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THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

The Doxology – Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Though there are many doxologies, the one most well-known and most often sung is Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. I was surprised to learn that this hymn actually has thirteen verses which proceed the ever-popular final four-lined stanza:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye angelic host (now sung: heavenly host),
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Thomas Ken, the chaplain at Winchester College, wrote a book in 1667 for his boys entitled, Manual of Prayers. In it he exhorted the boys to “Be sure and sing early in the morning and in the night season.” By 1674, the boys were not following Chaplain Ken’s admonition. So he wrote and inserted three hymns into his manual to give the boys something to sing: The “Morning Hymn,” the “Evening Hymn,” and, for those who awoke during the night, the “Midnight Hymn.” Each of these hymns directed the student’s mind to their Heavenly Father and each closed with the “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” stanza.

King Charles II made Mr. Ken his chaplain in 1679 and later promoted him to bishop. But Charles’ successor, James II, sent Bishop Ken to the Tower (a prison). He was acquitted and Queen Anne offered Ken his old job, but Ken chose to move to the seclusion of the country, where he lived out his last days in poverty.

At his death in 1711, at age seventy-four, he owned nothing more than an old horse and an old lute. He had requested that at his burial the six poorest men in the parish carry his body to the grave. That was done and as the sun rose, his friends lowered the casket and sang:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye angelic host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

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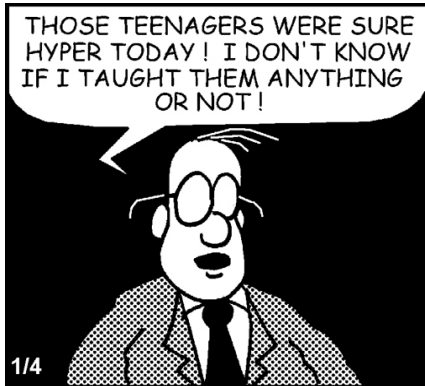


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Power Outage



Cousin Leroy

Leroy and his family still lived so far out in the country they still had to use an outhouse, and little Leroy, jr. hated it because it was hot in the summer, cold in the winter and stunk all the time. The outhouse was sitting on the bank of a creek and Junior was determined that one day he would push that old outhouse into the creek. One day after a spring rain, the creek was swollen so Junior decided today was the day to push the outhouse into the creek. So he got a large stick and started pushing. Finally, the outhouse toppled into the creek and floated away. That night Leroy told him they were going to the woodshed after supper. Knowing that meant a spanking, Junior asked why. With a stern look on his face Leroy replied, "Someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn't it, son?" Junior answered yes pappy it was me. Then he thought a moment and said, "Pappy, I read in school today that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and didn't get into trouble because he told the truth." To which Leroy replied, "Well, son, George Washington's pappy wasn't in that cherry tree."

Returning to work after a long weekend Bill asked Bob if anything exciting happened while he was off. "Well" Bill said, "We had a power outage at our house on Saturday and my PC, laptop, TV, ROKU, DVD, iPad & my new surround sound music system were all shut down. Then I discovered that my Phone battery was flat, and to top it off, it was raining outside, so I couldn't play golf. I went into the kitchen to make coffee and then I remembered that this also needs power, so I sat and talked with my wife for a few hours. She seems like a pretty nice person."

Driving Test

A juggler, was driving way to fast running late for his next performance, when he was stopped by a traffic cop. "What are these matches, torches and lighter fluid doing in your back seat sir?" asks the officer. "I'm a juggler and I juggle flaming torches in my act." "Oh yeah?" says the doubtful cop. "Lets see you do it." The juggler gets out and starts juggling the blazing torches masterfully. A couple driving by slows down to watch. "Wow," says the driver to his wife. "I'm glad I quit drinking. Look at the test they're giving now!"





It's Later Than You Think

Pastor Billy R Douglas

I recently came across the lyrics to this song that the LORD allowed me to write some 30 years ago. As I read these words I realize it is even more timely now than it was then.

It's Later Than You Think

I remember as a little boy my momma would call to me.
From the front porch of the old homeplace her voice would ring so sweet.
It's time to come on home my child the sun is sinking fast.
It's later than you think my child the day is almost past.

Oh it's later than you think my child the night is drawing nigh.
It's later than you think my child can't you see the signs of time.
The Father's voice cries from his throne please work while it is day.
Yes it's later than you think my child the night is on its way.

I know that you are thinking you have all the time you need.
There's no reason for you to hurry now you have time to plant and reap.
But the sky is growing dark my friend and your time is running out.
It's later than you think my friend there's no time for us to doubt.

Oh it's later than you think my child the night is drawing nigh.
It's later than you think my child can't you see the signs of time.
The Father's voice cries from his throne please work while it is day.
Yes it's later than you think my child the night is on its way.

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

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This tribute album recorded 19 years ago has 11 great songs recorded with the original music tracks that Bobby Grove used during his great revivals and tent meetings. Brother Bobby has since went home to be with the LORD (March 2018) which makes this particular album even more special. Order your copy today!

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A Word to the Wise: **America Needs Wise Leaders** – Prov. 8:12-36

“By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.”
Proverbs 8:15-16

Wisdom and Prudence are housemates; they are inseparable companions (v 12). Prudence is Wisdom applied to practice. While Wisdom is exercised in executing that which is good, Prudence “is exercised more in foreseeing and avoiding evil...It is sometimes mere caution or circumspection” (Webster Dictionary 1828). What an amazing combination, reminiscent of Jesus’ call to be “wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matt. 10:16). It’s no wonder Matthew Henry declared, “Divine wisdom gives men good heads,” when writing on this verse.

Regarding verse 13’s description of what “the fear of the Lord” is, he said that Divine wisdom “gives men good hearts.” Wisdom desires to work out a heart of holiness within the believer, making us holy in all our actions, as our God is holy (1 Pet. 1: 15). In becoming more like Jesus, we will hate that which He hates and love that which He loves. We will hate all evil, particularly the sin of pride which gives birth to many – if not all – sins.

The next several verses speak to the importance of all those in authority operating by the character of Divine wisdom. It gives sound counsel by which leaders may rule wisely and justly. If I could follow Mr. Henry’s lead, I would say that Divine wisdom gives men good discernment. Such discernment is needed for both those who have been given rule (authority) and for those who must sit peaceably under that rule. Government was instituted by God and it is good; we’ve been blessed with self-governance, church governance, civil and federal governance. Matthew Henry once again hits the nail on the head: “Religion is very much the strength and support of the civil government; it teaches subjects their duty, and so by it kings reign over them the more easily; it teaches kings their duty, and so by it kings reign as they ought; they decree justice, while they rule in the fear of God. Those rule well whom religion rules.”

Those who rule outside the bounds of godliness will often wrongly blame the righteous for the woes of both that ruler and their nation. Yet, truthfully, one could answer like Elijah to Ahab: “I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father’s house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.” There are many in authority today who sit in our three branches of federal government and occupy positions of authority in state and local governments today who have troubled the United States in that they have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, both personally and in their “ruling.” May we pray for God to save them, sanctify them, and bring them into His service – or remove them.

Divine wisdom was with God at creation; it’s evident that she was there at America’s founding as well. As we followed God’s Word and God’s Way nationally, the truth of verses 20-21 were apparent: “I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.” As we nationally have turned our back on God’s Word and our leaders reject His way, we’ve traded substance for vanity, treasures for poverty, Truth for deception, and sanity for “confusion of face” (Dan. 9).

Let us seek and love Wisdom, for we surely need her again today – recreating our land and reviving us by the Wisdom of God’s Word. Let God’s people be full of repentance and faith, consecrating our lives to His service fully. O Lord, we NEED You! (Please read 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 1 Peter 5:6-8)

Love, seek, and live with Wisdom. Regardless the path of our nation, pray that the Holy Ghost will teach you Wisdom’s warning and blessing: “Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.” Proverbs 8:34-36

O Lord, make us wise unto You, discerning against evil, and full of charity to our fellowman. Teach us to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Create in us a holiness of heart and life that can only come from You, for in these things Wisdom is worked out in our lives. In Jesus’ name, Amen.



Do you have a burden to pray?

Pastor Steven Huston

Old Testament prophets had a burden from the Lord. We carry a burden until we get it to its destination – for the prophets, that meant delivering God’s message to the people. There’s only one place to deliver a burden of prayer; we must take that heaviness of heart to the throne of grace for help in time of trouble, depositing it at God’s feet and touching the heart of God for His answer. A burden of prayer is given to us from God, we carry it back to God, and, by His grace, He deals mercifully and bountifully with us. Do you have a burden to pray?

Prayer is a duty. Jesus expects us to pray. In Matthew 6:5-7, we read the phrase “When thou prayest” three times. He doesn’t say, “If you pray,” but WHEN you pray. The early church had much power – they were intensely prayerful, passionate, and persecuted. When persecuted, it drove them to prayer. It’s their prayers of faith which produced their passion. Our nation and the church are in desperate need of prayer – let us be a fervently praying people daily.

Prayer should be our first response, not an afterthought. Nehemiah well-demonstrates that for us (Neh. 1:1-4; 2:1-4). Unable to fix the problem ourselves, we throw up our hands in resignation saying, “All I can do is pray!” Reader, prayer is not merely all you can do; it needs to be your first go to! Instead of a last response, it should be our first thought! Instead of worrying or complaining about things first, our natural response should be to automatically pray first. I’ve come a long way in this regard, but I still have a long, long way to go.

Prayer is the best form of activism; it sets the foundation for any other activism we may feel led to do. However, that does not negate our responsibility to do more than pray. In the words of Jeremy Taylor, “Whatever we beg of God, let us also work for it.” God is sovereign but man has a responsibility to act as well. The Bible is replete with examples of this truth.

Pray diligently for those in authority. Paul exhorts us in 1 Tim. 2:1-6 to pray for all those in authority. We often think of those who are elected, but generally only those at the highest levels of authority like the president, Congress, Supreme Court, and maybe state governors. But I urge you to not forget local authorities: mayor, city council, library board, school board, etc. Other authorities we sometimes forget are those who are self-appointed authorities – those who have power due to their riches or being appointed to positions of authority, including: George Soros, Bill Gates, Claus Schwab, etc. Can you imagine what might happen if these men became Christians? How might our world be changed if groups of saints gathered together to regularly, fervently pray for such men of wealth, power, and influence?

Power for our prayers: Of course, we must have faith and believe that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). We also must have humble hearts of repentance, turning away from anything the Holy Spirit reveals to us. It could be a form of unrealized pride, interfamily dynamics – particularly husbands (1 Peter 3:7), or some besetting sin we hold dear – Psalms 66:18 “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” Is it any wonder that David, a man who petitioned God regularly, cries out to God that the Lord would teach him God’s law, statutes, and testimonies so that David might live them out and that he might teach them to others? He desired God to hear his personal prayers as well as the nation’s corporate prayers.

If we feel no burden to pray, perhaps that should be our first prayer – “Lord, give me a burden to storm the gates of Heaven; give me a burden to come boldly before your throne of grace, for we certainly are a people who are in a time of trouble.” If not a burden, do we at least feel a desire to pray and commune with our Heavenly Father? The Apostle Paul calls us to pray without ceasing. Others have likened prayer for the Christian’s spiritual well-being as to our bodies’ need to breathe. I may not feel a burden to breathe because it’s a natural automatic function, but if something keeps me from breathing, it won’t be long before I feel a burden to breathe again. Anything alive must breathe; what’s the condition of a soul which feels no compulsion to pray? Prayer is ALL we can do. It needs to be our first action.

Finally, share your specific burden of prayer with others. If the Lord is leading you to pray specifically, be obedient and put some feelers out for others who may share that same burden. Regardless of what our burden for prayer is – revival, the church, national repentance, those in authority, or whatever it is – pray, carry your burden to the throne of grace, and, by faith, expect results all to the glory of God!



Reesie's Recipes



Strawberry Pie

- 1 frozen pie crust
- 1 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 3 tbsp strawberry jelly
- 2 cups strawberries, sliced

Bake frozen pie crust according to the directions on the package. Remove from oven and allow to cool for 30 minutes. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan over medium heat, whisk together sugar, cornstarch and water. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 5 or so minutes, until thickened. Whisk in strawberry jelly. Remove from heat and set aside to cool. Add strawberries to the cooled pie crust, then pour over strawberry jelly mixture. Refrigerate for a few hours until set.



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- 6 (2 1/8 ounce) butterfinger candy bars, crushed
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 (12 ounce) carton Cool Whip
- 1 graham cracker crust

Mix first three ingredients together.
Put it in pie crust. Chill

Red Cactus Meatloaf

- 2 eggs
- 2 lbs ground beef
- 1 cup of your favorite Red Cactus salsa
- 1 to 2 sleeves crushed buttery round crackers
- 1 tsp salt (or to taste)
- 1 tsp ground black pepper (or to taste)
- 1 cup ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. brown sugar

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Mix together ketchup and brown sugar for topping and set aside. Beat the eggs in a mixing bowl, add salt and pepper, then add the ground beef and salsa. Gently add crushed crackers until meat mixture is thick and forms well. Form loaf in a pan sprayed with cooking spray. Bake in preheated oven 45 minutes. Remove from oven and top with ketchup and brown sugar mixture. Return to oven and cook 15 minutes longer or until no longer pink in the center Or until thermometer inserted into the center reads at least 160 degrees F.



VANITY *Of* VANITIES

A Protected Heart

Brother Tyler Willis

“A wise man’s heart is at his right hand; but a fool’s heart at his left. Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.”

- Ecclesiastes 10:2-3 -

When Solomon writes that the “wise man’s heart is at his right hand” the purpose is to convey to us that the wisdom and desires of the wise man are placed under protection - that they are in a place of safe-keeping that will help them make the correct decisions. This is because the ancient Israelites associated the right hand with protection - if you’re right hand dominant (which 90% of our current population is) then you’re going to hold your weapon (your source of protection) in your right hand. Solomon tells us that the wise man’s heart is held within protection, but the fool’s heart is kept unprotected. It isn’t treated with care.

Not only is the foolish man careless with his heart, everyone bears witness to the fact that he is a fool. It’s not hidden well - even if the fool thinks he’s hiding it, his decisions betray him because his heart is left exposed. Everyone is able to tell that the fool lacks wisdom because of his actions which are put on full display for all to see.

As we live this life and walk with Christ, let us be a group of people that protects our heart within our “right hand” rather than acting carelessly, showing everyone that while we attempt to talk-the-talk, maybe we can’t really walk-the-walk.

Undoing Gossip's Harm

There was a peasant with a troubled conscience who went to an old preacher for advice. He said that he had circulated a vile story about a friend, only to find out the story was not true. "If you want to make peace with your conscience," said the preacher, "you must fill a bag with chicken feathers, go to every yard in the village, and drop at each of them one fluffy feather." The peasant did as he was told. Then he returned to the preacher and announced he had done penance for his folly. "Not yet," replied the preacher, "Take your bag, make the rounds again and gather up every feather that you have dropped." "But the wind must have blown them all away," said the peasant. Words are easily dropped, but no matter how hard you try, you can never get them back again.



A Livingstone Faith

Too often we tend to look at “giants” of the faith, forgetting that they are mere men who have been transformed by God’s grace, the blood of Christ, and the empowering of the Holy Ghost. That truthful description does remove them from the “mere men” category, yet we all – including them – have moments of doubt, loneliness, or a time when the flesh momentarily presses in hard on our spirit.

Dear Reader, be encouraged that even the “great” missionary David Livingstone had moments when fear ALMOST conquered his faith. By God’s grace he stood and by that same grace so can you! Here is an excerpt from his diary dated January 14, 1856:

“Felt much turmoil of spirit in prospect of having all my plans for the welfare of this great region and this teeming population knocked on the head by savages tomorrow. But I read that Jesus said, ‘All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ It is the word of a gentleman of the most strict and sacred honor, so there’s an end to it! I will not cross furtively tonight as I intended. Should such a man as I flee? Nay, verily, I shall take observations for latitude and longitude tonight, though they may be the last. I feel quite calm now, thank God!”

Even the Apostle Paul, a great man of faith, requested prayer for himself, that he might speak boldly and as he ought. “Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” Ephesians 6:18-20

Share your fears, ask for prayer, and walk forward in faith, trusting God to see you through the fire or into His presence.

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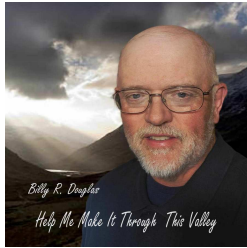


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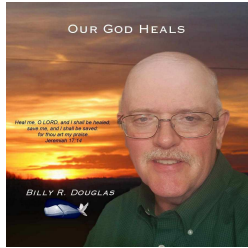
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Sister Nancy Willis

A couple weeks ago, I heard someone say, that when asked what she was gonna do when storms hit her, she said I'm gonna follow Jesus. When her husband died, what was she gonna do, she said follow Jesus. And I thought if I could just get this instilled in my heart that no matter what I was going through I was gonna follow Jesus. In Daniel 3:14-17, When the three Hebrew children was gonna be thrown in the fiery furnace if they didn't bow down to worship Nebuchadnezzar's god, it still didn't change their minds they still trusted God. That whether he delivered them or not they would not bow down. We need to have a made up mind that even if it looks like we are going under we are still gonna follow Jesus. (February 2006)



A Good Report

By Grace Through Faith

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 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Additional Passages for today: Luke 10:38-42; 1 Timothy 4:8; Matthew 6:33; Psalm 119:30

Thought for Today: Submission to Christ in every area, all of the time, is something that cannot be taken away, no matter how much life tries to demand otherwise. If you can succeed in this, you have secured the "one thing" that is needful. As Mary listened carefully so that she could follow Jesus' instructions, so can we as we read our Bibles and listen to instructions from the Word.

Story for Today: Shandra sat transfixed as her teacher spoke with great passion. She had never heard anyone teach this way before. Mr. Adams was the favorite teacher in her school and she now understood why. The topic was much more interesting when she listened to Mr. Adams. He had a way of bringing things to life. When he finished lecturing, she, along with most of the others in the class, was always desirous to go out and put the lesson to the test. Mr. Adams finished giving them their assignment to go to the mall and people-watch just as the final bell for the day rang. He listed the several things they were to be looking for and encouraged them to take what he had taught and put it into practice. Shandra gathered up her books and headed to her locker. While she was changing out her books and packing them into her backpack, her friends Miranda and Jesse stopped and invited her to join them on a short trip to the beach. A few of their friends were planning to get together for a quick game of beach volleyball and they were hoping she could make it. Shandra loved volleyball and was normally eager to join them for even a quick game or two. However, she remembered her assignment and her heart beat faster at just the thought of following the instructions Mr. Adams had given today. She wanted to apply and learn more. She quietly, but quickly declined the offer and explained that she would have to make it another time. She headed out the door to her car. Her phone rang before she got the doors unlocked and she sat her backpack down and grabbed her phone. Her mom was calling. She needed some groceries and would like them picked up before she headed out of town. They would be having company and she needed a few things for the meal. Shandra hurriedly put her things in her car and made a beeline to the store just down the street. As she rushed into the store, the words she had heard just minutes before came to her. She stopped so abruptly that she almost caused a lady pushing her shopping cart to run into her. She knew the assignment was to do this at the mall; but wouldn't it work here too? She was so excited and decided she would put the lesson to the test right here. She would still go to the mall after supper. But instead of rushing through life, ignoring all she had learned, she would slow down and apply the concepts and keep track of the results. As she headed to the vegetable aisle to get the carrots her mom had requested, she paused to see the interaction between a mom and her three children who were looking at the watermelon. As she observed, she discovered that the mom was teaching them how to tell which of them would be the best selection. She smiled as she watched the boy who looked to be about nine years old look at the ends of several before tapping on a few and then awkwardly making his selection. As he handed over the watermelon, the mom tapped and smiled and the boy's smile grew even bigger.

Shandra's trip to the grocery store wasn't as quick as she initially had expected, but the knowledge she gleaned from reflecting on the questions her teacher had posed was well worth the small amount of extra time she had spent observing those who were shopping around her. As she drove home that day, she reflected on the lesson she had learned at church the past week about Mary and how she had listened attentively at the feet of Jesus so that she would be able to carry out the Master's lessons. How much more important that is than the lessons she was learning from Mr. Adams. Before heading to the mall, Shandra paused for a few minutes to spend some time reading the Bible and talking to the best teacher that ever walked this earth.

Questions for Today: How about you? Do you read the Bible looking for the lessons our Master is trying to teach you? Do you apply what you read? How much do you desire the things of God? Is He the best teacher in your life?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank You for never giving up on us. Thank You for continuing to make your truths known and revealing more of Yourself to us each moment we spend with You. Help us never become so busy that we forget to sit at Your feet and apply the lessons You have taught us. In Jesus' name, we pray. 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 too late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus.



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

VOTL Radio features anointed teaching, preaching and some of the best music this side of the gates of Heaven!

WOTL Radio features powerful preaching and teaching!

Both air 24/7 and you can listen by going to either website

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