

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 the

light - Revelation 2:10; 1 John 1:7

Are You Searching 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?



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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The Longing That Satisfies

by Ronald Bryant

Christian character is not developed theoretically. Nor can it be developed merely by the force of human will. The Christian graces are the heartbeat of Christian character. The two are inseparably connected. Both are learned and developed in the deep recesses of the heart, in daily-life, and only in the context of vital life-union with Christ. Communion with God is the environment of spiritual life, and is thus the very nature of life in Christ.

Discipleship is the manner and method of Christian devotion. The demands of the Christian faith are specific and unalterable, and they are essential to daily life and to the hope of eternal life.

Christ begins with each Christian at the point of their new birth. He guides, protects, strengthens, and encourages their spiritual growth. That growth ever moves toward the possession of a greater knowledge of God and an ever increasing desire to know Him. Spirituality, in Christ's program, develops steadily within the heart and life of each genuine disciple, as they yield to and honor Him. The various stages of development come in order, with no stage being skipped. Steady growth takes place as each disciple is instructed in the "grace and knowledge" of Christ. God expects each Christian to grow spiritually - to conform to the image of Christ.

The greatest and noblest desire is to be conformed to the image of Christ.

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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Doris Wallace is doing well at home after back surgery; Malon Schuler had outpatient surgery Thurs. He is home recuperating; Becky Hatcher dialysis 3X times a week. Her surgery to relocate a vein in her arm for the fistula has been changed to Dec 28. Wayne is her Caregiver; Billy Bybee; it was good to see Sydney Bunnell Wed. night after COVID; Becky Bush; Mike Thompson; Joyce Dye is having melanoma skin cancers removed from her back; Mary Whittington has had a tough time recovering from COVID, John & Candice Eastridge & Emily have had COVID; Dixie Napier's son Randy; Joey Palmore; Helen Edwards in Bowling Green; Don Waddell (member at Center); Steve Seaton; Terry Bunnell; Mary Hatcher; Parker Bybee; Ron Hogan recovering in Anchorage from back surgery.

Prayers for our elders in the search of our next minister. Wayne announced plans in October of the need to retire.

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE Glasgow
Ruth Bradford

PRAY FOR MISSION EFFORTS WE SUPPORT

Nepal and Bangladesh - Michael Brooks
House To House/Heart To Heart local mailing
Manna Project

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS 10 a.m.

We are in our Winter Quarter on *Esther*. Today is lesson 3: "The Search For A New Queen" Wayne will be the teacher

PREACHING TODAY

Wayne at 11 a.m. sermon: "Key Events That Impacted the World" #2 - *The Life and Ministry of Christ*"

Dennis Hogan will be preaching at 5 p.m. Dennis is being considered by the elders for our next minister. You are encouraged to be here Sunday night. Many of you have already met them as he visited here Wed. night Dec. 6. He and his wife Peggy were

here last Sun. night

WEDNESDAY NIGHT 6:00

New study on the *Parables of Jesus*. Darrell Wallace had a good lesson Wed. night. Scott Huff will be our teacher this week.

OUR RADIO PROGRAM

We are pleased to sponsor "*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**. Please pray for this work as the seed of the gospel is being sown in this ministry.

NOTE: If you are unable to pick up the radio signal, you can log on to **wloconline.com** You may choose to listen on your computer or use the **tunein** app for you mobile devices.

Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries Commodities Outreach

We have been asked to donate any of the following pantry items:

Granola Bars *Cooking Spray* *Rotel*
Onion Powder *Crackers with Peanut Butter*
checks or cash are also accepted to buy perishable items

Your help as we have done for years will be greatly appreciated. Pantry items will be picked up the week of **Jan. 7, 2024**

Ten Misplaced Desires?

Steve Higginbotham
Karns Church of Christ Knoxville, TN

Maybe you've heard the story about three old friends who were shipwrecked on a deserted island. After nearly a year of being castaways, a bottle floated up on the beach. One of the men opened it, and out popped a genie granting one wish to each of the three friends. Without any hesitation, the first friend said, "I wish I were back home in Knoxville." Poof! He was gone. The second friend immediately said, "I wish I were back home in Knoxville,

too." Poof! Immediately he was gone. The third man was more deliberate. He told the genie he wanted to think about it a bit longer to make sure he didn't waste his wish. After a full two months of isolation on the island, he said to the genie, "I've reached my decision. Over the past two months I've come to realize how much I miss my friends. It's been so lonely here without them, so I wish my two friends were back here with me." And poof! (Groan here).

I believe we can all recognize the misplaced desire this man had. The desire for companionship with his friends was noble, but that desire was misplaced if it meant calling them back to the island. But now, before we laugh at this man we had better realize that sometimes, we too have misplaced desires; good and noble desires, but they can be misplaced due to context. Let me offer ten misplaced desires we sometimes have.

- We want a Savior, but we don't want a Lord.
- We want a crown, but we don't want a cross.
- We want a harvest, but we don't want to sow any seed.
- We want to go to Heaven, but we don't want to go to church.
- We want to grow spiritually, but we don't want to feed on his word.
- We want Hollywood to "clean up its act," but we don't want to stop watching.
- We want the right to pray, even in school, but we don't want to pray.
- We want the 10 Commandments

posted, but we don't want to live by their moral principles.

- We want to love God, but we don't want to abhor sin.

We want to die the death of the righteous, but we don't want to abandon the lifestyle of the sinner.

The man who wanted his friends to rejoin him on that deserted island was pretty short-sighted, but not nearly as short-sighted as those whose wants are identified above. Give it some thought.

from pg. 1 **The Longing. . .**

The deep sincere desire to be like Christ is life-altering. Under the sway of love for Christ, the ruling desire of one's heart is to catch and hold His mood and manner, to be attuned to Him in every thought, word, and deed. Such a desire is a blessing, not a burden. To possess this desire, or rather, to be possessed of this longing, is the greatest satisfaction.

Devotion to Christ is life-altering. It is the rhythm of life, and the labor of a lifetime. It moves one to be ruled by a longing to cast one's heart into the mold that is Christ. Nothing is more attractive than the majesty of Christ. His brightness and glory moves us to love and adore Him; His mercy and grace catch and hold our affections and are the means whereby our souls are transformed as we yield to Him in obedience. We are truly Christian only when we are in Christ and are like Him. Only in Christ are we truly the people of God. Only in Him can our souls be satisfied.