

Want to Know More?

Interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website (www.jonesroadchurch.org) for the following resources.

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles
- Recordings of various classes, including an ongoing study of the book of Acts.
- We can also be found on Facebook (Jones Road Church of Christ) and Twitter (@jonesroadchurch). Email: study@jonesroadchurch.org

Please Join us for Bible Study and Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

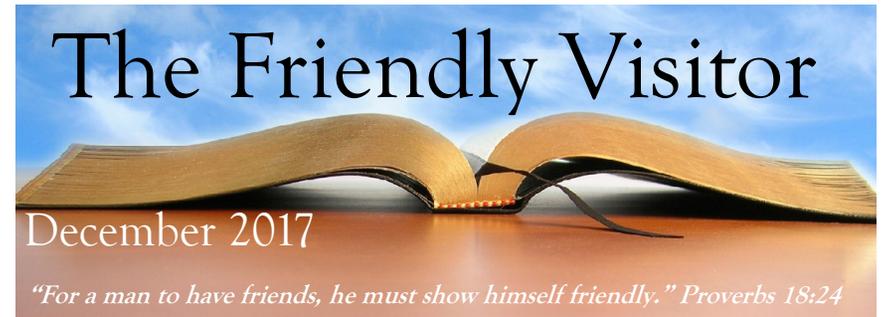
10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

Jones Road Church of Christ

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Come Grow with Us

By John R. Gibson

As we close the book on 2017 and begin a new chapter in our lives, we want to extend to all a special invitation to join us in 2018 for what we anticipate to be a year of positive spiritual growth. If you are in our area we hope you will choose to begin studying and worshiping with us on a regular basis. However, if distance is an issue, all our sermons and bulletin articles will be posted on our website and we urge you to utilize these resources. And while we want those in our area to come be with us in person, we hope you will also take advantage of the opportunities presented on our website and learn more about God and His will.

But without faith it is impossible to please Him...." Hebrews 11:6

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Hebrews 11:6

Each year at Jones Road our elders, the spiritual shepherds, choose for us a theme or special point of emphasis for the year and this time we are going to focus on building faith, faith that will stand up in a time of crisis and endure to the end. Our aim is to make 2018 a year in which faith and trust in God are established and strengthened. Not only must we come to believe that God is, but we must develop a faith that will seek Him all the days of our lives. We must not be the people who draw back in difficult times, but instead, we are going to work to develop the faith that runs with endurance.

*"But we are not of those who **draw back** to perdition, but of those*
(Continued on page 2)

"But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul." Hebrews 10:39



who believe to the saving of the soul.” Hebrews 11:39

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, **the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

What kind of special things will we be doing in 2018 to build this kind of faith? While every Bible class and worship assembly, with the focus on God’s word and following His instructions, will serve to encourage the development of faith and seek to motivate all to have a faith that believes to the saving of the soul, this year will also feature some things specifically aimed at the development of faith. These will include...

A consideration of the evidences for the unseen God.

Romans 1:20 assures us that the creation points to His existence—“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse”—and we intend to give consideration to some of the “proofs” to be seen in the world around us. Though faith deals with things which cannot be seen (Hebrew 11:1), God has provided us with sufficient evidence for our faith and we hope you will join us in a look at those faith-building evidences.

An emphasis on faith-building passages.

Because “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), we will, as we always do, have classes and sermons that stress this faith-building word of God. However, there are going to be some things from the Scriptures given special emphasis in 2018. We are going to be devoting some extra attention to characters who showed special courage and endurance. In the coming year expect to hear lessons focused on the faith of folks like Noah the ark builder, Joshua as he led the conquest of Canaan, Gideon who would go to battle with just his courageous 300, David as he faced off against Goliath, the young captive in Naaman’s house, and a host of other great characters who form a great cloud of witnesses capable of encouraging us to stand strong in the faith (Hebrews 12:1).

In addition to these stirring examples of conquering, persevering faith, we’ll also be looking at stories that should build our faith by showing us the consequences of allowing our faith to fail us. Look for 2018 to include lessons from events and characters such as Israel’s failures in the

wilderness, kings like Asa and Joash who turned from God as the years went by, Peter’s denials of Christ, Demas who loved the present world too much to persevere, and other stories which serve to warn us about the consequences of failing to guard our faith.

Looking at the kind of things that can cost us our faith and how to prevent such failures.

Throughout the year we will seek to keep our teaching balanced, but besides the use of character studies as we mentioned previously, there will also be some studies focused on helping us better understand why some do not believe and why others fail to develop a faith that will persist. We will look at such things as the Parable of the Sower, dangers revealed in 2 Peter 2, along with pulling together things we can learn from various characters and passages. And while we will not shy away from the warnings of Scripture, we will also give attention to positive spiritual steps we can take to overcome.

This is only a brief, partial look at what’s in store, but we believe 2018 will be a year of significant spiritual development and we invite you to come grow with us.

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Should You Be Baptized?

Who should be baptized? Why should you be baptized? Are there people who should be baptized a second (or third) time? These are important questions worthy of careful study and we invite you to do that. Under the SERMONS tab on our website you will find a lesson entitled *Should You Be Baptized?* and we hope you



will take a few minutes to listen carefully and compare what is said with the teachings of Scripture. (It was preached October 1, 2017.) You can also visit our Facebook page and find a video presentation of the lesson. To find this video, go to the Jones Road Church of Christ Facebook page and click on the Notes. Under Notes, look for the one entitled *YouTube Videos* and click the link provided there.

After you have listened, please let us know your thoughts on it.