

the MAGNOLIA Messenger

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Heaven & ETERNITY



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Mississippi's "GOOD NEWS" Magazine
Serving Mississippi, Louisiana, and Adjoining States

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto LOVE and GOOD works." (Hebrews 10:24)

From Dennis



How much do you know and understand about what happens to you when you die? The last question my mom ever asked me was "When I die, what will be the first thing I will see?" I am glad I knew the answer.

Jesus said about the beggar Lazarus, "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom" (Luke 16:22). My answer to my mom was, "When you die, the first thing you will see will be the angels coming to take you to Paradise."

How often do you think about Heaven? How much do you know about the resurrection and Hell, Heaven's only alternative?

Many people have questions about these things. They think the Hereafter is a dark, mysterious subject. Quite the contrary. Jesus and the New Testament writers answer most, if not all, of these questions. Jesus had great discourses about Judgment day. Just read Matthew chapters 24 and 25. In the last book of the Bible, The

Revelation of Jesus Christ, we are given a tremendous amount of information about Judgment day and the Eternal City of Heaven. We are told who will be there and what it will be like.

The answers keep coming. What kind of body will we have (1 Corinthians 15)? What will the end of the world be like (2 Peter 3)? Will we remember our life back on earth? Jesus tells us this answer in Luke 16:25-28.

The Lord encouraged us when he said, "Lay up for yourselves treasure in Heaven...For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:20-21). The more we think about, and know about, our eternal home, the more we will want to go there!

Read on and dream with me about Heaven. **MM** -dd

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(Dennis Doughty, Editor)

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Fall Issue Special Topic:

Do You have a Favorite Verse or Passage?

Write about it and send it to us; an article or a paragraph, a great teaching, or an inspiring thought.

We are inviting all writers to send us your articles on any of these subjects. -dd

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HEAVEN

GOING HOME, SOON!

"Just a Few More Years...Maybe"

Al Franks (1939-2019)

(Al would live to be eighty years old, as he writes about in this prophetic article written in 2002. What an inspiring message about his desire to go to Heaven! - This article was first printed in Volume 24, No. 3, June/July 2002, MM - dd)

Holy Scripture speaks specifically about the length of life. Remember? "Three score and ten" (70) ...if by reason of strength, four score (80) ..." (Psalm 90). Life's length? Perhaps seventy years. No guarantee. Maybe eighty years, or a little longer in some cases. But they ("the days of our years") are "soon cut off" and we "fly away." Life on earth is soon past. Here today, gone tomorrow.

It makes me think: Here I am. Childhood's long gone. Middle age passed so quickly. The Bible mentions seventy. How much longer? How many more years? Only God knows. What will take me away: heart, cancer, accident, murder (terrorists)? Not much time left. "It is appointed unto man once to die...."



Al Franks

Then what? Going Home to Heaven? Yes, hopefully, by the grace of God. I truly want to go to Heaven, more than anything else. I want to live forever in bliss and happiness--no tears, no pain, no death--to be with God, Jesus, and the redeemed of all ages, including saved loved ones, to dwell in a mansion on high and walk that street of gold. May God help me to obey the Scripture which admonishes, "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad. For great is your reward in Heaven," as Jesus said in Matthew 5:12. I believe Him. Do you? Heaven: my hope, my goal.

I know I surely don't want to miss Heaven, under no circumstances. I don't want to take a chance. My soul is too precious. Heaven is too wonderful. Hell is too terrible. But how can I know? How can I be sure?

The answer is Christ. Of that we can be certain. Jesus is the Savior. Of that we can be sure. The way to Heaven is by/through Jesus Christ. He is the only way. Our Lord plainly said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6). No other way to the Father. No other way to Heaven, except through Jesus Christ. Mohammad and/or Buddha are of no value. Islam, Buddhism and Judaism: not the way to Heaven. The truth is: No Jesus, no Heaven! Jesus is my hope, my only hope. He is my Savior. The way to Heaven is the way of Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. How blessed we are [to have] the Holy Scriptures! (See John 5:39; Acts 17:11)

Jesus of Nazareth proved who He was: "A teacher sent from God," Nicodemus concluded. Why? "...for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him" (John 3:2). The beloved apostle wrote about the miracles (signs) Jesus did "which are written in this book [The book of John]," and declared, "These are written that ye may believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:30-31).

I believe in Him. The One who made the blind to see, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear, and the dead to live. Jesus is the Son of God. No doubt. Do you believe in Him? The one who lived a sinless life yet was willing to die for the sins of all others—for you and for me! He promises salvation. No one else can. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16), so said Jesus. Do you believe?

Sin is the problem. It stands between us and Heaven. Forgiveness is necessary. Even murderers can be forgiven. Think about those who murdered Jesus. They heard welcomed words on Pentecost, "Repent ye and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38). "For the remission of sins"—even for the sin of murder.

Sin separates us from God. The remedy is "Repent or perish," said Jesus as recorded twice in Luke 13:3 and 5. God commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Repentance requires change. First the mind, then the life. Have you repented? Do you live daily with a penitent attitude?

"Accepting Christ" requires an obedient faith. If one truly believes, he will obey. Baptism is an act of obedience. Being baptized gives evidence of faith. Faith saves. But true, living faith also acts. Have you been baptized? Saul of Tarsus (the "chief of sinners") was commanded, "Arise, be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). Not only was Saul commanded to be baptized, so are you. Remember: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." (Mark 16:16). Essential? Yes, baptism is. "The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us..." (I Peter 3:21). Have you been baptized "in His name" and by His authority?

I want to go to Heaven. I want you to go to Heaven. Jesus is the Son of God. He is the Savior of the world. He is man's only hope for eternity. Trust Him. Obey Him. There is no other way. Live for Him. Die in Him. Be with Him forever!

Heaven: what a blessed hope! Won't be long for me! Seven more years, thirteen ...maybe a few more? "Soon cut off." "Fly away" into eternity. Finally, at last, gone Home to be with the Lord. **MM**

BIBLE

Questions & Answers

MM Readers' ASK: Cecil May RESPONDS

QUESTION:

Where did the "sinners' prayer" come from?

Where does the Bible teach that you pray in order to be saved?

RESPONSE:

(This question, in essence if not in those exact words, was received by email.

Somehow, I lost it; so, I have no initials for attribution. Almost all of "Evangelical Christendom" teaches the "sinners' prayer" as the means to be saved. "Just say a prayer like this and really mean it, 'Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and cannot save myself. I believe You are the Son of God and You died for my sins. I accept Your sacrifice as ransom for my sins. Come, now, live in my heart and be the Lord of my life. '"



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The implication of the questioner is correct. That is not the answer given in the Bible to "What must I do to be saved?" Indeed, there is nothing like that prayer anywhere in the Bible, and certainly not after Jesus' death, resurrection, and great commission. Not,

"say the sinners' prayer," but "believe, repent and be baptized." In giving the "great commission," Jesus said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

In the first sermon preached after Jesus gave that commission, Peter used Old Testament prophecy and the fact that the apostles were witnesses of his resurrection to prove that the Jesus they crucified was actually the God-sent Messiah, the Anointed King of their long-awaited Kingdom of God. Thousands believed and said, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter's answer was, "Just say the sinners' prayer." That, as I expect you know, was not at all what he said. He

said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the

forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

When Paul and Silas were jailed, in chains and stocks, they were singing and praising God at midnight and God used an earthquake to set all the prisoners free. The jailor came in and said to Paul and Silas, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household" (Acts 16:30-31). At that point, the jailor did not know who Jesus was, what or how to believe about Him, or probably even what he needed to be saved from. So Paul and Silas "spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house." The jailor then took them and washed their wounds, indicating repentance for having beaten them, and immediately (remember, it was just past midnight) he and all his household were baptized. At that point, Scripture says, "he had come to believe in God—he and his whole household" (Acts 16: 32-34). Scripture says,

"So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God by faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27).

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life" (Romans 6:3-4).

So it is at baptism, at being buried, immersed, that we are put "into Christ," and that is the transition from the old man of sin into the new life in Christ.

Salvation is a gift, freely given by God through the death

of His Son, but gifts have to be received. The gift of salvation is received "through faith," "not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Baptism is not a "work done by us in righteousness;" it is "the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" (Titus 3:4-5; compare "born of water and the Spirit" in John 3:5, and "be baptized and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" in Acts 2:38).

"Not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:9) is addressed to the many who say something like, "Well, I know I'm not perfect, but I don't steal or cuss or cheat on my wife. On balance, I'm a pretty good guy, and God is surely not going to send any good folks to Hell."

The fallacy in that kind of thinking is that "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) and "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). We have earned condemnation and death by our sins. Any good we can do we are obligated to do. Scripture says, "So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin" (James 4:17). So, when we do good works, we only keep from sinning by omission. There is no merit or "brownie points" to counteract past sins. Jesus told a parable about a man and his slave. The slave does his duty as commanded, but receives no extra thanks of praise. Jesus applies the parable to us: "So you also, when you do all you were commanded, say, 'We are unworthy (KJV says unprofitable) servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" Bottom line: we have created a debt by our sin that is impossible for us to repay. Only Jesus Christ can pay.

"Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins" (Hebrews 9:22). The shedding of my blood would not even pay for my sins. God sent His unique son to take on flesh. He was son of man through Mary, but also Son of God. He "emptied Himself" (KJV), giving up some of the attributes of Deity so as to be able to die for us. He lived a sinless life and, therefore, had no sins of His own to pay for. As Deity, He was worthy to pay for the sins of us all. We cannot pay for our sins with good works and, the good news is, we do not have to pay for them ourselves at all. "Jesus paid it all" and we must trust Him and His sacrifice.

Saved by grace through faith

"Saved by grace!" Eternal life is "a free gift of God" (Romans 6:23). Even a gift, though free, has to be received to be of use, and being "saved by grace" is received "through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). The next question is, "through what kind of faith?" The same Evangelicals who call for "the sinners'

prayer," say salvation is by "faith alone," which is a definition of a particular kind of faith, a faith that is not validated by obedience. The Bible says a person is "not justified by faith alone" (James 2:24). "Faith alone" is faith like the demons have: "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder" (James 2:19)!

"But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works" (James 2:18). Two men stand on the courthouse steps. Another man comes up and asks,

"How do I get from here to the post office? One of the two men points right; one points left.

The inquirer pauses briefly and then takes off briskly. Observing from across the street, how could we know which one of the two men the inquirer has faith in? Obviously, by which way he goes!

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." So Abram went, as the Lord had told him (Genesis 12:1-4).

Abram had faith, but not faith only. God said, "Go," and "Abram went." Suppose Abram had not gone? Would those enumerated blessings still be given him? Here is a more pertinent question: if Abram had not gone, would he have had faith? Would he still have been held up as an example of faith?

Similarly, "works," not works of merit, but works of faith, works which, James said, demonstrate faith, are called for throughout the Bible: Elisha the prophet to Naaman the leper, "Dip in the river Jordan seven times and you will be healed" (2 Kings 5:1-12); God to Joshua and to the children of Israel, march around the walls of the city and the walls of the city will fall down flat (Joshua 6:1-5); Jesus to the man born blind, "go wash in the pool of Siloam . . . So he went and washed and came back seeing" (John 9:6-7); Jesus to whomever will, "Believe and be baptized and you will be saved" (Mark 16:16).

We are saved by grace through faith, not by a dead faith but by a living faith. "For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead" (James 2:26). So, the answer to "What must I do to be saved?" is not, "Pray this prayer" (there is no Scripture). The answer is, "Believe in Jesus, repent and be baptized" (Acts 2:36-38). **MM**

*"But someone
will say, 'You have faith
and I have works.' Show
me your faith apart from
your works, and I will
show you my faith
by my works"*

(James 2:18.)

HEAVEN

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE LIKE?

by **Bill Brandstatter, minister**
Marion, Illinois

Because of the Coronavirus in 2020, my granddaughter ended up spending a few days with my wife and me. My granddaughter and I discussed the subject of Heaven. She had an interesting take on what she thought Heaven would be like. She thought there were going to be dogs there. I explained to her the difference between dogs and humans, and dogs don't have souls like humans. She then said there might be pretty gum drops there. I told her to think of the most beautiful thing she could think of and Heaven would be even more beautiful than that. She had some interesting ideas. She asked about celebrating birthdays in Heaven. She wanted to know if it would be daytime. From the mouths of youngsters come all sorts of interesting ideas and thoughts.

The Bible depicts Heaven in words for man to read. Yet even the words on the sacred pages only begin to tell us about the beauty of the Home of the soul. My favorite description is in Revelation chapter 21. In verse 4 we read, "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." We all want to go to a place of "no more." How beautiful Heaven will be!

The Bible depicts Heaven as occupied by "church" people. In Heb. 12:22-23, the writer notes, "But you have come to Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven, to God



Bill Brandstatter

the Judge of all to the spirits of just men made perfect" (NKJV). In Rev. 21:2, John writes, "Then, I John, saw the Holy City, New Jerusalem, coming down out of Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." If anyone would think of the church as not important, these verses should be considered. Because of the church, how beautiful Heaven must be!

The Bible depicts Heaven as a real place. The writer of Hebrews describes Heaven in very real terms. In Heb. 11:10, we read of Abraham waiting for a "city which has foundations whose builder and maker is God." In Heb. 11:16, it is described as a "heavenly country." In Heb. 11:14, it is referred to as a "homeland." How beautiful Heaven must be!

The Bible depicts Heaven as a place for prepared people. Jesus told His apostles, "In My Father's house are

many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am there you may be also" (Jn. 14:1-2). Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. How beautiful Heaven must be!

The Bible depicts Heaven and its occupants. Our Father is in Heaven (Mt. 5:16). Jesus is in Heaven (Acts 1:11). The Holy Spirit is there (1 Pet. 1:12). Angels are there (Mt. 18:10). God's children will be there (Phil. 3:20). How beautiful Heaven must be!

What is your view of Heaven? Think of something beautiful and then know that Heaven is even more beautiful. Let us set our minds on Heaven (Col. 3:1-2). The occupants of Heaven make it beautiful. The place makes it beautiful. The preparation makes it beautiful. The church makes it beautiful. Are you prepared? How beautiful Heaven must be! **MM**

The preparation makes it beautiful. The church makes it beautiful. Are you prepared?



Jesus

OUR EXAMPLE

In Death, Burial and Resurrection

by **Dennis Doughty**

Remember those WWJD bracelets? “What Would Jesus Do?” was a great motto to use in our lives. Peter taught us that “Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps” (1 Peter 2:21).

Consider this: in leaving us an example on how to live, He also set the example for us about death and the hereafter. What will happen to us when we die? Let us look to Jesus’ own experience. Jesus died. On the cross His heart stopped beating and He died along with two thieves. By His “suffering” He “bore our sins in His body on the cross” (1 Peter 2:23-24). Even the Son of God died a physical death, as you and I will do.

Now here is where it gets interesting. His body was put in a tomb for three days. Where was His soul, or spirit, during that time? Jesus Himself taught that upon death our souls go to a place called Hades. In the example Jesus gave us, upon death the souls of Lazarus and the rich man were taken away into Hades, where there were two areas separated by a “great fixed gulf.” One was a place of comfort, the other a place of torment (Luke 16: 19-23).

Jesus said the angels carried Lazarus away to “Abraham’s Bosom.” This was then the resting place of those of the Old Testament as well, where it is called in Hebrew, “Sheol.” Even the wicked souls who died during the flood of Noah’s day were said to be “now in prison” (1 Peter 3:19-20), and the unrepentant people of Capernaum, Jesus said they would “descend to Hades” (Matthew 11:23).

While hanging on the cross, Jesus promised the thief crucified with Him and who defended Him, “today you shall be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43). Peter on the day of Pentecost, in proclaiming Jesus’ resurrection, quoted the Psalmist David, “You will not abandon My soul to Hades” (Acts 2:27).

Putting this all together, when Jesus died His soul went to Hades, in a place of comfort He called Paradise. When we die, we will follow Jesus’ own example and go to this realm of the dead,



hopefully to the area of great comfort, where we will meet up with our loved ones and all the great people of the past.

On the third day Jesus’ spirit was not abandoned in Hades, but returned to His body and He walked out of that tomb on that glorious resurrection Sunday. Again, setting the example for our own resurrection. But note, He was resurrected from Hades, not the tomb.

If you read all the texts about Jesus after His resurrection, you cannot help but notice that He was different. He refuses Martha’s embrace, “Stop clinging to me,” He says, “for I have not yet ascended to the Father” (John 20:17). The men from Emmaus were well familiar with Him, yet do not recognize Him when He walks with them (Luke 24:16-21). He does not travel with the apostles as before, yet magically appears and disappears (John 20:19; Luke 24:31). Around the fire, eating fish with them in Galilee, they are confused by His appearance, thinking to themselves, “Who are you?”—knowing it was the Lord” (John 21:12).

Jesus’ appearance enforces what Paul would later reveal about our own resurrected body, “It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body, it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory, it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power, it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body” (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

When Jesus’ friend Lazarus was raised from the dead, his body was not changed, and he resumed a normal life. There would be a second funeral in his future. Not so with the risen Lord. In this way He was the “first fruits” of an eternal resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20).

With His resurrection, He was not yet finished setting the example for us. With the apostles on Mount Olivet, “He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight” (Acts 1:9).

So shall it be on Judgment Day for us, “the dead in Christ will rise first, then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). Christ will then ascend back into Heaven and around God’s throne and we will all follow Him there.

Let us strive to follow the Lord’s example in life and look to His example in understanding our own death and resurrection.

MM -dd

HEAVEN

WHO WILL BE THERE

by Ken Joines

God created us as gregarious creatures—we love to be with other people. If I won an all-expense trip to any place on earth, but found out it was for just me, I would not be interested. Flying, eating, and sleeping alone? Driving my rental car alone? I've been there, done that. Thanks, but no thanks. When I travel, I really love to have my wife, Sue, along to share the joy. Fact is, as important as where you go is who'll be with you. So when we talk about Heaven, it's only natural to ask not just what it will be like, but who will be there.

Assuming you have surrendered to Jesus, having been baptized into His death and letting Him reign in your life, I know you're thankful to have had your name written in "the Lamb's Book of Life," a sort of registry up there. That's what God has promised.

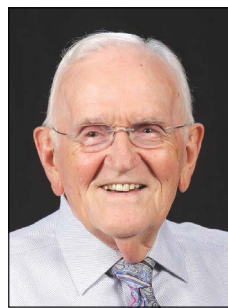
Imagine, if you will, setting a big table in Heaven for all those who have been precious to you while on earth. Who would you invite? Now, mind you, as I write this, I'm including only those who've already gone on—it won't include any of those still living, such as the obvious: wife, children, siblings, close friends still alive. And even at this, I'll have to leave out at least 98% of them. You're going to surely say, "Hmmp! I can't believe he left this one out...."; I just ask you to try to understand space limitations in this article. But one thing I'd like to accomplish here is to get you to thinking about special people in your life.

Okay, here's my huge table where I'll start seating some really special people. First, there'll be Guy and Truly Joines, and Roy and Minnie McElwain, my parents

and maternal grandparents, who played such a huge role in making me who I am. Then here's my brother, Vergil. My parents and grandparents encouraged me to be a preacher, but it was Verg who modeled it for me to see.

Then, when I was not quite eighteen, I was blessed to take Janrose Forgy as my wife for the next 58 years. She was so faithful and devoted and had a fierce love for family. And her parents? Let's just say I could not have hoped for more thoroughly Christian in-laws than Hayes and Pauline Forgy.

And here are two chairs for Jake and Reba Palmer. When as a young preacher and family, we moved to Kansas, these two angels wrapped their arms and hearts around us as their "children."



Ken Joines

Then here's a special-looking chair. Yes, it's for Robin Enochs. Back on earth in 1990, he asked for the hand of Jennifer and proved to be the best, sweetest, most thoughtful and devoted husband one can imagine. Day after day during their 30 years of marriage we saw his tender love for her. Our hearts were crushed when his life was cut short by COVID at age 62.

Oh! Here's a seat for apostle Paul. I want to hear about his interesting life. And here's another for apostle Peter. It'll be so good to hear how he felt when his Lord Jesus "reinstated" him following the three

denials. Then here's Elijah. I want to hear him tell what it was like to deal with the 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. And what it was like to not die, but to be just taken up in that fiery chariot. So where can I stop? Just imagine all the interesting people throughout scripture that I want to talk to! This table may wind up being four miles long if I include all those special souls. But Jesus did say in Matthew 8:11, "we will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." For a meal? Perhaps.

Here are two more chairs. When we began our work in Memphis, our lives became one with a special family. Smith and Alene Howell took us in and literally let us be part of every single family function they had. This man was, hands down, the best elder I ever knew. He and I conducted funerals and weddings together, repeatedly hunted Colorado and Wyoming together, and shared the same tent together up there in the Rockies on every trip. Forty-five years later, his children are still like blood kin to us.

Here's a chair at the very head of the table. I've saved this one for Jesus. True, I've deeply missed family members and long to see them, but this pales in comparison to seeing Jesus face-to-face. He's what will make Heaven my real forever home. Can you imagine hearing the same voice that called this entire universe into existence, the one that said, "Lazarus come forth!" and seeing the hands that touched the blind and caused them to see? It is just too much to imagine.

Well, when everyone is seated, I still have one empty chair over here. It is saved for YOU. I want to see you there in that

Kenneth R. Joines • 1935-2021

Four days after sending us this article on Heaven, Ken Joines died at his home on April 2, 2021 in Southaven, Mississippi. He was 85 years old. He is now sitting around that very table he wrote about in his article.

He grew up on his parent's farm outside of Greenville, Kentucky, and worshiped at the small Horton Chapel church of Christ. As a boy he began leading singing, and by his teenage years he was called upon often to lead singing during gospel meetings in the area. At fifteen years old he preached his first sermon.

Ken became one of the great gospel preachers of his day. He preached for the Goodman Oaks congregation, the largest church in Mississippi, for over 24 years, then continued to preach meetings from Alaska to Florida. In addition to his local work, for over 40 years he averaged four gospel meetings a year.

He is well known to the readers of The Magnolia Messenger, having shared his wisdom with us for many years through his wonderful articles. When I became editor, Ken was one of the first persons to call me. He was a constant encourager to me in my preaching and as editor of this publication.

All of us who knew him will miss his powerful sermons, his friendship, his humor, and his love of people. Our sympathies to his wife, Sue, his four children, and many grandchildren.

Enjoy your well-deserved rest and reward my friend. **MM** -dd

Dr. C. Bruce White • 1939-2021

Dr. C. Bruce White, past Pulpit Minister of the Madison church of Christ, passes away. Dr. White served the Madison church of Christ as Pulpit Minister from 2001-2004 and was an Associate Minister with the church from 1979-1984, when Dr. Ira North was the Pulpit Minister.

Dr. White was born in Pulaski, Tennessee, and reared in Birmingham, Alabama, and was preceded in death by wife, Judy White, and daughter, Terri Parrish.

He is survived by his son, Michael White; brother, Dwayne White; grandchildren, Hunter White, Bailey White, and Landon Parrish; great-grandchildren, Magnolia and Mabel Parrish.

Dr. White also taught Bible and Psychology at David Lipscomb University from 1979-1985. He taught Counseling for Ministers at Southern Christian University in Montgomery, Alabama, from 1991-1993. He was a minister for the churches of Christ for 54 years, and taught Bible classes at Madison church of Christ into his 80s.

Dr. White preached for churches in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Arkansas on a full-time basis. He preached in meetings in 22 states and 3 foreign countries. He spoke on almost every church of Christ related college campus and on 18 state-supported university campuses.

He received his education at Auburn University, David Lipscomb University, Harding Graduate School of Religion, University of Oklahoma, and World-Wide Bible Institute. All totaled, he had a BA, MA, MRE, MTh, DD, and D.Min. He authored two books, numerous tracts, and articles for journals, papers, and periodicals. He had a part in three different TV programs and five radio programs.

While he had many interests and varied activities, he had the heart of a preacher and always wanted to be known as a preacher. He used to say, "I am not a counselor who preaches some, I am a preacher who counsels some. I always want to be known as a preacher". **MM**



Dr. C. Bruce White

seat. Everyone up here who ever knew you wants you to be in that seat. You can make provisions for that to happen. Jesus died to make that possible. If you understand what you need to do to obey the gospel, then waste no time, do that today. If you want to go to Heaven, but don't know or understand what you need to do, then call some person you trust, who truly knows the Bible, to show you the way.

My Sue and I both long ago made arrangements to be there. Our hope is not in our goodness, but in the blood of Jesus. She and I have a tradition that's based on Revelation chapter 21 which tells us there are twelve gates up there—three on each side. Whichever of us gets there first will watch for the other at the middle gate on the east side. So right here in Mississippi, before we kiss good night, or when one of us leaves the house to pick up groceries—anything—one of us says, "East side" and the other responds with, "Middle gate." Those are our parting words because an auto accident, a heart attack, or a stroke tells us we never know when our last contact will be with with each other.

Now, it is only human for us to think, "How can I possibly be happy in Heaven if my loved one (spouse, parent, child, sibling,

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 21: 22-23

etc.) is not there?" This probably troubles all of us to some extent. The only thing that gives me peace and comfort is the promise from God that says in Heaven there will be no tears, no sadness, no death, no parting. I simply must trust His promise on this.

I really do hope to see you there. **MM**

HEAVEN

THE HOME OF THE REDEEMED

by Roger Johnson
Tuscumbia, Alabama

Earth is a wonderful place in which to live. It was created by God especially for the benefit and comfort of man. It is a place of great beauty and immense resources. However, we have many serious problems; not because God failed in any way, but man has made a mess of what God has provided. The tension between some nations is at the brink of war and, in some cases, there is open conflict. Hundreds of thousands of people are being summarily exterminated by their cruel and autocratic rulers. Serious social upheaval is taking place in America today. A homosexual “alternative lifestyle” is being openly approved and even legalized in some states. The Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision of 1973 has greatly impacted many people’s view of the sanctity of human life. Profanity, vulgarity, and immorality are approvingly portrayed on television and the printed page. The institution of marriage and the home is severely challenged by a lack of commitment and the obtaining of easy divorce. Terrorism, murder, and trafficking in human slavery seem to be ever-growing problems. The situation doesn’t seem to be improving either, in spite of the advances in technology, science, and human knowledge.

Is the human race doomed forever to this endless cycle of despair and hopelessness? Are we locked in a never-ending situation

from which there is no escape? Heaven’s resounding response is “NO!” The Christian life offers joy, happiness, and eternal hope to those who surrender their lives to the Lord.

Near the end of Jesus’ earthly ministry, His disciples appeared to have become discouraged because the Lord’s popularity was waning. There was ever-growing animosity toward Him that would eventually end with His crucifixion. The apostles were confused and uncertain because their perception of the mission of the Messiah was that of a victor and not a victim. What message would give them a positive hope in the shadow of the cross? It was the promise that Christ would leave them for a while and prepare a place for them and that He would return to take them where He was (Jn. 14:1-3).

In like manner, when Christians were being severely persecuted in the first century it was the hope of Heaven that was used to encourage their faithfulness in the face of adversity (Rev. 21-22). That same appeal encourages Christians in every century. The hope of Heaven is also used to admonish the lost to prepare for a better place than what is offered by the world. Through obedience to the gospel of Christ, man can be freed from the bondage of sin while living on earth and be rescued from its eternal bondage in Hell. He can enjoy the bliss and beauty of Heaven forever.

A consideration of Heaven prompts several questions. One is, where is it? Heaven is not a renovated earth. The patriarchs looked for a home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (Heb. 11:10, 16). When Jesus ascended into heaven and sat down at His Father’s right hand (Acts 1:9-11), He did not merely relocate to

another place on earth. While we do not know the location of Heaven, we do know that it is the abode of God.

Another question that piques our interest is, how is Heaven described? How can the indescribable be described in terms that we can comprehend? How can the beauty and bliss of Heaven be communicated in such a way that it doesn’t appear to be just a fairy tale? The Bible does exactly that. One description used is that of a “holy city” (Rev. 21:2, 10, 27; 22:19), a city whose builder and maker is God (Heb. 11:16). It rests upon twelve foundation stones of magnificent jewelry surrounded by a wall of jasper (Rev. 21:14, 18-20). Its gates are never closed in the daytime, and there shall be no night there (Rev. 21:25). The street is described as being made of highly refined gold that is as clear as transparent glass (Rev. 21:21). The most precious and beautiful stones known to man are used to provide some idea of its grandeur. The crown jewels of England pale as worthless trinkets by comparison.

What will Heaven be like? All the trials and tribulations of this earth will be over and, at long last, sweet deliverance from the presence of sin is experienced. The redeemed will have eternal rest from their constant struggle against temptation in this life (Heb. 4:9; Rev. 14:13). They will have an abiding possession (Heb. 10:34) “which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away” (1 Pt. 1:4). No disease will enter to ravage and destroy it. Time will no more deeply furrow the brow. Sickness and old age will no longer bend the back or diminish the mind. Heaven’s “walls and gates” will never crumble. Its infrastructure will never deteriorate. All things are new there (Rev. 21:5). The redeemed



Roger Johnson



HEAVEN

IS A WONDERFUL PLACE

by John Pigg

One of the most heavenly places on earth that has brought me such great joy and filled me with so many precious memories is Sardis Lake Christian Youth Camp. It is a wonderful place! I spent nearly 30 years serving as counselor, session's director, and a member of the board of trustees. The words to a simple song the campers and I would sing every summer is, "Heaven is a wonderful place, filled with glory and grace. I want to see my Savior's face. Heaven is a wonderful place; I want to go there."

The Bible in the KJV mentions "heaven" 582 times—327 in the Old Testament and 255 in the New. In Revelation chapters 21-22, the Redeemer gives the redeemed a glimpse of what a wonderful place Heaven really is. Using highly figurative language, we are told "having the glory of God, its radiance is like a most rare jewel" and "adorned with every kind of jewel" (ESV). It is made of "pure gold," walls of jasper, and "the twelve gates were twelve pearls." "The glory of God gives it light and its lamp is the Lamb." "The river of the water of life" flows "through the middle of the street of the city" called Heaven, and "on either side of the river" is "the tree of life, yielding its fruit each month." Many have wondered if this beautiful picture is intended to be taken literally. Probably not, but the reality is, it is going to be more wonderful than we can imagine, as it is filled with God's glory and grace!

When we read this wonderful description, it ought to motivate every saint to want to go there so we can

see the Savior's face. The Lord has "blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (Eph 1:3) which includes his "glorious church" (Heb 12:22-23), where we enjoy wonderful fellowship with other Christians. However, this earthly place in which we live is filled with frequent pain, much



John Pigg

sorrow, sins of all kinds, trials, tribulation, and death. But the good news of Revelation 21-22 is that in Heaven, "Nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life," and God "will wipe away every tear" from our eyes, "and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Sometimes I get so discouraged with the direction our world is going that I just want shout, "Lord take me home to Heaven!" Now that I am about to turn 75, I know, however, that it will not be long if I remain faithful until I will be ushered into the wonderful place called Heaven! Do you have the hope of Heaven in your heart? You can if you will come to trusting faith (Jn 8:24), confess Jesus as Lord (Mt 10:32), repent and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and live a faithful Christian life unto death (Rev 2:10). **MM**

will be free from any sad experiences in Heaven. There will be no tears, mourning, crying, pain, or even death (Rev. 21:4; Lk. 20:36). Death will be swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54). There will be no need for physicians and surgeons to practice their occupations there. Hospitals will not even exist. Funeral processions and cemeteries will not be seen along its streets. Heaven is the "beautiful home of the soul" prepared by the Lord (Jn. 14:1-3).

Who will be in Heaven? Tragically, though God desires all men to be saved (1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9) and, through His Son, has made provisions for everyone to go

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

John. 14:3

there, not everyone talking about Heaven will be going there. The condition upon which entrance into Heaven is granted is obedience (Heb. 5:9), and most people are not willing to comply with that requirement (Matt. 7:21-23). They want to go to Heaven on their own terms and are not willing to submit to Heaven's instructions.

While it is true that we live in a messed-up world, isn't it great that Christians can live in the midst of such and be filled with joy because of the hope of Heaven? This hope is not just wishful thinking; it is assured anticipation based on the promise of God that He will give us "the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). In the meantime, while we wait for the Lord's return and the granting of our home in Heaven, we have work to be done, prayers to be offered, commands to be obeyed, an inspired word to be received, and a peace to be enjoyed. Let us, then, make the best use of our time (Eph. 5:16) in preparing ourselves and helping others prepare for the Home of the redeemed. **MM**

THE JUDGE

by **Andy Erwin, Minister**
West Fayetteville church of Christ

Allow me to share a few thoughts with you about the Judgment Day, which may help us to take it more seriously. In the first place, there will be no postponement of the Judgment Day. I am aware that sometimes those charged with an offense will postpone judgment and ask for a continuance. God will not be granting any continuance at the final Judgment. God has already “appointed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man whom He has ordained and given assurance unto all men in that He has raised Him from the dead” (Acts 17:31).



Andy Erwin

God knows the day and the hour His Son will return (Matthew 24:36). On that day, and in that hour, this world and all that is therein will be burned up (2 Peter 3:10-13). All of this will happen in the “twinkling of an eye” (1 Corinthians 15:52).

A person would not have time to ask God to postpone the judgment even if he wanted.

In the second place, we will not be able to escape God’s judgment. Sometimes the guilty will escape judgment by changing their names, addresses, and even their appearances. They may move halfway around the world, and stay on the move, so they can escape punishment for their crimes. This will not be the case on the day of God’s reckoning. One cannot escape the Judgment Day. Every guilty soul is going to come face-to-face with Jesus and look Him in the eyes and explain to Him why He died in vain for them. Those who refused and rejected Christ, those who mocked Him and blasphemed His holy name, even those Christians who turned their backs to Him will come face-to-face with Jesus. And friends, there will be no escape. Every one of us will have to give an account of our deeds to God.

Thirdly, no one will be able to hide the evidence that has mounted against them. “And be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23). Many times criminals walk freely because they were successful at hiding or destroying any and all incriminating evidence that would have placed them behind bars. However, on the Judgment Day all the evidence will be brought to light, “For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Men cannot hide themselves from God: “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account” (Hebrews 4:13). Sometimes we try to hide the evidence of our sins from others, and even from ourselves. Sometimes we are successful. But, you cannot succeed in hiding your sins from God. “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things” (1 John 3:20).

“Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; they say, ‘Who sees us?’ and, ‘Who knows us?’” (Isaiah 29:15)? Ah, friend, God is there! God sees and God knows; and God will bring every secret thing to judgment.

On the Judgment Day, there will be no buying verdicts. Many times criminals can successfully bribe corrupt jurors or juries to escape justice. However, on that day, all the money in the world will not save you when your sins have damned your soul. The Lord cannot be corrupted. He is the righteous Judge and His judgments are true and righteous.

Let us also make another connection with the righteous judgments of God; namely, there will be no unfair bias on Judgment Day. On some occasions, a criminal has been set free simply because of whom they were or who they knew. I think we can each relate to some past experience of unrighteous prejudice in our courts. However, on the

*And as it is appointed for men to die once,
 but after this the judgment...*

Hebrews 9:26

JUDGMENT DAY

Judgment Day, every one of us shall be judged impartially. In Colossians 3:24-25, Paul makes a point that those who serve the Lord will receive their inheritance from the Lord, but “he who does wrong will be repaid for the wrong which he has done, and there is no partiality.”

Peter had the right understanding of this concept when he said, “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him” (Acts 10:34-35).

Neither will you see a mistrial or overturned verdict on the Judgment Day. Sometimes you will read of a mistrial being granted because something was not done properly in the first trial. However, “The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether” (Psalms 19:9). You will see no mistrials resulting from the Judgment Day.

If you are found guilty it will be because you were guilty in the eyes of God. If you are found blameless, it will be because the blood of Christ washed you clean and you were, therefore, found blameless in the eyes of God. Either way, you will not be mistaken for someone else or condemned of something you did not do.

A person will not be able to “plea bargain” to keep from appearing before the Judge. Job understood that God is not like man, “that I may answer him, and that we should go to court together” (Job 9:32). We cannot bargain with God. Either we choose to obey Him or we choose to disobey Him. We either choose to walk in light or darkness, but there is no bargaining.

Also, the point of the plea bargain is to avoid court and to accept a lesser punishment than the one deserving. Friends, do not look for this on the Judgment Day.

The punishment which will be handed out will be the same for all – “everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and the glory of His power” (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

Oftentimes, we will hear of an appeal being made to a higher court, maybe

even all the way to the Supreme Court. Yet, on the Judgment Day, every one of us shall be judged by the Highest Court ever known; and the decision will be eternal--Eternal life or death (Matthew 25:46). The verdict rendered at the final judgment will never be appealed or overturned. It will be a judgment you will have to live with for all eternity.

Do you have boldness in the Day of Judgment (1 John 4:17)? Would you like to have boldness in the Day of Judgment? Hear the gospel and believe the saving truth of Christ. Repent of your sins and be baptized for the remission of them (Acts 2:38). The Lord will add you to His church (Acts 2:41, 47). If we are to die as faithful Christians, we must live as faithful Christians. Only then can we truly have confidence in the Day of Judgment.

Just imagine with me that this is the Judgment Day and we are now standing before the Bar on High. We are now looking into the eyes of Jesus Christ. His voice seizes our attention. When He turns His attention to you, calls your name, and reads your record, what will He say? It is not a question of if we shall stand before Him, but how shall we stand before Him? Will I stand before my Lord as a faithful, obedient Christian – a child of God? Or will I stand before Him as some profane person, like Esau, who sold my soul for the passing pleasures of this life? **MM**

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from a Woman's Viewpoint

A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

by June Franks Booker

The meaning of “glimpse” is to take a brief look. If we could get a glimpse of what Heaven is like, it should create within us a greater desire to live right. We should want to go to Heaven when this life is over if we look at the glimpse of Heaven in the Bible. It is impossible to adequately describe Heaven. When the Queen of Sheba saw the empire of Solomon, she said the half had not been told (I Kings 10:7). The Bible does give us a glimpse of Heaven, but the half has not been told about Heaven.

There is a story of a little girl who was born blind. Her mother tried to describe the beauty of earth to her. When the little girl was about ten years old she was able to have an operation that enabled her to see for the first time in her life. As the last bandage was removed, she flew into her mother's arms, then to the open window and open door. As she saw the beauty of the earth for the first time, she ran screaming back to her mother, “Oh mother, why didn't you tell me it was so beautiful?” The mother, with tears in her eyes said, “My precious child, I tried to tell you!”

We know for sure Heaven is a real place. It is not just a dream or fantasy. The Bible says, “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:1). With these words Jesus comforted His disciples right before His death. These verses bring comfort to us, and give us a little glimpse of Heaven.

Heaven has been described as a place with many mansions. One translation says “many rooms.” This implies there will be sufficient room for all who will be a part of the heavenly family of God. Have you seen a house you would describe as a mansion? The Biltmore house in Ashville, North Carolina, is a beautiful house, a mansion with 250 rooms. Yet the Biltmore house has no comparison to the beauty of and the magnificent place called Heaven.

We have learned Heaven is a prepared place, but Heaven is a place for a prepared people. We do not stumble into Heaven or go there accidentally. In other words, not everybody that talks about Heaven is going there.

The Bible says “Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord” (Revelation 14:13). We must be in the Lord. Galatians 3:26-27 and Romans 6:3-6 teach us we are baptized into Christ. “We must fight the good fight, finish the course, and keep the faith if the crown

of life is to be ours” (II Timothy 4:7-8). “We must be faithful unto death if we are to possess the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). Those who overcome will inherit all things (Revelation 21:7). By giving us a glimpse of Heaven, Jesus is encouraging us to overcome.

We are able to get a glimpse of Heaven through the eyes of others. Paul gives us a glimpse of Heaven because of a vision he had. Paul said he was caught up into Paradise and heard unspeakable words it was not lawful for him to utter (II Corinthians 12:1-4). Paul was given a glimpse of Heaven but he wasn't allowed to tell all he saw. Paul said, “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better” (Philippians 1:23).

Stephen was also permitted a glimpse of Heaven just before he entered Paradise. “But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into Heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God” (Acts 7:55-56).

John was the last to get a glimpse of Heaven. It is through this revelation of Jesus Christ to John that we are given a glimpse of Heaven. John was told, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this” (Revelation 4:1-2). John has described Heaven in terms that we can better understand. The walls are said to be of Jasper, the gates of pearl, the foundations of precious stones, and the city of pure gold (Revelation 21). Not only has John described Heaven as a beautiful place, but also a perfect place. There is no such place in this world as a perfect place. Heaven will be a perfect place because there will be no sin there (Revelation 21:27, 22:14-15).

One of the greatest glimpse's Heaven holds is no more pain, no more sickness, no more crying, and no more death (Revelation 21:4)! Heaven is also a perfect place because of its security. God will be on His throne, Jesus will be there, and all will be secure. We will be safe in the arms of Jesus.

Heaven is a permanent place. Nothing in this world is permanent. Life in this world is for a time, but Heaven will exist forever.

Heaven in the Bible is described as eternal life, everlasting life. There is no end.

The Bible gives us a glimpse of Heaven. The best news we could ever hear is that we can go there! We can go to Heaven. I have always wanted to go to Hawaii. I probably will never

be able to go to Hawaii. But I can go to Heaven, and you can too! Our glimpse of heaven should encourage us to have a greater desire to prepare to go to Heaven, because Heaven will surely be worth it all.

My desire to go to Heaven is greater now because of the loved ones who have gone before! **MM**



June Franks Booker

*Blessed are those who do His commandments,
that they may have the right to the tree of life,
and may enter through the gates into the city.*

Revelation 22:14

I must not wallow long...

by Deb Cleveland, Madison, Wisconsin

(My sister is an accomplished writer. Her husband, Gary, was the preacher for the church in Oskosh for many years before his death. -dd)

Seven years ago, my husband of forty-two years lost his battle to a rare form of Melanoma. I became a widow at age sixty-two. That wasn't the plan. We were going to retire, travel, spoil our grandchildren, and make a nuisance of ourselves to our grown children. God had other plans.

I've learned many things on this journey of loss. First and foremost, I do not like this journey. I want everything back to normal. I want to sit on our back porch together and listen to the crickets. I want to hold hands on our evening walk. And, when I turn off the lights at the end of the day, I want him to be waiting for me. If allowed, grieving will reduce you to bones and make all you once cared about just distant shadows. Mourning takes so much energy and causes a thousand little deaths.



Deb Cleveland

But here's the deal: Regardless of the sorrow, you can live honorably and with thanksgiving. Over the last year or so I decided I was going to act myself into a better way of feeling. The Hubs and I subscribed to that philosophy throughout our life together. Just because you don't feel like doing something, doesn't mean you shouldn't do it. Okay, I'm sad. I may be sad forever. But I've decided it's time not to act sad. If I act like I'm not sad, by playing with my grandchildren, taking my dog for a walk, or riding my blue bike around the park, then one day, just maybe, possibly, I'll wake one morning and actually not be sad.

My Bible reading recently was Psalms 3:3. I should quit being surprised when I randomly turn to a passage and it seems like it was written that morning just for me. "But You, O, LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and He answered me from His Holy Place. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid..."

Mourning has a component of fear to it. When you lose someone you love, you fear you will forget what joy feels like. You fear that you will become invisible and eventually become just a smudge on a windowpane. But, you know what? Every night for the last seven years, I've gone to sleep and every morning I have awakened unharmed. It's time to act myself into a better way of feeling. If you are grieving, maybe it's time for you, too.

I still have days I don't feel like getting out of bed or talking to anyone, and that's okay. From time to time, I allow myself a period of wallowing in my sorrow. But be forewarned, wallowing too long in what once was will make it extremely hard to rejoin what is now. If I'm going to act myself into a better way of feeling, I must not wallow long.

"I cried aloud... and He answered me... He sustained me. I will not be afraid..." **MM**

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"LADS TO LEADERS"

► L2L Little Rock Report

A man named Jim was bragging, saying: "I cut off the tail of a lion!" His friends questioned him, saying: "If you are so tough, then why didn't you cut off his head?" Jim answered: "Someone already cut off the head of the lion." I suppose anyone could cut the tail from a dead lion. Anyone can also be a follower, but it takes many extra characteristics to make a leader.

The Lads To Leaders program is a great opportunity for young people to become great leaders in the church. The training that young people receive in the Lads To Leaders program has proven to impact them for their entire lives. It reminds me of what Solomon wrote:

"Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Although training children in the Lord is not easy, there are

eternal benefits that pay richly in the spiritual lives of our young people. Therefore, Lads to Leaders is a perfect opportunity to invest in the souls of our children.

I have three children who participate in Lads To Leaders, and I have one more who will be old enough next year. My wife and I have found that the Lads To Leaders program is the best that we have seen in allowing children to learn how to lead in church activities.

I am reminded of a story about a patient who goes to the doctor and says: "Doc, I am so nervous! This is my first operation!" Doc says: "Don't worry, it's my first operation too!" The first time anyone does anything it can be difficult. Learning to step out and be a leader is not easy. There are three things that I believe are used to help young people have the right tools they need to be leaders. Lads promotes: (1) ATTITUDE OF SERVICE, (2) ABILITY OF SERVICE, and (3) ACTION OF SERVICE. The opportunities are endless in the Lads program and there is something for everyone. Therefore, training our children to be leaders is right at our fingertips.



Jesus described what makes good leaders when He said: "It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28). Being a leader is hard because it takes hard work. Jesus is our great example to show that with any good leadership, there is also great service. Lads to Leaders promotes this great principle.

Churches will grow spiritually and numerically when they are involved in great programs. We have seen so many positive impacts in our local congregation due to Lads. Paul wrote: "Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love" (Eph. 4:15-16). When members are working together for a common cause in the kingdom of God, it creates growth. Lads to Leaders gives churches opportunities for growth.

The Ripley Church of Christ in Ripley, Mississippi, has been attending the Memphis convention for ten years or more. The year 2021 was unique for our Lads convention because the Memphis convention was moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. Many people agreed that this was a great move, and I heard so many positive things about how people loved the new venue. Our family and our church family benefitted greatly by being at convention this year. We appreciate so much all the staff of the Lads to Leaders program and we appreciate so many churches who make this program a success. May God bless all of our young people in the Lord, and all the parents who have invested in this great work!

Josh McCrary, Ripley Mississippi

► L2L Orlando Report

We had an amazing time at Lads to Leaders in Orlando this year! There were eleven of us that attended the convention from the Summerdale Church of Christ. We joined hundreds of brethren at the Rosen Shingle Resort for the Easter weekend experience.

Attendance was lower than normal because of COVID-19, but the staff and venue did a wonderful

job to ensure our safety. After a year removed, it was such a joy to be back together again.

The young people always do amazing at convention. Our



participation is smaller than other sites, but the spirit is second to none. The convention in Orlando is well-known for its hospitality and generosity. Our yearly collection for L2L is usually one of the largest. We do not say this in a prideful way, but to give all glory to God.

Our congregations are full of enthusiasm. The youth look forward to the opportunity to use their talents. We love the fellowship and unity the event provides. Many of these relationships that are forged will last a lifetime. The staff, coordinators, judges, and participants should be commended for their hard work. We look forward to 2022. If your congregation is interested in joining us, please contact the L2L home office at (334) 215-0251 or visit the website at www.lads2leaders.com. Tell them Ray sent you! **MM**

Ray Reynolds, Preacher Summerdale Church of Christ

► L2L Atlanta Report

When reporting facts about the Atlanta Convention, L2L Board member, Jim Whitmire, described us as “clawing our way back to normal” with 1,000 (in contrast to a typical 3,000) in attendance. It certainly was not the typical annual experience, with each convention honoring the local policies in place due to covid concerns. Yet, it was definitely worth the challenging changes.

It was inspiring observing the young people participating in, as well as being recognized for, so many activities that were promoting their personal and spiritual growth. To me, the most heartwarming thing in the Saturday night Awards Ceremony was watching the youngest children, PreK – Grade 2, enthusiastically



Riley & Emma Johnson (Villa Rica, GA).



Emma, Abby, and Riley Johnson (Villa Rica, GA) with Megan and Annabelle Thompson (Buford, GA).

walking across the stage with the Oak Ridge Boys' song playing in the background: “...the nearest thing to heaven is a child.” It brought to mind the divine perspective: “Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them...” (Psalm 127:3-5).

The Atlanta Convention recognized three Red Coat recipients, one from 2020 and two from 2021. The Red Coat Award is the highest recognition within the program, similar to the Eagle Scout Award in scouting. The first-ever Sower recipient was an Atlanta attendee. The Sower Award is given to young people who devote themselves to learning skills to become effectively evangelistic. The convention experience is both a reward for past wholesome work as well as motivation for the year ahead to engage in more great efforts to promote personal growth. **MM**

Dean Miller, Villa Rica, GA

MM - MISSION REPORT

2021

Milestone Reached in GTO Mexico Churches

by John Pigg

Last year Mission GTO Mexico passed a great milestone in its 20-year history. The San Miguel de Allende congregation, which was the first church we established with our first Mexican missionary, Fernando Arroyo, selected and appointed its first eldership consisting of three qualified brothers. Fernando, who preaches for the church and administers our Biblical Institute, was one of them. Recently they added another elder and appointed their first two deacons which are pictured above.

This makes one of only a few churches of Christ in Mexico completely and scripturally organized. One of the goals of Mission GTO Mexico is to plant new congregations of churches of Christ in every city in the state of Guanajuato that has a population of 30,000 people. We have done that in 20 cities over the last 20 years. Another goal is to grow the churches spiritually and numerically so that within seven to ten years they will be self-supporting and fully organized with elders and deacons.



The elders of the Lake Harbour Drive church of Christ in Ridgeland, MS, which oversees this mission work, are grateful to all the churches and Christians who cooperate with us by contributing monthly and periodically to provide the necessary financial resources to keep it going forward. One of my greatest blessings as a gospel preacher is to be the director of Mission GTO Mexico. **MM**

IF A MAN DIES

Shall he live again?



Greg Ledbetter

by Greg Ledbetter, Youth Editor

Job 14:14: Job asked a question that many today ask, "Shall we live again?" This is an age-old question that has been asked for centuries. It is said that when Socrates, the renowned Greek Philosopher, drank poison hemlock and lay down to die, he was asked by his friends, "Shall we live again?" The reply of the dying Philosopher was, "I hope so, but no man can know." Can I know what will happen to me when I leave this earth? The real question facing each of us is not can I die or will I die? We know that physical death is one of life's certainties. Death occurs all the time and is evident by looking around at the empty spaces that were once filled by those whom we loved. We are reminded of this in Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die." The reality is we are only here for a little while.

Have you noticed that the older you get, the more you realize how brief life is? I know that

for the young people reading this, it's hard to think of life as being short. For you, it seems like your thirteenth birthday will never get here. Then when you turn thirteen, it seems a century away before you turn sixteen. But for the rest of us, with each passing year, we realize that life is brief and short in its duration. I can remember when I used to think someone that was fifty years old was old. But now that I am 38, my opinion has changed. Paul Franks would always say that you are not old until you're 90. I might make it to 100, but to Paul's statement, I say, Amen!

So, we must answer these questions. Will the grave seal our fate forever? Is this physical life it? Or is there a resurrection and another place and time of existence awaiting our souls? Job understood that death was inevitable. Job's question was not a hypothetical question that had no answer. Job answers the question in the same verse, Job 14:14 when he says, "All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes." Job asks, "Shall a man live again?"

How does he answer? Job plainly says, "You better believe I will live again. I'm going to live better than I have ever lived. I'm getting ready for a change."

We know that Job feels this way because we find in Job 19:25-26, "For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God." Praise God, for those who are in Christ shall live again. Praise God that the life to come will be far superior to the life we now live. In this life, we live in a body subject to disease, death, and decay. Shall we live again? Thank God, yes! We will live again, and live a life that is much greater than the life we have lived.

What is interesting to me is that the answer Job gave was much different than the answer Socrates gave. Socrates hoped that he would live again. Job said that he knew he would live again. Socrates faced death with fear. Job faced death with assurance. Socrates was uncertain that he would live again. Job was

*In My Father's house are many mansions;
if it were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.*

confident that he would live again. Job was satisfied because Job knew he had lived his life for God. He was ready for the Judgment.

How about you today, right now? Can you be confident in your life? By the way you lived and are living, you can you say, like Job, you are waiting on the change? Are you ready for Judgment? Hebrews 9:27 says, "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment." A time is coming when we will all have to stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ and be judged for what we did in this life. We will stand before the Lord with our lives and secrets laid bare, a judgment to determine whether we will be in Heaven or we will be in Hell. We need to be prepared for the Judgment Day.

I must tell you the truth today. If you die, or if the Lord comes back, and you're not a faithful Christian, then you will spend eternity in Hell. If you have not put your faith in Jesus Christ, willing to repent and turn away from your sins, confess Jesus before others, and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins, you cannot have the confidence that Job had. I appeal to you today, this very moment, please live your life in such a way that you are confident in your destination in Heaven after this life on earth. **MM**

gregledbetter@yahoo.com

PREACHER SEARCH

COFFEEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Searching for a minister. A congregation of 45-60 people. A 3-bedroom 2-bath house is provided and also has a storage building. House is adjacent to the church building.

Jim Peters 662-675-8623

John Allen 662-473-8702

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Gary Gardner 662-552-2138

Coyt Hunt 662-285-7072

Warren Hunt 662-285-7185

JACKSON GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Jackson Grove congregation in Enid, Mississippi, is in need of a preacher on Sundays. It is a small group of about 15 members, and is one of the oldest congregations in the state, going back to 1870.

If interested contact:

Buddy Kiihmi 662.647.5346.

WINNSBORO LOUISIANA CHURCH OF CHRIST

We are currently in search of a replacement of a retired preacher of 35 plus yrs. We are a stable congregation looking for someone to help us grow. If you are that man, please send your pertinent info to rgeorge703@yahoo.com.

Randy George 318 417-1358

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2021 Topics

JANUARY • Paul's Favorite Word (Grace)

FEBRUARY • This Is Going to Sting a Little

MARCH • O Careless Soul, Why Do You Linger?

APRIL • Sin's Fish Story

MAY • The Big Bang Got So Many Things Right

JUNE • The First Murder Trial

JULY • Understand the New Testament in Just 12 Verses

AUGUST • Have You Seen God?

SEPTEMBER • Sitting in Judgment on the Bible

OCTOBER • Don't Worry So Much

NOVEMBER • Don't Quit in a Pit

DECEMBER • Is It Time to Update?



Interested? matt@housetohouse.com | get.housetohouse.com

News, Notes & Information

Northeast Mississippi Preachers Meeting



The Monthly preacher's luncheon for preachers in Northeast Mississippi restarted on April 20, at the Booneville church of Christ annex. Beau Gross, campus minister, gave a presentation about the work of the college student center of Northeast Mississippi Community college.

Those present were the Booneville ministers, Ken Forrest and Beau Gross, and two of their elders, Larry Morgan and Jim Estes and his wife Jeanita.

Attending the meeting were **Paul Epler** and his wife **Billie** (Saucer Creek), **Tony Brown** (Zion Rest), **Chad Bowen** (Berea), **Steven Shappley** (Bean's Ferry), **Kerry Williams** (West Main), **Mathew Thigpen** (Fulton), and **John Pigg** (Lake Harbor). **MM**

(Editor's note: The MM would love to run a group picture of any preacher's meetings across the country. If you are attending a preacher's meeting, let us know. send us a picture and a list of attendees. Would love to hear about these. -dd)

New Minister in New Albany

Tim Dooley began working with the New Albany Church of Christ in December. He and his wife, Colleen, moved from Kentucky, where they had worked for 11 years. Tim has been preaching for 24 years and has served congregations in Ohio, Tennessee, and Kentucky. He has a bachelor's degree in Bible with a minor in Ministry from Heritage Christian University and a Master's in New Testament from Freed-Hardeman.

For current information on service times and events, visit www.nacoc.us **MM**



"THE MESSENGER STAFF: On the Road Again"

Church of Christ at Noah

Established 1930

by June Franks Booker

Our Bible winner for the Winter Issue of the Magnolia Messenger was Brenda Green from Manchester, TN. We learned Brenda and her husband, James, lived in Manchester, but they attended church services at Noah.

Being a very Biblical word, the word Noah got our attention. It sounded like it would be a very interesting place.

Jeff and I were blessed to travel to Manchester on Saturday, March 13, 2021. On Sunday morning, March 14th our GPS took us to Noah. It was a beautiful drive and took us about ten minutes.

Upon our arrival, we found a nice small white church building out in the country. The first people we met were James and Brenda Green.

When we entered the church building, we were impressed with the friendliness of everyone. When services began we were more impressed that the building was full. I believe it was about sixty in attendance.

Tommy Underwood, Sr. is the preacher at Noah. He did a good job teaching the class in the auditorium on Leadership.

The elders are James Green and Ricky Green. The deacons are Eric Earle and Roy Moss.

The thing that impressed us the most was the number of young people in attendance. In what we used to call the "Amen" section of the building, several young boys dressed in suits and ties were seated. They were very attentive. During the singing their song books were open and they were singing. During the sermon their Bibles were open and they were listening. It was very encouraging to see young people so involved in the worship services. The young people are involved in L2L's and Bible Bowl.

Cody Michael from Decatur, AL, was the guest speaker at the worship service. Cody is the Outreach minister at the Decatur Church of Christ. Cody and those working with him are involved in helping after the Church of Christ Disaster Relief truck leaves. They help some in the cleanup in the disaster places, but their main purpose is to set up Bible studies. The Noah congregation helps in this good work.

Members from the Noah congregation have gone to different disaster places to help those in need, but their goal is mostly to help set up Bible studies. At the conclusion of the services, we awarded a beautiful study Bible to Brenda Green. (See picture of Brenda's husband James presenting the Bible to Brenda!) We found Noah to be a very interesting congregation and we were richly blessed by our opportunity to worship with the Noah congregation! **MM**



Boys in the "Amen" section with their Bibles open listening to the sermon.



Brenda's husband James presenting the Bible to Brenda!

MM READERS' RESPONSE

Reasons Why We Continue Publishing the Magnolia Messenger



■ Thank you for all your hard work. The Magnolia Messenger is a wonderful magazine.

(Elizabeth Todd, Clarksdale, MS)

■ "I am a member of the church of Christ in Laplace, Louisiana. I met Glenn and Beth Beall during their short yet prosperous time that they attended here. Glenn has seen fit to send me the Magnolia Messenger magazine of which I enjoy and believe is a blessing to the church and the world by its informative articles and encouragement of faith."

(Joey Bove, Laplace, Louisiana)

■ I enjoy the Magnolia Messenger so much and look forward to each issue.

(Fern Land, Montgomery, AL)

■ Enjoy the Messenger! Keep up the good work.

(Ronnie & Cathy Livingston, Marietta, MS)

■ I appreciate your thoughtful articles.

(Martha Enoch, Bartlett, TN)

■ Thank you so much for the MM. It's very interesting and keeps us updated on many things, and is encouraging. With kindest regards.

(Kathryn Floyd, Booneville, MS)

■ May God greatly bless you in your good work! So blessed to receive the Messenger.

(Shirly Carroll, Hohenwald, TN)

■ Thank you for this publication and all the dedicated people who make it possible.

(David & Sally Roff, Church Hill, TN)

■ "The last two Magnolia Messenger's were awesome! Well honestly, they all are. I do appreciate what you are doing with it. Keep up the good work!"

(Edgar Beard, Centerville, Tennessee)

■ I have received the Messenger for years, 20 or more years, and have enjoyed every issue. Thank you for continuing it. I am sorry for the loss of Bro. Franks, but Bro. Dennis is doing a good job. Hope you can keep up this good work. In Christ.

(Ava Cleveland, Bossier City, LA)

■ Y'all are doing a fabulous job. Thanks for sending me this magazine.

(Lew Faulkner, Champions Gate, FL)

■ Dear Elizabeth, "...I read all your magazines and shared

them...We all were inspired by the good works happening in Mississippi. Please send me another magazine and keep up all the good works."

(Lana Wilson, Ramona, CA)

■ I want to say again how much I enjoy the Messenger. All the articles are so interesting. Always so real and true to scripture. Thanks so much for sending them each quarter.

(Jimmy Grubbs, Seneca, SC)

West Main church of Christ



Sunday, April 4, saw a large crowd assembled at the West Main church of Christ, Tupelo, MS. Some folks were home for the Easter holiday, and all of those assembled came to worship the risen Lord.

At the end of the worship services that morning, Doug Greenway was added to West Main's eldership. This church is now served by shepherds (left-to-right) Ronnie Crosswhite, Chuck Tharp, Earl Nichols and Doug Greenway. Doug was the pulpit minister at WM for almost 17 years, and he and his wife Vickie announced West Main as their permanent home after Doug's retirement in 2020. **MM**

North Alabama Christian Children's Home

We are looking for a Christian couple who are faithful members of the Church of Christ, to work with us as Houseparents for one of our girls' homes. Benefits include an excellent salary for both Houseparents (even if the husband works outside the home), Life Insurance, free housing, food, gas, help with Health insurance, & a bonus for anyone who works with us 3 years.

**For more information,
call Don Williams, Director (256-366-3327)
or Melinda Jackson, Social Worker
(256-757-4212).**

Widow / Widower Retreat

sponsored by



*Retreat Theme:
"Hope is Key"*

July 30 - July 31, 2021

SCHEDULE:

Friday, 7/30: Noon - 2:00pm..... Early Bird Fellowship Luncheon
The Barn at Rock Springs, 4338 Rock Springs Rd, Smyrna, TN
5:00pm - 8:00pm..... Meal / Devotional / Discussion

Saturday, 7/31: 8:30am - 3:00pm..... Spiritual Growth Activities
(Breakfast and Lunch provided)

Faith-Building • Spirit-Lifting • Thought-Provoking

No registration fee & no meal expenses to those attending.

WHERE:

LaVergne church of Christ, LaVergne, TN
244 Old Nashville Hwy, LaVergne, TN 37086

RSVP's preferred, but not required: deanmiller@widowhoodworkshop.com ~ or call 330-412-1456

Further details at www.WidowhoodWorkshop.com

Lodging needs to be arranged by attendees or groups coming to the retreat.
Nearby hotel options listed on the website.

NEW BOOKS FROM PUBLISHING DESIGNS, INC.

Books with Class**Let This Cup Pass**

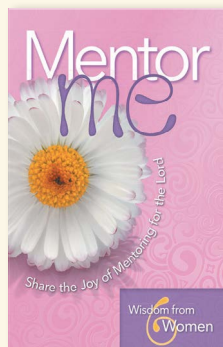
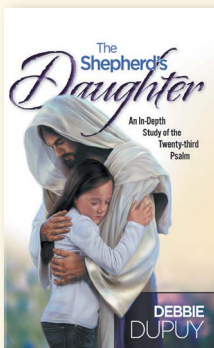
by Jane McWhorter

Join the thousands of women who have gained strength in times of distress. Delight in this revised edition now added to her series "Silver Linings." You can blame God, or choose a path of understanding affliction. Examine "The Cup of Loneliness", "The Cup of Feeling Inadequate," and other topics in 13 chapters with questions. **9781945127106, \$12.95**

The Shepherd's Daughter

by Debbie Dupuy

Perhaps you recite the 23rd Psalm. But do you know the Shepherd? Do you quote "I shall not want" but convey a feeling of "I lack"? Do you want the strength, comfort, and love of the Shepherd? Jump into His arms and say with Debbie, "Oh the benefits of being the Shepherd's daughter!" 14 chapters, questions, extra study motivation. **9781945127175, \$13.95**

**Mentor Me**

by six women

Sit at the feet of Betty Bender, Becky Blackmon, Brenda Birkholtz, Judy Cofer, Martha Coletta, and Laura Dayton, who are passing the mentoring baton on to their readers. Study specific phases of a woman's Christian journey such as "Mentor Me, I'm Single" and "Mentor Me, I'm a Busy Parent." Also included are

topics of marriage, mothers-in-law, caregiving, and many more. The reader reaps twofold: she is mentored and she learns to mentor others. 13 chapters with questions. **9780975596227, \$11.95**

Coming in January 2021**The Girl for My Son**

by Cynthia Guy

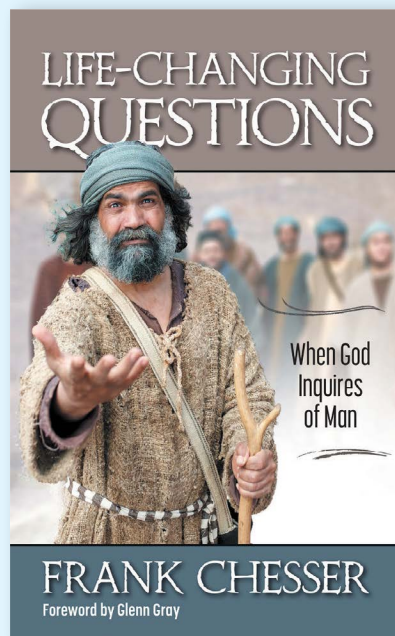
Single girls of any age will gain insight from the perspective of Cynthia Guy. Each young woman is encouraged to look at herself as the mother of a son. Would you want a girl like you for your son? This study is not a crystal ball; it is definite guidelines for self-improvement

that please the Lord and shape your future. See yourself through God's eyes, date wisely, become a spiritual swan.

13 chapters with questions. **9781945127182, \$11.95**

**NEW BOOK BY FRANK CHESSER**

Available December 2020

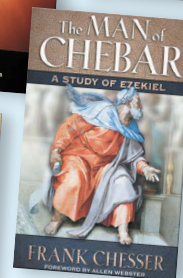
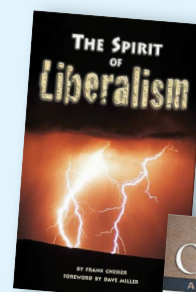
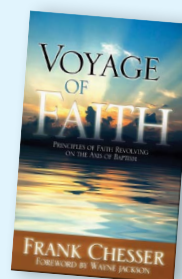
Life-Changing Questions

Study with Frank Chesser Old Testament events when God questioned man. "Questions from God are arrows to the heart containing every principle essential for man's journey from earth to heaven," he says. Consider how different our lives would be if we made a deliberate choice for personal inven-

tory by asking God's question, "What have you done?" And when we are hesitant and insecure about our service to God, we would do well to remember His gripping question to Moses: "What is that in thine hand?" The timeless, divine questions contained in this book are motivating, convicting, and pertinent. Applied to the Christian, they are indeed life-changing. **9781945127199, \$12.95**

Other books by Frank Chesser:

The Spirit of Liberalism
Portrait of God
Voyage of Faith
The Heart of Isaiah
The Man of Chebar



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HEAVEN

HOPE: THE TREE OF LIFE

by Glenn Beall

Life over the past year has been strange at best, giving birth to new fears and hopes. Daily we have heard about friends or acquaintances that have the virus, some even dying from it. Add to that the violence, rioting, and other dangers that seem to have no end. Our nation has changed its values for worse. How long can this trend go on? We hope for better times; we are so fearful for our country and our families. Indeed, Proverbs 13:12, tells the absolute truth of it all: "Hope deferred makes the heart sick." We are sick; we feel hopeless in this situation.

On the other hand, hope is not hope unless it is deferred. Is it true that the proper definition of hope is "desire plus expectation?" According to the dictionary, "One with hope looks forward to something that has not yet come; yet, he continues to look for it. Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." We hope for heaven; it has not yet arrived. Some hope for new and better employment; the same old work continues. We hope our close family member will soon get well; the condition just keeps on. Christians hope another close family member will obey the gospel; the loved one does not take the needed step. One who follows God does not give up, but keeps praying and keeps hoping. We must continue setting new goals, making plans, and pursuing them.



Glenn Beall

As life drags on, the situation does make the heart sick. There is serious discouragement. The Word of God does recognize discouragement and prescribes remedies for it. "He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for [Jehovah] shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:29-31). The key is to trust in God, daily walking in His way.

Remember the ultimate hope Peter gave us: "In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith...may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:6-9). Real life for a Christian consists of a relationship with God.

As we walk with Him day by day, through faith in Jesus Christ, our ultimate welfare, our final hope is assured.

It is encouraging to know that "When the desire comes, it is the Tree of life" (Proverbs 13:12b). The Tree is seen three times in the Bible: (1) It is the tree that if eaten by Adam and Eve, would have kept them living in the Garden; (2) The middle of the Bible references this Tree of life as an outcome of godly living. The book of Proverbs tells us righteousness, proper use of the tongue, and godly living will bring a taste of the Tree of life here and now; (3) The Tree of life in its final Biblical reference represents eternal life: "obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:9). Our final hope will be realized in eternal Heaven. Living the godly life brings the blessings of God, the Tree of life, to the faithful.

It does not matter how long this world goes on. Regardless of how terrible the situation becomes on this earth, each day we can walk with God. "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:37-38). Peace and confidence results from the right relationship with God. No matter what happens, He is in control. Even prior to Heaven, "we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." (Romans 5:3-5).

The ultimate Tree of life is Heaven. Revelation 22:2, at the end of the Bible, contains the last reference to the Tree: "Through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, [is] the Tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month" (ESV). Verse 12 tells us, "I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the Book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done." The final reward, the hope of the godly life, no longer deferred, is the restoration of the Tree of life.

fofoyirish@mail.com **MM**

Glenn and I are both proud graduates of the Preston Road school of Preaching. It is good to be working with a fellow schoolmate. Glenn preaches for the Carthage church of Christ and is part of our Magnolia Messenger staff. -dd

Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

By Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North Mississippi, 9423 Laurel Hill, Olive Branch, MS 38654. E-mail: lewis7946@gmail.com



February to April 2021

by Eddie Lewis

I appreciate so much the opportunity to inform you about my mission work among the churches in North Mississippi. I appreciate the Germantown church of Christ sponsoring me in this ministry. This report covers twelve Sundays during the months of February through April 2021. I served five Sundays as an interim preacher for the Coffeeville church of Christ and one Sunday as an interim preacher at the Tunica church of Christ. I also visited with five other churches.

February through April I preached at the Coffeeville church of Christ five times. Madolyn and I always enjoy visiting with the folks there. They continue to look for a full-time minister. They have received some resumes for interested preachers, so I pray that they will soon find someone to work with them. I hope you will be praying for them. They have no elders and around 50 in attendance.

In the worship I have been considering a series of lessons on the parables of Jesus. I have looked at the parable of the Weeds found in Mathew 13:24-30, 36-43. Jesus underlines the presence of evil in the world. He emphasizes that there will be a great separation at the end of the age or the Judgment. He also tells us that He is the judge. I have considered the Wise and Foolish Builder in Matthew 7:24-29. It is one of Jesus' greatest lessons on obedience. Finally, I have looked at the three parables in

Matthew 25. Jesus is talking about the kingdom and the final Judgment.

■ **February 14:** Because of the snow and ice we did not attend a service but streamed the worship service from Germantown.

■ **February 21:** We attended the Indianola church of Christ. Gene Hill is the minister there. He has been there for several years. Recently his wife, Jerry, passed away. We wanted to show our support for him and have been praying for him and his family. The church at Indianola has no elders and around 20 in attendance. Because of the icy conditions they had only the worship service.



Gene Hill

Gene's lesson was "The Need for Virtue" based on Philippians 4:8. He said that all Christians must have a virtuous life. All life's activities flow from the heart (Matthew 12:34-37). We not only are to have moral goodness, but righteousness based on God's Word. We acquire that knowledge by our study of God's Word. It was a good lesson. We enjoyed our visit with the brethren there. I hope you will remember Gene and the church in your prayers as they minister to the community of Indianola.

■ **February 28:** I was invited to preach at the Tunica church of Christ. We al-

ways enjoy visiting with the folks there. They have a man they are considering working with the church. He would be a part-time minister. Please remember them in your prayers as they decide what they can do.



Dusty Dawson and Tommy Swindoll-Tunica

I preached on the 15th chapter of Luke. There are three important parables about God's love for the lost and how a lost person can find his way back to a right relationship with God. This section is often called the Gospel in the Gospel. The parable of the Prodigal Son is the pearl of the parables.

■ **March 7:** Sunday night, Madolyn and I visited with the Olive Branch church of Christ. Mike Hixson is the longtime minister there. We got there in time to hear the Pew Packers singing. They were led in song by the Associate minister Jared Rhodes. They have a good mix of ages. We heard an announcement about the Lads to Leaders program meeting, so we were glad to know that they are active in that ministry. They support several different ministries. They are an active congregation and have three elders and 250 in attendance.



Mike Hixson and Jude Rhodes

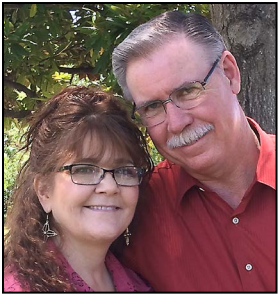
Mike's lesson was on Exodus 12, the Passover, and how that related to Christ and the church. He discussed the reason for the Passover and the significance of it to the Hebrew nation. Jesus is that Passover lamb who died so that our sins could be forgiven. Mike made an

impassioned plea for us to come and accept the sacrifice that Christ made for us. It was a good lesson.

■ **March 14:** I was invited to preach at the Cleveland church of Christ. Tim McCarter is one of the elders and minister there. He and his wife Debbie were out of town on vacation. It was good to see some wonderful old friends at Cleveland. Madolyn and I enjoyed a meal with Lowell and Donna Kirkbride. Lowell is the other elder there. They have two elders and about 40 in attendance. They do have an active campus ministry at DSU. We hope you will remember the brethren there in your prayers.

In the Bible Class I presented a lesson from Philippians 1:12-26. I talked about how Paul focused his mind on Christ as he met different crises in his life.

In the worship I considered the three parables in Luke 15. The parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the Prodigal Son present a continuing story of God's desire that all the lost come to Him. The



Debbie and Tim McCarter

parable of the Prodigal Son helps us see how someone who has rebelled against God can find his way home.

In the PM worship I presented a lesson from the parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders in Matthew 7:24-29. It is one of Jesus' strongest statements about the importance of obedience. We must be people who build our lives on the foundation of Christ.

■ **March 28:** We visited with the Foote Street church of Christ in Corinth, MS. Reed Swindle has been the preacher there for the last seven years and is an adjunct at FHU. We enjoyed visiting with him and his wife Bridget. They are doing a wonderful work with the congregation there. They announced that on Easter Sunday they would be

taking a group to L2L. I was pleased to hear that the L2L convention is being held this year. We also enjoyed seeing many old friends in the congregation. We enjoyed eating with the Wrotens.

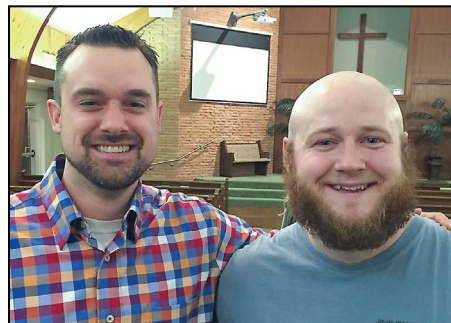
Reed's lesson was taken from Matthew 5:21-26, "Thou Shalt Not Murder, Dealing with Conflict." He mentioned many of the conflicts and wars that God's people have faced. He said that Jesus is trying to get the people to view



Bridget and Reed Swindle

problems with a mind to find a resolution and not with the mind to retaliate. How are we to deal with conflict? We must respect each other. My relationship with God depends on how I view you. We must deal with conflict and find a resolution. It was a good lesson.

■ **April 4:** I was invited to preach for the Ripley church of Christ. Josh McCrary is the minister there. They have three elders and around 250 in attendance. Josh and his family, along with several other families were away attending the Lads to Leaders convention in Little Rock, AR. They began having their regular services the Sunday I preached. The church has an active youth program and supports many



Josh McCrary and Cody Hardin

good works. It is a great congregation.

In Bible class I presented a lesson on "The Freedom of Forgiveness" based on the parable of the "Unmerciful Servant"

in Matthew 18:21-35.

In the a.m. worship I preached on "Our Blessings in God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit" based on Ephesians 1:4-14. We underlined all the spiritual blessing given us by God through Jesus.

In the p.m. worship I preached on the parables found in Luke 15, "The Lost Sheep," "The Lost Coin," and "The Lost Son." The story of the prodigal son tells us how a young man who is lost finds his way home.



Gene Barrett, Doug Segars, and Davis Franklin

■ **April 18:** Sunday night Madolyn and I visited with the West President church of Christ in Greenwood, MS. Luke Quinn is the minister there. Luke has been in Greenwood for almost two years. He is a graduate of MSOP. It was good to see him and visit with the good folks there. The church is served by four elders and has about 120 in attendance.

Luke began a series of lessons on the Gospel of John. He considered John 1:1-5. He emphasized the connection between Genesis 1 and John 1. He gave an interesting discussion of Jesus as the word of God. He said that we want a relationship with God that is real. He emphasized that we must study the word so we can recognize Jesus when we see him. It was a good lesson, and we enjoyed our visit.

■ **April 25:** Madolyn and I visited with the 7th Street church of Christ in Columbus, MS. Paul Bennett is the pulpit minister. He has been with the congregation for 18 years serving as their youth minister and the last two years as their preacher. The church is served by 6 elders and 3 ministers. They are involved in several ministries in the

Continued on the next page

Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

community and support several mission works. They have an active youth program and campus ministry. They just began their in-person Bible classes.

Paul taught the auditorium class. He has been teaching a series of lessons on the Gospel of John. They were in Chapter 7 where

Jesus claims to be the living water. In the Gospel of John, Jesus will perform a miracle or make

a claim and the people will misinterpret it. Paul gave several links to information about the significance of the Feast of Booths to the ministry of Jesus. It was an interesting lesson.



Paul and Sara Bennett

In the worship Paul presented a lesson on foolish choices that people make. He entitled it, "Following the Crowd Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time." It was a great lesson on the importance of perseverance as a Christian. He gave

several examples from scripture of godly people who did not stay faithful in the face of some trial. I enjoyed hearing Paul speak and meeting the church family at 7th Street. It is a great congregation. **MM**

Special Report on CSC at MDCC: The spring semester ended in April at MDCC. We had a good group to come to our last Wednesday night Bible study at the CSC. We started in April having in-person studies at the Student Center. All the students are sophomores, so next fall we will begin with all new students. We will begin with a two-week blitz of activities to reach out to the campus. Please be praying for us as we plan for the fall school year.



CSC study group



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Donald "Rod" Tate

Former President of MBC

Donald "Rod" Tate, age 81, of Sulligent, AL, passed away Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at his residence. Rod was born on November 23, 1939, in Carbon Hill, AL. Rod became a preacher and preached for the next fifty plus years. He would



also teach and administratively lead Bible Colleges associated with the church. Magnolia Bible College in Kosciusko, MS, was organized in 1976,

and Rod became the first president. Rod was also a faculty member and served as Assistant to the President at International Bible College in Florence, AL. Rod was married to the former Mimi Shanley for almost 60 years. They were blessed with three children, Tammy, Roddy, and Joey, and were foster parents to about twenty children. Mimi said, "She and Rod had worked hand in hand in over twenty five churches and communities."

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mimi and the entire family of Rod Tate.

George Jesse "Buddy" Baker

Aug. 25, 1937-Dec. 28, 2020

Buddy was born in Eastman, GA, on August 25, 1937, and passed away December 28, 2020, at the age of 83. Buddy served as pulpit minister for a number of churches across Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. He also served as a missionary in East Kilbride, Scotland. Buddy served in the early stages of Magnolia Bible College in Public relations. He was a staff member at Heritage Christian



University and Faulkner University. We extend our deepest sympathy to Billie Faye, his wife of 61 years, and to his children,

Ben Baker (Leigh), Laura Weaver (Terry), his grandchildren and one great grandson.

Precious Memories

IN MEMORY OF

BOBBIE NELL PASS

Gay Jackson
(Louisville, MS)

GENE PERSINGER

Barbara Persinger
(DeRidder, LA)

MR. & MRS. BILL JACKSON

MILLIE O'DELL

SINGLETON

DEBBIE HOWES
Cindi Franks
(DeQuincy, LA)

BONNIE CATHERINE

HADDOCK

MARY JANE HADDOCK

David Haddock
(Clinton, MS)

NOLA VALENTINE

Scotty Valentine
(Florence, AL)

JOAN DEES

TERRY SLATTON

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(Haleyville, AL)

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CRAWFORD

Carolyn Stanford
(Coldwater, MS)

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PAUL FRANKS

PHILIP FRANKS

Michele Elliott
(Ripley, MS)

John Dean

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ROD TATE

BUDDY BAKER

John & Beth Pigg
(Ridgeland, MS)

GENE PERRY

Barbara Perry
(Huntingdon, TN)

DEWEY LAWRENCE

Franks Chevrolet

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PHILIP FRANKS

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HEAVEN

A CHRISTIAN'S JOURNEY INTO ETERNITY

**Quotes from the book
by Dennis Doughty**

ETERNITY

"When we pass from this world to the next, Father Time gives way to Mother Eternity. Eternity is the absence of time. Whatever it is that we will do in Heaven, we will do it in a world no longer ruled by clocks. The joys we experience there, time can never bring to an end. Whoever we love there we can hold to them forever. The angels will surround us in a place where time has never been, nor will ever be. Gabriel does not wear a watch.

"Can you imagine a world not controlled by the spinning of the earth? Can you imagine living where 31 days are not a month, where 12 months are not a year, or 60 minutes not an hour? Of course you can't! Nor can I. But this is the world we are headed to. A place where time simply does not exist, where we will join with God and live a day as if it were a thousand years and a thousand years as if it were a day. We will find ourselves in that eternity Christians have sung about for hundreds of years as our voices proclaim: When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun; We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun."

THE SPIRITUAL WORLD

"There is much that goes on in the spiritual world that does not involve us, such as the battle in Heaven between Satan and Michael (Rev. 12:7). But there is constant interaction between the physical world and the spiritual. More than we could ever know.

"However, because we cannot see spiritual beings with our physical eyes, we are unaware of this interaction. We can only be aware through the eye of faith. Even today angels are busy responding to prayers to the Father (Ac 12: 5-7). Satan is walking about our earth seeking a careless life to overcome with his temptations (1 Pe 5:8).

Around God's throne a party is being held for a person on earth who has repented (Lu 15:7). In Paradise the "souls" of the prophets gather by Abraham's side to discuss salvation (1 Pe 1:10, 11). Meanwhile, God keeps a close eye on his creation, at times

leaving his throne to attend the funeral of a fallen sparrow (Mt. 10:29)."

LONGING FOR HEAVEN

"Nothing we have on this earth, no matter how rich we are, could ever give us what Heaven offers. No matter how wealthy we are we should develop a longing for Heaven, for it is far better than anything we could ever know here.

"After one or two hundred years, everything you own now will be decayed, trashed, and torn down or in disrepair. In twenty years your car will probably be in the junk yard. How many homes in your town are over a hundred years old?

"One hundred and one years from now the memory of your existence on this earth will be little more than a name on a tombstone and a line on a family tree. The only thing that will last is the treasure you lay up in Heaven (Matt.6:19-21). Your faith, good deeds, love of God's word, and worship of the Almighty will be remembered and rewarded forever in that eternal city foursquare!"

HEAVEN'S HOMECOMING

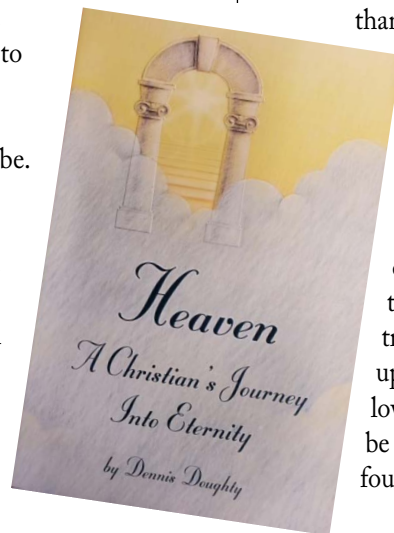
"Our hearts will skip a beat at the sound of the trumpet. Our hands will drop what they are holding. Our eyes will look to the heavens. Our tired feet will rise never to touch earth again. Our aging bodies will be changed. Joining Moses or Paul, or mother or brother, we shall join hands and fly away through the gates of that heavenly city.

"Then and there the righteous of God-- those cleansed by the blood of the lamb, those blessed martyrs, and great preachers, and humble servants, and teachers of little children, and leaders of great churches, and those who have served fifty years in the mission field, and those baptized just the day before-- will all walk hand in hand onto the street of gold singing a new song. This will be Heaven's great homecoming!" **MM**

Read it, and it will whet your appetite, increase your desire, and enlighten you even more about that wonderplace that God calls Home. Dennis has given us a masterful combination of information and inspiration in this great work."

-Dale Jenkins, minister, Spring Meadows church of Christ

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BASEBALL and PREPARATION *for the Season*

by Robert Rawson

WE ARE IN MIDDLE OF Baseball season and we are in the throes of the sport of baseball. It's not that this sport takes the place of football, but it's the change as seasons come and go. It'll not be long till the World Series will be played for us. In fact, preparation began way back in February, the pitchers and catchers started practice so their legs and arms would be in shape for the season by the middle of February. Games were played by the end of February, and teams from 'up north' would travel south for warmer weather and play teams to begin their season, and they were getting ready for the College World Series even at that time.

WHERE DOES EXERCISE fit into the picture for this sport, as they begin preparation? What happens to a potential player who 'comes out' not in shape? In fact, most successful baseball players are 'working out' now and playing the game with coaching, which corrects mistakes in fielding and helps the players with the curve ball hitting, which is so necessary for the October Series as the sport enjoys the highlight of the year.

IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, are we 'out of shape'? Is it not a tragic situation? Note Hebrews 12: "and let us run with patience, the race which is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith." No one can get back into shape with an all-out effort from one day to the next. This will result in too

much being done too soon and possibly suffer an unplanned injury, or another event might be 'burning out' for sure.

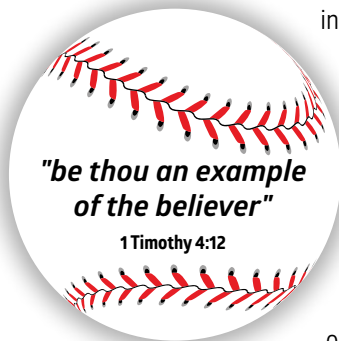
But, with patience in the preparation, and increasing endurance as he goes, soon he will be in shape. Now then, let us renew exercise today with a renewed zeal for the understanding of the Gospel (Romans 1:16) as the "power of God unto salvation," as Paul was inspired to write, and let us also fit into our daily activities the location of the six areas Paul wrote about to Timothy when he noted "be thou an example of the believer" (1 Timothy 4:12), in words

you say, in the manner of life (your conversation), which you show to others, in love of God, charity for those in need in zeal for life, the spirit of life, in faith as you labor and show to others you believe God is with you in the work being done, and finally, in purity of character in your life so you won't be accused successfully of being a worldly young man who can never be trusted by others to live a pure life.

By exercising ourselves to know the Gospel, and by providing an example to others of the faithful life, we will be better prepared to influence someone successfully to obey the Gospel now, as we have done in former days. Let us get into shape in knowledge as well as making a decision to be a faithful example of the converted life to others.

MM

Robert Rawson, Crockett church of Christ, 7484 Hwy 4 West Senatobia, MS 38668.



Happy FATHER'S DAY

F is for **FAITHFUL**. Fathers should be faithful to God first, then to their families. As a child growing up, I didn't have to worry about my father and mother not being faithful to each other. They realized marriage was for life or "until death do us part."

A is for **AFFECTION**. There were a lot of worldly possessions that I did not have as a child, but I didn't realize it at the time. The greatest of all possessions was to experience the warmth and love of both my father and mother. The bumper sticker asks "Have you hugged your kid today?"

T is for **TIME**. We hear so much about time, and rightly so. There is nothing equal to the fact that a father should spend time with his children. Little Johnny or little Suzie will be grown before you know it.

H is for **HERITAGE**. What are you as a father leaving behind for your children? Have you worked above and beyond to give your child material things, but neglected their spiritual well being? The greatest heritage a son or daughter could have would be the privilege of having a Christian father.

E is for **EXAMPLE**. As you know, your example is powerful. My own father's example as a kind, compassionate man has influenced me greatly. Also his example in regular church attendance instilled within me the great importance of putting the church first.

R is for **REPROVE**. Reprove means to correct or to rebuke. So often we as parents believe that if we reprimand our children that we do not love them, but the Bible teaches right the opposite. Fathers have a great responsibility to see that their children are brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

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"by Dennis Doughty" INSCRIPTIONS

The Songs of Heaven

As here on earth, so too in Heaven we will praise God with song. There may be others, but we know of two songs that we will sing. As John was given a glimpse into Heaven he said; "and they sang a new song before the throne" (Re. 14:3). A chapter later we are told that "they sang the song of Moses" (Re. 15:3).

After being delivered from the slavery of Egypt, walking across the Dead Sea on dry ground, and having escaped the hand of Pharaoh, Moses wrote a song "and the sons of Israel sang this song to the LORD (Ex. 15:1). The song takes up 18 verses. "The LORD is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation," Moses wrote. "Pharaoh's chariots and his army He has cast into the sea."

Why will we sing this song in Heaven? Because it is a song of deliverance. We, too, have crossed over from a slavery to sin to Salvation and a new life of freedom. Like our own salvation, Israel was "baptized in the cloud and in the sea" and they drank from a "spiritual rock that followed them, and that rock was Christ" (1 Co. 10:1-3). Moses' voice proclaimed, "You had led the people whom You have redeemed; In Your strength You have guided them to Your holy habitation." (Ex. 15:13). We will sing these same words as we march into the eternal City of gold.

"Only Heaven Knows"

In a satirical look at a visit from the archangel Michael, in a 1996 fantasy movie of that name, one of the characters writes this verse in a song she is writing; "I was sitting in the middle of nowhere by the side of the road. Where was my angel then? Only Heaven knows."

Michael is the most prominent of the angels throughout scripture. He is described as the "Principal" or "Arch" messenger from God, who is our main defender from the devil and his angels. He waged war against Satan, casting him "down to the earth" (Re. 12:7-9), he contended with the devil over the body of Moses (Jude 9), and fought off Satan so another angel could answer a prayer of Daniel (Da. 10:10-21).

Angels, those awesome messengers from God, are more involved in our lives than we know. They fly swiftly to the side of hospital beds, above any battlefield, and to weary souls "in the middle of nowhere by the side of the road," to lift our spirits. They answer our prayers or carry away loved ones into Abraham's bosom. Angels are "ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation" (He. 1:14). What are they doing now around you, for you, and in defending you from evil? Only Heaven knows!

-Dennis Doughty

I started writing this weekly column for our class newsletter. Now sixteen years later, it has grown to over seven hundred readers each week. These short articles are designed for bulletin use, and are also a good source for devotional and sermon material. If you would like to start getting it each week, send me an email at dennis1848@bellsouth.net -dd



TRAINING PROVERBS 31

Young Ladies!!

SIGN UP FOR CAMP MORIAH TODAY.

**Attention all young ladies,
Camp Moriah--a free summer camp
still has a few spots left.**

This camp has been designed to help young ladies develop into Proverbs 31 women. So, if you would like to spend a week of your summer learning how to serve God better, if you would like to study what platforms God gives you to use your talents, if you would like to have a better understanding of what your talents are, then camp Moriah is the place to be! Camp Moriah will be hosted at the Little Mountain Ministry Camp facility near Winchester, TN, on June 20-25, and is 100% free of charge! Sheila Butt will be the main speaker for the week. Apply at www.littlemountainministries.com and look for the Camp Moriah tab at the top! Its going to be an incredible week for God! (If you have additional questions please contact Carla Michael).

Little Mountain Ministries

littlemountainministries.com

**Get your reservations in
early for next year.**

Next year's camp is June 19-22, 2022

The Berean Children's Home

is funded through donations from individuals and churches. If you, your church, or business would be interested in helping with this work, please contact us. We are a registered 501 c(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue code and a registered charity in the state of Mississippi. Therefore, all donations are tax deductible as allowed by law.

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**Office Phone: 601-823-5776
Office Hours: Monday - Friday
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Fax: 601-823-5997**

Our mission at Berean Children's Home is to provide children with a loving home and to assist each child to mature spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially and physically.



"A FAMILY with a HEART"

We are looking for a set of House Parents for our Home and if anyone is interested please contact me at my cell number or personal email.

These Sent In Answers to QB, Last Issue

1. James Bricker
2. Mary Grigsby
3. James Thornton
4. Sandy Dean
5. Janice Beam
6. Michael Euer
7. Dr. Rhea Forum
8. Mary Brannan
9. Lynell Garlington
10. Sylvester & Linda Burton
11. Garry Gooch
12. Vera Spencer
13. Sarah Dantzler
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HEAVEN

Read Revelation 21:1-7, 10-27; 22:1-5, 13-14

(NKJV)

1. Where will God Himself be (v3)? _____
2. "...God will wipe away every tear from their [our] eyes." (v4) What will we no longer experience there?

3. What is the reward for being faithful and obedient (v7)?

4. What is the second death (v8)? _____
5. Who will NOT be in Heaven (v8)? _____
6. "...the new Jerusalem" (v10) is described in verses 12-21. Using verses 12-14, fill in the blanks below (paraphrased):
a great high _____ with _____ gates _____ angels at the gates
with the names of the _____ tribes of the _____ of
Israel on the gates. In every direction there were _____
gates. Each gate was made of _____. There were _____
foundations with the names of the _____ apostles of the
Lamb.
7. The city was _____ in length, breadth, and height (v16).
8. What came from the throne of God and of the Lamb
(22:1)? _____
9. How many streets are mentioned (22:2)? _____

10. What was lost in Genesis 3, but will be regained in
Heaven? _____ What will it bear and why?
(22:2) _____

11. What will the servants of God and the Lamb do (22:3)?

12. Why will there be no night, or no need of lamps or
sunlight (21:23; 22:5)? _____

13. Jesus makes five "I am" statements using 5 different
phrases, all meaning the same (22:13 & 16):

the _____ and the _____

the _____ and the _____

the _____ and the _____

the _____ and the _____ of David

the _____ and _____

14. In 22:14, those who do God's commandments are
blessed with "the right" to what two things? _____
and _____

15. Much of what we are shown in these scriptures seems
to be physical, but we know it will not be "earthly physi-
cal". More important than what we will "see" is "who" will
be there, "how" we will be, "how" we will feel, and what we
will do. Write your own thoughts about Heaven below.

Prepared by Glenn & Beth Beall, foyforyrish@gmail.com

Please Send Your Answers To Us

(Print your name... Please. Thank you!)

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NOTICE: Each person who sends in answers will be recognized in the next issue
of the "MM" (see page 31). ALSO, by random drawing, the name of ONE student
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