

# 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

## **Lessons from Lamentations**

Do you have a favorite sad song? Whether I'm feeling down or completely fine, I love jamming to a good sad song. There is something about them that comforts me. The Book of Lamentations is the ultimate sad song. Jeremiah pours his heart out as he reflects on the destruction of Judah. Jeremiah prophesied to Judah about the consequences of their sinful actions. The people did not listen, and God's judgment came down on Judah. Jeremiah is left to mourn the state of his beloved nation. Even in this book full of sadness, I find comfort in the words it provides. Through Jeremiah's sorrow, we can learn how to see God in tough times.

The first thing I see from Lamentations is Jeremiah's care for God's people. Jeremiah saw what had happened to Jerusalem and God's people, and it affected him greatly. Do we have the same love for God's people today? When a brother or sister is in pain, are we in pain? Romans 12:15 tells us to "weep with those who weep." What about our brethren who have fallen away? Do we long for them to return? One of the greatest blessings God has given us is a church family who cares for us.

One of the things that amazes me about Jeremiah is his ability to praise God even in the midst of heartache. In Chapter 3, Jeremiah says "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. The Lord is my portion says my soul. Therefore I will hope in him." Jeremiah's hope was always in the Lord. We all go through tough times in this life. When these times come, we can turn away from God, or we can run towards Him. Jeremiah chose to trust in the mercy of God.

The book of Lamentations ends with a plea to God. Jeremiah asks God to remember and restore them. While the book does give an answer to this plea, we know that Judah returned from exile. The Lord did not forget his people. God will not forget us. We should not forget him either. When we are in the midst of pain or sorrow, God hears us. We need to go to him as Jeremiah did. The Bible is full of other examples of people going through various hardships. The consistent theme throughout them all is that God does not abandon his people if they remain faithful to him.

Michael Shifflet

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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: 274 / On Line Views: 166 Sunday School: 211 / On Line Views: N/A Sunday PM: 188/ On Line Views: 117 Wednesday: 163 / On Line Views: 110

Budget: \$14,620 Contribution: \$ 12,322

#### SEPTEMBER MISSIONARY OF THE MONTH

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

#### **CHURCH OFFICE**

The church office will be closed tomorrow due to the Labor Day Holiday. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### SECRETARY POSITION

**TODAY** is the last day to turn in applications for the secretary position.

#### LAUDERDALE CHRISTIAN NURSING HOME

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

#### **NEW ADDRESS**

Tommy & Martha Smith have moved to an Assisted Living. They are now at The Cottage. Address: 2373 Roberts Lane, Florence, AL 35630; Room #41

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please mark these upcoming events on your calendars and make plans to attend: Sign up sheets are located on the table, in the foyer, for the Teacher Workshop and also the Retreat; Teachers Workshop, September 15th - 16th (at our building with Kirk Brothers, Ed Gallagher, Arvy Dupuy & Michael Jackson); Church-wide Retreat, October 13<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>, at Maywood; **Gospel Meeting**, November 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>.





#### FELLOWSHIP MEAL

There will be a potluck fellowship meal on Sunday, September 24th after AM services, celebrating those that have been baptized this year. Everyone is invited. Please come to celebrate, encourage and fellowship with these new Christians! Meal Team #5 is in charge of set up and Meal Team #6 is in charge of clean up.