

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

HORSE CAVE CHURCH OF CHRIST
120 Cave Street
Horse Cave, KY 42749

LORD'S DAY ASSIGNMENTS

for today - July 26

READ SCRIPTURE:

Ken Russell

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bryan Denison

OFFICIATE:

Leon Seaton

SERVE COMMUNION:

Donnie Edwards Rex Wallace
Les Neville John Eastridge

PREACH:

a.m. - Wayne Hatcher
p.m. - Sammy Flanary

LEAD SINGING:

am - Ken Russell pm - Phillip Carter

THOSE TO SERVE IN AUGUST:

READ SCRIPTURE:

2 - Bryan Denison
9 - Leon Seaton
16 - Phillip Perkins
23 - Bill Brooks
30 - Wayne Hatcher

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Willie Cyphers

OFFICIATE:

Ken Russell

SERVE COMMUNION:

Bill Brooks David Houk
Roy Petett Matt Forbes

LEAD SINGING:

2 - am - Phillip Carter pm - Ken Russell
9 - am - BA Fudge pm - Phillip Carter
16 - am - Ken Russell pm - BA Fudge
23 - am - Phillip Carter pm - Ken Russell
30 - am - BA Fudge pm - Phillip Carter



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.

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Number 29

Keeping Out of Ditches by Mike Riley

This writer grew up on a country farm near Samnorwood, Texas back in the 40's. We didn't have many paved roads in those days. When it rained, we had to be very careful to keep out of ditches on both sides of the road. Often in trying to keep out of one ditch, it would be easy to oversteer and end up across the muddy road in the other ditch.

A valuable lesson can be learned from the above experience. As Christians, we must realize that there are "ditches" on both sides of the spiritual road. On one side is the "ditch" of liberalism. John wrote, "*Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son*" (2 John 9). In our day, some in the Lord's church are heading toward, or are already in that "ditch" of liberalism, ignoring the plain teachings of God's word.

But the other "ditch" is just as dangerous. In keeping out of the "ditch" of liberalism, there are those in the church who have begun to bind where the Lord has not bound and look upon all with an unfavorable attitude who do not follow (or agree with) their ideas, opinions, or philosophies, even though they are not substantiated (or authorized) by God's Word. Some even pull off from faithful congregations and begin new congregations following their ideas, opinions, or philosophies.

How is a Christian to keep out of either "ditch"? One must strive to stay in the "center" of God's Will (Matthew 7:21), ever studying His Word and praying for wisdom to follow it (2 Timothy 2:15; James 1:5-6; cf. Proverbs 2:1-9), neither adding to nor taking from it. "*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you*" (Deuteronomy 4:2).

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Mark Hatcher
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PERSONAL NEWS & NOTES...

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Doug Edwards; Linda Forbes; James Horton; Paul Hogan; Parker Bybee; Becca Napper; Chris Burchett; Blake Morris; Dennis Hatcher; Gerald Watt; Pat Bradford (Ruth's son); Vickie Thompson's dad, William E. Estes and her uncle, Elmer Estes, Jr.; Frankie Walters; Lindley Hatcher; Buddy Logsdon; Charles Isenberg is to have a defibrillator installed this Wed. morning; Faye Guinn (member at Center); Brenda K. Thomason (member at E-town); One of our Nigerian preachers was kidnapped from a Christian School in Nigeria for ransom on July 21. Thankfully he has released late Fri. night.

FRIENDS FROM OUR COMMUNITY:

Peggy Spann; Jim Reed; Leslie Witty; Billy Ross; Roger Lile; Jeff Lile; Kay Bush; Mary Bush; Graham Rutherford (in Iraq)

SHUT-INS AT HOME:

Alma Reynolds Sally Marshall Johnalene Lancaster

HART COUNTY HEALTH CARE:

Hallie Davidson 403; Mary Edwards 502; Helen Stanley 707; Berdine Hogan 502 Alma Stilts 501

HIGHLAND RIDGE ASSISTED LIVING:

Ford Smith 164

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
Darrell Wallace Sunset's Satellite Schools

OUR RELATIONSHIP SEMINAR:

Last Wed. night. marked the third lesson in our *Seminar on Relationships* taught by Sam Dick. He did another great job focusing on the relationship of marriage. Wayne has recorded all the lessons on DVD except the first one. If you would like to have a copy of the three lessons, please let him know. This Wed. night will be the final lesson. Sam plans to discuss relationships between parents and children and also how to deal with difficult people in your life.

WEDDING SHOWER:

Ladies, remember the Wedding Shower for **Meagan Hatcher** this afternoon from **2-4** at the home of Ken & Carolyn Russell.

GUEST SPEAKER TONIGHT:

Tonight we will be privileged to have Sammy Flanary to report on his work which we help support. Be sure and be here for this.

SUMMER SERIES AT CENTER:

This Wed. night, Wayne will be away to speak at the Center Church of Christ in their Summer Series: *"Faith and Hope": The Twin Sisters of Christianity.*

TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ:

Where did the apostle Paul bid farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus?

The answer to last week's question was: on board a ship during a storm, Acts 27:23,24

BABY SHOWER:

Brenda Self (Mt. Vernon congregation) wanted us to know that there will be a baby shower for Eric & Crystal Self, Sat. Aug. 1 at Park Mammoth Resort at 3:00. They are registered at Babies R Us, Target and Wal-Mart.

The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart by David Hartsell

Of all the infamous characters in the Bible, Pharaoh stands out. He blatantly defied God. When Moses told Pharaoh that Jehovah said to let Israel go, the Egyptian King responded, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go" (Exodus 5:2). Pharaoh thought he was a god. Why should he listen to the dictates of the God of an enslaved people? Paul teaches that Pharaoh hardened his heart against God's will. More than that, Paul asserts that God hardened the king's heart (Romans 9:17-18). God raised Pharaoh up to show His power through him. God uses people for good or ill. "Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens."

So how does God harden some people while others genuinely repent? Is individual predestination taught by Paul or is there more to this idea? Immediately, we can toss out the idea that God overrides people's free will. Too many passages state that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34) and that we have been given the gift of freely making our own choices (Matthew 11:28-30).

So how did God harden Pharaoh's heart? He simply made demands on the king that were against Pharaoh's political interests. Egypt, at this time, was a world power. Their economic and political system was based upon slave labor. How would the Egyptians perceive the releasing of all those in bondage? Would this not look weak? Pharaoh must show strength. How dare these bondsmen make such a crazy demand!

Probably, Pharaoh's pride was the greatest inhibitor to releasing Israel from captivity. God understood the king's heart. He, through Moses, made the persistent demand to let Israel go. At times, Pharaoh behaved as if he was weakening but, in the end, he would

refuse or put stipulations on the release that were unacceptable: leave your women and children behind or don't take your animals. God responded to Pharaoh's obstinacy by bringing plagues on Egypt. Water turning to blood, frogs, lice, and proliferation of flies are examples of these plagues. Every plague gave Pharaoh an opportunity to develop faith in God. God confirmed His Word with every plague. But, each time the plagues were lifted Pharaoh hardened his heart against The Lord. The plagues began as a nuisance but the latter ones had severe consequences. Number ten was the death of the firstborn in every Egyptian family. Even Pharaoh's firstborn died. Immediately Israel was told to leave. Pharaoh's hard heart cost him and his people dearly.

We have a choice as to what type of heart we will have. We can listen carefully to God's word and with deep emotions be brought to repentance. Saul of Tarsus is a perfect example of such a person. When confronted with a miraculous communication from the Lord, Saul developed faith. Paul's repentance was shown by his abstinence from food and drink for three days (Acts 9:8-9). It was repentance that led Saul to "wash away his sins" in baptism (Acts 22:16). Later, Paul said he always strove "to have a conscience without offense toward God and men" (Acts 24:16). Paul kept his heart soft. What about us? When God tells us how we should honor and serve Him, how do we react? We should realize the futility in fighting against God and serve him gladly out of love. But, like Pharaoh, we can harden our hearts and receive the same horrible end. Remember, just because God does not execute judgment speedily does not mean there are no eternal consequences (Ecclesiastes 8:11).