

God's Plan of Salvation:

1. Hear - Romans 10:17
2. Believe - Mark 16:16
3. Repent - Acts 2:38
4. Confess - Romans 10:10
5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: [www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com](http://www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com)
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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# Boasting

By Derek Long

Boasting is something the Bible identifies as a sinful behavior (Romans 1:29-32; 2 Timothy 3:2-5). Boasting is a misuse of the tongue which we need to be careful of lest it make our religion useless (James 1:26). Why is boasting such a serious matter in the sight of God?

- Boasting is connected with several other sins. A person who boasts is normally a person filled with pride which God hates (Proverbs 6:16-19). Boasting can lead a person down the path of lying. Boasters want to appear greater than they really are or perhaps always want to look greater than the next person. Such an attitude will prompt people to at times make false claims about themselves. Ananias and Sapphira lie in order to give the impression they did something greater than what they really did (Acts 5:1-10). Do we find ourselves stretching the truth about ourselves in order to paint a better picture of ourselves? Do we find ourselves boasting of ourselves instead of being truthful about who we really are? A

verse which comes to mind in this regard is Proverbs 20:6 which says, “Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?” (NKJV). A boaster will certainly proclaim his own goodness even if it may result in him not being faithful or honest. When we boast and make ourselves out to be something we are not, God certainly is not fooled (Proverbs 16:2; 21:2). Others may even be able to see through our lying boasts but we may end up deceiving ourselves in the process (1 John 1:8).

- Boasting fails to acknowledge our reliance upon God. Nebuchadnezzar perhaps illustrates this point well for us. In Daniel 4:30 we read of Nebuchadnezzar’s boasting which results in him being made like the beast of the field to humble him. He said, “Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?” We may not be the ruler of a world empire but do we look out on the things we have and boast in them. Do we think we have achieved whatever we have achieved on our own without acknowledging the help of God? It is important to remember how much we rely on God in order to avoid such arrogant boasting as Nebuchadnezzar engaged in (Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Daniel 5:22-23; Acts 17:25). I have heard people talk about how they have worked hard all their life and now they are going to sit back and enjoy what they have worked for. I am not seeking to minimize the importance of hard, diligent work but at the same time we need to remember God has blessed us with ability and the things we possess. A boastful person is normally not a very thankful person but God’s word teaches us to be thankful to God (Ephesians 5:20).

- Boasting is something religious people can fall into. Religious Jews were spoken of as boasting in God’s law and yet breaking God’s law (Romans 2:17-24). We can fall into the trap of comparing ourselves spiritually to others and as a result boast in our own righteousness (2 Corinthians 10:12; Luke 18:9-12; Galatians 6:3-4). The fact we have sinned prevents any of us from being able to boast in ourselves as though we saved ourselves. Abraham, who is held up as an example of a righteous individual, was not able to boast as though he had saved himself (Romans 4:1-3). Abraham like everyone else was justified not on the basis of perfectly keeping God’s law throughout his entire life but rather on the basis of his acting, living, obedient faith in God (James 2:21-24; Hebrews 11:8). We have nothing to boast about when it comes to the subject of saving ourselves. Ephesians 2:8-9 states, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast” (NKJV). Luke 17:10 reminds us we cannot boast in the fact we kept God’s commandments for such is what was required of us to begin with. A person cannot boast of saving himself but must remember his salvation is made possible through the sacrifice of Jesus upon the cross (Galatians 6:14). Let’s make sure we access the benefits of Jesus’ death on the cross by being baptized into His death (Romans 6:3-4)!