



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

SKYVIEW BULLETIN

Volume 11 Number 21

May 16 2010

FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD



Friends are wonderful. There are several passages in the Bible that address the subject of friendship and how valuable friends are. Consider these: Proverbs 18:24 *A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.* Ecclesiastes 4:10 *If one falls down, his friend can help him up. Pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up!*

I am sure that everyone values a good friendship. Friends will stick by us when no one else will. I have know situations in which people have been disowned by parents, but who had close friends who stuck by them and loved them and supported them. There is no

way to place a value on this kind of friendship.

A true friend will love someone in every situation. This, of course, does not mean that we will always approve of what a person does, but it does mean that in bad times and good times a true friend will always be there for us. A true friend will be there to offer a hand when we fall; or help pick us up when we are down. A true friend does not expect repayment for the good deeds done to or for another friend.

The word "friend" in the New Testament is a very interesting word. One word is the Greek *philos* denoting "friendly or loved," according to W.E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament words. A true friend is one who will love us through thick and thin. A true friend will be our friend when everyone else has turned against us. A true friend will be honest with us when pointing out our shortcomings.

But there is no friend like our Friend Jesus. Many people claim to believe in Christ but they are not friends with Him.

Many of the songs we sing focus on our friendship with Christ. One such hymn is titled, "I'll Be A Friend To Jesus." This song mentions the trial of Jesus with no one to defend Him. It also talks of loving Him and being His friend until the end. The words of the chorus say, "I'll be a friend to Jesus, my life for Him I'll spend; I'll be a friend to Jesus, until my years shall end."

Another beloved song is one titled "What A Friend We Have In Jesus." The first song focuses on our being a friend to Jesus, and this one emphasize the fact that Jesus is our Friend. What a friend we have in Jesus, is how this song begins and then it continues to bring to mind the sins and griefs He carries for us, the trials and temptations and troubles we can take to Him in prayer. It mentions if all our friends forsake us we should never be discouraged because we can talk to Jesus our friend in prayer. Songs such as these encourage us and strengthen us with the knowledge of Jesus as a true Friend.

(continued on back page)

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

*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
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WEB: skyviewchurch.org

Sermons & classes now on
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YEAR EVER!**

While it is a good thing to think about our friendship with Jesus, the Son of God, we also should think about whether or not we are really friends with Him. It is very easy for us to think of Him as our friend and in reality we are not friends at all.

Notice what Jesus Himself said: *“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command. 15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends”* (John 15:12-15)

Jesus, first defined what a friend is. A friend is someone who will lay down his life for someone else. This is the epitome of love. There is no greater love than this, according to Jesus. Jesus demonstrated His love by laying down his life for us. But notice in these verses how we demonstrate our friendship with Him...He said...“You are my friend, IF you do what I command.” True friendship with the Son demands obedience to His will. We can call Jesus our Friend, and we can believe that we are His friend, but if we are not doing what He commands, we have no friendship with Him.

True friendship
with the Son
demands
obedience
to His will

Abraham was called the friend of God *“And the scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness,” and he was called God’s friend”* (James 2:23-24)

Abraham believed God, but it is important to notice what his faith led him to do. In the previous verses James points out: *“ Was not our ancestor Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did”* (James 2:21-23)

In defining Abraham’s faith, James points to what he did. He was considered righteous when he obeyed God. His actions in obeying God worked together with his faith and his faith was made perfect or complete by what he did. It is in this context that James says that Abraham was the friend of God. The writer to the Hebrews confirms this when he says, *“By faith Abraham...offered up Isaac...”* This tells us that Abraham acted upon his faith when he did what God told him to do. This is how we are God’s friends. We obey Him. We do what He tells us to do.

Friend, are you God’s friend? Are you doing what He tells you to do? If we become God’s friend, we will have the best friend ever. We will have a friend for life....if we continue doing His will. He will never leave us nor forsake us. If our friendship is broken....we will be the one who breaks it.

We begin our friendship with God by obeying the gospel of His Son. Romans 6:17 says that obedience to the gospel from the heart makes us free from sin. We obey what God has commanded to become His child. He commands that we believe in His Son (Hebrews 11:6). He commands us to repent (Luke 13:3). It is in this act of repentance that we die to our former life of sin. He commands that we confess our faith in Christ as His Son (Romans 10:9,10). We don’t confess that we are sinners as some teach, but we confess that we believe that Jesus is God’s Son (Acts 8:37). He also tells us to be baptized (Mark 16:15,16). Like Abraham believed and obeyed God by offering his son, we believe and we obey God by being baptized. Just as Abraham demonstrated his faith by what he did, we also demonstrate our faith by what we do. Paul said we are baptized into Christ (Galatians 3:27). When we are in Christ, we have access to all spiritual blessing (Eph. 1:3). It is also in Christ that we have redemption, forgiveness and an inheritance (Eph. 1:7,11). This is how we begin our friendship relationship with God. We then continue to be His friend as we conform our lives to His, following His will in all that we do, and ultimately going home to spend an eternity with Him.

We would encourage you to consider your relationship with God and His Son. Are you His friend? Is He your friend? Are you obedient to His will? Are you on friendly terms with God? Can you express the sentiments of the song, “What A Friend We Have In Jesus” and be truthful?

Jesus, with out stretched arms offer the invitation to you to be His friend. The benefits are awesome...not only in this life, but the life to come.



Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

The Life Of Christ

GOD’S

PLAN OF SALVATION

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Luke 13:3

Confess—Rom. 10:9

Be Baptized—

Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,

1 Pet. 3:21