

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

The Christian Tree

By Edd Sterchi

If a Christian were a tree, what should it look like?

- ◆ It would have roots that grow downward. Roots help with strength and stability. Roots also bring nutrients to the tree. Deeply rooted in the Scriptures the Christian can stand strong.
- ◆ It would be healthy inward. A tree must be healthy from the inside out. Spiritual health for the Christian begins with the heart.
- ◆ It would stretch up ever upward. A tree is always growing, stretching its leafy branches toward the sky. The Christian must ever be growing toward and pointing to heaven.
- ◆ It would produce fruit outward. A fruit tree yields much produce. The Christian is to be productive in good works and fruit of the Spirit.

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD. For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, which spreads out its roots by the river, and will not fear when heat comes; but its leaf will be green, and will not be anxious in the year of drought, nor will cease from yielding fruit."
(Jer. 17:7-8)

Merry Christmas!!!

to each of you as 2020 experiences her last holiday of the year.

We are very grateful to have served another year with you - 18 2/3 years. We love you very much... **Wayne & Becky**



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.

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.

Vol. 52

December 20, 2020

Number 49

Calvary or Bethlehem?

Two places played an important part in Jesus' life. The first was Bethlehem, the place of his birth. (Matt. 1:5-9) The second was Calvary, the place of His death. (Luke 23:33) Of these two, only one has affected mankind for all generations. That one is Calvary.

At Calvary, His birth in Bethlehem found its real meaning. Paul wrote *"But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."* (Phil. 2:7NKJV) Because Jesus came in the form of a baby, He entered the world like everyone else. He also died for every man on a cross on Calvary. He bore the sins of many. (Heb. 9:28) Without the events in Bethlehem, Calvary would not have been possible; but with the events of Bethlehem the events of Calvary affected all men of all generations.

At Calvary, the timing of His birth in Bethlehem was realized. Paul wrote about the time when Christ would be born in order to redeem others. In Ga. 4:4, we read, *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law..."* (NKJV) This happened in Bethlehem. Then Paul continues, *"...To redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."* (Ga. 4:5) According to Heb. 9:15, this happened at His death on Calvary.

At Calvary, the good news of Bethlehem became a reality. The angels' announcement to the shepherds was *"I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* (Lu. 2:10, 11) The reference to "city of David" is another name for Bethlehem. (1 Sam. 16:18) The good news of universal salvation for all men came to fruition at the death of Christ. Jesus said, *"This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins."* (Mt. 26:28)

Had it not been for Bethlehem, Calvary would not have happened; but because of Calvary, we all can rejoice in knowing we have a way to get to heaven one day. By coming in contact with his death on Calvary (Ro.6:3), we can have hope of everlasting life.

by Bill Brandstatter

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NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Sue Bunnell at home; Lori Brewer continues recovery from shoulder replacement; Lois Edwards recovering at home from injuries sustained from a fall; Becky Hatcher continues bedfast at home due to four ruptured discs. She hopes to have a 2nd injection tomorrow; Lisa Schuler; Laura Brooks; Jerry Ann Logsdon; Agnes Seaton; Bonnie Turner; Joyce Dye (kidney stones); Mark Hatcher has had MRI's and tests on his back; he consults with a surgeon Dec. 23; Jackie Coop; Mary Thompson; Keeley Hatcher (Mark & Jennifer Hatcher's granddaughter had emergency surgery Monday in Nashville to remove her appendix; Geneane McQuire's son Bobby; Parker Bybee; thankful that Steve Higginbotham received a positive report from his oncologist; Wayne Davis undergoing treatments; prayers for everyone affected in so many ways due to the virus which has really increased in numbers; prayers that a vaccine will be successful; our nation and leaders Friends in our community - Ray Green had by-pass surgery this past week; Seaborn Elzey; Lawrence Johnson; Dorothy Woodson

CONTINUING TO SHARE SORROWS

We were sorry to hear that Tim Atwell lost his battle with cancer and COVID on Friday. Prayers for Cindy, Ryan & Shelby Atwell in their loss; continue to remember the Hatcher family; We have several in our congregation who have lost loved ones and it is especially hard during the holidays as are more painfully aware of their absence.

PRAY FOR MISSIONS WE SUPPORT

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

NHC in Glasgow

Jean Turner

BARREN COUNTY HEALTHCARE

Ruth Bradford

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

We have begun our Winter Quarter this morning on the theme: "Genesis" - Part 2 Our lesson this morning lesson 3 "Sarah's Death" Gen. 23:1-20 Wayne Hatcher continues to serve as teacher.

TUNE IN TO OUR RADIO PROGRAMS

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

GBN (Gospel Broadcasting Network) may be seen on Ch. 113 locally on SCRTC cable 24/7 Check them out on GBN's Facebook page, videos on GBN's YouTube, GBN Mobile App, Roku, Apple TV, Online Streaming, Dish Network, DirecTV and GBN podcasting on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts

PREACHING THIS MORNING

Mike Thompson is scheduled to preach this Sunday at our 11:00 worship hour. You are invited to be present and worship with us.

COMMODITIES OUTREACH

Potter Children's Home & Family Ministries is asking for our help with any of these items:

**Toilet Paper Cherry Jello Brownie Mix
Yard Size Trash Bags Parmesan Cheese**

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

As recorded by Matthew, who said the following: "Lord, save us: we perish." ?

The answer to our question last week:
Aaron Num. 17

^ ^ ^ ^ ^

If life is a flight through time,
who is in the cockpit?

If life is a joyride,
who is behind the wheel?

If life is a voyage,
who is at the helm?

I trust we can repeat as the old song says
"Jesus Savior Pilot Me" - Wayne

Winners and Losers

by David A. Sargent

Jimmy Valvano is remembered for running up and down the court after winning the 1983 NCAA basketball championship, after his NC State Wolfpack upset the Houston Cougars (including Clyde "the Glide" Drexler and Hakeem "the Dream" Olajuwon). Valvano is also remembered well for some of his speeches.

Valvano was diagnosed with bone cancer in June 1992. In July, he found out that it had metastasized. He died less than a year later on April 28, 1993.

One of Valvano's most memorable motivational speeches was delivered February 21, 1993 at Reynolds Coliseum on NCSU's basketball court during the ten year commemoration of the University's 1983 NCAA championship. It was during this speech that Valvano stressed the importance of hope, love, and persistence and included his famous quotation: "Don't give up, don't ever give up."

Gary Smith once shared another message from Jimmy V: Suffering from terminal spinal cancer at the age of 47, former North Carolina State basketball coach Jim Valvano spoke with a reporter. He looked back on his life and told a story about himself as a 23-year-old coach of a small college team. "Why is winning so important to you?" the players asked Valvano.

"Because the final score defines you," he said, "You lose, ergo, you're a loser. You win, ergo, you're a winner."

"No," the players insisted. "Participation is what matters. Trying your best, regardless of whether you win or lose -- that's what defines you."

It took 24 more years of living. It took the coach bolting up from the mattress three or

four times a night with his T-shirt soaked with sweat and his teeth rattling from the fever chill of chemotherapy and the terror of seeing himself die repeatedly in his dreams. It took all that for him to say it: "Those kids were right. It's effort, not result. It's trying... What a great human being I could have been if I'd had this awareness back then." *

If our identity is defined by winning and losing, then we are all losers, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That is true of every human being, no matter how hard we try not to sin.

But God loves us anyway and He desires to save us from our sins (1 Timothy 2:4). He gave His one and only Son to die on the cross for our sins so that we can receive the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of eternal life (John 3:16; Romans 6:23). "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Jesus won the victory over sin and death. And, if we will submit our lives to Him, we can share in His victory.

God will save, give eternal life, and share the victory with those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Through Christ we can be victors, not losers – because He won the victory for us! "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

YOU can share in Christ's victory by trusting and obeying Him. Won't YOU?