



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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FOOTPRINTS TO FOLLOW

Never Found Time

I knelt to pray, but not for long, I had too much to do.
Must hurry off and get to work, For bills would soon be due.

And so I said a hurried prayer, Jumped up from off my knees,
My Christian duties now were done, My soul could be at ease.

All through the day I had no time To speak a word of cheer,
No time to speak of Christ to friends, They'd laugh at me I feared.

No time, no time, too much to do, That was my constant cry,
No time to give to those in need—At last it was time to die.

And when before the Lord I came, I stood with downcast eyes,
Within His hands He held a book—It was the "Book of Life."

God looked into His book and said, "Your name I cannot find,
"I once was going to write it down, "But never found the time."

~Unknown

Nancy's Nuggets Of Wisdom

The Power Of Influence

Sister Nancy Willis

2 Kings 2: 9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

Elijah's life had influenced Elisha. Elisha had seen the spirit and power of God upon Elijah. He desired to receive a double portion of that same spirit. If someone looked at us, would they want a double portion of our spirit? What kind of person would they be? Would they be full of faith, ready to listen to the voice of the Lord? Or, would they receive a spirit of criticism, unbelief, or prayerlessness? Ready to fall for everything and stand for nothing. Would it be the spirit of love for his enemies or hatred and strife? Would it be a spirit of obedience or rebellion? Just what was it that Elisha saw in Elijah, that he not only wanted his spirit, BUT double of it? Well, it could have been when Elijah prayed for a drought and the heavens were shut up. Later, he prayed for rain and it did. He trusted God to sustain him at the brook Cherith and at the house of a widow... and he did. Elisha saw the faith and courage of Elijah. He saw the power and the anointing of God that Elijah had AND the desire to have it also, in which he did receive. In 1 Tim. 4:12 Paul told Timothy, Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. In so doing, he would be a good influence for the cause of Christ. May we also live now, that when we depart this life others will desire a double portion of the spirit which we have manifested. (April 2006)



Cousin Leroy

Leroy and Bubba were driving along a road by a wheat field when they saw a man dressed in overalls in the middle of the field rowing a row boat. Bubba turned to Leroy and said "You know - it's Rednecks like that that give us country folk a bad name!" To this Leroy replied "I know it, and if I knew how to swim I'd go out there and let him know it!"

Faking It

Having looked the other way for weeks, the boss finally called Smith into his office for a sit-down. "You know, Smith," he said, "I've noticed that every time you have to take your dear old aunt to her doctor's appointments, there's a home game over at the stadium." "Wow, sir. I guess you're right," Smith answered. "I didn't realize it. You don't think she's faking it, do you?"

You See That Indian?

Two cowboys come upon an Indian lying on his stomach with his ear to the ground. One of the cowboys stops and says to the other, "You see that Indian?" "Yeah," says the other cowboy. "Look," says the first one, "he's listening to the ground. He can hear things for miles in any direction." Just then the Indian looks up. "Covered wagon," he says, "about two miles away. Have two horses, one brown, one white. Man, woman, child, household effects in wagon." "Incredible!" says the cowboy to his friend. "This Indian knows how far away they are, how many horses, what color they are, who is in the wagon, and what is in the wagon. Amazing!" The Indian looks up and says, "Ran over me about a half hour ago."

The Senior Citizens Bus Trip

A tour bus driver is driving with a bus load of seniors down a highway when he is tapped on his shoulder by a little old lady. She offers him a handful of peanuts, which he gratefully munches up. After about 15 minutes, she taps him on his shoulder again and she hands him another handful of peanuts. She repeats this gesture about five more times. When she is about to hand him another batch he asks the little old lady why they don't eat the peanuts themselves. "We can't chew them because we've no teeth", she replied. The puzzled driver asks, "Why do you buy them then?" The old lady replied, "We just love the chocolate around them."



The Solid Rock

Pastor Billy R Douglas

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. Matthew 7:24-25

If you read the entire story of the wise and the foolish builders. You will find that they had many things in common. They both built a house. They both labored long and hard. They both faced the storm. But their endings were much different. The wise man built upon the Word of God, and his house was still standing after the storm.

However, because the foolish man did not build upon the Word of God, his house fell. And the Bible says "great was the fall of it". There is only one sure foundation to build upon today and that is the Bible, God's Word. Which unequivocally points to Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross.

If you have placed your faith in anything else, you have built upon shifting sand.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. Matthew 7:26-27

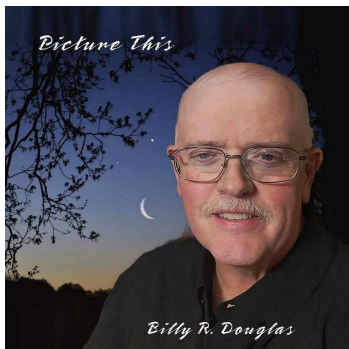
Until next time may the LORD bless and keep you, Pastor Billy R. Douglas

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand;

all other ground is sinking sand.

Edward Mote (1834)



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**A Word to the Wise: All Whose Days? – Prov. 10:1**

Pastor Steven Huston

“...A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.” Proverbs 10:1

For nine chapters, the wise man has “spilled much ink” in defining what it is to be wise or foolish; it is dependent upon one’s choice to follow or reject the precepts of wisdom, the way of the only true God. Solomon has carefully shown the destination of those who will walk by “Yahweh” and if you walk by “Your way.” Either God will be your God or you will have made yourself and your pleasure your god. One will either have the fear of the Lord which is only the beginning of wisdom, departing from evil, or one will despise correction and reproof, insisting on his own way, perhaps gaining temporal happiness that will be followed by eternal horror.

Is it any wonder, then, that the first of these “stand alone” proverbs shows the relationship between a grown son’s (or daughter’s) actions and the effect those actions have on their parents? Solomon saw this proverb worked out in the life of his father, David, as well as it detailing his own experience.

This should: 1. Impress upon parents their duty to train their children well, bringing them up in “the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Such parents that would be “glad” must put more emphasis upon eternal joy than upon temporal riches and fleeting happiness. 2. Children who love their parents should feel a duty to walk in the paths of righteousness for God’s name’s sake, their own eternal end, and for the sake of their parent’s temporal/eternal gladness.

To this end, both parent and child must needs take great care that this path of righteousness is indeed becoming the child’s choice path instead of feeling forced to walk in it. The rod and staff are imminently useful for “convincing” our “little lamb” to walk therein, but eventually the lamb must choose for himself the road he must traverse. How sad if II Chronicles 24:2 described our own little “Joashes.” “And Joash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all the days of Jehoiada the priest.”

Here’s how Samuel Chadwick described him: “So long as Joash was under parental control he was upright in character, straight in conduct, and religious in spirit. Mark his qualities. He had great zeal for the House of God. The slackness of its priests troubled him and he set himself to stir them up. He honored the Scriptures...” Chadwick later states: “Unfortunately all this excellence was circumstantial. It was due to the influence of something outside the man...It makes all the difference whether you have saints or fools for your friends. Environment is not everything, but circumstances and companionships, voluntarily chosen, determine our character and our career. ‘If sinners entice thee, consent thou not.’ A man becomes one of the companies he keeps. So long as Joash walked with the good, he went well; but when he became the companion of hair-brained dandies, he excelled in wickedness and folly.”

It’s been well said that God has no grandchildren, only sons and daughters. To this Chadwick warns: “Circumstantial goodness is never safe. Pious homes have to be left, and relatives die. Conditions change...The devil is abroad, and temptation is inevitable in the world. God takes away our props that we may find our feet. We cannot live on other people’s goodness. We must have salt in ourselves. Religion is a personal matter. One man’s grace is never enough for two...Goodness calls for independence, courage, and sacrifice. In getting religion, get the real thing. Do not lean on the grace and strength of another...The soul’s roots strike deep when God does the planting. Props grow old and perish, Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. To the goodness rooted and grounded in God it does not matter who lives or dies. It depends upon neither priest nor prince, circumstance nor ordinance. Whom God makes to stand, nothing can overthrow.”

In looking at the effect that parents have on their children, that children have on their parents, and that companions have on one another, let us: 1. Take great care in who we trust. 2. Be quick to guard against wrong while also promoting the cause of Christ for righteousness. 3. Pray and do all in our power to be sure we are not merely propping up another; instead, let us steady them as they find strength in their own ankles and feet to stand firm and walk uprightly according to the Word of God. “Take heed to your friendship, take heed to yourselves, for every man is not only influenced by others, but is himself to others a minister of grace or n ally of hell.” (Samuel Chadwick)



Curses can become Blessings

Pastor Steven Huston

“...for I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow.”
Jeremiah 31:13

There's a small reclamation grocery store near me that is owned by a very kind Amish man. There are many attractive handwritten signs hung up around their store. One of those signs really grabbed my attention; it asked this question: "What if the circumstances you're asking God to change are the very ones God wants to use to change you?" Wow! Even typing it now affects me – again!

God, in His infinite wisdom, knows just what we need in order to become what He knows is best for us, what He has designed us to be. God, in His sovereign power, could cut short our hurt and pain, could supply what we think we need, and the list goes on. BUT GOD: In His mercy keeps us in the fire, drawing out the dross. In His kindness walks with us every step of the way through our trials. By His grace empowers us for the transformation necessary "to be conformed to the image of his Son." It might would do us good to daily check to be sure that Romans 8:28 is still in our Bibles and pray for strength to endure to that end: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

My girls love to sing a song by Laura Story called Blessings. The second verse and chorus reads like this:

We pray for wisdom, Your voice to hear/And we cry in anger when we cannot feel You near/We doubt Your goodness, we doubt Your love/As if every promise from Your word is not enough

And all the while, You hear each desperate plea/And long that we'd have faith to believe

'Cause what if Your blessings come through raindrops?/What if Your healing comes through tears?/And what if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near?/And what if trials of this life/ Are Your mercies in disguise?

In Psalms 9:1-2, David begins with four declarations to God; he is choosing to praise, trusting God, no matter what comes his way. It's a matter of the will, trusting God to strengthen him for the task he desires most. Look at these amazing declarations. Consider them as we look at them.

1. "I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart." God is worthy of ALL praise; no half-hearted praise is gonna come from David.
2. "I will shew forth all thy marvellous works." Not only is David shouting praise to God, but he is also praise God to others as well. David is committed to letting everyone know just how awesome his God is. Regardless the circumstances that are pressing in on David (read the whole of the chapter), they do not affect the goodness of God or God's worthiness of praise. In the midst of sorrow, pain, oppression, persecution, etc., David is going to share the goodness and wonderful works of God. (What wondrous works could you share about? Creation, salvation, sanctification, the many blessings God bestows on you daily, this list is amazingly long!)
3. "I will be glad and rejoice in thee." Happiness comes from temporal happenings; joy is from an eternal source. Regardless of whether David is happy or sad, bold or fearful, he is committed to joy! He is secure in his Lord. He chooses joy and in response to that joy, he chooses praise.
4. "I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." Regardless of what other authorities may do, David chooses to recognize that Jehovah God is THE MOST HIGH! Through the rest of the chapter David points to the fact that one day, in God's perfect timing, ALL will be made right. David trusts in God's goodness, sovereignty, holiness, justice and mercy. So, David CHOOSES to sing praise to the MOST HIGH God. David chooses to recognize that sometimes "the trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise."

Will you?



Reesie's Recipes



Pork Chops-n-rice

6 boneless pork chops
2 bags of minute rice
2 cans of cream of mushroom soup
2 cups of milk

Spray the bottom of 11x9 inch pan
I usually brown the pork chops before putting them into the pan. Mix together the last 3 ingredients in a bowl and cover the pork chops.
Bake @ 350 degrees for 1 hr.

Potato Pancakes

1/2 cup bisquick
1/2 cup milk
1 tsp. salt
3 eggs
3 cups finely shredded uncooked potatoes

Heat griddle or skillet and grease if necessary. Stir bisquick, milk, salt and eggs in large bowl until blended. Stir in potatoes. Pour batter by a little less than 1/4 cupfuls onto hot griddle, spreading each slightly to make 4" pancake. Cook until edges are dry, turn cook until golden brown.

Pecan Pie Muffins

1 cup Light Brown Sugar
2 Eggs (beaten)
2/3 cups Softened Butter
1/2 cup All Purpose Flour
1 cup Chopped Pecans

Preheat oven to 350°F. Grease a muffin pan, (a miniature cup pan works best). Mix together the brown sugar, eggs and butter. Then add flour and nuts. Mix by hand, and then pour the mixture into the muffin pan until each muffin cup 3/4 full. Bake 20-25 minutes for regular size muffins, less time for miniatures.

White Pizza Dip

1 envelope Lipton Recipe Secrets Savory Herb with Garlic Soup Mix
1 container (16 oz.) sour cream
1 cup (8 oz.) ricotta cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1/4 cup (1 oz.) chopped pepperoni (optional)
1 loaf Italian or French bread, sliced

Preheat oven to 350. In shallow 1 quart casserole, combine soup mix, sour cream, ricotta cheese, 3/4 cup mozzarella cheese and pepperoni. Sprinkle with remaining 1/4 cup mozzarella cheese. Bake uncovered 30 minutes or until heated through. Serve with bread.



VANITY *Of* VANITIES

Beware The Lack of Wisdom

Brother Tyler Willis

“The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh.”

- Ecclesiastes 12:11-12

As we reach the end of our time in the book of Ecclesiastes, I want to highlight these two verses in chapter twelve. At this point we have finished the teachings of the preacher, but a bow has been placed to wrap up the book nicely. As the writer (whether that be Solomon or a man evaluating Solomon's teachings) summarizes the teaching of the last eleven chapters, he makes this statement. That the preacher made an effort to find truth and expose wisdom (v. 10), and this mission was good because wisdom is like a fastened nail - it's important and immovable. Wisdom has been given by one shepherd (some translations interpret this as wisdom coming from The One Shepherd - that is, Jesus Christ) and it should be one of the primary guides within our lives.

The writer doesn't just speak of the importance of wisdom, but he gives a warning. The writer essentially says “be warned by the wise teachings, and beware the lack of wisdom” - the writer brings attention to the fact that yes, there are many many books being written; there is no end to man's ability to write, but there is an end to man's wisdom, and to study everything that is written produces weariness. Why make yourself weary over reading things that do not produce wise living?

As we finish this series on Ecclesiastes, and as we in America get closer to the election, let us keep in mind the teachings of the Preacher - let us chase after wisdom, rather than foolish discussion. Let us not be quick to anger (Ecc. 7:9) because it is foolish, and does not produce godly living. Let us fear God, obeying His wise commandments. Let us realize that all that is on earth is vanity; utterly meaningless in the grand scheme of eternity. The only truly meaningful thing one can do while on earth is choose to follow Jesus.



THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

Let The Lower Lights Be Burning

One heart wrenching hymn and one that calls EVERY Christian to duty is Let the Lower Lights Be Burning. Although this hymn was inspired by true events which took place on Lake Erie, it was the telling of this tragedy in a sermon by Dwight L. Moody that struck home with its spiritual application, causing Philip P. Bliss to sit down and write this hymn.

The lighthouse keeper was to keep the great beacon at the top of the structure lit, but he was also responsible to light a row of smaller oil lanterns along the shoreline to guide the ships into the channel toward the harbor's safe haven. Despite the great beacon, without the smaller lights to lead the ship through the narrow passageway, the vessel would wreck upon the rocks.

On one particularly dark night the lighthouse keeper neglected to light the shoreline lanterns. During the night, a violent storm arose and a ship's captain came near Cleveland Harbor. He finally saw the nearby beacon of the lighthouse there. Amidst the turbulent waves and howling winds, the ship's captain tensed. His old pilot gripped the helm. As the pilot struggled to steer, the captain anxiously peered into the darkness.

"Are you sure this is Cleveland?" he asked the pilot. "Quite sure, sir," replied the pilot, gripping the wheel. "But where are the lower lights?" questioned the captain. "They are out, sir," was the despairing reply. Finally, the captain asked, "Can you make it?" to which the pilot replied, "We must sir, or we'll perish."

With great determination, the pilot blindly tried to steer the ship into the channel without the lights that should have been shining brightly to guide him. The ship missed the narrow channel and crashed against the rocks. Many lives were lost because one man did not do his job.

Philip P. Bliss, a young man, had read the headlines of how one man's negligence had been so deadly. Then, he heard evangelist D. L. Moody refer to the tragedy in a sermon. Mr. Moody closed with these words: "Brethren, the Master will take care of the great lighthouse; let us keep the lower lights burning." Mr. Bliss told a friend afterward, ". . . When I heard Mr. Moody use it as an illustration in his sermon that night, I cried out in my heart, 'Bliss, you are just as guilty as the man in the story. As a Christian, you are to be one of the lower lights shining brightly so that some poor soul tossed about on the sea of life may find safety and everlasting life in the haven that God has prepared.'" Within a week, Mr. Bliss had written the hymn "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning."

Just as the captain and crew depended upon the lighthouse keeper, people are depending on us. Are we showing responsibility by shining for Christ in this dark world, sharing the way of safety with people who are drowning in sin? Do we keep our "lower lights" shining so they may find peace in Jesus Christ, the Great Beacon, the Light of the world?

1. Brightly beams our Father's mercy, From His lighthouse evermore;
But to us He gives the keeping, Of the lights along the shore.

Refrain:

Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave!
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman, You may rescue, you may save.

2. Dark the night of sin has settled, Loud the angry billows roar;
Eager eyes are watching, longing, For the lights along the shore. [Refrain]

3. Trim your feeble lamp, my brother! Some poor seaman, tempest-tossed,
Trying now to make the harbor, In the darkness may be lost. [Refrain]



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Testimony

Joni Varble

At the age of 25 I met my second husband. I fell for him fast and hard, but always had something tugging at my heart. You see, when I met my second husband, he informed me that he was an atheist. Yes, I was raised different than him and strongly believed in God. But I stayed with him. I remember many nights reaching over, laying my hand on his chest, and asking God to change his heart. There's a little church in Livermore that he finally said that he'd attend with me on Sunday's. It wasn't long that God moved in his heart, and, on Sundays, he was ready before me. If the pastor said raise your hands and praise him, my husband was the first to raise his hands.

If you are out there and your spouse isn't saved or your children aren't saved, I am here to tell you that God can move mountains. You see, God touched his heart. He took an atheist who received a 21-year prison sentence and changed his whole life. All my prayers were heard. It was so wonderful seeing the transformation. In August of 2021, during some routine medical test, we learned that he had lung cancer. It wasn't long until it had spread throughout his entire body. On December 27, 2021, he sat me down, looked at me with his tired eyes, and said, "When you get to heaven, I'll be waiting at the gate for you." He passed early the next morning at 12:20 AM. I know that I know that I know he and Jesus are waiting there for me.



When God Don't

by Pastor Billy R. Douglas

Sermon on CD Available free upon request



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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Luke 17:1-5 Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. **Additional Passages for today:** Matthew 18:21-35; Matthew 6:9-15; Matthew 11:25-26

Thought for Today: Forgiving someone who has hurt us, is not an easy thing to do. We may need to say with the apostles, "Lord, Increase our faith."

Story for Today: The muffled cries of the 12-year-old Misty were muted by the pillow that she currently lay sobbing into. Misty had only been home a few days from youth camp where she had given her life to the Lord. She had thought things would get easier if she was a Christian, but things just seemed to be harder. She still struggled with not talking too much and telling lies was a hard habit to break. Her older sister, Angela, was a great encourager for the new believer. However, a couple of days ago she had been with her friends, and one of them, 16-year-old Star, had caught Misty not telling the whole truth. After confessing, Misty apologized and asked for forgiveness. All the girls were happy to forgive her.

Star was the president of the youth group at church and she also mentored some of the new believers. Star had given her life to Christ as a child and sometimes forgot what it was like to be a new Christian. After catching Misty in another lie, she questioned whether or not Misty really had asked Jesus to save her. Misty was devastated. She knew that telling lies was wrong. She was trying to think before she spoke. She was so sorry when she lied and the last time she had confessed even before anyone caught her. What had Misty crying into her pillow was when Star told her that she was done forgiving her. She said if she was truly, sorry she wouldn't keep doing it. Some of the other girls agreed and Misty ran all the way home sure that Jesus was tired of forgiving her too.

When Angela came in and saw her distraught sister she sat on the edge of the bed and tried soothing the inconsolable girl. With many interruptions and a few Kleenexes, the story unfolded. Angela assured her that Jesus had said several times that we should forgive if one is sincerely repentant. She pulled out her Bible and read Matthew 18:21-22 "Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven." Misty asked why Star wouldn't forgive her if she was a Christian. Angela explained that Star needed to be forgiven too. Then she went to text Star to ask to talk about what had happened.

When the two girls met, Angela asked to read Luke 17:1-5 with her. Star immediately realized that she had messed up. She asked Angela to forgive her. She was so sorry that she had offended a new believer and was so grateful that her assessment of God's forgiveness was wrong. She recognized that she needed to have a closer walk with God so that she didn't fall away and sin. Star was quick to reach out to Misty to ask her forgiveness. Realizing how easy it is to offend, Star decided to ask God for increased faith so that she would be able to forgive as often as she was given the opportunity.

Questions for Today: Do you have someone that you need to forgive? When you find it hard to forgive, remember to ask the Lord to increase your faith. He has forgiven us so much. How can we not forgive others?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank You for loving us and for giving us Your Holy Spirit to dwell in us. Thank You for forgiving our sins and showing us how to do likewise. Please increase our faith so that we can follow Your example and live in obedience to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

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Northeastern Minnesota

God's Simple Plan of Salvation

My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13* says *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Call on Jesus today. Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!! Do this today, tomorrow may be to late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus.



2 Stations ONE MESSAGE...The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST

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www.votlradio.com / www.wotlradio.com



VOTL Tabernacle

216 Hill St. Livermore, KY

Services

Sunday Morning Service 11 AM

Everyone Welcome

Submit your Prayer Request to:

Voice of the LORD Ministries

P.O. Box 541 - Livermore, KY 42352

Phone: 270-313-8753

Email: voiceofthelordministries@juno.com