



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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The Dowell Brothers

Saturday April 9th @ 6 PM

Come join us for this special night of music, praise, worship and the Word!

Fellowship & Free Meal In The Outreach Center Following The Service

Voice of the LORD Tabernacle 216 Hill Street Livermore, KY

*it is
finished*

**He is not here:
for HE IS RISEN, as He said
Matthew 28:6**

**Church Of The Covered Dish Classic****Cousin Leroy**

Leroy was the third caller of the day at the local radio station which made him the winner of their grand prize. The prize was free skydiving lessons! Finally the big day arrived for his first lesson. He boarded the plane and away they flew! When it came time to jump this guy strapped himself to Leroy, And they jumped out of the plane. As they plummeted toward the ground the guy looked at Leroy and he said, "So how long have you been an instructor?"...

The Letter

The Reverend Henry Ward Beecher entered Plymouth Church on Sunday and found several letters waiting for him. He opened one and found it contained the single word, "Fool!" To the congregation on Sunday he said: "I have known many an instance of a man writing a letter and forgetting to sign his name, but this is the first instance I have ever known of a man signing his name and forgetting to write the letter."

Vacation Plans

Two friends are talking over lunch in an outdoor patio. "So what are you doing for summer vacation?" one asks. The other one replies, "I want to go to Italy again, like last year." The first asks, "Wow! You went to Italy last year?" The other answers, "No, but I wanted to."

The Drive Across Town

The orthopedic surgeon was moving to a new office, and his staff was helping transport many of the items. The nurse sat the display skeleton in the front of her car, his bony arm across the back of her seat. She hadn't considered the drive across town. At one traffic light, the stares of the people in the car beside her became obvious, and she looked across and explained, "I'm delivering him to my doctor's office." The other driver leaned out of his window. "I hate to tell you, lady," he said, "but I think it's too late!"

Two Quarters

The story is told of a young lad who was given two quarters on a Sunday morning with instructions that one was for the Lord to be placed into the offering plate at Sunday School and the other for himself. And so off he went to church. As boys are oft to do, he walked along thinking about how he would spend his quarter later and was holding the two quarters in his hand. They were perfectly safe, right? Well, they were...until they weren't. Pretty soon one slipped through his fingers, bounced off the curb into the gutter, and...you guessed it, right into the drain. He gave it his best thought and came up with the perfect solution. He then proclaimed, "Well, Lord, there goes Your quarter."

The Tummy Ache

Little Susie came home from school whining, "Mommy, I've got a stomachache." "That's because your stomach is empty," her mother replied. "You'd feel better if you had something in it." She gave Susie a snack and, sure enough, Susie felt better right away. That evening when Daddy came home, he said he had a bad headache. Susie perked up. "That's because it's empty," she said. "You'd feel better if you had something in it."



The Power Of The Cross

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R Douglas

A little girl once begged a famous preacher to visit her dying mother. "Come and get my mother in," she pleaded. He followed the girl to a slum tenement, and sitting by the mother's bed began to speak of the beautiful example of Christ. But the woman interrupted him saying, "That's no good, mister, no good for the likes of me. I'm a poor sinner and I'm dying!" He was one of those preachers who did not think it proper to speak of the cross and the blood of Christ. But he remembered the simple story of Jesus dying on the cross and the thief that was saved in the last moments of his life, which he had heard from his mother, and he explained it all to the woman. "Now," she cried, "you're getting at it! That's the story for me!" The minister said afterward, "The gospel message got her in, and got me in, too! That's the message that can bring salvation-the cross of Christ!!"

What a wonderful, immutable, UNCHANGABLE TRUTH! The message of the old rugged cross is still the only message that can save! Baptism is a wonderful thing, communion is a wonderful thing, what happened on the day of Pentecost is a wonderful thing, but there is nothing...NOTHING as powerful and as great as what took place on the cross of Christ! By no other means can man be saved except by faith in what Jesus did on the cross of Calvary! Deliverance can be found in nothing or no one else! Only through Jesus Christ and what he did on that old rugged cross! Everything else pales in comparison to what happened that day when Jesus cried IT IS FINISHED! It is faith in that and that alone that brings salvation, sanctification and justification! It is faith in that and that alone that brings deliverance and victory to fallen man! I am Pentecostal and have been since I was five years old and oh how I love the Pentecostal experience! I dare testify as the Apostle Paul did..."I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all". BUT I can also testify today...

It was not the power of Pentecost that saved me...it was the power of the Cross

It was not the power of Pentecost that sanctified me...it was the power of the Cross

It was not the power of Pentecost that justified me...it was the power of the Cross

It was not the power of Pentecost that set me free from the law of sin and death...it was the power of the Cross

If I had never been baptized in water, if I had never taken communion, if I had never spoken a word in tongues I would still be saved, sanctified, justified SET FREE from the law of sin and death! I overcome the world the flesh and the devil by faith in the finished work of the Cross! The Bible proclaims that it is the power of God! 1 Corinthians 1:17-18 "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. **For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**" The Word of God is very clear...we walk by faith, we are justified by faith, we overcome by faith! Faith in what? Faith in who? Faith in Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the cross! The preaching...the message of the cross for us which are saved IS the power of God! Only by faith in Jesus Christ and the work He finished on the cross of Calvary can we be saved, sanctified and justified! Only by faith in Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross of Calvary can we walk in victory today! Faith or reliance on anything or anyone else today is a fruitless and dangerous endeavor! I hear many today proclaiming that the church needs to return to Pentecost. To that my answer is this. The church doesn't need a return to Pentecost what the church needs is to return to the CROSS! Once that happens the rest will follow. Let me close with these scriptures.

Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Until next time, "May the LORD Bless and keep you," is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas

**"How Shall We Sing The Lord's Song In A Strange Land?"part 02**

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Psalm 137:1-9 - By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy. Remember, O Lord, the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem; who said, Rase it, rase it, even to the foundation thereof. O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed; happy shall he be, that rewardeth thee as thou hast served us. Happy shall he be, that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones.

Why were they there? Well listen to the sad tale that is recounted in Jeremiah 25:1-11 - The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that was the first year of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon; 2 The which Jeremiah the prophet spake unto all the people of Judah, and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, 3 From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah, even unto this day, that is the three and twentieth year, the word of the Lord hath come unto me, and I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye have not hearkened. 4 And the Lord hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear. 5 They said, Turn ye again now every one from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever: 6 And go not after other gods to serve them, and to worship them, and provoke me not to anger with the works of your hands; and I will do you no hurt. 7 Yet ye have not hearkened unto me, saith the Lord; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt. 8 Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts; Because ye have not heard my words, 9 Behold, I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will bring them against this land, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. 10 Moreover I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle. 11 And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Now we read there that God gave three things to the people of Israel. He gave them a land, He gave them a Law, and He gave them a Lord. But they defiled the land. They defied the Law. And they denied the Lord. And when they did, God disciplined them and He did it by "Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant" (verse 9). God can hit a tremendous lick with a crooked stick. God took a pagan king ruling over a pagan army, living in a pagan land, teaching pagan laws, serving pagan gods and used him as His rod of discipline to punish His own people. Now you may think to yourself "if God really loved them He would not have done that". Quite the contrary, it is because God loved them that God did do that. For we read in Jeremiah 24:5 - Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel; Like these good figs, so will I acknowledge them that are carried away captive of Judah, whom I have sent out of this place into the land of the Chaldeans for their good. Any parent knows that discipline is never a delight but it is often times a duty. And the parent carries out that duty because he or she knows in the end the result will be a delight to both the father and the child. The same thing is true of God. God loves us enough to let us sin, if we so desire, but He loves us too much to let us enjoy it or to let us get away with it. B. The Memory Of Their Home - These exiles sat down and "wept when we remembered Zion" (verse 1). Zion here represents Jerusalem, the Holy Hill of God. The home of God. Zion represents the place of the presence of God. Their hearts were heavy. Their harps were hung: "We hung our harps upon the willows in the midst of it." Here they were weeping in the shadows of weeping willows. Their mind had wandered back to Jerusalem, the "city of Peace" where the peaceful presence of God could be felt day in and day out. But now they were here in Babylon, separated from their Father, surrounded by their foes, saddened by their failure, shackled by their fears. I admit that I feel sorry for people who do not know God. Who have never experienced the joy that comes from a vital relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Because "in His presence is fullness of joy". But may I submit to you that the saddest person in the world is not the person who does not know God. The saddest person in the world is the person who does know God but is out of fellowship with Him. There are so many so-call "Christians" who live like the Devil. Citizens of hell who live in sin, who show no zeal for the things of God, who could not care less about living holy, separated lives. They never weep, they never cry; they never seem to be bothered, much less broken because of their sin and yet they profess to be saved.

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Deep Wells of Love

Pastor Steven Huston - 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412

"My beloved is mine, and I am his..." Song of Solomon 2:16

"I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me." Song of Solomon 7:10

Oh the beauty and joy of reciprocated love! Abraham's most trusted servant was led to a well where he found Isaac's wife, Rebekah. Jacob found his true love, Rachel, at a well. Moses, God's chosen instrument to set His people free, met his bride-to-be at a well. If we take the woman at the well as a type of spiritual bride, we see that Jesus, our Heavenly Bridegroom, met his spiritual "wife" at a well. As a matter of fact, the Gospel invitation is an invitation to "let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." (Rev. 22:17) Think with me of what a well means to those in the desert and realize that it represents what a good marriage should do for us as well. In each of these areas consider not only the union with an earthly spouse but meditate on these things in light of your covenant with Jesus, your spiritual Bridegroom.

It's a place that represents life and joy. To come upon a well in the desert means life; without water, one would perish. The weary traveler experiences increasing joy as he sees the well, draws near it, and finally partakes from this life-giving source. A good marriage often reproduces life and those in that union experience great joy. How much more does this apply to Jesus who is the source of life and joy (Jn. 14:6; 15:11). Without Him we would perish (Jn. 3:16) and we are called to reproduce spiritually, reconciling others to the Father (2 Cor. 5:18-19).

It's a place of rest and refreshment. When one finds a well in the desert one stops, rests, and refreshes oneself. A good marriage is a place where we rest in our covenantal union with one another; we find refreshment in our spouse. When the world is harried and our emotional bank seems to be drying up, we come home to commune and to find the refreshing of our heart and mind in one another. A good marriage is a haven of rest. This same truth applies to our Heavenly Bridegroom; He calls us to rest in Him. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls." (Matt. 11:29)

It's a place to give thanksgiving, praise, and worship to God. When the weary traveler comes to a well there is no more appropriate response than to give God thanks and to worship Him; He has provided in our time of need. When one is blessed with a good marriage, one shouldn't take it for granted; praise God for your spouse and worship the Lord with him or her. If a couple would thank God for the other and worship Him in the midst of trouble or disagreement, how much quicker would those hard feelings dissipate as we draw closer to God in worship instead of focusing on our own hurt. Love and joy are not merely emotions; they are choices. So much the more ought men to "praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men (Ps. 107)," when we consider all He has given to us in mercy and grace in the Person of our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Husband (Hos. 2:16).

It's a place that represents hard work. Although a well is a place that represents rest, joy, and all the above; it is a place of hard work. The water doesn't just jump out of the well and into your cup. Those women listed at the beginning of this article were there to draw water, which was hard work. Rebekah even offered to draw for all the servant's camels, which would be no small task. A good marriage takes hard work; but it's worth it to drink from the cool waters of love drawn from a deep well. Such love caused it to be said that those seven years of work for Rachel seemed as though a few days (Gen. 29:20). If we are to enjoy Jesus it takes work. We are called to be rooted and built up in Him, established in the faith (Col. 2:7). We read the Word, communing with Him in prayer. We must "mortify," "put off," and "put on;" the task is simple, yet not easy (Col. 3).

It's a place that requires protection. One specific way in which we work hard is by protecting our well; we must remain vigilant and in prayer (Matt. 26:41). With water being such a precious commodity the well must be protected. Some might try to poison the well or steal it; while others, in Biblical times, would stop the wells or fill them in, undoing the hard work that gave a refreshing supply of water (2 Ki. 3:25; Gen. 26:15, 19-21). A good marriage must be protected from those who would try to poison, steal, or stop it up; such a threat could come from within or without. How often have we callously or unknowingly poisoned our own well or stopped up the outflow of affectionate feelings by an unkind word or a thoughtless action? As we protect the well of our temporal marriages, let us strive to keep the flow of our spiritual affection toward Christ strong. He calls us to prove our love for Him by keeping His commands (Jn. 14:15). This is more than mere obedience; it's to guard them, holding Jesus with highest esteem in our heart and mind. Colossians 2:8 warns, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Yes, our relationship with our spiritual Bridegroom takes great effort. Don't leave this point fearfully though; the deep well of love that our Bridegroom has for the true believer is not broken. Nothing is deeper, wider, more expansive, and surer than His love for you. Swim meditatively in the cool, refreshing, waters of Romans 8:35-39 and be blessed by the truth of His deep love.



Pig Lickin' Cake

- 1 box Duncan Hines golden butter cake mix
- 1 (18oz) can mandarin oranges with juice
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup oil
- 1 (16oz) cool whip, thawed
- 1 small box instant vanilla pudding
- 1 (16oz) can crushed pineapple, drained well

Preheat oven to 350. Combine cake mix, mandarin oranges and juice, eggs and oil. Beat on medium speed for 4 minutes. Pour into 3 greased and floured 9 inch cake pans. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. Cool completely. Mix cool whip, pudding mix and crushed pineapple together to fill between each layer and top. No need to cover sides.

Grilled Cheese Pizza

- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 packages Pillsbury pizza crust dough
- 2 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella, divided
- 3/4 cup pizza sauce
- 1/2 stick garlic butter, melted

Preheat oven to 400. Drizzle 3 tablespoons olive oil into a non stick 9x13 pan. Lay one of the pizza crusts in the pan. Layer 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella on the dough spreading all the way to the edges of the pan. Place second layer of dough on top and brush with melted 1/2 stick of garlic butter. Bake for 8 minutes until just lightly golden. Remove pizza from oven and spread sauce down the pizza. Spread remaining mozzarella over the top, touching the sides of the pan. Bake for 12 minutes or until cheese is melted and the edges are dark and crisp.

Copycat Texas Roadhouse Rolls

- 1 cup warm milk
- 1 package or 2 1/4 teaspoons active dry yeast
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the board
- 1 egg
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- plus 1/4 cup butter, melted (optional)
- 1 teaspoon salt

Honey Cinnamon Butter

- 1/2 cup softened butter
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons powdered sugar

In a cup or small bowl, stir together the warm milk, sugar, and yeast. Allow the yeast to proof and begin to activate while you prepare the other ingredients. Using a stand mixer or food processor, combine the flour, egg, 1/3 cup melted butter, and salt. Add the milk mixture and process until you have a smooth dough; it will be stickier and wetter than regular bread dough. Place the dough in a greased bowl, turn the dough to grease all sides, and cover with a towel. Let rise until it has doubled in size. When the dough has doubled, punch it down and turn it out on a floured board. Let rest for 10 minutes. Roll out the dough into a large, flat rectangle approximately 1/2 inch thick. Cut into 16 portions with a sharp knife and place on a greased baking sheet and let rise again, until doubled. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Bake the rolls for 10 minutes on the greased baking sheet. They will be light brown when removed from the oven. If desired you can brush the tops of the rolls with the remaining 1/4 cup melted butter before serving. Prepare honey cinnamon butter by combining butter, cinnamon, honey, and powdered sugar until well blended.

Have a recipe that you would like to share with our readers? Mail your recipe to the address on the back of this newsletter OR text your recipe to (270) 313-8753



Crumbs

Pastor Nikki Corbin

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. Matthew 15:22-28

I was eating lunch today and noticing our dog that always sits at our feet when we are eating watching our every move intently hoping for a crumb to fall that he can grab. And I thought about the story in the Bible where a woman came to Jesus and at first, He responded to her request with a comment about not giving the children's bread to the dogs. She then responded about how even dogs eat of the crumbs. In her faith, she believed that even the crumbs were enough. My mind went back to my little dog watching ever so intently and I thought, "Do we realize that even His crumbs are enough? Do we sit at His feet watching intently for those crumbs? Do we expect the crumbs?" It may sound strange, but "Lord, send the crumbs! And when you do, I pray that I will be sitting at your feet ready to receive every one of them!"

Pastor Nikki Corbin - Truth Chapel 250 N Church St Spartanburg, SC 29306

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What would YOU do? Can we do any less?



"If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple." Luke 14:26-27

Behind every strong man is a strong woman; and sometimes God uses her to embolden His man to stand and to do so with resolute determination in the face of evil, regardless of personal cost. Richard Wurmbrand was blessed to have such a wife, her name was Sabina. Read this incredible account where Sabina encourages and strengthens that which is already in her husband. This is a partial transcript from the Torchlighters' account of Richard Wurmbrand. He and Sabina are at a gathering of church leaders as communism begins to take over Bucharest, Romania. At one point, the man in charge shouts to the crowd, "And we thank Comrade Stalin who unites our faiths under the banner of communism! Call me no longer Bishop! Call me... Comrade!" During the thunderous applause from nearly the whole assembled group, the "Bishop" speaks to a nearby colonel stating that Wurmbrand would be a fool to not accept the offer of security in exchange for backing the government.

Meanwhile, Richard sees another pastor friend of his and asks, "Sergei, what do you make of this?" Sergei replies, "A disgrace. We've had hours and hours of speeches by none other than church leaders, all of them backing the communists!" Richard asks his friend, "So what did you do?" Sergei responds as I sadly imagine many pastors today would, "Richard! I have a family to think about." Sabina, then, speaks boldly to her husband, "Richard, this is shameful; so many of the pastors are afraid to take a stand for God! You must wipe the shame off the face of Christ by setting things right!" To which he says, "If I do, I may be arrested and you may end up without a husband." Sabina firmly replies, "This is not a time for any of us to be cowards!"

At this point Richard approaches the platform with resolve and addresses the crowd: "Today, we as ministers are being asked to work with our new government for the good of our country. But how can we respect a government that denies the existence of God! Denies us the reading of the Bible and shuts down the places in which we meet to worship! Such a government deserves not our support but our pity and our disdain! Shame on the cowardice that does not stand and defend our God! The people of Romania need us now, more than ever! It is for God that this church was built; it is for God!"

After leaving the podium Sergei warns Richard that he must leave Romania, for he has riled the beast. Sabina interjects, "Sergei, it is when the wolf approaches that the shepherd must turn to face it...not to flee!" Richard, in agreement, exclaims, "People need us in Romania, and in Romania we shall stay!" Together, husband and wife walk out of the meeting.

As we enter into times that may begin to mirror those times of the Wurmbrands in Romania, might we stand with the same resolve for our Lord Jesus Christ and do so in the Spirit's mighty power. If we are to do so, we must begin preparing ourselves with a strong devotional and prayer life now! To God be the glory!

BEHOLD, I Come Quickly

Evangelist Chris Dowell

God waited on Moses 40 years in Egypt and 40 years in the wilderness. He waited on Pharaoh to harden his heart. He waited on Noah to build an ark. He waited on Lot to get out of Sodom. He waited on Sampson to grow his hair back. He waited in an upper room for Judas to sell Him out. He waited in a garden until they came for Him. He waited 6hrs on a Cross and 3 days in a tomb. BUT in Revelation, Jesus said "I come quickly!"

The groom (God) is anxiously waiting to come get His Bride (the Church/the redeemed). NOT a "girlfriend", but a BRIDE. HIS Bride. Big difference. Will He catch you in mid repentance? Will He catch you in sin? Will He find you ready....or will He find you not ready? He's waited, but soon, He's coming quickly! Four times in the last chapter of Revelation, Jesus said..."I come quickly." He's waited a long time.... the waiting period is almost up. Friend, you have something to think about...Will you be ready, when He comes?

Evangelist Chris Dowell - 548 Harding Drive Mount Washington, KY 40047



Stay In The Ark!

Pastor David Starnes

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. Genesis 7:1

In the 7th chapter of Genesis, God told Noah to get in the Ark. Noah obeyed, and the Lord shut Noah in the Ark. Noah laid down his head to sleep in the Ark, and he awoke in the Ark. He ate in the Ark, lived in the Ark, and worshiped in the Ark. Noah's entire being was contained in that Ark. Meanwhile, outside the Ark destruction was raging. The fountains of the deep were broken up. The storms raged. The land was torn and great rocks were tossed about in that tumult. The storm raged piteously, and beat upon that Ark. It absorbed wave after wave of the Wrath of God. All this time, Noah while aware of the storm, was not destroyed by the storm. I thank God that today, I am hidden in that Ark, Christ Jesus. I lay down to sleep hidden in Christ. I arise in Him. I have my rest in Him. I worship in Him. He is my covering. My shelter. He bears me, and has borne me at great cost. It was Jesus who drank down the Cup of God's wrath for me. I can't boast in anything except what He has done. It was the Lord who sealed me in! He shut the door to my sin, my past. He has separated me from His righteous wrath! Children, STAY IN THE ARK!

Pastor David Starnes - Old Union Crosslife Church Hwy 67 Simms, TX 75574

Be Not Afraid

Pastor Mike Vaughn

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. Matthew 14:27

Did you know that God has reminded us in His word not to be afraid. Not just a few times; but 365 times. Wow, that's one time for every day in the year. In Matthew chapter fourteen we read that the disciples were filled with fear as they navigated the stormy sea. Jesus had sent them on ahead of him while he went up to pray alone in the mountain. The waves were so boisterous that they were surely afraid of sinking. Added to this they must have thought; where is Jesus? Why has he forsaken us? If he was here this would not be happening. Then, all of a sudden Jesus showed up and he is walking on the water, but they did not recognize him. They imagined that it must be a ghost or a phantom and were filled with terror. But then Jesus spoke to them and said, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." Of course, Peter was still not convinced that it was Jesus so he cried "Jesus; If it is you command me to come to you." Jesus then said, "come." Peter made good progress until he got his attention more on the storm than on Jesus. He cried out in fear and Jesus reached out and saved him. When they stepped into the boat the wind immediately ceased. We all face storms in life. It's not if but when. One thing we can learn from this scripture is to keep our eyes on Jesus. One way to keep our eyes on him is to stay focused on his word. Remember the promises that he has given us in the Bible; like "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." (Isa. 41:10) Even though we can't see him with our physical eye, we know he is with us. Yes, you can have peace in the midst of the storm. Peace is not the subtraction of problems but peace is the addition of God's power to meet those problems. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

You are loved with an everlasting love, Mike

www.mvmgoodnews.com P.O. Box 550 Tickfaw, LA 70466



Weighed In The Balance

by Pastor Billy R. Douglas

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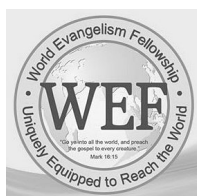
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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Mark 3:1-5 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand, Stand forth. And he saith unto them, Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill? But they held their peace. And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man, Stretch forth thine hand. And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other.

Additional passages for Today: Matthew 9; Matthew 15:30-31; Luke 6:6-10; James 2:14-17

Thought for Today: It is important how we spend our days. Jesus asked a question; Is it lawful on the sabbath days to do good, or to do evil? To save life, or to destroy it? We must be doing good and eschewing evil.

Story for Today: Fredricka, the cat, lay down with a plop on the flower-patterned sofa. So much to do and so little time. This cat family in Evanston was very prestigious. They often raised the standard of expectation in their little community. Thomas was busy from morning to night, tending to many of the community's needs, while Fredricka baked, cooked, sewed, washed, and tended to the many daily needs of their crew. Sassy and Solomon had many great ideas and were often working on a project that would be useful for the whole community. But Sylvester was the kitten to watch. He was always up to something entertaining, to say the least. Today, he had chosen to wash dogs to help the neighbors. Fredricka chuckled as she remembered the suds covering her little one as he tried to wash the miniature American Eskimo that shook non-stop as the soapy water was applied and then rinsed off. Fredricka had never seen a kitten look more like a drowned rat than her little one did today. After the dog started shaking, she was surprised that Sylvester had continued washing Minks (that was what her family called her), but what astounded her even more was that he continued washing the other dogs. However, Thomas had shared some thoughts from the Bible with the kittens after breakfast, and each of them had been asked what they would do with their day. "You see," he said, "you only have one chance to do what you will today. And Jesus asks us if we will do good or do evil." He was grateful he had such a wonderful family. His kids were kind and generous, and they were patient and joyful. Typically, all the critters gathered together on Sunday to sing praises to God. Many of the other creatures resented the ethics and the higher standard set by The Cat family. They would always point out if one of the kittens messed up or made a mistake. They seemed to think that would make them look better. But on Sunday, Sylvester had a new idea for doing good. He planned to bake fish and give it to all the hungry animals at their meeting place. And that is just what he did. As he handed out his little packages, one of the elder donkeys was heard braying to the others that Sylvester was at it again. And he added with disgust in his tone, "And on the Lord's Day no less, one would think Thomas would have brought his family up better than to work on the Lord's Day." Sylvester couldn't help hearing. In his mind, he questioned whether or not he had messed up. Then he remembered his dad's words the day he washed the dogs. "Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil?" Sylvester knew he had made the right choice! With a smile on his whiskered face and peace in his heart, he continued to pass out the meal that would nourish those less fortunate.

Questions for Today: How about you? How do you spend the Lord's Day? Do you do good or evil? Are you lazy and selfish doing what pleases the flesh, or are you intentional with your choices bringing glory to God?

Prayer for Today: Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for each day You give to us. Help us to honor and live a godly, holy life that is pleasing to You every day. Please help us find ways to do good, especially on Your day. In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.

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