

SERMON NOTES ♦ AUGUST 16, 2009
“The Persistence of God”

SERMON TEXT

Romans 11:1-12 (ESV)

¹I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ²God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³"Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." ⁴But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." ⁵So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

⁷What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, ⁸as it is written,

"God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that would not see
and ears that would not hear,
down to this very day."

⁹And David says,

"Let their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution for them;

¹⁰let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see,
and bend their backs forever."

¹¹So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. ¹²Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

NOTES

1. A Pastoral Concern about God's Persistence...

2. A Pastoral Response about God's Persistence—in Three Parts...

a. A Remnant...

b. An Openness...

c. A Fullness...

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

SESSION

Clay Brown, Moderator

Fred A. Coates • Tyler Domske • CP Chappell, Clerk

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F. Michael Campbell, MD
Philip L. Heilman
Weldon M. Hitchcock
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W. Brent Curtis
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Karen A. Shore
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Billy Black, Sexton

Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

Christy Floyd, Organist
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

Loving God, Loving People, and Making Disciples

August 16, 2009 ♦ 9:00 A.M.

PRELUDE: "Light Divine" Mendelssohn
Christy Floyd

WELCOME Clay Brown
Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it down your pew for all to sign.
An asterisk (*) marks when those who are able will please stand.
Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

CALL TO WORSHIP Tyler Domske
Leader: Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
People: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, and let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker.
People: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

INVOCATION
***HYMN 68** "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" NETTLETON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Eternal God, in every age you raise up men and women to live and to die in faith. We confess we are often indifferent to your will. You call us to proclaim your name, but we are silent. You call us to do what is just, but we remain idle. You call us to live faithfully, but we are afraid. In your mercy,

forgive us. Give us courage to follow in your way, that joined with those from ages past, who have served you with faith, hope, and love, we may inherit the kingdom you promised in Jesus Christ. Through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior...

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI 734** GREATOREX
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON: 1 Kings 19:9-18 Pew Bible, p. 319
 Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON LESSON: Romans 11:1-12 Sermon Notes
 Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "The Persistence of God" Clay Brown

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: "We Are An Offering" Liles
 Alan Sledge, soloist

***DOXOLOGY 34** OLD 100TH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table
 Prayer of Thanksgiving
 Words of Institution and Breaking of Bread
 Communion of the People
 Post-Communion Prayer

***OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE AND INVITATION**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE 740:** "The Lord's Prayer"
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

***POSTLUDE:** "Lord, Hear Our Prayer" Verdi

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with the pastor in the chancel area following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Byron and Shirley Crowley's 55th wedding anniversary on August 15.

Christian sympathy is expressed to the family of Nancy Baker, who passed away on August 9, 2009.

Recent Prayer Requests: Willie Allison; Richard Holshouser; the family of Nancy Baker; the Telford family; Clayton Davidson; George Brawley; Becky McIntyre's mother; Rebecca Auten; Pam Winters' sister, Reaves Geist; Jan and Caroline Hampton; Suzy Brawley; Bill Raffety's father, Mick Raffety; Mary Voils Aven; Tip McGee; EO2SW Laban Thompson; Scott Knutsen; 1st Lt. Ben Peacock, USAF; all those who have recently lost loved ones; those who are looking for jobs.

Labor Day Weekend Mission Trip Meeting: There will be an organizational planning meeting for the trip on Monday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m. in room 300. If you are interested in this trip, please attend.

Camp Grier Congregational Retreat: Everyone in our church family is encouraged to attend the annual congregational Labor Day Retreat at Camp Grier in Old Fort, NC, scheduled for Friday, September 4 through Sunday, September 6. You may come for all or part of the weekend. Informational brochures may be found at the rear of the sanctuary, in the parlor, and in the church office. Registration forms and payments are due by Friday, August 29.

Worship Orientation: All rising first graders and their parents are encouraged to attend a Worship Orientation class at 10:00 a.m. this morning, or next Sunday, August 23, immediately following Promotion Sunday activities. The class will be held in the sanctuary.

Christian Education Sunday: Christian Education volunteers will be commissioned and recognized during the worship services next Sunday, August 23.

Church School Promotion Sunday: All church school classes are encouraged to attend special Promotion Sunday activities next Sunday, August 23, at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Activities include introduction of church school teachers, information about the new church school year, and presentation of Bibles to second graders. Biscuits and breakfast refreshments will be served. Start the new school year with regular attendance at church school!

Catechism Club: The 2009-2010 Catechism Club, offered to children in third through sixth grades, will begin Sunday, September 13, from 5:30-6:15 p.m. Children in Catechism Club will be encouraged to memorize the 150 questions of the *First Catechism*, and will have weekly instruction in basic Bible truths. Registration will take place in the church parlor this morning.

Logos/Middle School Ministry (MSM): This year marks the beginning of the 31st year of our congregation's participation in the Logos Program. Our Logos program is a mid-week (Wednesdays, 4:00-7:15 p.m.) program for youth in first through eighth grades, and consists of Bible study, worship skills, recreation, and dinner. Logos is for children in first through sixth grades, while MSM is for seventh and eighth graders. The primary goal of the Logos Program is to develop genuine and lasting relationships between young people and Jesus Christ, their ministers, parents and other adults in the congregation, as well as their peers. Parents may register their children for the program at one of the following required Parent Meetings:

Sunday, August 23 – 10:15 a.m. – Room 301
Sunday, August 23 – 7:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, August 26 – 7:00 p.m. – Fellowship Hall
Saturday, September 5 – at the Camp Grier Retreat (TBA)

The registration deadline is Wednesday, September 2. Fees include a \$30 registration fee and a \$50 per semester tuition fee. Scholarship help is available upon request. Please contact program director Gretchen Little (704-528-9796), assistant director Lisa Davidson (704-662-9393), or Ellen Auten (704-664-5275) with questions about the program. The 2009-2010 Logos year begins Wednesday, September 9.

Lost and Found: Please check the Lost & Found table in the fellowship hall for items you may have left at the church. All items not claimed by August 31 will be donated to the Christian Mission.

A report on the church survey taken earlier this year will be presented by the Personnel and Administration Committee on Sunday, August 30, 10:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited. Make your plans to attend.

From the Budget and Finance Committee: January – July 2009:
 YTD Budget - \$440,354.00; Deficit – (\$1,546,800)

Calendar for August 16-23, 2009

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship with Communion
 10:00 a.m. - Worship Orientation for 1st Graders
 10:00 a.m. - Church School
 11:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion

Monday: 9:00 a.m. - Preschool Orientation
 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
 7:00 p.m. - Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. - Preschool Orientation
 7:00 p.m. - Executive Committee

Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - PYF to Carowinds
 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
 7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: Newsletter Deadline
 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home

Saturday: 2:00 p.m. - "Friends & Family" Lake Party

Sunday 8/23: *Christian Education Sunday*
 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
 10:00 a.m. - Church School Promotion
 10:15 a.m. - Worship Orientation for 1st Graders
 10:15 a.m. - Logos/MSM Parent Meeting
 11:00 a.m. - Worship with Baptism
 7:00 p.m. - Session Meeting
 7:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM Parent Meeting

In Memoriam
Nancy Culp Baker
 March 25, 1915 – August 9, 2009
 Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth that they may rest from their labors,
 for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13