

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING US

God's Grace - Ephesians 2:8
God's Love and Mercy - Ephesians 2:4
Christ's Blood Shed – Romans 5:9-11
The Gospel – Romans 1:16

Our Response of Faith:

Believe - Acts 16:31; Mark 16:15-16
Repentance – Luke 13:3
Confession – Romans 10:10
Be baptized for remission of sins –
Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21
Be faithful, committed, walk in light –
Revelation 2:10; 1 John 1:7-10

Prepared For the Bridegroom

As a child one of my favorite things was to go with my brothers on their Boy Scout camping trips. Well, I guess I really didn't have a choice in the matter with my dad being the scout master and my mom doing all the cooking. The part of these trips that always fascinated me was the immense preparation it took before we could leave. Of course, all the preparation went along with the Scout motto, "Be Prepared."

The question for us today is, "Are we prepared for the Bridegroom?" If you think about it, we prepare for almost everything we do: our jobs, school, exercising, making dinner, etc... But when it comes to our relationship with Jesus, "how much do we prepare?"

This reminds me of the parable Jesus gave in Matthew 25:1-13: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (ESV).

Have you prepared for the Bridegroom? If you have not prepared for the coming of Jesus I urge you to be like a good Boy Scout and "Be Prepared!" You can prepare when through faith (Acts 16:30-31) and repentance (Acts 17:30-31) you are baptized into Christ washing away your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16) and continue to follow Him faithfully (1 John 1:7).

by Travis Robertson



A Weekly Publication of the Horse Cave CHURCH OF CHRIST

120 Cave Street
Horse Cave, KY 42749

TIME OF SERVICES (CST):

Sunday: Bible Study 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Wednesday: Bible Study 6 PM

Church Webpage: www.horsecavecoc.com

Bulletin Editor: Wayne Hatcher

Focused on Christ - Thankful for our Salvation - Glorifying the Lord - Serving through Love - Preaching Christ to the World

We gladly welcome you to our congregation, trusting that – if you are *seeking Christ* you will find Him here, if *sorrowing* you will receive comfort and strength here, if *troubled in spirit* you will gain the blessing of peace here, if *discouraged* you will rejoice in encouragement and hope here, if *friendless* you will find companionship and Christian love here. That these and other blessings may be yours is our prayer.

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Ineffective Sermons by Al Behael

"...the message which they heard did not benefit them, because it did not meet with faith in the hearers" (Hebrews 4:2)

I read a stimulating article by Joe Barnett entitled "Lousy Sermons." Every preacher has experienced the varied reactions of people to sermons they preach. The same sermon might be met with comments like, "I really needed that message", or "I was moved by that sermon to try harder to please God", to "that did nothing for me", or "I didn't get anything out of it." Still others are overtly critical of the delivery or the message itself or the messenger.

Ministers are usually their own hardest critics. "Did I say what I needed to say?" "That wasn't very effective," or, "I should have chosen something different to talk about today." Sometimes the problem lies with the preacher. Maybe he really didn't know much about the topic, or, perhaps he is a dedicated man who didn't have the equipment for the job.

But, there may be another possibility—one that has nothing to do with the message itself or the one delivering it. The problem can be with the hearer. Hebrews 4:2 tells of times the message of God failed in its purpose or intent because "it was not met with faith in the hearers." A good sermon must involve the speaker and the hearer. The presentation and the reception are equally important.

The message needs to be clear, truthful, and delivered with the right attitude on the part of the speaker.

The reception of the message can depend on the condition of heart and mind, and the "faith" of the hearer. Unless there is a willingness to believe and accept truth the words spoken are ineffective.

The message of the cross will be lost when it is not met with faith. The result will be that it "did not benefit them" (Hebrews 4:2).

HORSE CAVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

120 Cave Street
Horse Cave, KY 42749



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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Becky Hatcher continues further treatment and rehab at home. Wayne is serving as her caregiver. Home Health is providing some teaching, nursing & rehab twice a week; Lori Brewer had back surgery Thurs. in Bowling Green, came home Sunday evening; Mike Thompson had tests on Tuesday; Lisa Schuler fell in her yard and broke her ankle; Sue Bunnell; Lois Edwards; Bonnie Turner; Joyce Dye; Helen Edwards; Fran Mears; Mark Hatcher; Laura Brooks; Tom & Mary Whittington; Agnes Seaton; Jerry Ann Logsdon; Joey Palmore; Parker Bybee; Mary Thompson; Gayla Graham; Bobby Pedigo; Steve Higginbotham

Friends in our community: Jerry Cherry; Seaborn Elzey; Joey Johnson; James Gardner; Dana Reagan (CHS. friend of Janice Bybee; Billy Frank Hunt (CHS classmate of Billy Bybee)

PRAY FOR MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

Nepal and Bangladesh - Michael Brooks
The Barnabas Journey - Ed Bass
House To House/Heart To Heart mailing

HIGHLAND RIDGE in Glasgow

Wanda Proffitt

NHC in Glasgow

Jean Turner

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE

Ruth Bradford

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of Rita Crain Karem. Rita is Becky Hatcher's aunt, sister to her mother Julia.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Today is our 2nd lesson in the Summer Quarter on the theme: "Peter's Epistles" Today's topic: "Instructions For Godly Living" I Peter 1:13-25 2 Peter 1:1-4 Wayne Hatcher continues to serve as teacher.

TUNE IN TO OUR RADIO PROGRAMS

on WLOC-FM on Sunday mornings to hear our radio broadcast: on 101.7 FM or 1150 AM or from their webpage: wloconline.com
8:30-8:45 a.m. **Words of Truth** - Billy Bybee
8:45-9:00 a.m. **Truth In Love** - Wayne Hatcher

RECOMMENDED TV PROGRAMS

In Search of the Lord's Way is on WNKY channel 7 or 307 (HD) on Sundays at 7 a.m. on SCRTC cable. Speaker: Phil Sanders

Also, we recommend GBN (Gospel Broadcasting Network) seen 24/7 on channel 113 on SCRTC cable.

PREACHING TODAY

Wayne will be preaching this morning at our 11 worship. Sermon: "If I (Christ) Be Lifted Up..." At 5 pm: "Who Am I?"

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

We resumed our Sunday evening services last Sunday. It appears things are beginning to return to some "normalcy". It is so great to be able to assemble together at all services. It has been uplifting to see some who had health concerns who now feel less threatened by COVID. KY COVID guidelines were lifted on Fri. June 11. But if you have not had the vaccine and/or feel comfortable wearing a mask, feel free to do so.

POTTER CHILDREN'S HOME

We are collecting the following items for their pantry needs:

Yellow Cake Mix All Purpose Flour
Canned Vegetable Soup Pancake Syrup
Peanut Butter & Cheese Crackers

They will be here the week of July 11 to pick up ours donations.

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

What was the name of the high priest who plotted to arrest Jesus?

The answer to our question last week:
Saul and Jonathan I Sam. 13:22

Corrupt Communication

by R.W. McAlister

Are you as tired of hearing it as I am? It fills television shows, it's heard at the grocery store, the ballgame, restaurants, the workplace, it's found in movies and in novels – it's seemingly everywhere! What am I talking about? Profanity!

We hear it—not just from sailors ("cuss like a sailor"), or from the French ("pardon my 'French'")—but from all segments of society. It used to be the case that a gentleman would never use profanity in the presence of a lady, and deep down, he probably knew he shouldn't use it in front of anyone. These days, I occasionally hear (or hear about) women who can swear as fluently as anyone. Even small children now can "cuss a blue streak." It almost seems as if some of the first words they learn are "four-letter" words.

A recent study by the Parents Television Council found the use of profanity during the so-called "family hour" (8:00 to 9:00 Eastern time) is up fifty-eight percent from two years ago, and the nature of the language (sexual explicitness) is getting worse.

I was surprised just a couple of evenings ago when my wife was checking out a movie on the Internet (to see if it's something we could watch), and she mentioned the words of foul language that were in it. The article continued by saying those words (I won't repeat them here) "weren't serious." We're like Israel of old – we've become so desensitized to profanity, we don't even blush! (cf. Jer. 6:15).

The Bible is not silent concerning the manner in which we speak. Paul wrote: "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29).

The term rendered "corrupt" is the Greek *sapros*, meaning, "rotten; putrefied." It references that which provides no good service. Our words in the presence of others ought to be such as build men up, rather than degrading them (Job 4:4).

Again, the inspired apostle wrote: "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth" (Colossians 3:8). The term signifies that which is base; "foul or filthy" language.

It used to be that if a child used foul language, he (or she) had their mouth "washed out" with soap. I think it's time to get back to that, and not only for children! Let us dispense with corrupt communication, and use only speech which is "good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."

Exploding Book

God's Book has power. I've seen it "explode" and blow beer out of a man's refrigerator. I've seen this book "explode" and blow the hate out of a man's life. I've seen this book "explode" and transform people's lives.

The power of the Bible is amazing. When it's preached, the Bible is like a hammer that breaks the rocks in pieces (cf. Jeremiah 23:29). It penetrates our deepest consciences and exposes our sins, stubbornness, hypocrisies, misunderstandings, and motivations (cf. Hebrews 4:12).

I know that the Bible is true because many years ago, God saved a 19-year old boy whose life was going astray. He's the one who's writing this article.

And in the years I've been studying the Bible, I have seen this book change the lives of so many different people. It can change your life, too.

- Howell Ferguson

*Read Romans 1:16