



May 7, 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

Minister
Austin Johnson

Youth Minister
John Birdwell

Secretary
Sonya Cox

From yawn to YES!

I've heard stories about people who struggle with their identity during particular seasons of their life. The teenage years. The post college years. The mini-van life with kids. Mid-life crisis. Identity crisis hits different people at different times. Sometimes the struggle with identity happens in the middle of immense sorrow and pain—your spouse left you, you lost a parent, you were fired from your career job. These and more could leave people wondering, so now, who am I? What will my future be? It is that very question that brings us to 1 Chronicles, and I would like to use the 1 Chronicles to help explain how Israel needed help with that very question and then provide some encouraging news at the end.

Many believe that the Chronicles were written post-exile, when Cyrus, the King of Persia decreed that God needed a house to be built for Him in Jerusalem. While making this decree, Cyrus set the Israelite captives free to return and rebuild the temple (*Ezra 1:1-4; 3:7-13*). If this is the case, consider the mental and spiritual state of the Israelite returnees: Yahweh God is sovereign and in complete control of history (*even though they had been held captive for 70+ years*). Israel is His chosen people, a holy nation, that He will bless and protect (*even though they had been held captive for 70+ years*). Israel, and those who remain, are of the remnant people through which God will bless the entire earth (*even though they had been held captive for 70+ facing population decline, away from their homeland, returning to rubble*). Could you imagine the first day back? Homes torn down, the wall around Jerusalem lay in ruin, and supposedly their God was sovereign, that they are a holy people, and through them God would bless the entire world!? Talk about identity struggle. But what this...

See what God reminds them of in the Chronicles. They were once ruled by the wisest man to have walked the earth at that point, Solomon (*1 Chronicles 29–2 Chronicles 9*). Before that they were led and ruled by the man after God's own heart, David (*1 Chronicles 11–29*). Before that they were reminded of their lineage from the sons of Israel, the twelve tribes, painstakingly listed name by name in the genealogical form. *I know this is arduous for us to read, but consider how incredible it must have been to be able to trace their names back to Israel, and eventually, Abraham and Adam!*

One reason I believe God inspired the Chronicles to be written in this way was to remind the returned Israelites who they belonged to, where they came from, and how God is going to use them for His great purposes! Identity crisis solved. Sometimes in our struggles with identity, we need reminding of who we belong to, where we come from, and how God can use us for His great glory. You are a child of the eternal God, our Father. You come from a spiritual heritage of priests that God calls a chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, and a people for His own possession (*1 Peter 2:9*). God is going to use you, Christian, to proclaim His excellencies as He has called you out of darkness and into His marvelous light (*1 Peter 2:9*). You are His. He is ours. There is no greater identity on this earth. Be reminded of this truth. Be motivated by this truth. And allow your entire existence to be defined by this truth.

Austin Johnson

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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: 271 / On Line Views: 190
Sunday School: 202 / On Line Views: N/A
Sunday PM: 209/ On Line Views: 263
Wednesday: 203 / On Line Views: 72
Budget: \$14,620
Contribution: \$ 12,209

MAY MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

Demar Elam
Open Door Ministry
18755 Moyers Road
Athens, AL 35611
demar@open-door-ministry.org

SENIOR NIGHT

Senior Night is **TONIGHT** 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.

After many years of service, Don Williams has resigned as a deacon, over adult education. Leisa and Don will be transitioning over the next several months, as they prepare to move to middle Tennessee, to be closer to children and grandchildren. We all wish them well!

SYMPATHY

We express our sympathy to Skipper Thomas and his family, in the passing away of his mother, Connie Thomas. Her funeral was conducted on Wednesday, May 3rd.

CONGRATULATIONS

Anthony Myers graduated yesterday from Heritage Christian University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be meeting on Friday mornings at **8 am now instead of 6:30 am**. All men of the congregation are encouraged to attend this time of fellowship and devotional.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP

The following people have desired to place membership here at Florence Blvd: Holly Eck and daughter Madison Coppock; Nicholas & Morgan Coppock., and Martha Myrick. Please welcome them into the Florence Blvd family!

AREA EVENT

Gospel Meeting at Spring Valley Church of Christ, June 4th-9th, with Joe Williams. Sunday AM Service: 11 AM; Monday-Friday services: 7PM.



Our Vacation Bible School will be June 11th-14th, from 6pm-8pm. We are in need of volunteers for guides, teachers, games, puppets, etc. There will be tables set up soon, with sheets of listed jobs needed. If you can help with anything, please sign-up.