

Service Opportunities

Announcements: Ted Wheeler
Usher: Delbert Leavens

RECORD

Attendance **82**
Contribution \$ 2532.00
Weekly Budget \$ 2854.00

Thought for The Day

"He who chooses the beginning of a road chooses the place it leads to. It is the means that determine the end."

H.E. Fosdick

Church of Christ of Venice

**4301 SR 776
Venice, FL 34293**

MORNING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Bill Burnside
Songs: Merritt Bailey
Sermon: Ted Wheeler
Closing Prayer: Dale Schwartz

EVENING SERVICES

Opening Prayer: Wayne Vowell
Songs: Merritt Bailey
Sermon: Ted Wheeler
Closing Prayer: Troy Wheeler

COMMUNION

Tim Simmons Wayne Vowell
Marvin DeMeester Marty Wingo

Church of Christ of Venice

"A friendly church, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ"

January 27, 2008

Volume 18, Number 4

God's Longsuffering is Not Eternal

by Eric Lyons, M.Min.

One of God's most encouraging attributes is His longsuffering. The merciful patience of God Almighty gives His redeemed, albeit imperfect, church hope and support. Immediately following a reminder to the Christians in Rome that the Old Testament was "written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope," Paul referred to God as "the God of patience and comfort" (Romans 15:4-5). Throughout the Old Testament, Bible writers portrayed God as longsuffering (meaning, "to suffer long with"), especially in His dealings with the Israelites, who constantly rejected His guidance (cf. Numbers 13-14; 16; 21:4-9). Jesus and the New Testament apostles and prophets also spent ample time magnifying God's merciful patience (cf. Romans 2:4; 1 Peter 3:20). The apostle Peter wrote: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise [of Jesus' Second Coming], as some count slackness, but is **longsuffering** toward us, **not willing that any should perish** but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9, emp. added).

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Please fill out a blue visitor card so that we might have a record of your visit. If needed, there is a nursery available at the rear of the auditorium. Bible classes for all ages are available Sundays at 10:00 am and Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. We hope that you will join us for these studies. Please come and worship with us again soon.

Elders
Delbert Leavens
Wayne Vowell
Ted Wheeler

Minister
Ted Wheeler

Sunday Services
Bible Study-10:00 am
Worship-11:00 am
Evening Worship-6:00 pm

Wednesday
Bible Study-6:30 pm.

Church of Christ
4301 Highway 776
Venice, FL 34293
USA

Telephone:
941-493-2403

Email:
mail@venicechurchofchrist.com

Internet:
www.venicechurchofchrist.com

Outreach:



Unfortunately, the picture of God often painted in the 21st century seems to leave the impression that God's longsuffering will go on forever. Portraits of God's justice and vengeance often are neglected (Hebrews 10:26-39; Romans 12:19), while His compassionate patience toward sinners is so accentuated that God's longsuffering is transformed into an eternal patience. Such a concept, however, stands in stark contradistinction to God's revealed will.

The fact is, God **will** judge the world one day (Acts 17:30-31), and He **will** take "vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power" (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). His **longsuffering** is **not** an "eternal" suffering. The ungodly people of Noah's day learned this point. God delayed His destruction of the world by water for many years (perhaps as many as 120 years; cf. Genesis 6:3) while Noah preached righteousness to them (2 Peter 2:5). Eventually, however, God's longsuffering came to an end. Centuries later, God again revealed His mercy and longsuffering when He conversed with Abraham about Sodom and Gomorrah. Six times Abraham petitioned God not to destroy Sodom (Genesis 18:23-33), and six times God agreed to spare the city from His vengeance, even if as few as ten righteous people were found therein.

Time and again, God has dealt patiently with sinful mankind. Yet, we must recognize that God's longsuffering with sinners eventually ends. It ended in the days of Noah. It ended for Sodom and Gomorrah in the days of Abraham. And, it eventually will end for all the unfaithful when Jesus returns (2 Peter 3:10). God most certainly is longsuffering, but such forbearance with wayward saints and alien sinners will end one day. "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming" (Matthew 25:13).

APOLOGETICS PRESS, INC.
<http://www.apologeticspress.org/articles/3286>



Thirty- Third Annual Bible Lectureship
"Do You Understand the Biblical View of Man?"

- 01...*Biblical View of Jesus as a Man* Blaine Cook, Winter Haven
- 02...*Man's Duty to Love God* Timothy Kidwell, Rome, GA
- 03...*Biblical View of Man and Sin* Rick Kenyon, Henderson, TN
- 04...*The Home Impacts the Church* British Carlton, Haines City
- 05...*The Home's Impact Upon Society* Elvis Galbreath, Vincent, OH
- 06...*Broken Homes, Handicapped Children* Gene Burgett, High Springs
- 07...*Questions on the Home* Carlton/Galbreath/Burgett
- 08...*Man Must Love Truth* Jeffrey McNeal, Jacksonville
- 09...*Man and Benevolence* Jackie M. Stearsman, Lakeland
- 10...*Pop Psychology* David Stearsman, Media, PA
- 11...*Man as an Employer / Employee* Mark Reynolds, Muncie, IN
- 12...*Philosophical Ethics* Brian Kenyon, Lakeland
- 13...*Biblical View of Death* Freddie Clayton, Dunlap, TN
- 14...*The Final State of Man* Glenn Burgess, Safety Harbor
- 15...*Sources of Skepticism* Freddie Clayton, Dunlap, TN
- 16...*Questions on Eschatology* Burgess/Clayton
- 17...*Man is Created to Work* James Johnson, Ocala
- 18...*Man as Leader of His Family* Jimmy Clark, Athens, AL
- 19...*Man is to Glorify God* Rusty Hilliard, Newberry
- 20...*Woman As Man's Helper* Jimmy Clark, Athens, AL
- 21...*Love the Brethren* George Beals, Ann Arbor, MI
- 22...*Evolution and the Biblical View of Man* Brad Harrub, Brentwood, TN
- 23...*Man in God's Image* William Howard, Duluth, GA
- 24...*Origin of the Soul in the Individual* George Beals, Ann Arbor, MI
- 25...*Questions on Origins* Harrub/Howard/Beals
- 26...*Man is to Seek God* Ben Radford, Kissimmee
- 27...*Man Needs Hope* Robert McAnally, Lakeland
- 28...*Man and the Influence of Demons* Jackie M. Stearsman, Lakeland
- 29...*Man and Civil Government* Raymond Seig, Daytona Beach
- 30...*Radical Homosexuality* Brian Kenyon, Lakeland
- 31...*Restoration Needed* Maurice Davis, Lakeland
- 32...*Substance Abuse* Daniel Stearsman, Lakeland
- 33...*Recovery Programs* Mike Elledge, Plant City
- 34...*Questions on Restoration* Stearsman/Elledge
- 35...*Man's Duty to Love His Fellow Man* Daniel Cook, Elkview, WV
- 36...*Man is to Worship God* Tom Holland, Brentwood, TN

Remember in Prayer

BRENT BAKER
 BENNIE HOUSE
 CLARENCE RIGGENBACH
 FRANK SMALL
 IVA & LEM TURNER
 RON JONES
 PATRICIA FORD
 JEANETTE THOMPSON

Mark Your Calendars

- ✓ Jan 27: Song Service @ 6p
- ✓ Feb 3: Fellowship Meal. Chili Cook-Off. Sign up sheet in the foyer. See Tim or Penny for details.
- ✓ Feb 24: Song Service @ 6p

TODAY'S SERMONS

Choosing to Live
Deuteronomy 30:19-20
Song Service
 6:00 pm

AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING FORMATS

- Printed Book
- Individual Lessons on Audio CDs
- Individual Lessons on DVDs
- All Lessons on MP3 disk
- All Lessons on PDF disk
- Audio online—www.fsop.net

1-863-683-4043