 (ESV) that *“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”*

We can easily substitute that last word in this verse — “money” — with any other noun which may keep us from serving God. In the case of Solomon, this word would be “women”, as we learn in 1 Kings 11:1-4 that his desires for women ultimately separated him from serving God:

“¹Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ²from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, ‘You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love. ³He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.”

Despite being a faithful servant of the Lord, Solomon first made a compromise by marrying the daughter of Pharaoh, who was an Egyptian. He believed he was strong enough to remain faithful to the Lord, but his continued love for extravagant living and excessive female companionship (700 wives and 300 concubines) hindered him from loving the Lord with all his heart, soul, and strength. As a result, his heart was swayed from the Lord to the various gods worshipped by these 1,000 women. Although he was wise above all others, Solomon's lust was just too overpowering for him to obey the commandment against intermarrying with worshippers of false gods.

Back to Matthew 6:24, Jesus is asking his disciples, which of these *two masters* are you going to *love*? Which *will you despise*? Which *will you serve*? How many times have we lent an ear to Satan as he attempts to convince us that we can easily still serve God while indulging ourselves in other earthly pleasures that the world can offer us? Money, people, objects, hobbies — none of these can take equal priority for serving our God.

King Solomon's story is included in these chapters for our benefit, so that we see the consequences of turning away from the Lord and the importance of following His commands. Let us strive to remain faithful to Him, even in times of prosperity and success. May we always learn from the examples of those who have come before us, and always seek to honor the Lord in all that we do according to His will.

by: Steve Clark

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
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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: 300 / On Line Views: 134
Sunday School: 237 / On Line Views: 52
Sunday PM: 228/ On Line Views: 131
Wednesday: 201 / On Line Views: 98

Budget: \$14,620

APRIL MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

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

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BAPTISMS

JT Condrey (son of TTommy & Lorie Condrey) was baptized into Christ on Sunday, April 16th.

Madison Coppock, a young lady that has been visiting at Florence Blvd , was baptized Monday, April 17th.

Please welcome them into the family of God.

TODAY'S SPEAKERS

AM: Austin Johnson-1Kings 12:6-8

PM: Taylor Cooper-Matthew 28:18-20

PEW PACKERS

The young people **WILL NOT** be meeting, for pew packers, tonight!

MEALS ON WHEELS

This week, April 24th-28th is our week to deliver Meals on Wheels. We are still in need of someone on Wednesday & Friday. If you can help with this, please sign the sheet, located on table outside of Sound Room.

CONGRATULATIONS

Slater & Rachel Stovall are the proud parents of a little girl. Sutton Elizabeth was born on April 15th at 11:39 AM. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Proud big brother: Beckett.

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to Donna Keenum and family, in the passing away of her husband Milford. There will not be a service.

MEETINGS

There will be an Elders & Deacons meeting on Sunday, April 30th at 3 pm in the Family Room, followed by a Men's Meeting at 4 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior Night will be on Sunday, May 7th, 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.

CHILDREN'S TEA PARTY

Event organized by FHU Associates of the Shoals. Saturday, April 29th, from 10 am-12 noon, at Florence Boulevard Church of Christ. Story Time, Craft, Photo Boothe & Tea-Time. \$10 per child includes 1 adult. Purchase tickets by calling 256-483-2931. Proceeds benefit FHU Student scholarships.

NORTH ALABAMA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

Everyone is invited to help North Alabama Christian Children's Home celebrate their 50th Anniversary on Saturday, May 6th at 1:00 pm, on campus at the Children's Home, 6350 County Road 63, Killen, AL. Come out to tour the homes, enjoy the catered appetizers, and the fellowship with all the brethren with the various congregations. This is not a fund raiser.