

Shepherds

Dan Fuller.....685-4454
Dion Hayes.....214-533-5065
Paul Metzkes.....870-8042
*Phil Porter.....575-4782

**Chairman for the Month of October*

Evangelists

Dan Jenkins.....379-2325
David Sproule.....301-2230
Robert Lupo.....315-1411

Deacons

David Brown.....972-7608
Victor Colage.....719-1490
Kirk Crews.....339-9283
Mike Erickson.....310-9916
Andres Fernandez.....768-3530
Tim Fry.....373-9121
Jeff Goodale.....261-1188
Rick Hall.....622-5131
Gary Jenkins.....889-3585
Jeff Leslie.....744-3444
David Lord.....346-2228
Buzz Nelson.....385-1588
Lawrence Williams.....662-3419

Church Office

Phone.....561-848-1111
Fax.....561-848-1198
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Ivan Villard.....667-8675
Cindy Nelson.....801-9457
June Pack.....627-5363



Vol. LXIV

October 12, 2025

No. 41

Welcome

NEW MEMBERS



Jonah Watson

(Baptized September 10)



Yvette Watts

(Identified September 21)

LIVING WHAT WE BELIEVE

FROM THE BOOK OF JAMES

ANCHORED

Nov. 6-9



By Dan Jenkins

Solving the Mystery

Who doesn't love a mystery? The basis of so many books of fiction is to find out who and how the villain in the novel committed the crime. Why are popular TV shows like NCIS so popular for season after season? Perhaps it is because there are those hidden clues to solve every crime? How do you explain the fascination of escape rooms and seeking to find the hidden clues that allow you to find the answer as to how to get out? There is just something about solving a mystery that is so satisfying.

Now consider this when you read that God's plan of redemption is described as a mystery. The mystery begins in the Garden of Eden and as one studies the Divine history of God and how He deals with the sin problem that is finally revealed in the rest of the Bible. Putting all the parts of the puzzle together is why a child can begin learning about God and then for the rest of his life be so fascinated as he learns more and more about the nature of God, sin, salvation, the cross, the church, the judgment, heaven, providence, atonement, and an endless list of all the Bible reveals.

One truth needs to be kept in mind as you consider this and that is the truth that the most important aspects of one's personal relationship with his Creator are the truths

most clearly stated in the Bible. Having a relationship with God is so easy to find. The Bible speaks of milk and meat in studying the scriptures (Heb. 5:12-14). Having a relationship with God begins with a new birth and feeding on the milk of the word. The "meat" of the word leads to a lifetime of study. The path to God is "milk" and it is so clearly revealed in the Bible.

The road to heaven is so easy to understand that anyone can find it. God used Isaiah to prophesy about this truth in Isaiah chapter thirty-five. He vividly described a "...road ...the Highway of Holiness" (v. 8) that enables one to see "...the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God" (v. 2). Our Creator then describes how easy it would be to travel that Highway of Holiness by saying, "Whoever walks the road, though a fool, shall not go astray...but the redeemed shall walk there" (v. 8-9).

Heaven's key to entering that highway is found in the first beatitude. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3). His promise is, "You shall seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). No one will enter heaven until he humbly seeks God.

Are you seeking Him and need help, just let me know. Entering the road is simple. Humbly read Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:9; Acts 2:38; 22:16. The path is easy to find. Humbly seek Him. Read His words and obey them.

Entering the
Highway to
Heaven begins
with humbly
seeking Him



By David Sproule

Safety First

In the workplace and in our homes, we often operate by the general policy of "Safety First." Some workplaces require helmets and goggles, and certain equipment and machinery can only be operated by trained personnel. At home, we don't run with scissors, and we put plastic covers on electrical outlets. Why? "Safety First!"

What about in our spiritual lives? Do we (and should we) not operate by that same policy? Do we take chances with our souls and our eternal destiny? Or are we focused on "Safety First"? Consider some things of "first" importance in our safety.

It all starts with our Lord. He "first loved us" (1 John 4:19). That's where it ALL begins!

Our Lord must be our **"first love"** (Rev. 2:4). "None" other is to be our first love "besides" Him (Psa. 73:25).

Jesus taught that loving the Lord "with all" of our heart is the **"first and great commandment"** (Matt. 22:37-38).

Of **"first importance,"** therefore, is the gospel (1 Cor. 15:3-4). We must hear it, obey it and teach it.

Truly, when we hear and know how our Lord loves us and what He has done for us, it ought to cause us to **"first" give ourselves "to the Lord"** (2 Cor. 8:5).

Do we take
chances with our
souls and our
eternal destiny?

As a disciple of Christ, He Himself must **"have first place in everything"** in my life (Col. 1:18), without any contest.

Having given ourselves "first" to the Lord and giving Him "first place," it will be all the more natural for us to eagerly place His will first in our lives. That includes the following.

We must **"seek first"** the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matt. 6:33).

We must recognize "the Lord's Day" (Rev. 1:10) as **"the first day of the week"** (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2) and ensure He has priority (Heb. 10:24-25).

"First place" in our lives is not limited to one day of the week, but being **"first"** in His eyes entails being **"servant of all"** (Mark 9:35).

Evangelism cannot be a secondary focus, but we must **"first" find lost souls** and bring them to Jesus (John 1:41).

We must be **"first" to seek reconciliation** with a brother who has something against us (Matt. 5:23-24).

All of these **"first works"** that we do (Rev. 2:5), must be prioritized and maintained (Tit. 3:8) throughout our lives.

"Safety first." We practice it in nearly every part of our lives. What about when it comes to our souls and our relationship with the Lord? Are we keeping first things FIRST?



By Robert Lupo

Which God is the Right God? (Part 1)

The first step in converting an atheist (someone that doesn't believe in God) to Christianity is to convince them that the existence of God is reasonable. To do this, there are three major arguments we can use. The cosmological argument states that a universe with a beginning must have a cause that is greater than the laws of physics. The fine-tuning argument says that the universe favors human flourishing so perfectly that it rules out random chance. The moral argument states that if moral law exists, then a moral lawgiver must exist.

These three arguments have successfully changed the minds of countless atheists. Using simple logic, we can demonstrate that our universe must have a creator. But they don't just argue for any creator, they argue for the existence of the one true God of the Bible. That's right! Not only can we know that a god is real, which can know which god is the right God. In this series, we will see that the three main arguments for God's existence identifies Yahweh as that God.

Let's begin with the cosmological argument. This argument is so effective because it looks at what we know scientifically about the universe and shows that it must have been created by God. It starts with a premise. Everything that comes

into existence has a cause. The universe came into existence; therefore, the universe has a cause. This poses a real problem for atheism if the Law of the Conservation of Matter is also true. That law states that matter cannot be created nor destroyed. So, if the universe had a cause, then it must have been caused by something infinitely powerful.

Of course, the conclusion is that this must be a god. But this god must be one that follows the logic of this argument. If this god is infinitely powerful, then how many gods can there be? Logically, two beings cannot hold all power simultaneously. Therefore, there must only be one god. If only one god is rational, then we have already narrowed down the list of possibilities to three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Interestingly, they all claim to follow the one God of the Bible.

In the Bible, we see these exact characteristics in God. In Genesis 1:1, the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Bible agrees with what we can see in the universe. The universe had a beginning and God was the cause. He is also powerful enough to be that cause. In verse 3, God creates light, making Him infinitely powerful.

We can know which god is the right God. Next week, we will see how the fine-tuning argument also proves that the god of the universe can only be the God of the Bible.

**The universe
had a beginning
and God was
the cause.**

Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

Too good to be true?

You've no doubt heard others say it, and you've probably even said it yourself—"If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is." Advertisements, salespeople, donation seekers and spam emails can make something sound so good that you want to jump in with both feet. But, then sound reasoning sets in and you wisely hold off.

Here's the problem: NOT everything too good to be true is actually too good to be true! Here's the most important thing to hear: Your eternal salvation with God in heaven might sound too good to be true! The sacrificial price that Jesus paid for your sins might sound too good to be true! The unfathomable and indescribable love of God for you might sound too good to be true!

Here's the second problem: Sometimes we hold ourselves back from this "good" news, like we do other "good" news. How catastrophic! This GOOD NEWS is worth jumping in with both feet! Are you holding off? Have you only put in one foot? It's time to give Him our all (Rom. 12:1)! His promises are too good for us, but not too good to be true! —DS



What's the big deal about not assembling for worship?

When I make the choice to not assemble with the saints to worship our God together, I am choosing to disregard the commands of my Father in heaven to..."love one another, as I have loved you" (John 13:34-35)...to "esteem others better than" myself and to "look out...for the interests of others" (Phil. 2:3-4)...to "give preference to one another" (Rom. 12:10)...to "greet one another" (Rom. 16:16)... to "encourage one another and build up one another" (1 Thess. 5:11)...to "wait for one another" (1 Cor. 11:33)...to "speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Eph. 5:19)...to "teach and admonish one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs" (Col. 3:16)...to "consider one another in order to stir up love and good works" (Heb. 10:24)...to "exhort one another" (Heb. 10:25)...to "worship Him in spirit and truth" (John 4:24)...to "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25).

I disregard and disobey every single one of these commands of my God when I choose to willfully absence myself from the assembly. Yes! It's a big deal! An eternally big deal! —DS

Keep in Your Prayers



Pray for These PBL Members

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Crystal Burroughs | hip replacement surgery on October 9 |
| Judy Carmack | waiting on test results from her orthopedic surgeon |
| Eva Fulton | hospitalized last week, received breathing treatments |
| Zula Garrett | having heart monitor implanted on October 17 |
| Dianne Halenda | blood clot in her leg causing pain and swelling |
| Ophelia Holmes | cataract surgery on October 15 |
| Lynne Jorgensen | recovering from heart catheterization |
| Grace Judge | recovering from rotator cuff surgery |
| David Lord | dealing with pain from his rheumatoid arthritis |
| Sherri Richmond | awaiting test results |
| Jackie Stout | Gardens Court, rehab for broken leg |



**Robin Davis, upon the passing of her father,
Doug Brian, on Wednesday, October 8.**

Ongoing Health Issues

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Jimmie Banks | dialysis treatments |
| Judy Carmack | chronic health issues |
| John Loftis | back pain, weakness |
| Tiffany Mayes | dialysis treatments |
| Joel Ramirez | dialysis treatments |
| Sherri Richmond | multiple health issues |

Pray for Our Shut-Ins

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Millie Ames | Kasandra Jones |
| Gloria Boyd | Leigh Puckett |
| Josie Dawson | Don Seay |
| Zula Garrett | Ricky Smedley |
| Dick Haines | Samuel Williams |
| Loretta Holaday | |

Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Carolyn Deem | Allison Roman's mother, treatment for blood clot in leg |
| Everol Findley | Maria Hackshaw's brother, cancer surgery on Oct. 14 |
| Dan Greaves | Dannette Margarini's father, injured hand again in PT |
| Lisa Lupo | Robert Lupo's mother, hospitalized with asthma attack |
| Chuck Reeves, Sr. | Chuck Reeves, Jr.'s father, hospital, medical testing |
| Yvonne Rushing | Betty White's sister, hospitalized in Gainesville |
| Marion Vanderwende | Karen Lester's mother, recovering from heart surgeries |
| Darryl Williams | Verdell March's son, blood clot in his leg |

Remember Our Mission Works

Pacific Islands
Robert & Mary Martin
Wayne & Kristi Parker

Africa
Nnanna Aforji
Tamuka Arunashe

Bahamas
Tavaro & Shameika Hanna

United States
Apologetics Press
Robert C. Lupo
Mauricio & Kayla Yegros

Answering Macedonian Calls
Josh & Cara Blackmer



Church Family Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 12

- ♦ **Conversational Sign Language Class** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. See Traci Sproule for more details.

Monday, October 13

- ♦ **Monday Night Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

Tuesday, October 14

- ♦ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.

Saturday, October 18

- ♦ **Ladies' Day hosted by Suncoast** from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. This year's theme is *"Speak God, Your Daughters Are Listening."* Seating is limited. Please RSVP.
- ♦ **PBL Ladies' Prayer Meeting** at 1:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See Maria Hackshaw for more details.
- ♦ **Trunk-or-Treat for Grades 5 & Under** hosted by the Jr. High Youth at 5:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to come early to decorate your trunk and pass out treats to the kids. Please have your trunk ready by 6:15 p.m. Hot dogs will be provided for dinner. Wear your costume! RSVP here: <https://signup.com/go/QjyEYDg>.

Sunday, October 19

- ♦ **Conversational Sign Language Class** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. See Traci Sproule for more details.

Sunday-Wednesday, October 19-22

- ♦ **Haverhill Road Lectures** each night at 7:00 p.m. (Mon-Wed). This year's theme is *"Living for His Glory."* Andy Cantrell and Erik Borlaug will be the guest speakers.

Friday, October 24

- ♦ **Ladies' Fellowship** at 7:00 p.m. See Skye Brown or Allison Roman for details.

Sunday, October 26

- ♦ **Conversational Sign Language Class** at 5:00 p.m. in Adult 1-2. See Traci Sproule for more details.

Thursday, October 30

- ♦ **"Digging Deep" Women's Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room. See Misty Hayes or Lisa Metzkes for more details.

Sunday, November 2

- ♦ **Shepherds Praying** at 5:30 p.m. in Adult 3.

Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

Sunday, October 12

- ♦ **Young Adult Bible Study** at 9:00 a.m. in Adult 3. All young adults are encouraged to join as we study *"Fundamentals of the Faith."*

Saturday, October 18

- ♦ **Trunk-or-Treat for Grades 5 & Under** hosted by the Jr. High Youth at 5:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to come early to decorate your trunk and pass out treats to the kids. Please have your trunk ready by 6:15 p.m. Hot dogs will be provided for dinner. Wear your costume! RSVP here: <https://signup.com/go/QjyEYDg>.

Saturday, October 25

- ♦ **Young Adult & Sr. High Costume Party** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Brenda & Sarah Collier. See Robert Lupo for details.

Saturday, November 1

- ♦ **Young Adult Sunrise Fellowship** at 6:00 a.m. at Juno Beach. See Ivan Villard for more details.



Palm Beach Lakes Youth

Sunday, October 12

- ♦ **NO His Kids Class** in October. Class will resume in November.
- ♦ **Jr. High Devo** after evening worship in the Family Room. Bring desserts and drinks to share. See Robert Lupo for more details.

Saturday, October 18

- ♦ **Trunk-or-Treat for Grades 5 & Under** hosted by the Jr. High Youth at 5:00 p.m. Jr. High, please arrive at 4:00 p.m. to help set up. There will be food, games and Trunk-or-Treating. Hot dogs will be provided for dinner. Wear your costume! Please RSVP by October 16: <https://signup.com/go/QjyEYDg>. See Robert Lupo or Ivan Villard for more details.

Saturday, October 25

- ♦ **Young Adult & Sr. High Costume Party** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Brenda & Sarah Collier. See Robert Lupo for details.



If I am on an airplane and telling the person next to me about the gospel and the plane starts to go down and crashes, will that person be saved if they are not baptized? There is no way to get them baptized. Are they doomed, even if they believe on Jesus and confess Him? What does the Bible say in this instance?

The only answer that we know to any question is what the Bible says. Sometimes there is an answer that we would “like to hear.” Sometimes there is an answer that we have “heard others say.” But none of those matter.

What I think or want or feel is NOT our authority (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; Acts 23:1; 2 Kgs. 5:11-12; 2 Sam. 6:3-6). What others say about a matter is NOT our authority (Matt. 15:3-9; Mark 7:1-13; Gal. 1:8-9; 2 Pet. 1:20-21). Jesus Christ has “ALL authority” (Matt. 28:18), and all that we do and teach must be by His authority (Col. 3:17) and in accordance with His inspired Word (John 12:48; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

By David Sproule

So, what about this question above? If I am “telling” someone “the gospel,” what does that involve? First, I am telling them what Jesus did for us (creating us, coming to earth to redeem us, dying on the cross for us, shedding His blood to save us and being raised from the dead for us) and why He did it (because He loves us, wants to save us and wants to take us to heaven). Second, I am telling them what Jesus expects of us (to believe that He is God’s Son, to repent of our sins, to confess our faith in Him, to be baptized into Him and to live faithfully to Him) and why He expects that (to prove our love for Him, to be saved from our sins and to go to heaven). I cannot “tell” someone “the gospel” without telling them ALL of that.

Does a person have to be baptized in order to be saved? The question is asked above regarding a person being “saved if they are not baptized.” Can someone be saved who is not baptized? Remember, the Bible is our only authority! What I think or feel or want or have heard has ZERO authority in any religious question!

Here’s some of what the Bible, our only authority, teaches about baptism. “He who believes and is baptized will be saved” (Mark 16:16). “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:5). “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). “Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?” (Rom. 6:3). “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Gal. 3:27). “Baptism doth also now save us” (1 Pet. 3:21).

The Bible teaches clearly, emphatically and repeatedly that baptism is essential in order to be saved from sins!

In asking the question like the one above (and numberless other scenarios like the above that have been presented over the years, such as a person getting in a car accident on the way to get baptized), a questioner is often (although I am not judging the motives of this particular questioner) seeking an exception to the clear teaching of Scripture about baptism. They are often looking for a hypothetical situation that can prove to be a loophole to the law of God, and human reasoning and human emotions are often used to fortify their case.

But consider carefully what else the Bible says. Read this verse carefully. Underline the word “anyone.” “If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:9). The Bible says that baptism is essential to forgiveness of sins. If “anyone” says that a person can be saved without being baptized, then that person is saying something that contradicts what the Bible teaches. So, in trying to “save” someone else by eliminating the essentiality of that person being baptized (in a hypothetical scenario), that “anyone” who changed God’s teaching makes himself a subject of the anathema curse of God (Gal. 1:9). To “save” someone else, he condemned himself!

None of us are God! There is only one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4)! And the one God is the only Savior (Isa. 43:11)! Thus, the ONLY way to be “saved” from sin requires that a person do ONLY what the ONLY Savior commands to be saved (Matt. 7:21-23; John 14:6). There is NO other way to be saved (Acts 4:12)! No person today has the right to change the Savior’s clearly revealed conditions for salvation (Rev. 22:18-19), including stating that a person does not need to be baptized.

Sometimes people want to come up with a scenario like this in order to prove once and for all that baptism isn’t essential for salvation. For, if they can prove that this airplane incident is an exception to the baptism requirement, then other exceptions can be found, which proves (in their minds) that baptism is not essential. That’s why God did NOT leave it up to us to decide or to judge. He tells us what is required to be “saved” and He Himself includes baptism (see the verses above again). He was very straightforward and did not leave any ambiguity.

With a question like this, all we can do is “tell” the “gospel,” ensuring that we tell ALL that the Bible says. We cannot change it or make it more palatable to anyone’s conscience. Fortunately, NONE of us will not be the Final Judge. All of us can let God be the Final Judge, and He gives us the responsibility to “speak” only “as the oracles of God” (1 Pet. 4:11).

"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)

Members Traveling
this week



Thank You
for worshipping with us

Sunday,
October 5

LOCAL VISITORS: Mrs. Nancy Baker; Mr. & Mrs. Roxroy & Karen Emondson; Ms. Camila Correa; Mr. Dane Eaks; Mr. Collin Kato; Mr. & Mrs. Rai & Ashley Masuda; Mr. & Mrs. Mike & Joyce Medina; Miss D.L. Moore; Mr. Jerome Shneider; Mr. Andrew Woodberry; Ms. Staci Young; and Ms. Derwesa Young.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Travis & Valerie Barnes; Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Rhonda Bever, Nashville, TN; Mr. & Mrs. Corey & Kelly Hansen, Bedford, TX; and Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Elsa Lester, Orlando, FL.

Birthdays & Anniversaries
This Week

Thank You 
notes

Monday, October 13th

Arianna Bassett
Fran Campbell

Wednesday, October 15th

Stahia Banks

Tuesday, October 14th

Amy Rosado

Thursday, October 16th

Michael & Turkessa Staley (Ann.)
Adelene Honore

Thank you all so much for the lovely care packages! We are enjoying all of the fun gifts. We appreciate the church family thinking of us during our time at college. It means a lot to us!

Ariane Bignall, Cody Price & Emma Reeves



Please RSVP



Trunk or Treat
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18



Those to Serve

If you are unable to serve, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269.

If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at **9:50 a.m.**

If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at **5:50 p.m.**

Sunday Morning, October 12

Singing Robert Lupo
Opening Prayer Dirk Summerlot
Scripture Reading Freddie Gadson
Singing
Lord's Supper Dan McLeod
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Dave Holaday

Serve at Table:

Ed Buonadonna Gary Jenkins
Addison Collins Chuck Reeves, Jr.
Israel Cuevas Bobby Shelton
Gorman Ericksen Cristian Suarez

Sunday Evening, October 12

Singing Dion Hayes
Opening Prayer Dan Fuller
Scripture Reading Mike Damron
Singing
Lord's Supper Paul Metzkes
Singing
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer Daniel Wagner

Serve at Table:

Douglas Alvarenga Ed Gager

Audio this week: David Brown

Computer this week: Buzz Nelson

Video this week: Scott Studer

Wednesday Evening, October 15

Singing Jimmie Banks
Invitation Ivan Villard
Family Prayer Paul Metzkes

Our Record

| Attendance | Oct 5 | Sep Avg |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Sun. Bible Study | 159 | 146 |
| Sun. AM Worship | 245 | 252 |
| Sun. PM Worship | 86 | 116 |
| Wed. Bible Study | 127 | 126 |
| Contribution | \$18,866 | \$16,542 |

2025 Weekly Budget: \$16,803

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$7,704

Service Coordinator:
Eugene Williams

Ushers for this week: Rick Hall & David Lord
Safety Team for this week: Darin Summerlot



Palm Beach Lakes CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

*Speaking where the **Bible** speaks, Silent where the **Bible** is silent.*



Service Schedule

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.



Front Cover: Keila McLeod & Cindy Nelson



And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

PSALM 24:3-4