

## GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

God's Grace - Ephesians 2:8  
God's Love and Mercy - Ephesians 2:4  
Christ's Blood Shed - Romans 5:9-11  
The Gospel - Romans 1:16  
Sinner's Faith - Acts 16:31; Mark 16:15-16  
Sinner's Repentance - Luke 13:3  
Sinner's Confession - Romans 10:10  
Sinner's Baptism - 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 2:38  
Christian's Hope - Romans 8:24-25  
Christian's Faithfulness and Endurance - Revelation 2:10; 1 John 1:7-10

## LORD'S DAY ASSIGNMENTS

for today - March 22

### READ SCRIPTURE:

Leon Seaton

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

John Eastridge

### OFFICIATE:

Bobby Bybee

### SERVE COMMUNION:

Donnie Edwards Bill Brooks

## AREA EVENTS:

**March 22-25** Gospel Meeting at S. Green St. in Glasgow with Phil Sanders, 7 p.m.

**March 28** Fundamental Truths Seminar at Lehman Ave. in Bowling Green. Theme: *Eternal Realities* with David Decker and Bill Watkins. A new feature this year will be a ladies class taught by Beverly Watkins. Lunch will be provided so RSVP if possible if you plan to attend.

**March 28 & 29** "YOUTH FOCUS 2009: *Confronting Culture*" at the South Green St. Church of Christ Guest speaker: Joe Wells of Focus Press. For more info, call 651-5409 or email youth@glasgow-coc.org

**April 5-8** Gospel Meeting at Larue County Church of Christ with James Long, 7 p.m.

**\*April 12-15\*** Our Gospel Meeting here at Horse Cave with Michael C. Shepherd of Pensacola, FL Mark your calendar. Be in prayer and prepare to attend and support this good effort.

**April 18** Youth Rally at Refuge Church of Christ 9 a.m - 2:30 p.m. Singing Classes Activities Lunch will be served.



## A Weekly Publication of the Horse Cave CHURCH OF CHRIST

120 Cave Street  
Horse Cave, KY 42749

**TIME OF SERVICES:** Sunday: Bible Study 10 AM;  
Worship 11 AM & 6 PM Wednesday: Bible Study 7 PM

**CHURCH WEB PAGE:** www.horsecavecoc.com

We gladly welcome you to our congregation, trusting that - if you are *seeking Christ* you will find Him here, if *sorrowing* you will receive comfort and strength here, if *troubled in spirit* you will gain the blessing of peace here, if *discouraged* you will rejoice in encouragement and hope here, if *friendless* you will find companionship and Christian love here. That these and other blessings may be yours is our prayer.

Vol. 41

March 22, 2009

Number 12

## You Expect Me To Believe That!

In the beginning there was nothing. And suddenly for no reason nothing exploded and created everything. **You expect me to believe that?**

At some point, by chance the right chemicals happened to float together at just the right moment to be struck by an electrical charge and become life. **You expect me to believe that?**

Somewhere two non-human mothers each gave birth to a human child. They were born at the same time and in the same place, one was male and one was female. These two new "humans" gave birth to the human race. **You expect me to believe that?**

One of the descendants of these first humans was born with a knowledge of right and wrong. No longer driven by instinct, this person suddenly was making decisions based on a morality for which there is no real explanation. **You expect me to believe that?**

I'm sorry. I do not have that much blind faith. It is **all** just too far fetched to be anything more than a fairy tale. I cannot believe intelligent people claim it is "science."

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). Now that makes sense. I can believe that without stretching my imagination into the realm of the impossible. The universe was created by an all-powerful, all-knowing God. I can believe!

The "theory" of evolution is one of the biggest lies the devil ever invented. If people can believe (have faith in) the theory of evolution, believing about God should be easy.

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## PERSONAL NEWS & NOTES...

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Doug Edwards; James Horton; Parker Bybee; Becca Napper; Blake Morris; Dennis Hatcher; Marilyn Ray; Gerald Watt; Pat Bradford (Ruth's son) chemo and radiation treatments; Janice Bybee had eye surgery this past week; Linda Forbes is back home recovering after spending a few days in the hospital; Hilda Russell was able to be back out Wed. night; Mary Whittington had bronchitis last weekend; John & Candice Whittington have been sick; Doris Wallace was sick Wed. night; Leon & Agnes Seaton; Sharon Hatcher (having tests) We have had a lot of illness in the past few days; we hope now that Spring has arrived that everyone will soon feel better. Maxine Turner; Harold Underwood; Amanda Dugger; Jiraporn Tim (Thailand); Bob Toohey; Buddy Logsdon (undergoing treatments); Larry Glass Sr.; Frankie Walters

### FRIENDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY:

Leslie Witty; Susanne Wintsch; Joyce Robinson; Oscar Crain; Sarah Lou Wilson; Tony Bush in Iraq; Jim Reed; L. N. Deweese; Jerry Greer; Billy Ross

### SHUT-INS AT HOME:

Alma Reynolds Sally Marshall Johnalene Lancaster

### HART COUNTY HEALTH CARE:

Hallie Davidson 403; Mary Edwards 502; Helen Stanley 707; Lucy Byrd Every 402; Alma Stilts 501

### HIGHLAND RIDGE ASSISTED LIVING:

Ford Smith 164 Golda Livesay 121

### NHC HEALTHCARE in Glasgow:

Robert Allen Edwards

### MISSION WORKS WE SUPPORT:

Al Horne in South Africa  
Mike Brooks in Bangladesh/Nepal  
Patinya Thitathan in Thailand

Sammy Flanary – work in Europe  
Danny McCain - Green Co. KY  
Doka Obadiah in Nigeria, Africa  
Jason Freed family going to France  
Mid-South Bible Institute in Glasgow, KY  
Jerry Carmichael — Grant Co. KY  
Dhan Ramkelawan – E. TN School of Preaching  
International Gospel Hour – Fayetteville, TN  
Gospel Broadcasting Network – Dalton, GA  
HTH/HTH ministry here in Horse Cave  
Local Radio programs over WLOC-1150 AM

### REJOICING:

Braden Bybee was baptized into Christ last Sunday afternoon here at the building by his grandfather, Bill Bybee. Braden is the son of Ken & Monica Bybee of E-town.

### LADIES BIBLE CLASS:

Plans are underway to start a Ladies Bible Class this summer. If you are interested, be sure and sign the sheet on the banister at the back of the auditorium.

### A NEW BOOK IN LIBRARY:

*J. B. Gaither – His Place in Time* was donated to the church library this week by Sandra Gaither Pitchford. Sandra compiled this book in memory of her dad who was a gospel preacher. He preached here in 1933 two Sundays a month while the preacher was away. He and his wife, Mary would stay in town for a week at the house on Guthrie St. They would then go back to Gainesboro, TN for a week. We truly appreciate the gift of this beautiful book. Sandra said she appreciated the information and help from Wayne Hatcher, Beauford Fudge, Billy Bybee and Tom Whittington.

### TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ:

What did Moses toss in the air to produce boils on man and beast in Egypt?

The answer to last week's question was: Nazareth, Luke 4:16-29

## Responding To Enemies

“Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm. May the Lord repay him according to his works. You also must beware of him, for he has greatly resisted our words. At my first defense no one stood with me, but all forsook me. May it not be charged against them” ( 2 Timothy 4:14-16 NKJV).

In more than twenty years of mission work, I have occasionally been forced to disassociate myself from a coworker because of persistent sin for which he was impenitent. One such worker asked to meet with me and I agreed.

After more than an hour of unproductive discussion he finally threatened me with physical harm if I did not restore him to his former position of trust and service. I refused, and the threat was never carried out, yet the incident underscores the possibility of real danger in our work for the Lord.

Paul certainly was no stranger to this situation, and in his second letter to Timothy he gives us some insight into one incident, whose details are not recorded. Alexander did something against Paul. Whether he slandered Paul, accused him of wrongdoing, betrayed him to authorities, or even hurt him physically we cannot know. There is no doubt however that he made himself Paul's enemy.

We are naturally curious about the actual circumstances of this and other incidents in the life of Paul. Our curiosity must go unsatisfied, at least in this life. However, we are given information that is much more vital to us in this story. We are taught by Paul's example how to deal righteously and successfully with such enemies. When someone does us harm, how should we respond?

First, Paul left vengeance and justice to God. “May the Lord repay him” was the only curse or punishment that Paul expressed. He had previously taught, “Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, ‘vengeance is mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord” ( Romans 12:19). Paul did nothing so far as we know against Alexander. He did not return evil for evil ( Romans 12:17, 21), but trusted God the righteous

judge to render true justice.

Second, Paul taught and admonished Alexander. “He has greatly resisted our words.” Whether Alexander was an unbeliever who refused to listen to the gospel or a fallen Christian who would not be restored, the principle is the same. He had the knowledge, or at least access to the knowledge, that would lead to forgiveness from his sins. Paul made attempts to save him before eventually recognizing Alexander's incorrigible nature.

Third, Paul extended mercy. Though it is not clear whether Alexander is still in view in verse 16, the apostle's willingness to forgive those who wronged him is plain. “May it not be charged against them.” His was the exact attitude demonstrated by Jesus on the cross, when he cried, “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do” ( Luke 23:34).

Whether our enemies are ultimately forgiven by God and saved is up to him, not us. We however have the power to forgive personal affronts and to choose not to harbor anger, vengeance or malice against them. Paul exercised that power.

Finally, Paul protected others from the sin of Alexander. His warning to Timothy is not gossip or an act of petty vengeance upon the coppersmith. It was a legitimate warning to one who was in danger from the same impenitent party.

We must never gossip. However there are times when someone else needs to know the dangers that are faced, or the truth about a situation that may be misrepresented by others. Paul's love for Alexander and desire for his salvation were already well proven by his teaching and forgiving spirit. But he also had a duty to Timothy and other young vulnerable Christians. It was in the discharge of this duty that his warning was given.

Enemies of Christ and Christians exist. We cannot always escape their hatred. We can however respond to them in the spirit of our Lord. “Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” ( Romans 12:21).

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