

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; I Peter 3:21
 Be faithful, committed, walk in light –
 Revelation 2:10; I John 1:7-10

Up To You or Up To God?

by Joe Slater

Who determines where you dwell eternally? Is it up to you, or is up to God? The short answer is: "Yes!"

That salvation from sin and the resulting eternal life are a gift cannot be denied successfully! Romans 6:23 couldn't be clearer: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." We call Jesus "Savior" for a reason – if we could provide for our own deliverance from the guilt and penalty for sin, we wouldn't need a savior. But obviously we cannot!

Unfortunately, some have erroneously concluded that since we cannot save ourselves by ourselves, we must be totally passive. They believe God unconditionally picked and chose certain individuals to be saved and exercised irresistible grace toward them regardless of any faith or obedience.

Others have bought into the equally mistaken idea that by working really hard we can "almost" save ourselves, and God's grace just gives us a little nudge over the finish line. Such a notion ignores the fact that good works can't wash sins away – only Jesus' blood does that. The bird lady in "Home Lone – Lost In New York" was wrong: a good deed doesn't erase a bad deed. Not even at Christmas!

The fact is, a gift is given on the terms of the giver. Complying with God's terms to receive the gift of eternal life isn't meriting or earning salvation! In no way does it deny the grace of God. And we have the free will to decide whether to comply with God's terms or to refuse them. God elected (chose) Jesus to be our Savior, and He elected (chose) to save those who trust and obey Jesus.

So, is it up to God or up to you? Yes!



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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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Are You Seaching For the Truth?

by Ron Bartanen

Are you searching for truth? Some are not searching because they don't believe in absolute truth—everything to them is relative. Others are not searching because their church tells them what the truth is. These feel they already have the fullness of truth. All should heed Paul's warning: "Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things" (Acts 20:30). Others seek the truth in their own hearts, though the Bible warns, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). The importance of seeking truth is emphasized in Scripture. The wise man Solomon advised, "Buy the truth and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23). In the marketplace of ideas one must be careful to distinguish the true from the counterfeit. Jesus said, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free" (John 8:32).

How will we know the truth when we see it? Ultimate truth is found in Jesus, who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6). Truth is found in His word, the Scriptures, of which Paul wrote, "All scripture is inspired of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Where are you searching for truth?

worldenglishinstitute.net

Become a Global Missionary from Home.



Hundreds wait daily to be taught the word of God while they learn English grammar.




Website



Facebook

NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Becky Hatcher is still taking a shot weekly to increase her hemoglobin. Wayne continues to be her caregiver. Wayne went to dr. Friday for bronchitis; Sue Bunnell is taking treatments for a small tumor on her pancreas, she also had a stroke recently that we pray she recovers from it; Mike Thompson at home; Genie & Marilyn Hogan at home; Fran Mears; Laura Brooks; Agnes Seaton; Jackie Coop; Lisa Schuler's sister Linda with a brain tumor; Lisa Schuler's dad Vincent Ward at home; thankful that Heather Seng (Lisa & Malon Schuler's daughter) has been accepted on the donor list for a liver transplant; Don Waddell; Chase Burd (Marie Burd's grandson); Dixie Napier's son Randy's undergoing treatments; John Carter is home; Helen Edwards; Mary Thompson; Parker Bybee; Bobby Pedigo; Bradley Bogue having treatments for lung cancer; Rhealyn Denison recovering from surgery on her legs; Joey Palmore had two back surgeries at Norton Hosp. Louisville; our local schools, students & staff

PRAY FOR MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

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

HIGHLAND RIDGE Glasgow

Wanda Proffitt

NHC Glasgow

Jean Turner

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE Glasgow

Ruth Bradford

SHANTI NIKETAN HOSPICE HOME Glasgow

Ann Schuler

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

We are in our new quarter on the theme "One Book-Chapters" Lesson 2 is "Edom's History" vss. 10-14 Wayne continues to serve as teacher.

PREACHING TODAY

Wayne at 11 am *"The Meaning of Being In Christ"* Eph. 1:3-7 and 5 pm Study of 3 John

Darrell Wallace is scheduled to preach the last two Sundays. Christmas falls on Sunday this year, services will meet as usual, the evening service will be a devotional for those who are here and for any that could not worship Sunday morning.

NOTE: I am taking off the last two weeks of this month. We are not able to go anywhere, but I will be taking care of Becky spending some time with her and try to get a little rest. Love to each of you, Wayne

This will also be the last bulletin for the year

WEDNESDAY EVENING 6:00

We are continuing our study of the book of *James* We are in chapter 2. Scott Huff will serve as the teacher this week.

LADIES BIBLE CLASS

continues to do good works. Yesterday they delivered 90 blankets to the residents at Signature Health Care in Horse Cave.

OUR RADIO PROGRAM

We are sponsoring *"In Search of the Lord's Way"* heard on our local radio station WLOC 101.7 FM and 1150 AM each Sunday morning from 8:30 - 9:00 with **Phil Sanders**. Prayers for this work in sowing the seed of the gospel

RECOMMENDED TV PROGRAMS

"Light of the World" Lehman Ave. Church of Christ in Bowling Green Viewed on SCRTC cable channel 7 from 6:30-7:00 am (next column)

"In Search of the Lord's Way" with Phil Sanders carried by WNKY TV on channel 7 on SCRTC cable - Sun 7-7:30 am

GBN seen on our local SCRTC cable on 113

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

Name the two sons of Jochebed

Answer to our last question:

David 2 Sam. 15:30

POTTER CHILDREN'S COMMODITIES

Another one of our areas of service is helping with the ministry at Potter Children's Home and Family Ministries. We have been asked to donate any of these pantry items:

**augraten potato mix ketchup olive oil
frosted flakes cereal ritz crackers**

If you had rather donate by check or cash, that is also appreciated.

They plan to be here the week of January 8, 2023 to pick up our donations

When God Feels Distant

by Jeff Arnette

We've all been there at some point in our journey. One day everything is great and the next, we find ourselves feeling lost and distant from God. There can be many reasons for feeling like this but most often, it is a result of some struggle we are facing in life. Sometimes it isn't that God has moved away from us but that we've moved away from Him and sometimes it is simply a matter of how we're feeling in the midst of the struggle. No matter the reason or if the distance is real we should all want to be closer to the Lord. Feeling closer to the Lord gives us comfort when life gets crazy, when we're struggling with some sin in our life, or when we simply need more strength.

Asaph, in Psalm 77, gives us some insight into prayer and needing to be closer to the Lord. He cries out to the Lord and He listens to him. Asaph knew that the only way to get through the trouble he was dealing with was to get closer to the Lord.

First, we learn from Asaph that when God feels distant we should remember all the good things God has done for us. We need to consider all the things God had

done for us and for His people. By remembering God's gracious acts it gets us to stop focusing on ourselves and start focusing on Him.

Secondly, we learn from Asaph the importance of spending time in God's house with the people of God. He knew that the best way to feel closer to the Lord was to get closer to the people of God.

Time spent in worship and assembling with His people will draw us closer to each other and to our God. It is in the services of the church that we learn, remember his gracious acts, and grow through study with others. If you are feeling distant from the Lord just remember that he will always be near his people and his people will always be together especially on Sundays & Wednesdays. Make sure you're there every time the doors are open and it will be a great blessings for you and for the church.

Relationships require effort and God is no exception. Even before you feel like doing it, just keep doing it, and eventually you will feel like being there. Here is a truth that is often hard for us to learn: feelings follow actions, not the other way around. In the same way that you exercise even before you feel like doing it, spending time with the Lord and His people will eventually feel good if you keep doing it. Just because you don't feel like doing something doesn't mean you will not.

So, if you're feeling distant from the Lord, just keep going, keep focusing on his great works, keep praying, and make sure you keep going to the church services. Eventually, with persistence, you will reap the benefits that He has in store for you.