

THE PRESIDENT'S



TRINITY COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

Words to Hear ... A Testimony to Have Part 1

Do you enjoy being 'tested?' Do you like 'taking tests?' I have never enjoyed the experience. I may have studied for the test or I did not 'crack the books.' It may have been a 'pop quiz' which I never enjoyed. Being 'tested,' I felt that I would demonstrate once again all that I did not know. It would highlight my deficiencies, my weaknesses, and my 'shortcomings' in a public way. I did not enjoy testing, especially when timed. Testing in school, on the job, within the family, and in daily living ... **Tests, Tests, Tests!**

But then ... when God's tests, it is an entirely different matter with a wonderful purpose! When He tests you, He demonstrates what you have, what you need from Him, and the pathway to passing! The tests of character, action, and behavior have the purpose of **gain, growth, and glory!** I believe Job had this in mind when he said of God:

"... when He tests me, I will come out as pure as gold." Job 23:10 NLT

He understood God's tests! God's test of Abraham involving his son (Genesis 22) and God's test of the people of Israel in Exodus 16, "...that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not." (Exodus 16:4 ESV), all begin to illustrate the purpose of testing from God's perspective and our benefit. In the New Testament, Peter made an excellent observation on testing: "...though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials so **that the tested genuineness of your faith** - more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire - may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ." 1 Peter 1:6-7 ESV

It is Gain, Growth, and Glory!

The following passage below demonstrates the 'words I want to hear' and the 'testimony I want to have':

"A man who endures trials is blessed, because **when he passes the test** he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12 HCSB

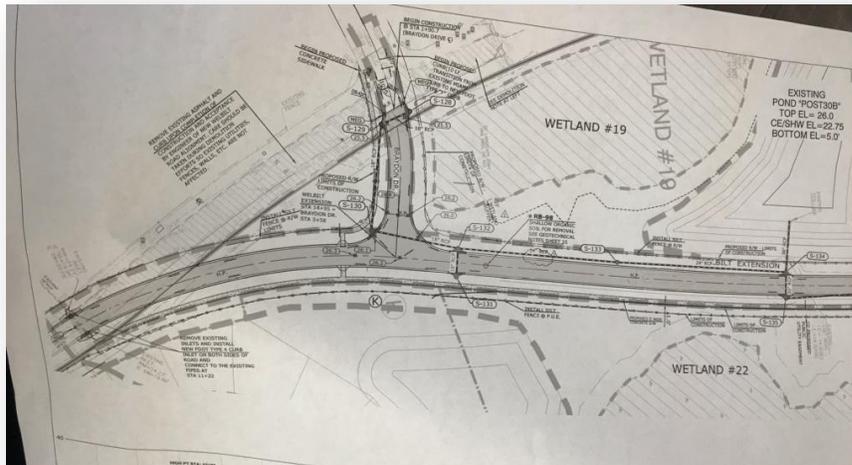
When he passes the test (*words I want to hear!*), not **if** he passes the test, but **when** he passes the test! The joy of passing the test is uplifting, encouraging, strengthening, and liberating! **Passing the Test!** Every believer has 'passed the test' positionally in Christ. Not every believer has been successful in 'passing the test' experientially in daily living for Christ. This 'passing' requires 'being filled with the Holy Spirit' Who gives wisdom, passion, and power!

Look at some of the key expressions of the verse: *a man who endures, he will receive what has been promised, and to those who love Him*. **Endurance** in the 'testing', **Receiving** from the testing what has been guaranteed, and **Love** for Him through the testing are ingredients for study! Much is occurring when you are tested! And then, the crown ... 'The Crown of Life' (one of five crowns mentioned in the New Testament)...a special and personal reward of recognized service in perseverance. What a blessing to receive and give back to Him!!

Are you being 'tested?' Take notes. God is doing something *for you, in you, and through you!* You have been honored to represent Him in the process for **great gain, growth, and glory!**

The Latest Happenings ...

- Dr. Charlie Martin, Vice President for Advancement, has been making progress with the county regarding the proposed name change of the road in front of the College to the *Billy Graham Parkway*. A resolution has been prepared for the change along with acceptance letters by businesses and neighbors bordering the road and the proposed new development to connect with Mitchell Ranch Road and State Road 54.



- *The Villages at Mitchell Ranch* has opened north of the College. It is comprised of stores, restaurants, and small businesses, and will serve as an excellent place for students to work and relax.
- On **August 6**, **Rev. Edward L. Brandt, III** and **Mr. Tom Chapman**, newly elected Board of Trustees Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, will be on campus to meet with leaders of the College that deal with Enrollment, Academics, Student Development, Advancement, and Business & Finance. The purpose is to encourage and listen to those in these various areas of responsibility.
- **Academic Excellence.** A scholarly paper by our professor of Bible and Theology **Dr. Stuart Parsons**, entitled, "The Coherence of Evagrius' *Scholia* on Proverbs," has been accepted for presentation on August 20, 2019 at the 18th International Conference on Patristic Studies at Oxford University. He will present his discovery of the forgotten structure of an ancient Christian Proverbs commentary written by a 4th century theologian and teacher of the Egyptian desert named Evagrius of Pontus.



Quick Facts:

- The **new L. L. Speer Hall** has been used by a camp and conference delegates.
- To help meet the need for more classroom experience, remodeling and enhancement has been occurring during the summer months. Forty high school students of the **Genesis School**, will be utilizing some of the classroom space at Trinity this coming semester.



- A number of children's athletic activities have made use of the College's properties.
- **Dr. Eric Bargerhuff**, Honors Program Director, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, will soon complete his next book for publication.
- **Dr. Tom Woodward** made a C. S. Lewis presentation in Texas, assisted by one of Trinity's students.
- **Dr. David Medders**, Executive Vice President of ABHE, will be the key speaker for the Faculty and Staff Retreat on August 7 at Calvary Church Eastlake.
- **New student orientation** is August 17-18, 2019.
- The **2019 Convocation** service is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, at 10:45 a.m. in the chapel.
- **Anthony Abell**, Vice President for Enrollment, has been working on developing analytics to better determine incoming student population as well as improving retention through the understanding of student needs.
- The College was featured in the Pinellas 2019-2020 *Christian Business Directory*.
- A new phone system has been installed at the College.

Dates Ahead:

- Wednesday, August 7 ... **2019 Faculty/Staff Retreat**
- Friday-Monday, August 17-18 ... **Student Orientation**
- Monday, August 19 ... **Classes Begin**
- Wednesday, August 21 ... **Convocation**

Please Pray for ...

- ✦ Our Admissions teams as they deal with prospective students for the *Quest* and Traditional programs. More students will be enrolling at Trinity than last year at this time. Our prayer is that they will find the college 'home away from home!' Pray for Anthony Abell, Vice President for Enrollment, along with Rachel Noble, Director of Admissions (Traditional) and Dr. John Zuch, Associate Dean for Degree Completion.
- ✦ The air-conditioner need in the Administration offices. Faculty and Staff compensation needs had to be the first priority. Bids have been received for the unit, ranging from \$11,000 - \$13,600. Half of the unit has been operational with the other half off-line.
- ✦ The students who will soon become residents of L.L. Speer Hall. The number is 70 and climbing.
- ✦ The Athletic Program. Pray that our young women and men might know the mission and see the vision God has for them.
- ✦ Financial needs ... the needs of the students as well as the Faculty and Staff.

A Puritan Prayer:

"May **His comforts** cheer me in my sorrows, **His strength** sustain me in my trials, **His blessings** revive me in my weariness, **His presence** render me a fruitful tree of holiness, **His might** establish me in peace and joy, **His incitements** make me ceaseless in prayer, **His animation** kindle in me undying devotion. Send Him (Holy Spirit) as the searcher of my heart, to show me more of my corruptions and helplessness

that I may flee to thee, cling to thee, rest on thee."

Puritan Prayers and Devotions, page 55

Thank you for standing with us,

