



The Barnesville Lantern

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Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).

The Pastor's Spotlight

I hate to admit it, but I have a problem with waiting. I don't like sitting in traffic waiting for a red light to turn green. I don't like standing in a checkout line to pay for my items. As I am writing this article, I am waiting for a package from Amazon to arrive. Although I only ordered it two days ago, I wanted it yesterday.

After having admitted to all that, you may find it ironic that one of my favorite Bible verses is *Isaiah 40:31*, "But they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint".

As we see in *Isaiah*, God promises blessing to those who wait for Him. We also learn from scripture that consequences can come about by not waiting on the Lord. Abraham didn't wait for the Lord to give him a son through his wife Sarah. He took matters into his own hands and had a child, Ishmael, with Hagar, Sarah's handmaid. The results of that decision have led to problems between the Jews and Arabs that are still going on today. King Saul didn't wait for the prophet Samuel to arrive to offer a sacrifice to the Lord. Saul performed the sacrifice himself, which was not authorized by God. His actions resulted in him losing God's anointing and prevented his son Jonathan from being anointed the next king of Israel.

Waiting on the Lord takes discipline. A word that goes along with waiting is patience. As we see from the two examples above, we can suffer greatly when we get impatient with God. Patience is more than a virtue; it is God's nature. Anytime I feel impatient toward God, He reminds me of how patient He has been with me.

Waiting on the Lord also requires trust. When we wait on the Lord, we acknowledge that God is in control, and it is His will that must be done. He knows what tomorrow holds; I have no clue what's going to happen five minutes from now.

Psalm 27:14 reads, "Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD"! I know from experience that waiting on the Lord can be difficult. I have also discovered that when I exercise patience, He makes the waiting worthwhile.

God Bless,



Pastor Kevin

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Upcoming Events

- August 2** August Business Meeting
- August 14** MBA Tent at Montgomery County Fair
- August 16** School Supplies Give-Away
- August 25** Deacons' Meeting



"And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen" (Matthew 4:18).

The Pew Perspective

Lee Michael

You may be familiar with the practice in biblical times that showed preference to the firstborn. Oldest sons received a double inheritance of the family estate (*Deuteronomy 21:17*), received their fathers' blessing (*Genesis 27:19*), were to be married before younger siblings (*Genesis 29:26*), and were given better seating in social situations (*Genesis 43:33*). The firstborn children (*Exodus 13:1*), the firstborn of the flocks (*Genesis 4:4*), and the first fruits of the harvest (*Exodus 23:16*) were all to be dedicated to the Lord. The New Testament parable of the prodigal son in *Luke 15* is all about a younger son causing trouble and strife in the family because he was breaking all the rules of respecting the pecking order.

And yet while the cultural tradition of favoring firstborns was well-known, God seems to have intervened on a regular basis in the Old Testament to overturn that rule in favor of younger sons. Going all the way back to Cain and Abel (*Genesis 4*), God often gave extra attention and blessing to a younger son instead of the oldest. Indeed, Cain was cursed (*Genesis 4:11*) and Abel was called righteous (*Hebrews 11:4*).

Some of most famous pairs of switched siblings are Isaac and Ishmael and Jacob and Esau. Ishmael was Abraham's firstborn son by Hagar but was sent away (*Genesis 21*) because the covenant promise was through Sarah's son, Isaac. The Lord told Rebekah that her twin boys, struggling within her womb, would contend with one another for dominance, but that "...the older shall serve the younger" (*Genesis 25:23*). Jacob, whose very name means deceiver or supplanter, tricked his blind father Isaac into giving him the blessing and birthright intended for the older son, Esau (*Genesis 27*).

When Jacob blessed each of his sons before he died, the first three (Reuben, Simeon, and Levi) did not fare well. Jacob said that Reuben "shall not excel" (*Genesis 49:4*) and that Simeon and Levi would be divided and scattered among the tribes of Israel (*Genesis 49:7*). Son number four, Judah, would receive the scepter of rulership (*Genesis 49:10*) and Joseph, the second-youngest, received five verses of blessing from his father (*Genesis 49:22-26*).

When the prophet Samuel visited the family of Jesse in Bethlehem to anoint a new king to replace Saul, David was not even considered worthy enough to be invited to attend the initial inspection; Samuel had to make a special request to ensure that all of Jesse's sons were present (*I Samuel 16:11*). Indeed, according to *I Samuel 17:14*, "...David was the youngest", but he was selected to become Israel's next king.

What was it about all those sets of older and younger brothers that made God intervene in the normal pattern of favoring the firstborn? The answer is that God stepped in to bless those who were in relationship with Him. Abel offered the Lord a proper sacrifice while Cain gave what he felt like. Isaac worshiped God on Moriah at the risk of his own life (*Genesis 22*). Jacob wrestled with God and was in relationship with Him while Esau "...despised his birthright" (*Genesis 25:34*). Judah showed mercy to Joseph while Reuben committed incest (*Genesis 35:22*) and Simeon and Levi were killers

continued on page 3, column 2

Biblical Occupations Scramble

Can you match these 20 biblical characters with their occupations? Answers are on the bottom of page 3, column 1.

- | | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Abraham | A. tentmaker |
| 2. Adam | B. shepherd |
| 3. Amos | C. pastor |
| 4. Andrew | D. ship builder |
| 5. Priscilla | E. fisherman |
| 6. Daniel | F. judge |
| 7. David | G. gardener |
| 8. Deborah | H. cupbearer |
| 9. Eve | I. advisor |
| 10. Ezekiel | J. general |
| 11. Gideon | K. musician |
| 12. Joseph | L. prime minister |
| 13. Joshua | M. doctor |
| 14. Luke | N. farmer |
| 15. Lydia | O. priest |
| 16. Matthew | P. architect |
| 17. Nehemiah | Q. cloth seller |
| 18. Noah | R. mother |
| 19. Solomon | S. tax collector |
| 20. Timothy | T. herdsman |

Biblical Occupations Word Search

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T P G A R D E N E R R E H T O M
A N R M M D P F R E P R I E S T
X R L I J U A A R O N T W M M T
C R E M M R S A S A T Y Y R M M
O E T L M E E I M T T C E T J Z
L D N E L B M R C C O K O S K J
L L R A P E E I E I A R H D Q L
E I G U M H S T N M A E R R D N
C U C E S S I H T I P N O N P D
T B K I N H D N T H S S P J R Y
O P F M C E E R E O I T U L J D
R I B R L T R R E V L D E W X L
Q H A L D L D A D H G C N R P L
Y S T D L R K A L E Z X Z L J Q

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Word Bank: advisor, architect, cloth seller, cupbearer, doctor, farmer, fisherman, gardener, general, herdsman, judge, mother, musician, pastor, priest, prime minister, shepherd, ship builder, tax collector, tentmaker

August Birthdays

5 Suzanne Neal
11 Rick Thomas
16 Stephanie Runkles
17 Pauline Fowler
20 Bill Williams
25 Jim Gong
26 Lee Michael
28 Ann Bennett
31 Bob Runkles



Prayer Concerns

Members: Gary Cooley, health; Joyce Dunn, foot and back pain

Family and Friends: Layla, 15-year-old with health concerns; Jody Reed, cousin of Janna Williams, for leg strength and walking capabilities; Morgan and Dade Pumphrey, Will Pumphrey's daughters; Joe Yates' niece Cyndi, for her eyesight; Bob Runkles, health; the Upper Montgomery Co. V.F.D.

Seniors: Barbara Swank; Bob Runkles; Cortland "Pop" Moore; Eddie & Pauline Fowler; Janet Magruder; Kitty Cooley; Linda Roberts; Mary Yates; Ralph Cooley; Shirley Yates; Susan Rice
Cancer patients: Patricia Lashmit and Sharon Keeney, sisters of Donna Belcher; Bill & Elnora Caudell's niece, Brenda Malinowski; David Carlson, brain tumor; Glenn Norris, colon cancer; Pat Luhn, breast cancer

Missions: Dr. Ron Blankenship and MBA leaders; BCM/D Executive Director Tom Stolle and staff; NAMB and IMB missionaries; church planters in MD/DE; MBA-sponsored church plant Hope Fellowship Church in Ashburn, VA



*"The LORD is righteous in
all His ways,
Gracious in all His works.
The LORD is near to all who
call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in
truth.
He will fulfill the desire of
those who fear Him;
He also will hear their cry
and save them"
(Psalm 145:17-19).*

Biblical Occupations Scramble Answers

1. **T** (*Genesis 13:2*); 2. **G** (*Genesis 2:15*); 3. **B** (*Amos 1:1*);
4. **E** (*Matthew 4:18-19*); 5. **A** (*Acts 18:2-3*); 6. **I** (*Daniel 1:19-20*); 7. **K** (*I Samuel 16:11*); 8. **F** (*Judges 4:4-5*); 9. **R** (*Genesis 3:20*); 10. **O** (*Ezekiel 1:1-3*); 11. **N** (*Judges 6:11*); 12. **L** (*Genesis 41:41-43*); 13. **J** (*Exodus 17:9*); 14. **M** (*Colossians 4:14*); 15. **Q** (*Acts 16:14*); 16. **S** (*Matthew 9:9*); 17. **H** (*Nehemiah 1:11*); 18. **D** (*Genesis 6:14*); 19. **P** (*I Kings 4:29-34*); 20. **C** (*I Timothy 4:12*).

Business Meeting Briefs

Report from the Monthly Business Meeting in July:

- No new motions were offered during the July 2025 Business Meeting.

Expected at the August Business Meeting:

- As of press time, there were no motions ready for action by the Church at the August 2025 Business Meeting.

The Pew Perspective, continued

(*Genesis 34:25*). David was a man after God's own heart (*I Samuel 13:14*).

Even in the New Testament, the younger, prodigal son from the famous parable in *Luke 15* seems to ultimately get away with his bad choices and fast living--he got to go home and received a massive party, the best robe, the fatted calf, a ring for his finger, and new sandals. The oldest son noted that he had not even received one measly goat from his father while the youngest son received all the father's care and affection.

Like the prodigal son, there is another "second-born" in the New Testament who seems to get the better of the older brother. Paul explains in *Romans 11* that the Gentiles (in other words, us) have been enjoying the blessings of salvation that were originally intended to be the exclusive inheritance of Israel. Like grafted branches on an olive tree, we Gentiles have shown up late in time to enjoy the benefits of God's mercy and forgiveness that were promised first to His chosen people.

There is really only one firstborn in the Bible who receives prominent attention and praise: Jesus, the descendant of a long line of not-firstborns. Jesus is honored as the firstborn Son of Mary (*Matthew 1:25, Luke 2:7*), the firstborn among many brethren (*Romans 8:29*), the firstborn over all creation (*Colossians 1:15*), and the firstborn from the dead (*Colossians 1:18, Revelation 1:5*). And yet Jesus, who is most deserving and worthy of God's blessing and inheritance, freely shares all that is due Him with those who are not worthy and know it. That is the Gospel message--that those who are unworthy can be lifted up and those who are not part of God's family can be made heirs when they seek the Lord and receive His offer of salvation. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (*Ephesians 2:13*). Cain, Esau, and Reuben may have been the eldest but they did not fear the Lord or treat their relationships with Him seriously. Jacob, Joseph, and David were sinners but they repented of their pride and arrogance and sought to be in relationship with God. That is why the Lord favored them and blessed their lives. The prodigal was received home with open arms by his father because he came to his senses and repented of his rebellious ways. When we receive God's offer of salvation and are adopted into His family, we are joint heirs with His beloved firstborn Son, with whom He is well pleased (*Matthew 3:17*).

News You Can Use

School supply give-away. An evangelistic outreach giving out school supplies to 48 local pre-K to 12th grade children will be held on Saturday, Aug. 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. This event in our Fellowship Hall and main parking lot will be an opportunity to meet new families in our community, introduce



ourselves and our church to them, and share the love of Jesus.

Please invite your family, friends, and neighbors to sign up--online

registration is available on the BBC website (barnesvillebaptist.org/outreach). All kids must be physically present to receive the school supplies. We need BBC volunteers to staff the different stations and provide a friendly, Christian witness to the families and children that will attend.

BBC has purchased school supplies, to include: backpacks (received from the North American Mission Board (NAMB)), binders, colored pencils, composition notebooks, construction paper, crayons, dividers, erasers, folders, glue sticks, hand sanitizer, highlighters, loose leaf paper, pencil sharpeners, pencils, pens, protractors, rulers, scissors, and tissue packs. There will also be stations to receive free Bibles and prayer requests; learn more about BBC's ministries and activities; enjoy a snack; and our moon bounce.

August Bible studies. Pastor Kevin Cullins has begun a new series on key biblical doctrines on Wednesday nights and Thursday mornings. There is one change to the schedule in August: there will not be a Bible study on Thursday, Aug. 7.

Prayer requests. The worship bulletin is updated weekly with prayer requests for BBC members, family and friends, and other needs. Please contact the Church Office by Wednesdays at 6:00 pm to have your request included in the following Sunday's bulletin. Prayer requests can also be sent out on the BBC email list for more timely needs.

County fair outreach. On Thursday, Aug. 14, BBC will partner with First Baptist Church of Damascus to man the Montgomery Baptist Association booth at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Please pray over this time: contacts with people at the county fair have led to salvation decisions and baptisms, so this is a great opportunity to reach many people with the Gospel by passing out water, candy, New Testaments, and tracts.

VBS 2025. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's "Magnified" Vacation Bible School on Jul. 7-11. VBS 2025 was a good time of teaching the Gospel and fellowship with new and old friends. Registration totaled 36 with 17 children and 19 workers.

Fun was had by all as students enjoyed



times of worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and snacks. This year's VBS offering, which as of publication was \$1,241.39, will be sent to the Čhaŋkú Wašté Ranch in Porcupine, South Dakota, an SBC-supported ministry that offers summer camp programs for Lakota Sioux youth on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We appreciate everyone who volunteered to make this year's VBS a blessing to so many children and their families. Special appreciation goes to Tina Appleton for serving as VBS Director.

Seniors' lunch. Thanks to Ellen Williams and Stephanie Runkles for hosting the seniors' luncheon on Tuesday, Jul. 22. Ann Bennett and Noah Arthur starred in a skit about the Lord's Prayer.

Leadership conference. Pastor Kevin Cullins, Lee Michael, and Nita Roff will be attending the BCM/D's Church Leaders Conference on Aug. 7-8 in Davidsonville, MD. There will be a variety of workshops and speakers to help pastors, leaders, and teams to serve the local church.

COTCD Cartoon

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Let's try that song one more time, there's still something funny about it"