



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

# SKYVIEW BULLETIN

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## ALMOST



How many times have you been in an “ALMOST” situation? Maybe you almost had a “hole in one” in your game of golf. How many times has your favorite ball team “almost won”? How often have you “almost” done something only to realize the transition from thought to action never happened?

“I almost stopped to help that homeless person.” “I came very close to making that visit to a shut-in in the congregation.” “I almost invited that stranger who spoke to me in the check-out line at the supermarket to worship services.”

We all have our “almost” moments. We think about doing something, maybe even plan to do something, but then something distracts us, or we run out of time, and it never gets done. Every time we have an “almost” moment, we are letting an opportunity go by without acting on it.

Some of these “almost” lost opportunities are significant, others are not. It really would not be earth-shattering to almost make that “hole in one.” It doesn’t change our lives significantly when our ball team “almost” wins. But, there are some other “almost’s” that are very important.

As we make our plans for 2010, we might need to carve out some time to complete the things we have “almost” accomplished. We would do well to contemplate the time we spend for the things that cause us to say we are “too busy.” How much time, for instance, do we spend gratifying ourselves? Is every half-hour we spend in front of a computer really necessary? Are we tempted to replace our visits and personal encounters with other people with social networking via “FaceBook,” or “Email”? Do we prioritize a weekly television program above more important, meaningful, difference making endeavors? These are all questions that we need to honestly answer.

When we have an “almost” situation this means that something was left unspoken or undone. “Almost” really translates into “not quite.” “Almost” means we have missed the mark. “Almost” means we are very close, but not there. We have perhaps heard the expression, “Close doesn’t count except in horseshoes.” There is a lot of truth to this adage. “Close” is not there. “Almost,” is not there. Good intentions do not accomplish anything. Thinking about doing something isn’t the same as doing it.

As we enter into 2010 it is a good time to take inventory of all our good intentions. We need to make a list of all the things we need to act upon and then make the determination that we are going to accomplish those things. We need to resolve that we are not going to “almost” do them—we are going to act on those intentions. We are not going to get close, but we are actually, with God’s help, going to do the things that God places on our hearts to do.

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### ELDERS

*Ron Bastien  
Don Greenlee  
Charles Murray  
David Roberts*

### DEACONS

*Ron Bentz  
Frank Edwards  
Jim Ingram  
George Loyd  
Andy Murray  
Dennis Trask  
Brad VanHaerents*

### PREACHER

*Charles Murray*

### MEN WE SUPPORT

*Frank Andre - Bartow, Fla.  
William Stewart--Kingston, Canada  
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe  
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

### WORSHIP TIMES

#### SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.  
Classes.....10:50 A.M.  
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

### WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N  
PO Box 3118  
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

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situation this  
means that  
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One good place to start is to think about the brevity of our lives and realize that we need to minimize the goals we “almost” met but did not quite reach. The Patriarch Job, in answering his friend Bildad, who accused Job of wrong doing which resulted in his suffering, replied: *“Are not my few days almost over? Turn away from me so I can have a moment’s joy”* (Job 10:20). Job realized that his life was almost over. It doesn’t matter how long or short our life span may be, compared to eternity, our days are almost over. With this knowledge, we can change our “almost’s” into actions. Life is brief and if we don’t prioritize our time, we will miss out on many opportunities upon which we should act.

I cannot imagine a more tragic scene than to stand before God on judgment and realize that I “almost” made it into heaven. Can you imagine someone living their life and passing by several opportunities to obey the gospel and having to think back on the times they “almost” acted but did not? A sadder situation is unfathomable. We won’t be able to say to God, “I was almost baptized,” or “I almost turned away from sin in repentance,” or, “I almost made things right with You.”

**“Almost”  
will not  
“get-it-done”  
for us as far  
as our eternal  
salvation  
is  
concerned.**

The words of a song we often sing expresses the folly of “almost.” *“Almost cannot avail; almost is but to fail....”* This song is based on a story in the New Testament when Paul preached to King Agrippa and the King was almost persuaded to become a Christian. *Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.”* (Acts 26:28) As far as the inspired record is tells us, Agrippa never became a Christian. Again the final words of the song mentioned earlier come to mind: *“Sad, sad, that bitter wail—almost—but lost!”* Paul’s response to the King is classic. *And Paul said, “I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.”* (Acts 26:29).

“Almost” will not “get-it-done” for us as far as our eternal salvation is concerned. Don’t wait until a convenient time. It may never come. The song says, *“Doom comes at last.”*

The Bible teaches, *“It is appointed unto man once to die, and after this, the judgment”* (Hebrews 9:27). Life is a vapor; it appears for a short time and vanishes away. We should not put off doing what we need to do in obedience to Jesus Christ. If we are “almost” a Christian, doom will come. If we are “altogether” and completely a Christian, heaven will be our home.

If you are reading this, the most important question you can ask yourself is this one: “Am I ready for the judgment day?” Nothing else is as important as the answer to this question. We can “almost” do certain things in life without any severe consequences following. But, if we do not avail ourselves of the opportunity to be saved, all of the good intentions will not do us any good on the day of judgment. On one occasion a teacher of the law came to Jesus and wanted to know of all the commandments which was the greatest. Jesus told him that to love God with the whole man and to love one’s neighbor as he loved himself were the two greatest commandments. The teacher of the law acknowledged that Jesus’ answer was correct. Jesus then said to this man, *“You are not far from the kingdom of God”* (Mark 12:34).

There are many people today who are not “far from the kingdom.” They are “almost” there. They may live good moral lives; they may do good unto all men; they may love the Lord, and some may even attend worship services in some church or synagogue, but they have not completely obeyed Jesus to become a Christian.

Don’t be “almost” saved. Obey the gospel of Christ today. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God, because without faith we cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6). Turn away from sin in repentance, because unless we repent we will perish (Luke 13:3); confess faith in Jesus as God’s Son, because if we do not confess Him, we cannot be saved (Romans 10:9,10); and be baptized, because baptism puts us in Christ (Galatians 3:27), baptism saves us ( 1 Peter 3:21), baptism washes away sins (Acts 22:16), and baptism is for the remission (forgiveness) of sins (Acts 2:38).

“Almost cannot avail; almost is but to fail, sad, sad, that bitter wail—almost but lost!” Don’t let these be your final words when you stand before God in the last day. **CEM**



Adult—auditorium  
class  
Angels  
Taught by  
Charles Murray  
Room # 4  
1st Principles  
taught by  
Dave Roberts

**Adult  
Auditorium  
New class beginning  
in January:  
The Life Of Christ**