

The goal of these studies will not be to engage in controversy, although I intend not to avoid any questions or matters raised by the text, but to fix our hearts away from this present evil age and toward the age to come which was inaugurated by the first coming of our Lord and soon will be manifested in glory in His return. As Paul sees it, the return of Christ is not grist for the mills of our biblical debates but rather is "our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Tit. 2:13), for which we now wait with patient expectation. In the apostle's teaching, the return of Christ is a key motivator in the Christian life, dramatically shaping our attitudes towards death and grief, life and possessions, spiritual encouragement in suffering and persecution, as well as our witness to the world. Paul sums up our end-times attitude with his concluding teaching in 1 Thessalonians 5:8-10: "But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Please pray for me as I study, prepare, and deliver these sermons, which I deeply desire would be a significant help to you and to those outside our church who benefit from my ministry, and especially that Christ's glory would be magnified in our hearts as we look forward to his glorious appearing on the great day to come.

May the Lord bless you all this week.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Rick Phillips

**A Psalm for the New Year—Portion of Psalm 90
A Prayer of Moses the man of God**

Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. You turn man to destruction, And say, "Return, O children of men." For a thousand years in Your sight *Are* like yesterday when it is past, And *like* a watch in the night. You carry them away *like* a flood; *They are* like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass *which* grows up: In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening it is cut down and withers...Return, O LORD! How long? And have compassion on Your servants. Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad all our days! Make us glad according to the days *in which* You have afflicted us, The years *in which* we have seen evil. Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Website: www.secondpca.org
Telephone: Office (864) 232-7621

Fax: (864) 232-7622 * Email: info@secondpca.org
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Information Centers: Church Services information 1 * Directions 2
Hospital Information 3 * Upcoming Events 4 * Church Directory 5 * Monthly Activities 6
Church Services: Sunday: Sunday School - 10:00 AM
Morning Worship - 8:30 and 11:00 AM * Evening Worship - 6:00 PM
Wednesday: Supper - 5:45 PM * Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:45 PM
Radio Broadcast: Sundays, 9:00 AM, Station WLFJ 660 AM

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 4 WIC Council
- Jan. 4 Pastoral Care Committee Meeting
- Jan. 4 BLOOD DRIVE
- Jan. 8 College & Career Class Lunch/Fellowship Hall
- Jan. 10 Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting
- Jan. 10-11 WIC Circles
- Jan. 15 The Lord's Supper at the morning services
- Jan. 15 Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- Jan. 16 Young At Heart
- Jan. 17 WIC Bible Study resumes
- Jan. 22 Evangelism/Church Growth Meeting
- Jan. 25 CE Committee Meeting
- Jan. 26 Jessamines
- Jan. 27 Sr. High Game night and supper in gym
- Jan. 28 Calvary Presbytery
- Jan. 28 Evangelism Explosion Workshop
- Jan. 29 Summer Missions Interest Meeting
- Jan. 29 Hymn Sing

Joint Session/Diaconate Meeting Change

THE JOINT SESSION AND DIACONATE MEETING
HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH
TO TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH.
TIMES AND PLACES REMAIN THE SAME.

Baptism

Jeremiah Titus Johnson, covenant son of Nathaniel and Rebekah Johnson, received the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, January 1, 2012. We are thankful for the Johnson family and pray that Nate, Andrew, and Jeremiah will love and serve the Lord all the days of their lives.

Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Joe Stevens and his family in the death of his father, Joe Stevens, Sr. Our prayers go out to the Stevens family during this time of loss and grief.

2012 Offering Envelopes

There are still 2012 offering envelopes on a table outside the church library. Please stop by and pick up your envelopes. The Diaconate ask that all members use offering envelopes for accounting purposes. If you or any of your children need a box of envelopes, please contact the church office, ext. 18.

Mark Your Calendars

EVANGELISM EXPLOSION WORKSHOP
JANUARY 28TH * 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Jim Stewart, Regional EE Coordinator will be the speaker.

Pledge/Contribution Report

225 South Academy Street Report for 12/25/11
Pledges Received: \$95,498
Contributions Received: \$93,115

Young At Heart

The monthly Young At Heart Luncheon will be Monday, January 16, at 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The catered lunch will be \$6.00 per person payable at the door. This month our guest speaker will be Rev. Carey Hedgpeth, who will speak to us about missions and evangelism. Mark your calendars now so you won't miss the special time of fellowship.

Music Notes

Thank you to all of our choir members and church musicians who made our Christmas season a blessed time filled with glorious music. I appreciate each of you more than you know and I look forward to our new year where we will strive to continue glorifying the Lord in song.
—Elizabeth Guest

Summer Missions Meeting

If you are interested in participating in a summer missions trip, there will be a meeting on Sunday, January 29th, at 10:00 am, in the sanctuary. Please be in prayer for our Missions program and how the Lord may be leading you to be involved.

Thank You

*To my dear Church Family,
Thank you for all your support during my illness. The prayers, the cards, and the phone calls of support were very special to me and I know the Lord heard and answered our prayers. A special thank you to Robert Spears for his faithful calls and visits while in the hospital and at the Cottages. I look forward to being back in my church with my church family, worshipping our Lord and Savior.
Your sister in Christ, Lee Axley*

Middle School Get Together

MIDDLE SCHOOL GET TOGETHER
Friday, January 13th * 6:30 PM
Home of Rick & Sharon Phillips
11 Bridgeton Drive, Greenville, SC 29615
236-7113

College & Career Class Lunches

The College & Career Class will begin in January with a Fellowship Lunch in the Fellowship Hall on the second Sunday of each month. Mark your calendars and don't miss the first lunch on Sunday, January 8, immediately following the 11:00 am worship service.

Senior High Game Nights

Beginning in January the Senior High will have a fourth Friday night supper and game night in the church gym at 6:00 pm. The first game night is scheduled for Friday, January 27th. If you have any questions please see Pastor Starkey.

Church Calendar

Sunday, January 8

- 8:30 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 9:50 AM Children's Chapel
- 10:00 AM **SUNDAY SCHOOL**
- 11:00 AM **MORNING WORSHIP**
- 12:30 PM College & Caraeer Class Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 5:30 PM Season of Prayer in the Chapel
- 6:00 PM **EVENING WORSHIP**
- 6:00 PM Wee Worship Choir

Monday, January 9

- 7:00 PM Senior High Girls' Basketball game at ARP
- 8:00 PM Senior High Boys' Basketball game at St. Mary

Tuesday, January 10

- 10:00 AM WIC Circles 1 & 3 meet at the church
- 12:00 Noon Men's Bible Lunch
- 2:30 PM WIC Circle 5 meets at the church
- JOINT SESSION/DIACONATE MEETING**
- 6:00 PM Supper
- 7:00 PM Meeting
- 6:00 PM Boy Scout Troop 828
- 7:00 PM WIC Circle 2 meets at Tammy Loopers' home
- 7:00 PM WIC Circle 4 meets at Panera Bread on Augusta Street

Wednesday, January 11

- 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 5:45 PM **FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER**
- 6:15 PM Covenant Choir
- 6:45 PM CAT Kids & Covenant Kids
- 6:45 PM Youth Bible Study
- 6:45 PM WIC Circle 6
- 6:45 PM **PRAYER MEETING AND BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday, January 12

- 6:00 PM Evangelism Explosion Training

Friday, January 13

- 6:30 PM Middle School get together at the Phillips' home

Saturday, January 14

- 9:30 AM Jr. High Girls' Basketball game at 4th Pres.
- 10:30 AM Midget Boys' Basketball game at St. Matthew
- 11:30 AM I Mites' Basketball game at W. Pres. I
- 12:15 PM Mites' Basketball game at 2nd Pres.
- 12:30 PM Jr. High Boys' Basketball game at AYMC

Remembering One Another

Remember in prayer this week the following member.
Also, send her a note of encouragement and/or give her a call.

Sara Weathers
11 E. Augusta Place, Apt. 219
Greenville, SC 29605
271-0025

The Second Presbyterian Church

105 River Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601-2537

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WORSHIP AT SECOND THE LORD'S DAY JANUARY 8, 2011

MORNING WORSHIP
10:30 AM

THE COMING OF THE LORD

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Anthem: A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Hymns: 100, 316, 324
Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

EVENING WORSHIP
6:00 PM

ABSALOM, O ABSALOM!

2 Samuel 18:19-19:8
Hymns: 2, 300, 311
Psalter: Psalm 119 (129-136)
Rev. Richard D. Phillips preaching

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Corner of River and Rhett Streets
Greenville, South Carolina

January 2, 2012

Letter from the Senior Pastor

Studying Christ's Second Coming from 1-2 Thessalonians

As we continue studying Paul's letters to the Thessalonian church in our morning sermon series, it turns out that we will be beginning this year by learning about the end of history. These two letters contain some of the clearest and most comprehensive teachings in the New Testament on the return of Christ, perhaps second only to Jesus' famous Olivet Discourse in the Gospels (Mt. 24-25; Lk. 21). This is, in fact, one of the reasons I wanted to preach from these letters. For too long, Reformed Christians have shied away from the return of Christ, whether from a perception that the subject is too controversial, out of embarrassment over the many errors that are often attached to this subject, or out of a mistaken sense that the doctrine of Christ's return belongs to other kinds of Christians. In fact, the return of Christ to bring an end to all history is one of the chief Christian doctrines. Especially in the writings of the apostle Paul, our knowledge of Christ's return is to play a central role in shaping the way that believers live. How important, then, that we understand clearly what the Bible teaches on Christ's Second Coming. Cornel Venema has rightly written that the return of Christ "is the great centerpiece of biblical hope and expectation for the future."

We can see the importance of this topic when we consider the related themes that will be taught in upcoming sermons from 1 and 2 Thessalonians. They include: the return of Christ, the final judgment, the resurrection of the body, the "millennium" question, the "rapture," the doctrine of hell and eternal punishment, the Antichrist, the ministry of angels, and biblical warnings concerning our readiness for Christ's coming. Some of these topics will be addressed starting with 1 Thessalonians 4:13, and others will come up in 2 Thessalonians. Here are the titles and texts for the sermons that will be preached starting this coming Lord's Day:

- January 8, 2012 The Coming of the Lord, 1 Thess. 4:13-17
- January 15, 2012 Grieving with Hope, 1 Thess. 4:13-14
- January 22, 2012 The Resurrection of the Dead, 1 Thess. 4:15-16
- January 29, 2012 Meeting the Lord in the Air, 1 Thess. 4:16-18
- February 5, 2012 Like a Thief in the Night, 1 Thess. 5:1-4

By the end of March, I expect to conclude 1 Thessalonians, so in April we will jump back into the end times with our studies of 2 Thessalonians chapter 1.