



We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

Thank you for being our Guest today!

Salvation Passages

Eddie Cooper

When discussing the subject of salvation, some quote certain passages to the exclusion of others that also are relevant to the subject. For example, some will quote “...*Whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins*” (Acts 10:43 NKJV) and then make the claim this passage teaches that all one has to do to receive remission of sins is to believe. However, such assertions ignore other relevant passages, such as Acts 11:18, which teaches the essentiality of repentance. In addition, Acts 2:38 states, “...*Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...*” The latter of these verses teaches that **both** repentance **and** baptism are **essential** in order to receive the remission of sins. Furthermore, Romans 10:9-10 teaches that **both** belief **and** confession of Christ are essential to salvation.

What all this means, and what should be obvious to all, is that **one must not ignore any** relevant biblical passage on a given subject in order to have the truth on that subject. Even the devil quotes Scripture (Matthew 5:4-6). However, the devil will quote some Scripture to the exclusion of other Scripture (Matthew 4:7). The New Testament teaches belief, repentance, confession and baptism for the remission of sins. **Which Scriptures do you ignore?**

Why Do People Get Old?

Dean Kelly

Life is interesting from a 6-year-old's perspective. Our daughter asked her precious daughter a series of questions. Her answers were really cute, and sometimes thought-provoking. One of the questions was, "Why do people get old?" Here is her answer: "Because they need to die and go to Heaven."

If I know my little granddaughter, she said that very matter-of-factly. What faith a little one has! There is one goal in life, and she is already aware that we are going to die, and we are getting ready for Heaven.

The apostle Paul wrote these words in Philippians 1:20-22, *According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.* (NKJV)

As Christians, we need to be focused on the fact that we do indeed grow older because we need to go to Heaven. I recently heard a recording (from last year's Polishing the Pulpit lectures) in which a brother dealt with verse 21. He made an excellent point when he said, "For to me, to live is _____, and to die is _____." He said if you will fill in the first blank, then he could tell you what goes in the second blank. Paul filled in the first blank with "Christ." Hence, the second blank is automatically filled in with "gain." The brother pointed out that so many fill in the first blank with a whole list of things: money, pleasure, job, etc. If that first blank is filled with anything but Christ, the second blank automatically fills in with "loss." **If I emphasize anything else but Jesus as the major focus of my life, the result will be eternal loss.**

My grandbaby is already learning that life is heading toward death, and death is our doorway to Heaven. I hope she will always keep that in her mind. May we all learn to live for Jesus so that when death comes, it will bring a joyous victory, our gain into Heaven. I encourage you, as well as myself, to honestly look at the first "blank" that we need to fill, like Paul did in Philippians 1:21, and ask, "How am I filling that blank, and **what is the focus of my life?**" All of the blessings of now, all of the love we can share with family, all of the accomplishments we may be able to attain, all of them fade into nothing if at the center of my life I do not find Jesus. We have work to do; we have life to live, but **only we can make death our gain – through Jesus!**

ROAD OF FAITH

The road I have
traveled,
Has been so very
long,
Tho not always
faithful,
By Grace I continue
on.
There have been
obstacles,
And detours along
the way,
Lessons were
learned there,
God said I could not
stay.
So forward I march
on now,
As long as I have
breath,
May God be ever
glorified,
Til the day I see my
death.

By Bill Kochman

When a Christian ceases to grow, he begins to decay.

Cybele and the Colossians

Mark McWhorter

The Gentile population of Colossae had several false gods and goddesses that they worshipped. One of the goddesses was Cybele.

Cybele was the Phrygian goddess of fertility. She represented the principle of life and reproduction. She was considered by many as the Mother of the Gods. Her crown was a miniature city wall. She was worshipped with cries and shouts associated with clashing cymbals and drums.

The Romans introduced an interesting rite to her worship. An initiate was placed in a pit beneath a wooden floor. A bull was sacrificed on the wooden floor. The blood would run through gaps in the floor and drench the initiate. This was thought to cleanse the initiate of sins and signified a **rebirth**. She became associated with the endless cycle of life, death and rebirth due to having been involved with resurrecting her lover Attis.

While Paul did not name any false gods in the letters to the Colossians, some of what he wrote does address false beliefs. In 3:16, he gave the proper musical worship toward God. In 1:4-6, Paul made the point that the fruit, love and hope of Christ and His church are what produces spiritual fruit. In 1:9-10, he stated that it is the knowledge and wisdom of Christ's will that makes one fruitful.

In 1:14, Paul taught that it is Christ's blood which gives forgiveness of sins. In 1:16, he said that Christ created the world, and in 1:17, by Christ all things stay together. In 2:12-13, Paul told that it is through baptism that one is raised from the dead and made alive.

The Bible is amazing. God gave us enough information by which any false religion or belief can be answered. Study your Bible. Learn all you can, and then obey God. If any of this is hard to understand, ask an adult to help you.

Kids Say the Funniest Things

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

This Week's Q&A

Q: Who in the Bible lost their first son and youngest son because he rebuilt a city

A: Hiel, in 1 Kings 16:34, because he rebuilt Jericho.

Context: After the fall of Jericho, Joshua pronounced a curse on the man who would rebuild Jericho, in Joshua 6:26. Some 550 years later, Hiel reaped this curse.

Aside: The Old Testament city of Jericho is about a mile northwest of modern Jericho today. The New Testament Jericho was on a higher elevation nearby. Hiel paid a high price to rebuild Jericho at its original location. It has not been rebuilt there since.

Thought Question: Why did God not want the city of Jericho rebuilt? Clark suggests it may have been that God wanted the ruins of Jericho to be a continual reminder of His displeasure with idolatry, and of the miracle He used to give the Israelites victory over Jericho, their first battle in conquering the land of Canaan, the Promised Land. See Joshua 6:17-19 for God's comments about Jericho.

Even when we are weak, God is strong.



This I Know

I do not know what troubles I may meet with on my way.

I cannot guess what part I shall be called upon to play.

I cannot see the pattern of my future destiny.

I cannot tell what purpose God is working out for me.

But this I know - whatever I may have to fight or face.

He'll be there at every moment and in every place.

I shall not dread the unmapped road or fear the great unknown.

Wherever I may find myself - I shall not be alone.

Be a candle if you cannot be a lighthouse.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!