

SUNDAY MORNING

Announcements
Mark Davis

Song Leader
Jack Calvert

Lord's Supper
Daniel Allgor Cole Meador
Rodney Ellis

Prayers
Wendell Mobley Bill Rhinehart

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Announcements
Jack Calvert

Song Leader
Brian Garlock

Prayers
Daniel Allgor Gerald Eaton

Invitation
Jon Barry

ABOUT US

Elders
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Bill Brittenham
Mike Davis Clay Morris

Evangelist
Bryan Garlock

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday
Bible Study9:30 A.M.
Worship10:15 A.M.

Monday (Zoom)
Bible Study7:00 P.M

Wednesday
Bible Study7:00 P.M.

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GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Hear the word of truth Romans 10:13-17

Believe the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

Repent from all sins Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

Confess the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

Be Baptized in His name Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

Walk in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10



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Issue 25

Is There a Gospel For the Happy?

Jim McGuiggan

She said, "I know you have a gospel for the poor, the hurting, the unhappy; do you have a gospel for the happy?"

I know we have a gospel for those weighed down with sins; do we have a gospel for those who aren't burdened down with sins?

Is our gospel only one of assurance for the fearful, a promise of future deliverance to the captives and the oppressed; is it pretty much described in the old hymn, "We'll understand it better by and by?"

We do hear Jesus say, "If you're weary and heavy laden come unto me and I will give you rest." And there was the time (Luke 4) when he said he had come to free prisoners, to heal broken hearts, to deliver people from demonic bondage and to give sight to the blind.

Unhappy, sad people, and overburdened. We don't need to apologize for such a gospel; He didn't! He

saw multitudes like sheep without shepherds and He had compassion on them.

But is that the entire story? Can you ever imagine Jesus saying, "Come to me if you're energetic, happy and not a prisoner of besetting sins and I will give you a commission to match your blessedness? Something that will challenge you to use the joy and energy to oppose the hosts of wickedness in the invisible world in My name and for the oppressed."

When people in their tens of thousands stepped out in faith to be baptized "into Christ ... into His death" (Acts 2:36-38; Romans 6:3), what was that all about? They knew what the enemies of Christ had in mind when they put Him to death but the thousands who came in faith to be baptized into His death saw it as gospel. In faith they were saying to His enemies, "You

ignore it. We can reject it. Or we can heed and obey it.

We know what that call is:

- Hear**
- Believe**
- Repent**
- Confess**
- Be Baptized**
- Live obediently and faithfully**

Obedience to God's call also makes us worthy of the body and blood of Jesus.

1 Cor. 11:28 *But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup.* BB

FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember and check on our shut-ins/sometimes shut-ins: **Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Maxine Burnham, Ann Thomas, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, Pete & Beth Rowland, and Francine Davis.**

Bible Study: 9:30 AM (and Zoom)

Services: 10:15 AM (and Zoom)

Monday Class: 7:00 PM (Zoom)

Wednesday: 7:00 PM (and Zoom)

saw it as shame you heaped on Him; we have come to know it as glory His Father heaped on Him (John 12:27-28; Colossians 2:15; Galatians 6:14). His death in His own eyes was many things and in the eyes of those who in faith were baptized into Him, it was glorious (Galatians 3:26-27;6:14).

It was glorious for many reasons and one of them was that it was the death of Death (Hebrews 2:14-15). That's the death people in faith were baptized into—His death. Those embraced in Christ don't die when they die. That's what He said (John 6 & 11)! Easy to say? For Him it was! Death had no power over Him and He rose never to die again. That's the death into which the early believers were baptized (the book of Romans setting has an ethical thrust I'm bypassing for now).

Christ's death led from the resurrection to immortality (Romans 6:1-11) and it is that death, His death, that we are baptized into. It is a death that is a prelude to life unending. But it was death. And so is our biological death. Jesus of Nazareth

glorified biological death that is an expression of trust in and glad obedience to God. And so is ours, in Him!

We experience sadness at the death of our beloved ones—and we won't apologize for it. But we will not live as victims of death. We are called to live in and as His image! Through His faith-filled followers He continues to share in the suffering of the human family and we too are to share their anguish in all its forms. Read Romans 7:17-18, 29, and rejoice in the entire context that speaks of suffering while we wait for the glory that follows. We are called to take up our cross and follow Him. We are not to seek exemption. Paul did not see himself crucified on his cross, but on Christ's. To see our death in Christ as less than glory is to rob ourselves or be robbed by our teachers. And indeed if we are baptized into Christ's death we are baptized into the meaning and glory of His death and nothing less than that.

We refuse to be the prisoners of disease, old age, terminal wards, hospice care or old cemeteries! Nor despite our tears will we think of our departed beloved ones as slaves of any of these.

Oh you mysterious, wondrous God and Father of mankind, thank you for making us conquerors in Jesus Christ come what may. This prayer in His name!

Transitions: Change (Unknown)

Solomon told us in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that there is a time for everything. There are times for transitions such as moving from the world of a dependent child to a responsible adult. Romans 12:1-2 & 1 Corinthians 6:11 describe the most

important transition, from sinner to Christian. Christians remove sin and add Christ to their lives during this transition. There are many reasons for removing something and most are not painful. However, removing a name from a church directory can cause a hurt that brings tears and heartache. Remembering the smiling face of one who has passed away fills your mind with wonderful memories while filling your heart with loneliness. Checking the box, "former member," due to church discipline not only evokes a deep sadness but brings questions, "Why didn't I see the warning signs?" and "What can I do now to help?" These removals either weaken our faith or cause our faith to be strengthened and involve transitions for a particular person as well as those around them.

Although the removal of a name due to moving away should be a happy occasion, it can still be difficult. Our mobile society almost encourages us to make new lives in different places. Living in a university town means members transitioning to post-graduate life in another location is a certainty. Some visit often while others may never return. Removals are challenging.

Luckily, some transitions involve additions that bring great joy. New members, whether college students, families relocating for work, or parents moving to be closer to children help us grow numerically and spiritually. Precious little lives that are brought into this world bring happiness and encouragement. Additions are strength-building and motivating.

Then there is rebirth, when a child of God is baptized into Christ. What an occasion to celebrate! This is the most important and meaningful transition of one's life. Members of the church family will offer help and support as the new Christian grows spiritually.

Oh yes, some transitions can be trying and even discouraging while others help us grow and mature. As brothers and sisters, we are to support each other through these times. Also, let us find joy in our additions and celebrate together. Because God is unchanging (Hebrews 13:8, Malachi 3:6, Numbers 23:19) we can find a peace during anxious times (Philippians 4: 6&7). May God grant us unity through all transitions (1 Peter 3:8).

Worthy

1 Cor. 11:27 "Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an **unworthy** manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord."

We are all familiar with this passage, having heard it many times before observing our communion with our Lord.

But also, using the word **unworthy**, Paul necessarily tells us that we can be **worthy** of Christ's body and blood.

Are you **worthy** of the death of God's Son? How could any sinful man be **worthy** of such a momentous sacrifice. Read these verses; Ehp. 4:1; Phil. 1:27; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:12; 2 Thess. 1:11. Christians can be **worthy** of "the calling"; "the gospel"; "the Lord"; "God".

Understand that God and Jesus His Son have called us by the gospel. And a calling requires some sort of reply. We can