

GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

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:

Faith - 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

The only way to live a better life this year is to do better each day. It is our prayer that each of us can honestly resolve every day to live more faithfully to Christ, to be a better example of spiritual service, and to let fewer opportunities for sharing our faith in Christ with others slip by without any effort to seize them. To accomplish these goals will require an outlook on life drastically different than the view commonly embraced by most in this world. Jesus spoke to this unique outlook when He said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34).

Christians should think seriously about their relationship to God, Christ, His church, the Bible, and their individual life as a disciple of Christ, striving to embrace their own personal goal for spiritual growth as they live faithful, obedient lives.

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But that's OK. The saxophonist in an orchestra isn't expected to know how to play the drums. His talent is playing the saxophone. His job is simply to make use of his talent and do the very best that he can.

Learn what your gift is, and then use it to the glory of God. Paul offers a list of possibilities. Maybe your gift is speaking, or serving, or encouraging, or giving, or leading, or showing mercy (Rom. 12:6-8). Perhaps your gift is in that list, perhaps it's something else altogether.

But, if you're not sure of your part, please don't sit and pretend to play. Find out what your gift is and then make use of it to the glory of God! by Alan Smith



A Weekly Publication of the
**Horse Cave
CHURCH OF CHRIST**
120 Cave Street
Horse Cave, KY 42749

TIME OF SERVICES: Sunday: Bible Study 10 AM;
Worship 11 AM & 5 PM Wednesday: Bible Study 6 PM

CHURCH WEB PAGE: www.horsecavecoc.com

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

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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Number 1

If You're Not Sure of Your Part

I heard about a junior high music teacher who had just organized a band in her school. The principal was so proud of the music teacher's efforts that without consulting her he decided that the band should give a concert for the entire school. The music teacher wasn't so sure her young musicians were ready to give a concert, so she tried to talk the principal out of holding the concert, to no avail.

Just before the concert was ready to begin, as the music teacher stood on the podium, she leaned forward and whispered to her nervous musicians, "If you're not sure of your part, just pretend to play."

And with that, she stepped back, lifted her baton and with a great flourish brought it down. Lo and behold, nothing happened! The band brought forth a resounding silence.

I can't help but wonder if we have the same problem in the church at times. Christians may have the idea that since they're unsure of the part that they are to play, they'll just sit and pretend. The problem is, when everyone is unsure of what part they're supposed to play, the result is silence -- nothing gets done.

What is the solution? The solution is helping each and every member of the body of Christ to learn their part. In I Corinthians 12 and Romans 12, Paul pictures the church as a body with all of the different parts of that body having different functions.

"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them..." (Romans 12:6).

I can't do everything, and I certainly can't do everything well.

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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Bessie Brooks on dialysis; R. T. Turner; Leon Seaton; Renee Perkins; Dennis Hatcher (ongoing back pain); James Horton; Linda Forbes; Parker Bybee; Christian Shadburne; Wendle Jones (Becky Hatcher's dad) confined to bed at home; Geraldine Glass

FRIENDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Joey Chaney; Randy Scott; Ruby Whitlow; Stella Downs (teacher at Park City Elem.); Sherian Gray (member at S. Green St.); the family of Brett Robertson

HIGHLAND RIDGE ASSISTED LIVING

Ruth Bradford 180 Scottie Drive Glasgow

HART COUNTY HEALTH CARE

Mildred Briggs (member at Cave City)

HOMETOWN MANOR ASSISTED LIVING

Jean Turner 201 Trista Lane Glasgow, Ky

SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Elizabeth Alexander. She was the mother-in-law of our Dennis Hatcher. She was laid to rest in Park City Wednesday afternoon.

THANK YOU NOTE

To our Church Family,
We sincerely thank each of you for the many acts of kindness given to Donnie and our family during his recent illness. We appreciated so much your prayers, the visits at home and the hospital, the phone calls and your heartfelt concern. A very special thank you to Billy, Mike and Wayne for conducting the service, and also to Scott and Robbie for

leading the singing. It was beautiful. Another special thank you to the ladies for preparing the wonderful meal after the service. Donnie dearly loved each of you. Please continue to pray for me and my family

In Christian Love,
Helen and Family

END OF YEAR JOINT-WORSHIP

We closed out 2015 with the Cave City congregation in a worship service on Wednesday night Dec. 30. What a great way to conclude the year!! Afterwards, we were treated to soup, sandwiches and desserts. We really appreciated their hospitality.

SUNDAY MORNING AUDITORIUM

We currently in our new Winter Quarter and are studying Samuel: Judge and Prophet. We are on lesson 5 this morning, Samuel the Judge (I Sam 7:14—8:9)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

We continue to study "Circles of Truth" with Mike Thompson on Wed., 6:00.
You need to be here for both classes.

ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING

this afternoon at 3:00 All men of the congregation are invited

BULLETIN ITEMS

If you have news items to put in the bulletin, be sure and get it to Wayne by Sat. morning.

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

Whose sons became the fathers of the tribes of Israel?

The answer to last week's bible question: because their deeds were evil John 3:19

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!!

Getting Little Out of Worship?

My cousin, returning from World War II, stopped off to visit and attended worship with us. He had come from a non-religious background, and it is doubtful that he had ever attended the services held by the chaplains, weak as they were. I have seen few people so miserable in my life as was that cousin when we were in worship. Hardly any verse could be mentioned or read that he had ever heard of; he knew nothing of the New Testament church or the proper divisions of the Bible. He had no idea as to the items of New Testament worship, or that Christianity was a life to be lived outside the church building.

He indicated he obtained nothing from the Bible study and worship. Of course, he put nothing into it either. In his ignorance of all things pertaining to the Bible, it is understandable that he "got nothing from the worship."

Of much more concern are those in the kingdom, some for years, who will still state, "I get so little out of worship!" We firmly believe the same point is true that relates to that cousin of mine; we get something out only when we put something in. There is no excuse for a child of God to come to worship and study with nothing, putting in nothing, and then expecting anything but nothing.

May we think of these points as we approach worship and study as children of God.

1. Every song I sing can remind me of Biblical truths and my need to feel more appreciation for God and His efforts for me.

2. Every Bible verse mentioned in classes and worship has a lesson for me and should remind me of similar verses—and especially of my own need to know more of the Bible.

3. Everything expressed in prayer should remind me of my own blessings, of my own praying, and how I can improve it.

4. Every point made in song, prayer, and remarks at the Lord's table should cause me to be more thankful for the sacrifice of the Christ and make me more appreciative of His death and shed blood.

5. Participation in giving to the Lord's cause should awaken in me greater appreciation and love for the kingdom, its work, and for the part I can have in it.

Even in the announcements made, I can see opportunities for service in seeing to the sick, shut-ins, and the bereaved, to say nothing of opportunities to greet and welcome visitors and newcomers. Getting nothing out of services? You should be ashamed of yourself.

The fact is, I get something out only when and if I put something in. If I come to worship with an empty bucket, and by lack of interest block anything that starts to enter it, I will leave with an empty bucket. Keep it up, and the bottom will rust out completely.

Bill Jackson Deceased

Happy New Year—2016

And may God bless each of us and may we have a wonderful year for Him!!!

- Wayne