

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

Do You Know Which Way Is Up?

by Joe Slater

"That poor fellow doesn't know which way is up!" By that we mean he's confused, misinformed, or maybe not the brightest bulb in the chandelier.

When it comes to spiritual matters, seek above all else to know which way is up! And once you know, follow that way.

You must select between two ways. Hear the word of the Lord: "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it" (Matthew 7:13-14).

A vast majority travel the broad way leading down to destruction. Why? Because it's easy! I grew up with dirt roads, many of them narrow. Moving farm implements from one field to another presented serious problems. I didn't like narrow roads then, and like them even less now. Give me a wide, paved highway any day!

Most feel the same about how they live. No restrictions, plenty of company - sounds great, doesn't it? (Until you consider the destination, that is!)

What about the way that leads upward to life in Heaven? Not only is it difficult, but even the entrance (gate) is narrow. If you pass through that gate, it will be on purpose. You won't travel the difficult way by coincidence. You must be content to be in the minority, for those on the difficult way are not many, but few. But oh, the destination: Life!

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). If you know Jesus, you know which way is up. Follow Jesus!



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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Make It Relevant by Bill Brandstatter

The cry among many believers today is "Make it relevant." They want the worship services relevant to the way society is today. They want the preaching to relate to societal problems. Is the preaching relevant? Do we have to change our worship in order to meet the needs of today's culture?

Let us answer these concerns by a few observations. What could be more relevant to an immoral, ungodly, humanistic society than Jesus Christ and Him crucified? The message of the cross must have been related to the society of Paul's day. In some ways it was even worse than today's society. Paul stated regarding his preaching: "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16) Was Paul's preaching relevant? On another occasion Paul stated: "For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ." (Gal. 1:10) Paul condemned just preaching what men wanted to hear. He also indicated he was in trouble if, in that immoral, ungodly Corinth, he didn't preach the gospel!

When Paul preached the gospel, what did he preach? Paul was first of all consistent in what he preached. A preacher who changes with the wind is not what God wants. Notice what Paul said about himself; "For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church." (1 Cor. 4:17) Notice Paul's consistency in teaching everywhere in every church. This is also indicated in 1 Cor. 7:17: "But as God has distributed to each one, as the Lord has called each one, so let him walk. And so, I ordain in all the churches." Again notice "in all churches." Paul's message was the same everywhere he went.

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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Becky Hatcher at home. Wayne continues to be her caregiver; Sue Bunnell; Fran Mears; Lori Brewer; Agnes Seaton; Margie Gentry at home; Mark Hatcher (back); Mike Thompson; Joyce Dye back pain; Marie & Chase Burd; Becky Bush will have a medical procedure in Louisville Tuesday; Lisa Schuler's sister Linda has a brain tumor; Laura Brooks at her daughters; Brenda Jagers; Lisa Schuler's dad Vincent Ward at home; Malon Schuler's mom Ann is home with Home Health & caregivers; Tom Whittington; Don Waddell taking treatments for cancer; Chad Davis treatments for colon cancer; Mary Thompson; Parker Bybee; Bobby Pedigo; the church members in Mariupol are now safe in Poland

FROM OUR COMMUNITY ... the family of Alta Waddell; the family of Bobbie Mouser

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 in Glasgow
Wanda Proffitt

NHC in Glasgow
Jean Turner

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE in Glasgow
Ruth Bradford

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Today is our 11th lesson in the Spring Quarter "Epistles to Timothy" Today's topic: "Strength and Endurance" 2 Tim. 2:1-26
Wayne Hatcher continues to serve as teacher.

PREACHING TODAY

Wayne Hatcher is to preach today at 11 am His sermon will be "Holding to the Faithful Word" Titus 1:9 and at 5 pm he will begin a series from the book of I John. The first lesson: "The Word of Life" I John 1:1-4

TUNE IN TO OUR RADIO PROGRAMS

on WLOC radio on Sunday mornings to hear our 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

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

How long was Saul of Tarsus blind from the encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus?

Answer to our last question:
Jared Gen. 5:20

Merciful God

by Clifton Angel

"The LORD thy God is a merciful God" (Deut. 4:31). One of the greatest illustrations of God's mercy is found in Jesus' parable that is often called "The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant" (Matthew 18:23-35). What if we called it "The Parable of the Abundantly Merciful King"?

The main character was the unmerciful servant. He received forgiveness of a tremendous debt. However, he was not willing to be merciful toward a fellow servant who owed him a minuscule amount.

The debt amounts in the parable illustrate the abundant mercy of our God. The servant was owed the small debt of 100 pence, a debt he could have paid in less than one year. But the servant was forgiven the large debt of 10,000 talents. We do not know the exact amount of money that would equate 10,000 talents. But, 1 talent was the average annual salary of the common man in Jesus' day. Therefore, it would have taken him 10,000 years of his entire salary to repay it. → →

Jesus was illustrating the fact that we cannot repay the debt of sin. "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23a). No amount of money, work, effort, energy, or time that we offer can repay the debt of sin. Yet, God is ready every day, every hour, every second, to forgive that debt to those who love Him. God desires "all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). Yes, "the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Will we accept His gift as did the disciples in Rome? "God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you" (Romans 6:17). How did they obey the teachings they received? "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

Furthermore, we often refuse to forgive those small debts of sin against us by our fellow servants. "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). When Jesus gave a model format of prayer, He included this necessary request: "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). After giving this prayer model, He explained, "For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matthew 6:14-15).

"The LORD thy God is a merciful God" (Deuteronomy 4:31). Will we serve Him, show His mercy to others, and extend mercy ourselves?

Make It Relevant continued from pg. 1

We know some of what Paul taught. In Acts 19 he taught the brethren their baptism was wrong. They then obeyed the gospel. Was his preaching relevant? Was it fulfilling the needs of that day? To the church at Corinth Paul preached and "many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed, and were baptized." (Acts 18:8) Did Paul preach what was relevant?

What could be more needed or more relevant today than the good news or gospel of Jesus Christ? To cure loneliness, we need Christ. To help broken homes, we need Christ. To help failing marriages, we need Christ. To stop murder, suicide, etc. we need Christ, not a social gospel, not a felt needs message. We need Christ. If all individuals go to worship for is to be entertained, they are going for the wrong reason. We should go to be edified and built up in the Christian faith. This will help us to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Eph. 6:11) If we are after entertainment, there are a lot of places to go. If we want to be built up spiritually, we need to worship God. The worship needs to be such as pleases Him. If worship is done decently and in order and not spontaneous and unexpected, God will be pleased (John 4:23,24; 1 Cor. 14:33). If Christ is preached, and the gospel taught the message will be relevant. If this occurs Christians should be strengthened and become more faithful as a result.