

the MAGNOLIA Messenger

Volume 44 • Number 2
SUMMER 2022

Churches Respond to
Ukrainian
CRISIS
Page 20-21

THE *Lord's* *Supper*

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



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Mississippi's "GOOD NEWS" magazine for churches of Christ.

"Let us consider one another to provoke unto LOVE and GOOD works." (Hebrews 10:24)



from Dennis

While in the South Pacific nation of Fiji, I traveled out on a beautiful Sunday morning to a congregation that met behind a member's home under a large carport.

There were maybe a dozen wooden pews, a wooden table, and a large old pulpit. After Bible class the ladies, dressed in their colorful sarongs, covered the table with a beautiful white linen sheet. Next, they brought out the communion trays and, setting them on the table, respectfully covered them in another white cloth. There I joined them in partaking the bread and drinking the cup in remembrance.

Paul wrote. "Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ? Since there is one bread, we who are many are one body; for we all partake of the one bread."

Around the world Christians meet every Lord's Day. We sing different songs. We preach in different languages. Our places of worship range from homes to rented storefronts to chapels, or even carports. Only one thing remains constant; we all partake of the same unleavened bread and drink of the same fruit of the vine. We all share in the body and blood of Christ. It is this partaking in which "we who are many are one body."

I have been blessed to take of this sacred communion with brethren around the world. It is the true mark of the church that Jesus established. It is the one singular purpose of our coming together. It is the only assembly we are taught to not "forsake."

I obeyed the gospel as a young boy. The first thing I was honored to do as a young Christian was to wait on the Lord's Table, first on Sunday nights for those who needed it. Later I "moved up" and began to serve on the table on Sunday mornings, and even began to lead prayers for the bread or cup. I have remembered the death of my Savior in this way every Lord's Day since.

As things are beginning to get back to normal in our churches, I hope this issue's emphasis on the Lord's Supper highlights this reason for our gathering. **MM**

the MAGNOLIA Messenger

Church of Christ - Kosciusko, MS

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Editor's Note: The mention of a person or church in the Messenger does NOT necessarily mean that we either endorse or approve all the person or church may believe, teach and/or do. We do not (cannot) have full knowledge of every person or church mentioned in the 'MM'; furthermore, we do not believe that our role before God is to be that of a judge. We pray, however, that we will never lend encouragement to anyone or anything in conflict with, or not in harmony with that which is plainly taught In Scripture. Your comments invited and encouraged.

(Dennis Doughty, Editor)

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SPECIAL TOPIC - Your Choice!

"You are the Salt
of the earth..."

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articles and news!

"Whats on your mind
or in your heart? Share it with us."

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WHY UNLEAVENED BREAD ?

by *Dan Williams, minister*
Franklin, Tennessee

Question: “Can you explain to me why we use unleavened bread during Communion?”

Answer: My wife regularly makes delicious homemade sourdough bread. On the day before she bakes the bread she removes a jar from our refrigerator containing a sour-mash, evil-smelling swill, mixes this potent liquid with flour and sundry other ingredients, and leaves the whole concoction in a bowl on the counter overnight. The next morning, when we enter the kitchen, we discover that the little lump of dough she left in the bottom of the bowl



Dan Williams

has grown into a gooey mass that has oozed out of the bowl like some slimy creature from a low-budget horror movie.

The bread mixture rose overnight because of a process called “fermentation.” The sour smell comes from the yeast that has been at work all night long, rapidly multiplying and growing within the dough. Fermentation has been used from very ancient times to produce both bread and beer. In Bible times Israelite women would take a small piece of dough from a previous batch, which had been kept until it fermented, and work it into their new batch of dough to leaven it (see Matthew 13:33).

The fact that their leavening came from dough that had, in effect, “gone bad”, the disagreeable smell created by the fermentation, and the remarkable impact that just a little leaven has on the whole batch of dough, all help to explain why it came to be associated with evil and corruption. Jesus used leaven as a symbol of the corrupt doctrines of the Pharisees (Matthew 16:5-12), and Paul quoted the popular saying, “A little yeast works through the whole dough” (Galatians 5:9) to also warn against spiritually unhealthy influences.

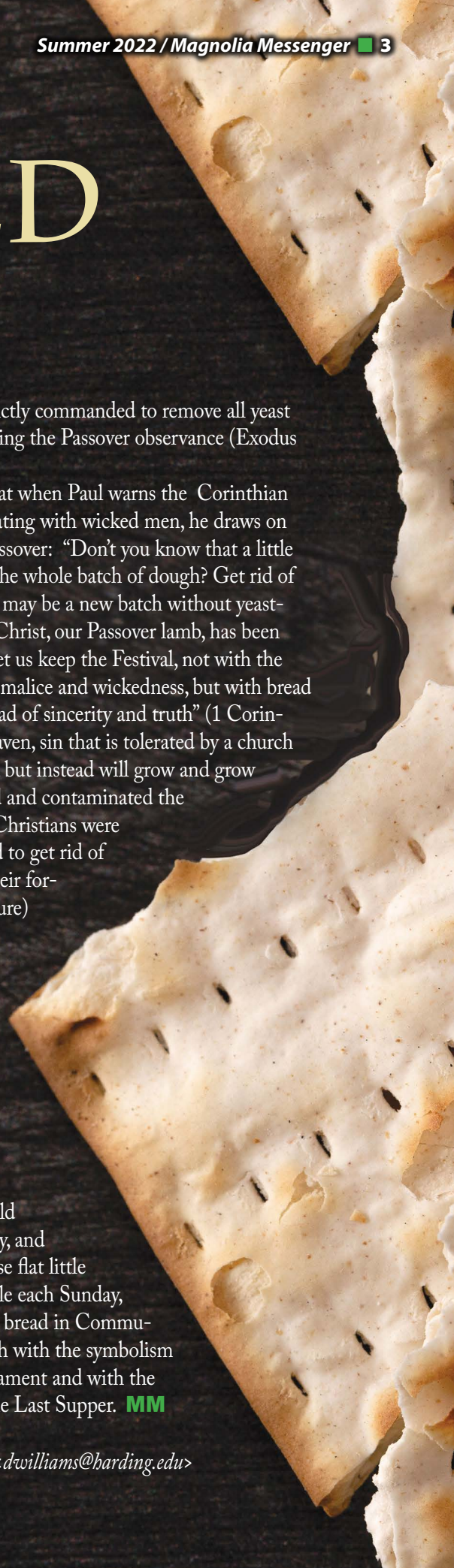
Regarding your question, it should be remembered that Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper while celebrating the Passover with his disciples. That feast was also called the “Feast of Unleavened Bread” (Matthew 26:17) because

the Israelites were strictly commanded to remove all yeast from their homes during the Passover observance (Exodus 12:17-20).

It is significant that when Paul warns the Corinthian church against associating with wicked men, he draws on the imagery of the Passover: “Don’t you know that a little yeast works through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old yeast that you may be a new batch without yeast—as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old yeast, the yeast of malice and wickedness, but with bread without yeast, the bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Corinthians 5:6-8). Like leaven, sin that is tolerated by a church will not remain small, but instead will grow and grow until it has permeated and contaminated the whole congregation. Christians were therefore commanded to get rid of the “old yeast” (i.e., their former sinful, selfish nature) and celebrate the Passover with “bread without yeast,” which Paul characterizes as “the bread of sincerity and truth.”

I would therefore conclude that, while my wife’s homemade sourdough bread would certainly be more tasty, and more filling, than those flat little crackers we now nibble each Sunday, the use of unleavened bread in Communion is consistent both with the symbolism used in the New Testament and with the example of Jesus at the Last Supper. **MM**

Dan Williams <dwilliams@harding.edu>



BIBLE

Questions & Answers

MM Readers' ASK: Cecil May RESPONDS

QUESTION:

Why do some people in introducing the Lord's Supper say, "Now we come to the most important part of the service?" In that connection, most of us have also known people who attend worship just long enough to partake of the Lord's Supper and then leave.

Response: The Lord's Supper is certainly important. It is the part that focuses on Jesus and is the part that He says He partakes with us in His kingdom.

All of worship, however, is commanded by God and all of it is of equal importance. I think there is a slight misunderstanding of Acts 20:7. When Paul came to Troas, he waited until the "first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread." That indicates the purpose "of them coming together on the first day of the week" was to partake of the Lord's Supper. But the emphasis, in my opinion is not in singling out the Lord's Supper as the most important reason for their meeting, but it is the reason their meeting is on the "first day of the week."

All four of the gospels emphasize that Jesus' resurrection was in the early morning of the first day of the week. There is, therefore, inseparable connection between the Lord's Supper, the resurrection, and the first day of the week. The Lord's Supper is only appropriate on the first day of the week. Other aspects of worship—preaching, praying, and singing—are appropriate any time of the week.



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So instead of saying the Lord's Supper is the most important part of worship, it is saying the Lord's Supper is the reason for choosing the first day of the week as the day of worship.

Interestingly, virtually every Christian denomination has chosen Sunday, the first day of the week, as their day of meeting. All of the Biblical evidence for that is connected to the Lord's Supper. Yet they rarely partake of the Lord's Supper when they meet.

It has been correctly said, "there should be no Lord's Day without the Lord's Supper and no Lord's Supper without the Lord's Day." **MM**

*The one week a year
that gets you through the other 51*

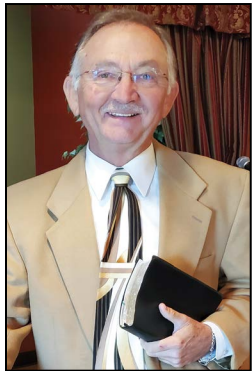
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A RETURN TO THE TABLE

Some Personal thoughts

by Dennis Doughty

Today, because of the pandemic, the Lord's Table has been removed from our worship and sits collecting dust in some back room. With its inscription, "DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME" now out of sight, we hold our little self-contained cups in our hands with the awkward task of removing the cellophane-covered plastic as the Communion begins. With the pandemic waning, and congregations returning to normal activities, let me urge us to look anew at the Lord's Supper, and assure that it remains at the forefront of our worship.

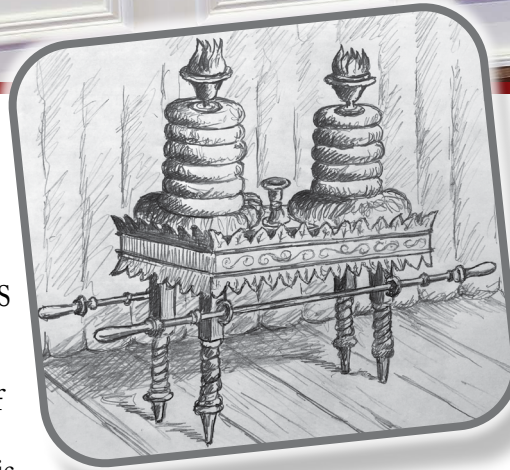


Dennis Doughty

You may consider my points here weak or frivolous, but bear with me as I consider the significance of the table itself. While I cannot say that the Communion Table is necessary in our churches today, I can say confidently that the table itself was required by God in the Holy Place in the Tabernacle.

The table was a little over three feet long and about two feet wide. It was made of acacia wood and overlaid with gold with a gold rim around it (Exodus 25:23-30). Twelve loaves of bread were laid out in two rows, or stacks, six to a row. A bowl of Frankincense was laid at the head of each row. "Every Sabbath" and "continually" four priests would enter, two to remove the old loaves, and two to lay out the new loaves. This was done simultaneously, so that there was always bread on the table. The two bowls of Frankincense were then offered with fire unto the Lord. (Leviticus 24:5-9).

Moses was instructed, "You shall set the bread of the Presence on the table before Me at all times" (Exodus 25:30).



Even when they were moving the Tabernacle during their journeys, "the continual bread shall be on it," covered with a blue cloth (Numbers 4:7). Clearly this table was never stored away, not even in transit.

No, God did not give instructions for a particular table to be used in today's worship. That said, the Hebrew writer clearly teaches us that the Tabernacle, including "the table and the sacred bread"

was "a symbol for the present time" (Hebrews 9:2,9). At least once the Lord's Supper is referred to as "the table of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 10:21).

We can learn from the Tabernacle that God wants a reverent and respectful approach to our worship. Christian men gathering around the Lord's table, commenting on the importance of Christ's death, is a scene that gives a place of honor to the Bread and the Cup that it rightfully deserves.

Is continuing to use a more convenient process, or a system requiring less time and effort, the attitude we want to have regarding the Lord's Supper? My point being simply this: let our view not be to give less attention to the Communion, but to make it more visible and important to our worship.

The pandemic had an impact on how we prepare and conduct the Lord's Supper. Now it is over. I hope that leaders will consider bringing their Communion tables back to the front of our assemblies and give the reason for our coming together its dignified, respectful, and rightful place on the Lord's Day. It is a scared table, if only for those moments each first day of the week the body and blood of Christ rests upon it. dd **MM**

Here is one idea; If a congregation does not want to go back to the communion trays and prefers the self-contained communion cups for their convenience, have them in baskets on the Lord's Table and let the baskets be passed around during a song or as communion talks are given.



IN
REMEMBRANCE
of
ME

THE ABC'S OF THE

LORD'S SUPPER

by *Shane Fisher*
Winona, Mississippi

God desires the church respect His authority as to how He ought to be worshipped with a sincere and heartfelt attitude that loves Him and the way He prescribed in accordance to His will (John 4:23-24). What a great blessing we receive from God when we as His children assemble together to partake of that memorial meal known as the Lord's Supper.

● The Authority of the Lord's Supper

We know we please God when we do it by faith (Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17), which is being obedient to His will. In order for us to arrive at what God desires, God must reveal His mind to us on what He desires. Thankfully, He has done exactly that (1 Corinthians 2:10-12). We can know what is authorized by Him because of this "chain" of authority that we see linked in the Scriptures. The "chain" of authority begins with God the Father, who permitted His Son to reign at His right hand (Ephesians 1:20-23), who then dispatches the Holy Spirit to equip the apostles by endowing them with miraculous power (John 16:7-15; Acts 2:1-4), who revealed through the Word what God has authorized us to do (Colossians 3:17).



Shane Fisher

● The Beginning of the Lord's Supper

What is the origin of the Lord's Supper? The Bible teaches that it was on a Thursday night in an upper room in Jerusalem when Jesus and His disciples were partaking of the Passover meal. It was after the meal that Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper (Luke 22:14-16).

● The Contents of the Lord's Supper

There are two elements of the Lord's Supper that our Lord took and signified as a memorial to His death.

1. The first element was the unleavened bread.

They did not use leavened bread because all leaven was to be kept out of the house (Exodus 12:1-19). There could have been no leaven used in that upper room if they desired to be obedient Jews. We can also know this because Jesus never broke the law of Moses (Hebrews 4:15).

2. The second element was the fruit of the vine.

In Palestine the major fruit that grew on vines from which the juice could be extracted was grapes. All around Palestine there are ancient winepresses where people would stomp the grapes to extract the juice.

Notice that it was “the fruit of the vine” that was used, not the Greek word oinos, which is usually employed for wine (which is either unfermented or fermented based on the context).

This “fruit of the vine” represents the blood of Jesus that was shed for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28).

● The Day of Observing The Lord’s Supper

While Jesus was on the earth, He did not reveal everything that was needed to know for our daily living (Matthew 18:18; John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 7:12; 14:37).

The Lord had much to reveal that would be accomplished through the apostles themselves. Jesus’ will would come into effect after He died on the cross (Hebrews 9:15-17). While the time to observe the Supper was not specified by our Lord during His earthly ministry, we can deduce from the Scriptures and correct reasoning that we ought to follow the approved example that was set by the apostles since they were guided by the Holy Spirit into all truth (John 16:13).

Interestingly enough, we see that Paul the apostle did assemble with the brethren in Troas to partake of the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). That was an account of action approved. It makes sense when we put all the data together showing why we ought to observe the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week.

1. It was the day the Lord raised up from the dead (Mark 16:1-2).
2. It was the day in which the church was established (Acts 2:1-47).
3. It became known as the Lord’s Day (Revelation 1:10).

● The Examination At The Lord’s Supper

Since God desires us to worship Him (John 4:24), then we see this commandment fulfilled in this aspect when we observe the Lord’s Supper together as a church. The Bible commands that we examine the manner in which we are partaking of this sacred Supper.

1. The Lord’s Supper is to be eaten with a look backward to the death of Jesus. Jesus stated in 1 Corinthians 11:25-26: “Do this in remembrance of Me.” Paul’s instructions make it clear that we are to discern (make a distinction) concerning the Lord’s precious body that was given on the cross.
4. The Lord’s Supper is to be eaten with a look forward to His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26). “For as often as you eat this bread, and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.” This Supper is intended to be a perpetual proclamation until the end of time.
5. The Lord’s Supper is to be eaten with a worthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). It is eaten in a worthy manner when a Christian properly observes and discerns the Lord’s body.

● The Frequency of the Lord’s Supper

There are many people today who believe it does not matter when we observe the Lord’s Supper. There are various denominations who take it annually, semi-annually, quarterly, monthly,

weekly, and daily. Where does the biblical evidence point? What has God authorized?

1. There was a time of assembling together as a congregation. In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul points out when the Christians “come together”, that is an official assembly of the local congregation in Corinth (1 Corinthians 11:17-34). Remember also what Paul taught in Corinth was taught in every congregation (1 Corinthians 4:17).
6. What was the purpose of assembling together? They came together to partake of the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20; Acts 20:7). When the Corinthian congregation came together, they unfortunately were abusing the Lord’s Supper, but that was the purpose for which they had come together.
7. These official assemblies were occurring in regular intervals according to Hebrews 10:25 because some Christians were abandoning coming together when they ought to have been assembling with their brethren to provoke them unto love and good works.
8. They were assembling together on the first day of the week because it was the Lord’s Day (Revelation 1:10).
9. In church history, it is understood that the post-apostolic churches continued to meet together on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord’s Supper (Didache 14.1; Justin Martyr, Apology, 65 & 66). This reinforces what was practiced by the early church in the first century under apostolic oversight and sanction.

If we desire to go by the Bible, then we will partake of the Lord’s Supper only on the first day of the week and we will do it weekly.

● The Gist of the Lord’s Supper

What is the meaning of the Lord’s Supper? What ought we to cherish from it? There are various aspects that are pointed out in the Scriptures for us to remember:

1. We ought to remember Jesus and His death.
2. We ought to meditate on what Jesus means to us personally and as a corporate body in the unity we share together with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We ought to spiritually commune with our Savior.
4. We ought to honor and respect Him as the Son of God.
5. We ought to remember that the Supper equips us to better service and devotion.*

● Works Cited

*Some of this material was freely adapted from:

Olbricht, Owen. The Lord’s Supper: A Feast In Honor of Jesus (Gospel Light Publishing: Delight, AR, 2009). **MM**

(Shane works with World Evangelism, with Betty Choate, Jerry Bates, etc, in Winona, MS. He attends the church in French Camp, MS. He often travels and speaks on behalf of the Choate mission efforts. I appreciate the work the Choates have done for many years in spreading the gospel around the world. -dd)

A Talk from the Table



The operative cause of the (Lord's Supper) is the word and institution of Christ, who ordained it. The substance is bread and wine, prefiguring the true body and blood of Christ, which is spiritually received by faith. The final cause of instituting this is the benefit and the fruit, the strengthening of our faith, not doubting that Christ's body and blood were given and shed for us, and that our sins by Christ's death certainly are forgiven. -Martin Luther

Few biblical commandments are as blatantly botched today as the Lord's Supper. Many denominations hardly even participate in it, a few times a year at the most. In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth he addressed and corrected some problems that had infiltrated this memorial feast (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

If Christians in the first century, living just decades after the Supper was instituted, had problems following the Lord's instructions, we should be vigilant to guard against "eating and drinking judgment" on ourselves. Dr. Everett Ferguson, professor of Church history emeritus at Abilene Christian University, is one of the world's pre-eminent scholars on the subject of early Christianity. Here are his thoughts on the Lord's Supper, and are the observations of a serious and careful scholar, and are worth considering:

"And on the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread," Paul discoursed with them (Acts:20:7, NASB).

"The church gathers on the first day of the week to take the Lord's Supper. We neither invite to the table nor exclude from it. We do not invite, the Lord has already issued the invitation. We exclude in a formal way only our members who are under the discipline of the church.

"The Lord's Supper is a church act. It is not, biblically speaking, a sacrament according to the accepted definition of a sacrament, whether viewed as the outward sign of an inward grace or as an act that itself conveys grace simply by its performance. Nor is it a general religious act of devotion that can be engaged in at any time. In this respect, it is unlike prayer or song.

"The Lord's Supper belongs in the setting of the gathered church. When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He was meeting at a table with His apostles (Luke 22:14). The apostles represented the soon-to-be-established church, of which they were the



*by Chuck Monan, Minister
Pinnacle Church of Christ.
Little Rock, Arkansas*

beginning group.

"When Paul gave instructions to the Corinthian Christians for the proper observance of the Lord's Supper, he did so for the occasions 'when you come together as a church,' or 'in the church' (1 Corinthians 11: 18-20). The Lord's Supper is a communion of the saved (1 Corinthians 10:16-17,21), not a means of grace to the unsaved. It is out of place in contexts other than the gathered church.

"The appointed day of observance for the Lord's Supper is the first day of the week, the day of the resurrection. It has no special relevance on another day. Although the Lord's Supper was instituted on (probably) a Thursday night, only after the crucifixion could it be a remembrance of Jesus' death and only after the resurrection (1 Corinthians 11:23-26) could it be a proclamation of the resurrection.

"The apostolic example of its observance is on the first day of the week, and there was special meaning in that day. The predominant use of the phrase, 'first day of the week,' occurs in connection with the resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:2-9; Luke 24:1; John 20:1). Otherwise, it is used for the day of the meeting of disciples (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1; John 20:19). The resurrection of Jesus brought the scattered disciples together again, and the resurrection makes us a church.

"The Lord's Supper has its proper meaning in a particular place—the assembly of the church (not a building but the assembly of the people) and at a particular time—the day of the resurrection. To use it for other purposes and on other occasions, such as weddings, funerals, and conferences, is to misuse it.

"The Lord's Supper is our primary reason, but not our only reason, for coming together as a church. The Lord's Supper is the church's act of thanksgiving for, and remembrance of, the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is our communion with the Lord, and with one another (1 Corinthians 10:16).

"Those who are in communion with the Lord and with us are welcome to participate." **MM**
(pigskinpreacher63@gmail.com)

(I heard Chuck speak at the "Better" preachers' workshop in Montgomery, and was impressed by his wit and wisdom. I appreciate his putting together this thoughtful and insightful article. -dd)

The Preacher's Page

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Ministry Verse of the Month

"Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry" (2 Timothy 4:11). "Useful to Me in

Ministry." There are many wonderful people of God who can be useful to us in ministry. We believe there are particularly three types of men who can be extremely useful to us in our ministry. (1) We all need someone like Paul. This is not a man who has it all figured out or is perfect. This is a man who has dealt with life in ministry and who can serve as a mentor, a role model, and a great source of encouragement to us. (2) We all need someone like Barnabas. This man of God understands the season of life where we find ourselves now. He is a friend, a confidante. He will tell us what we need to hear because he has our best interest in mind, and he loves us. (3) We all need some Timothys in our life. These young men are willing to learn, to ask questions, and to see how we handle ministry. We can help them in their growth to become what God wants them to be. All three of these types of men are useful to us in ministry!

Ministry Tech Tip

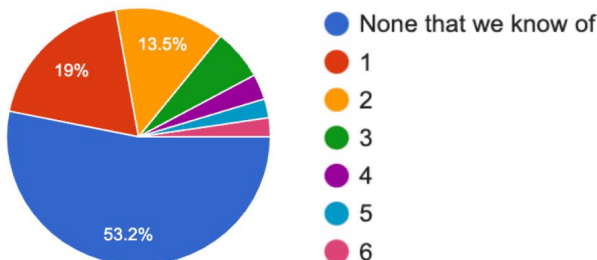
Use your cell phone for ministry: make a 1-minute video each week for every guest you have in the services. Personalize it. Mention their name, invite questions, invite them back, tell them about an upcoming event. Then text it to or email it to them.



Research Insights

Baptisms during the pandemic There was a lot of good work during the pandemic. These are previously unreached people from just about 100 congregations.- 129 we know of.

How many have obeyed the Gospel as a result of outreach during the Pandemic (again, it's never one thing, but if it was a start or motivator include)?



This Quarter's TOP List

Top Stressors In Ministry: We surveyed ministers on the biggest stresses they face in their work. Here are the results:

- * Elder leadership or lack thereof
- * Feelings of inadequacy
- * Unresolved conflict with other members
- * Finances
- * Fear the church is not healthy
- * Feelings of not being appreciated
- * Fear of personal sin

- To hear a podcast about each of these check out The Jenkins Institute Facebook page where they are posted.



Help Desk Answer

Send your ministry questions to TJI@TheJenkinsInstitute.com or text 972 861-2434. Each submission will receive a free copy of "Don't Quit On A Saturday."

Include your shipping address in the email.



Minister's Monthly Challenge

Make a list of any family/individual who is still not back after the pandemic. Pray for each family member by name every morning. Pray for their anxieties and that they will, in fact, come back. Keep that list with you all this quarter. Encourage your elders and others in the congregation to join you in this outreach.



TJI Upcoming Events

May 1-5 FOCAL POINT, TX
 May 21-25 Joint Meeting, Batesville, MS
 May 26-27 Ministry League Experience, GA
 August 1-2 BETTER EAST TX Kilgore, TX
 August 22 BETTER BLUEGRASS, Murray, KY
 August 27-28 FUTURE PREACHER TRAINING CAMP, Madison, AL

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"ON THE ROAD AGAIN"

with the Editor

As the Spring Issue of the Messenger was hitting the mailboxes the first of March, I headed to Montgomery, Alabama, for a three-day visit.

On Saturday I worked in a little pleasure with my business. My thanks to Trent Bailey for putting together a golf outing at the Robert Trent Jones course in the area. Trent, in addition to his secular work, also preaches on Sunday for a small congregation outside of town.

Sunday Morning I worshiped with the Eastern Meadows congregation. I was again approached by many of the members who said they get the Messenger. This is always encouraging. I wanted to meet Brandon Baggett, one of their ministers, and a recent writer of an article for the Messenger. He taught Bible class and did a great job teaching. He is a fine young man and I encouraged him to keep good articles coming our way. I enjoyed lunch with his



Brandon Baggett teaching Bible class Sunday Morning



Cecil May and Jeff Jenkins visit during The "Better" preachers workshop which met in the beautiful V. P. Black Chapel.

enrollment continues to grow.

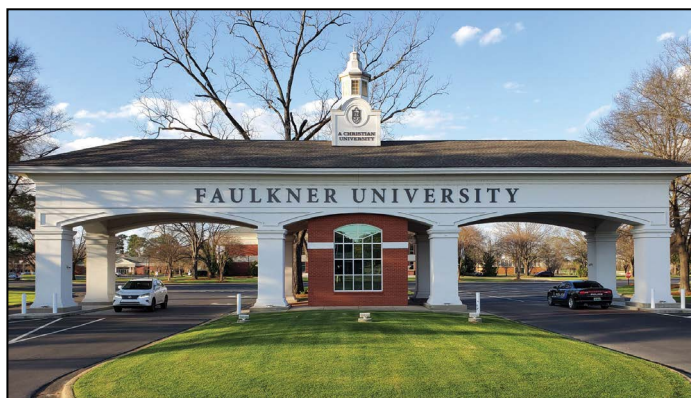
It was good to be with brother Cecil. While he has some health issues, his voice is strong and his work and dedication

to the Lord remain undaunted. He has written for the Magnolia Messenger's Question and Answer section for over 40 years. I count it a blessing anytime I am around greatness like brother Cecil May. It was an enjoyable visit and I must say that the singing and chili fellowship were both excellent!

On Monday I attended the "Better" preacher's workshop hosted by the Jenkins Institute, led by Dale and Jeff Jenkins. It was held in the V.P. Black School of Biblical Studies. These two brothers hold these workshops around the country and are a great forum to encourage preachers in the practical work of preaching. They always have a tremendous group of speakers that show the depth of our brotherhood in the scriptures and have a wealth of experience to share.

NEW PREACHER'S PAGE

I am excited that the Jenkins Institute has joined the Magnolia Messenger in hosting a "Preacher's Page" in each issue. I know preachers across the country will benefit from their material. This page will continue to broaden the outreach and scope of this brotherhood publication. **MM**



family, joined by one of the elders, Ken Gardner, who has strong Mississippi connections.

Sunday evening I was invited by Cecil May to join them in worship at the College church for a singing and a chili fellowship afterwards. Getting there early, I was able to take a short tour of Faulker Christian University. They have a fine campus, and their

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YOUTH & FAMILY

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Greg Ledbetter

How enthusiastic are you about coming to the Lord's Table for Communion? As a young man, I remember watching my father get up before the congregation to help guide the congregation in the partaking of the Lord's Supper. I never once heard him complain when he saw his name in the bulletin for this duty. It was as though he was proud to be able to serve in this capacity. I remember thinking to myself, I want to do that someday because it is important. The day finally came when I was 16, a new Christian, for my chance to serve the Lord's Supper right next to my dad. I was blessed to be a part of a congregation that showed the importance of coming on the first day of the week to partake of the body and blood of Jesus. It instilled in me the importance of why we come together on Sunday morning.

Like any associate minister, I want every young person to understand and love Jesus' cross. I want them to know their sins are forgiven through the blood on the cross, and the Kingdom of Heaven is open. I want to share this experience with them as my father did for me. I want them to understand the power behind Jesus dying on the cross. Unfortunately, what I have seen over the years in some places is the lack of emphasis on The Lord's Supper. It is not as important as the sermon or the songs, or they are at least equal to it.

We need to start early by teaching our children what we are doing and why. Let them help you prepare the Communion for that Sunday and use it as a time to explain what is going on at that moment in the taking of the Lord's Supper. What do we say? We need to start by teaching them that the Lord's Supper is a special time when those who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior in baptism remember that He died for their sins. We recognize this by eating bread, which represents Jesus' body, and by drinking juice, which symbolizes Jesus' blood. Help your child understand that the Lord's Supper is a reminder, both for individual believers and the church family, of Jesus' sacrifice in their place for sin. Jesus told His followers to remember Him in this way until He returns so that their hearts would be strong in believing that Jesus is their only hope. 1 Corinthians 11:26 tells us that as often as we eat of the bread and drink the cup, we proclaim Jesus' death until He comes again.

The Lord's Supper is so important to God; He tells us in I Corinthians 11:27, "Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord." I pray that we take what we do every first day of the week seriously and do our part to raise a generation that understands the importance of the Lord's Supper. **MM**

Can't Forget the LOVE!

by Logan Baldwin

Kids endure so much now in our society. The school standards are higher for young people now than ever before. The responsibility they carry is heavier. Their events, activities, and hobbies are bigger, brighter, and more time-consuming. The media's portrayal of events seems to expedite the damaging process. All they see is fear. Lisa Damour says in Derek Thompson's *WHY AMERICAN TEENS ARE SO SAD*, "Increased stress among young people is linked to increasing levels of sadness. Girls, more than boys, are socialized to internalize distress, meaning that they tend to collapse in on themselves by becoming depressed or anxious."

It is no wonder why there are problems of transgenderism, homosexuality, no respect for authority, and problems of doubt about the existence of God. Sadly, the teens you see in your services are not immune to those problems and see them daily. If you have encountered a situation like this with your child or grandchild, remember the love you have for them as a parent/grandparent and a Christian. However, this problem is a temptation, and we cannot forget that either.

Temptations and tests are opportunities for us to trust in and depend on God just a little more (James 1:2-4), and because of the increased dependence, Christians gain maturity, too (v. 4). Nonetheless, my job as a youth minister is to help parents teach their kids to fight off temptation and pursue righteousness. Elders, deacons, parents, ministers, grandparents, anyone; one must not forget to teach the truth in love (Eph. 4:15). Of those people mentioned, they



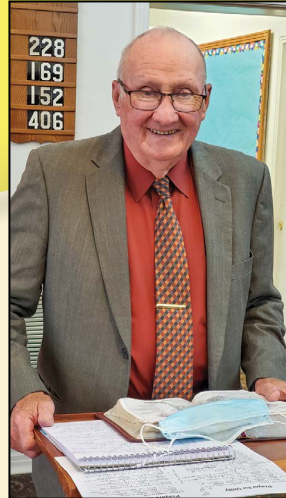
Logan Baldwin

are more mature than the teens we have in our youth groups at church. Wouldn't it make more sense to use the prior knowledge you have from those "trials of various kinds" (James 1:2, ESV) to help those struggling with another scheme of the devil?

I believe a lack of spiritual guidance leads to the staggering statistics we see pertaining to church growth and youth group retention. Josh Denhart of KidMinScience.com concluded that 75% percent of kids ages 18-29 leave the church. Of the 25% that stayed, some of the top reasons why were the family as a whole had one spiritual experience (bible study, spiritual conversation, etc.) in the home during a week and had one faith-focused adult, not a parent, invested in their life. Therefore, parenting must return to a "Deuteronomy 6" style (Deut. 6:6-9). Parents should emphasize essential things (James 4:14, most likely your child will not be a professional athlete). If the church having a future is something important to you, you have to understand what our teens are facing, teach essential principles, and never forget love. **MM**

In the SPOTLIGHT:

John Purdy



For the past year I have been going occasionally and preaching for the Lord's church in Coffeeville, Mississippi. I have been asked to just do the preaching as the Bible Class has always been taught by brother John Wayne Purdy. He was baptized in 1954 at the Coffeeville church by E.C. Fuqua, the first gospel preacher in Yalobusha County.

In talking with him I asked how long he had been teaching Bible Classes. He recalled that at the approximate age of 21 he began teaching a small class of teenagers, and later the adult class, first on Wednesday nights and then on Sunday mornings. He continues today teaching every Sunday morning. He did some figuring and decided that he had been teaching Bible classes for 60 years!

His lessons titled, "The Church from Prophecy to My Pew" were later printed in book form. Now at 84 years of age he is still teaching every Sunday and I must say that he does an outstanding job. He is also an excellent song leader, and has done the preaching on occasion.

John is married to Vivian Lea Johnson and has three children. He worked for the department of Transportation for 42 years before retiring but has not retired from teaching God's word. For this I am glad to put him "In the Spotlight." -dd

(My thanks to Eddie Lewis for helping me honor this good man, without John's knowledge I might add. -dd)

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from a Woman's Viewpoint

"In Memory of Miss June"

by **Cindy Dixon, Ph.D., M.A., M.A.**
Northport, Alabama

When I was a teenager, I clearly remember a Sunday when a visitor came with his adult daughter to worship. He wore a large Stetson hat that she made him remove. They sat on the fourth row from the front and directly behind me. During Communion, she instructed him how to break the bread and later to take a cup. He was clearly out of his element when Communion was completed, and the brother leading the Communion service said that it was an appropriate time to also take up a collection. When the plate came



Cindy Dixon

to the visitor he stated, "You mean they want me to pay for that puny little piece of cracker and little cup of juice? You should have told me I'd have to pay for it, and I wouldn't have taken it." Clearly the visitor did not understand the significance of communing with our Lord.

As a teacher, I rely on 5WH to write or to study. This simple technique stands for Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. We can use this to study the 5WH of Communion.

First, Who should participate in the Lord's Communion? Acts 20:7 tells us the disciples came together; and later in Acts 11:26, the disciples were called Christians in Antioch, so, "Who" = Christians. The "What" is unleavened bread and the fruit of the vine (Matthew 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 22:19-20). The unleavened bread is significant because leavening symbolizes sin. Christ

The 5WH of Communion

was sinless so no yeast or leavening would be found in His chosen emblems: unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, not wine.

"When" is the first day of the week, not a first day of the week (Acts 20:7). How many first days of the week are there? Since there are 52 first days of the week, that is how often the church should assemble to take part in the Communion of our Lord.

"Where" is anywhere that Christians assemble. Many of us have nice buildings to gather in, but the early church did not have such a luxury. The place is not important. Paul taught in public and from house to house (Acts 20:20). "Why" is because Jesus commanded it (Luke 22:19), and the apostles left us examples of their abiding in this command (I Cor. 11:23; Acts 2:42). "How" is in a worthy manner (I Cor. 11:27-29). This is the time that we should be reflecting on Christ's sacrifice on the cross, so that if we are obedient to His will, we can live with Him forever in Heaven. This is a time of extreme focus on Christ's death. It is not a time to be looking at our cell phones, writing notes, whispering, or anything else that could distract our brothers and sisters from their focus on our Savior. With that in mind, it is also a time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters (I Cor. 10:16).

Recently, I spoke with a co-worker about Communion, and she was appalled that I thought I was worthy enough to take it. Her denomination teaches that there is no one worthy to participate in the Lord's Supper. She said one had to be perfect to partake and that it was nearly impossible to do. I wanted to discuss this more with her, but she was very upset that I was so presumptuous as



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to believe that people can and should participate in the Communion service of our Lord. This did make me think: Am I worthy?

I have had the opportunity to worship with congregations in Tanzania, East Africa. I am always touched by their body posture and sincerity of spirit when they commune. As one might imagine, our brethren are not wealthy in Tanzania. Yet, I believe they are very rich in spirit. During Communion, most of the brethren lean forward as if to stare at the ground or floor to make certain they have no distractions. It is simple and yet beautiful. They maintain this posture throughout the prayers and throughout the translations of the prayers for the visitors who do speak Swahili. The unleavened bread is passed. The body posture continues during the prayer before the fruit of the vine is passed out. No matter how old or how young, all show this reverence as if to concentrate on their worthiness to partake of the emblems of Christ's body: the bread and the fruit of vine.

When I reflect on the Lord's Supper, I am as human as the next person. I know that Christ is there with me and that I should be honoring His sacrifice as He instructed. My thoughts often drift from what I am doing, and that is scary. God knows my every weakness. I try to focus on every aspect of our Lord's death just as He instructed. The important thing is to abide in His command, to remember His death until He comes.

I have heard the question posed: Is one part of worship more important than another? My answer to this is that Jesus left us an example when He instituted the Lord's Supper, and He commanded us to participate in His Supper. He established this Himself. In that regard, Communion is extremely important and a directive of our Lord. It is imperative that we take it in a worthy manner and not as a social gathering. I would hesitate to say one of the acts of worship is more important than another; however, I know that it was Christ's expressed sentiment that we remember Him in this way. So, let's be sincere in our time of Communion with our Lord. Let's remember His death as He directed, and let's be considerate during the appointed time so that others are not distracted in their time of communion. **MM**
(ntjude2@gmail.com)

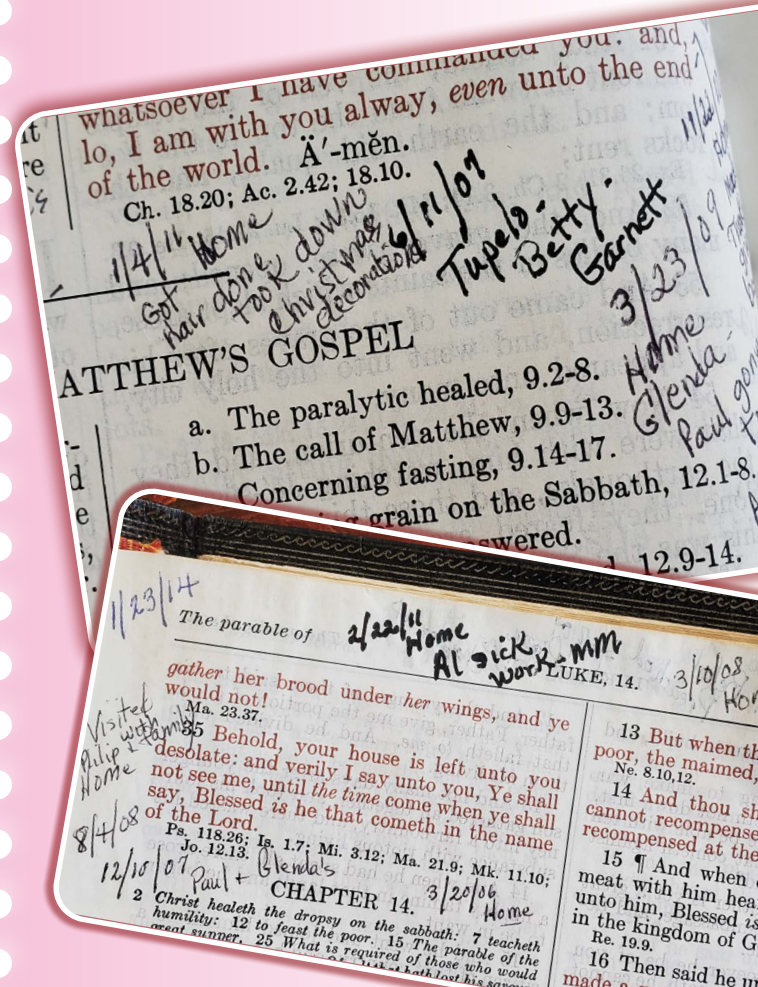
(I saw a note about Mrs. Dixon at a display at the F-HU lectureship back in February. I contacted her and asked if she would be interested in writing us an article. She was excited about the opportunity, and I am pleased by this article. Cindy is married to Greg Dixon, and they worship with their married children and grandchildren at the Northport church of Christ in Northport, Alabama. She conducts ladies' days and workshops on a variety of topics. In addition, she speaks nationally and internationally on the impact water has on the lives of those who live in Sub-Saharan, Africa. She has done mission work in Tanzania, East Africa. -dd)

June's Bible/Diary

I was in June's home recently and there by her chair lay her Bible. As I begin to look through it, I noticed that on many of the pages she had written notes. Now, I write in my Bible, notes in the margin about some verse, word, or chapter. I notice however, that June wrote personal information in the margins of her Bible. Wherever they were in their many travels, as they would attend Bible classes, or around the scripture they were studying that day, or what she was reading in her daily devotions, there were these personal notes about the day: "Arrived home," "Al preached," "Hair done," "in Senatobia," each with the appropriate date.

Looking through it in amazement, I realized that her Bible was also her diary. You knew what she was doing that day by the scriptures she was reading and studying. Her daily life, and the scriptures, where all intertwined together.

Let her life inspire us all to let our Bibles and our lives be connected. The Psalmist wrote, "My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your Law" (Psalms 119: 109). June's Bible was in her life, and her life was in her Bible! -dd



A Spiritual TEMPLE

by Tim McCarter

King Herod, often referred to by historians as “the Great,” began ruling over the Jewish nation in 37 B.C. with the help of the Roman general Gaius Sossius. Although not a Jew himself (he was an Idumean, a descendant of Esau rather than Jacob), he tried to ingratiate himself with his Jewish subjects by various means.

One of the ways in which Herod tried to gain favor with the Jews was by taking a Jewish wife (one of at least eight that Herod had, some simultaneously). But probably the most prominent thing that Herod did during his reign to curry favor with the Jews was to initiate a vast building program, the most remarkable



Tim McCarter

of which was the rebuilding and enlarging of the Temple in Jerusalem. This project was begun in about 19 B.C. and was not completed until several years after his death.

It was said that the stones used in this project, most of which weighed from one to three tons, were so well dressed that no mortar was needed. The stones fit together so well that not even a sheet of paper could pass between them. There is a spiritual application to the principle of dressing stones for use in building a structure.

According to Scripture, Christians, disciples of Christ, those who are a part of God’s spiritual kingdom, are described in several different ways: “Children of God” (Romans 8:16), “disciple of Christ” (John 13:35), “God’s field” (1 Corinthians 3:9), “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people” (1 Peter 3:9), etc.

But one of the most interesting ways in which Christians are described is as “living stones.” Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, “you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 2:4, 5).

The apostle Paul tells us that we are “God’s building” (1 Corinthians 3:9). He also tells us that such a building is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:20-21).

But notice in Peter’s statement that we are “being built up a spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5, emp. mine - TLM). In other words, this “building up” is a continuing process. When and if we allow Him to do so, God is still “dressing” us so that we fit together properly in His building. Just as Herod’s masons needed no mortar to hold the stones of the Temple together, neither should there be anything needed other than the common bond created by the blood of Christ to hold Christians together.

However, all too often we allow many different things to break us apart and put-up walls, chasms, and fences between us. Please do not misunderstand. I am not suggesting that we compromise the truth of the scriptures in any way. That simply cannot be done. But when we allow things like the use of age appropriate Bible classes, the number of cups used in Communion, the use of digital Bibles instead of paper Bibles, skin color, style of the clothes we wear (as long as it’s modest), and so many other things either not addressed in Scripture or permitted by Scripture but not “traditional” to divide us, we are not allowing God to “dress” us so that we many fit together in His “building” as a “living stone.”

What we should be seeking is unity, not division. Again, unity must be based on the truth of God’s word, not on an ecumenical sense of “unity in spite of differences.” But we must also “bend every effort” (endeavoring) to “keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3). **MM**

*Tim McCarter, Minister Cleveland church of Christ
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Update on Mayfield Kentucky Tornado

by Jane Vaden
Oliver Creek
Church of Christ
Bartlett, Tennessee

(Note: This report arrived too late to get it in our March printing, but I felt it was worth sharing with our readers even now. It highlights the Christian efforts that continue to be done in places hit by natural disasters. I appreciate Jane Vaden for her efforts and for this good report.- dd)

When an EF4 tornado tore across four states in four hours the night of Dec. 10, it devastated communities in Arkansas, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky. That's when disaster relief efforts associated with Churches of Christ followed close behind as they usually do.

Operating out of the Northside Church of Christ and the Seven Oaks Church of Christ in hard-hit Mayfield, four coordinators with the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team began organizing volunteers. However, all four contracted COVID-19, and the organization's December relief efforts halted for a while. The local congregations decided not to house volunteers as coronavirus cases surged.

Two years into a global pandemic, COVID-19 had once again made relief efforts more difficult to organize. Retirees, a group particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus, make up the majority of volunteers. This created hesitancy among retired volunteers.

But while the omicron surge has limited the reach of coordinators and the number of volunteers with both disaster assistance organizations, local Christians mobilized to serve their communities. They're making it work.

The night of the tornado, Mandy Lovett was home with her five children. Her husband, Corey, had gone out in the dark to help with search and rescue efforts underway in their small community of Benton, Ky,



about 25 miles east of Mayfield.

Mandy felt compelled to do something. Sitting at home, her heart yearned to do something for those affected by the disaster. She started small, opening her family's home to volunteers and feeding anyone who needed a meal. The concept quickly spread, and her sister suggested housing larger volunteer groups at their congregation, the Walnut Grove Church of Christ.

Mandy was described to me by a volunteer from Ohio as a "ball of fire".

Then the Lovetts heard that the Churches of Christ Disaster Response Team had to halt operations due to limited coordinators and housing. Mandy's husband reached out to them and told them not to halt it but suggested to just move it over to Walnut Grove COC in Benton. "We have this space. We need the work to continue. We can help with this", he messaged them. By early January, the disaster response team had resumed volunteer registration, this time, based 25 minutes from Mayfield.

Mandy Lovett stepped into the unofficial role of coordinator, making a list of what areas would've been in the path of the tornado for volunteers to assess and note needs. A whiteboard listed which roads the tornado devastated in their county. Working systematically, volunteers crossed out the list — a task that took two weeks to complete. All this was new to them but they got it done.

My husband and I delivered 25 BBQ butts and a large BBQ beef brisket plus 6 gallons of baked beans to Walnut Grove Church of Christ in Benton, Ky. We saw where they are feeding victims and volunteers and housing volunteers from as far away as Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Oklahoma. We spoke with the pastor of Xenia Church of Christ from Xenia, Ohio. He helped us take the food into the kitchen there and put it in the freezer. It was gladly received and will hopefully feed many, both volunteers and others needing a hot meal in their tummies.

I am so happy and proud to be a part of what the Churches of Christ Disaster Response, Relief and Assistance teams do in times such as these. Christians helping others, and blessing the world. **MM**



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THE LORD'S SUPPER: A TIME TO REMEMBER JESUS

by *Brandon Baggett, Minister
Eastern Meadows Church of Christ
Montgomery, AL*

Just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. lies one of the most moving, memorable sights to witness in this great nation. Stretched across 639 rolling and forested acres, this solemn plot of land is known as the Arlington National Cemetery. This impressive memorial is the final resting place for the remains of more than 400,000 men and women who faithfully served the United States of America and gave their lives in the defense of our freedoms. In addition to the ordered rows of white marble headstones dotting the landscape, Arlington is home to other stirring memorials, including the respected Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This place of silence and respect is devoted to remembering and reflecting. It's a memorial that tugs at the strings of our hearts and reminds us that freedom isn't free. Our current freedoms are only possible because of the long line of sacrifices that were willingly made by the men and women of our past. Arlington is a place to remember.

For the people of God, though, there is a solemn and sacred memorial that far surpasses all others. It's a memorial that has been in place for generations. It's been observed countless times. It will continue to be celebrated until this world comes to an end. This memorial is none other than the Lord's Supper, a weekly act of Communion where God's people remember Jesus. As the Savior said Himself, "Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:24-25 ESV). As God's people eat the bread and drink the fruit of the vine, our minds center on the person and perfect work of Jesus.

Truly, there is no greater way to begin each week than by remembering God's Son and His divine work of redemption on our behalf. As we remember Jesus through Communion, God is actually reminding us of some important truths we cannot forget. Consider a few things our Father is helping us to see as we remember the work of Jesus each week through the Lord's Supper.

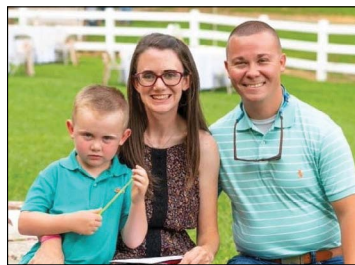


Remembering Jesus reminds us that we have sinned. As we think of Jesus on the cross, we cannot help but see the seriousness of our sin. As the Scriptures teach, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 ESV). Jesus was suspended between heaven and earth, bearing all the shame and suffering He endured, because we sinned. He bore every pain and horror of crucifixion because of our sins and shortcomings. Even though He "committed no sin, neither was deceit

found in his mouth" (1 Peter 2:22 ESV), Jesus willingly "bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24 ESV). How many times have you broken the heart of God? In what ways have you failed to live up to God's expectations for your life? What shortcomings haunt the memories of your past? If we had not sinned, then we would not have needed a Savior. Remembering Jesus is a painful but needful weekly reminder that we have sinned.

Remembering Jesus reminds us that we cannot save ourselves. As we contemplate the work of our Savior, we are compelled to realize our utter helplessness to save ourselves. As sinners, there was nothing we could do to rescue ourselves from the hopelessness and despair of our plight. A lifetime of good works could not have saved us. No amount of money could have been collected to pay off our spiritual debt. Nobody could have been "good enough" to earn their way back into fellowship with God. We needed God's help! We were wholly unable to save ourselves. We needed God to move and act graciously on our behalf. We need God's saving grace! That's why the Bible says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9 ESV). We need Jesus because He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we should have died. Remembering Jesus through Communion helps us to weekly think on the fact that we need Him and we would be nothing without Him.

Remembering Jesus reminds us that we are special to God. As we recall Jesus through the Lord's Supper, we gain a clearer picture of the love of God in action. While the cross was once a symbol



Brandon Baggett and Family

of reproach and horror, it is now a symbol of hope. After all, it was through the cross that the God of Heaven stretched out His hands in love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness. As Paul thought about Jesus, He knew Him as the "Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Even though we sinned and didn't deserve God's mercy and forgiveness, He sent His Son to pay the penalty for our pardon. He gave His Son to die so that we might live. His suffering made our salvation possible. So as we remember Jesus, let us remember that the Gospel is good news! Let's remember there is a God in Heaven who deeply loves us and longs for us to live with Him in sweet fellowship.

You see, remembering Jesus on Sunday as we take the Lord's Supper is more than just replaying the hours of His crucifixion in our memory. It's about mentally recognizing and grappling with the significance of His redeeming work. Remembering Jesus is more than merely recalling what He did; it's about understanding and celebrating why He did what He did for us. So as you take the bread this week and drink the fruit of the vine, let your mind go back to the cross and truly remember Jesus. Your worship will be impacted! Your life will be changed! We can't ever forget Jesus! **MM**

(It was good to visit with Branden recently and I appreciate this young man's dedication to the Lord's work and for this good article. -dd)

"How Great Thou Art"

by Ronald Johnson
Searcy, Arkansas

All of you are familiar with the hymn "How Great Thou Art." It is probably my favorite hymn, and my favorite verse in the song is the third verse, although every verse is excellent. I'm going to go through this third verse phrase by phrase and make a few comments on the words.

It begins with **"And when I think."** That is exactly what we should be doing as we partake of the Lord's Supper. Think deeply about the meaning of what you are participating in, and that Jesus made a point on the night before His crucifixion that His apostles then, and all Christians forever after should remember Him by celebrating this memorial every Sunday. Please don't let your mind wander at this most significant time.

The next words are **"that God His Son not sparing, sent Him to die."** God the Father and His Son had been together in perfect harmony from eternity past, and they loved each other with a perfect love, and yet the Father was willing to have His Son leave Paradise to come to Earth where He would suffer horribly on the cross while also being totally humiliated, treated as an ordinary criminal.

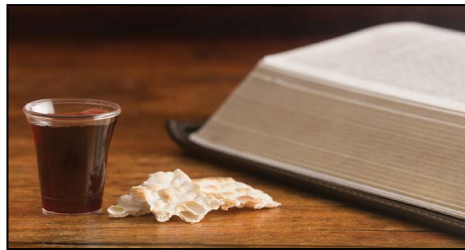
"I scarce can take it in" should express our attitude of amazement and gratitude that we have a God who loves us so much that He would make that sacrifice.

"That on the cross my burden gladly bearing" says that we were the ones who should have been hanging on the cross, for it was our sin, not His, that He was dying for. And He did it gladly for the joy set before Him of defeating Satan, sin and death, and thereby having us with Him for eternity.

"He bled and died to take away my sin." When we partake of the fruit of the vine, we acknowledge that it is only by the blood He shed that we can have remission of our sins, past, present, and future.

After we have contemplated all of this, what more can we say but **"How Great Thou Art."** Let us think about our Savior as we partake of this memorial. **MM**

<johnson.ronald1@yahoo.com>



Flickers of Light

FROM THE BIBLE

by Bill Lambert

What do you think? Years ago, many Christians displayed little plaques that read, "I AM THIRD." This heralded the message "Jesus is first; others are second; I am third!" The Bible tells us to put Jesus above ourselves (Mt. 6:33; 8:18-22). The Bible also tells us not to think too highly of ourselves; to honor others above ourselves (Rom. 12:3, 10). In fact, the Bible says humble servants are the truly great (Matt. 18:1-4; 20:25-26). I think that, in our effort to restore N. T. Christianity, we need to focus on restoring the spirit of humility and service. This would compel us to focus more on what the Bible says; be more submissive to God's teachings; and, better meet the needs of those who need help, nurturing, and the gospel message. What do you think? - BL

NOTICE TO READERS

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MM - MISSION REPORT • 2022

"We are Family"

Churches Respond to Ukrainian Crisis

by *Danny Dodd, Minister*
Levy Church of Christ
North Little Rock, Arkansas

Over the last few months, the world has been shocked by the horrific images and news coming out of the conflict in Ukraine. Thousands of lives have been senselessly lost and millions of people have been displaced. It has created an incredible humanitarian crisis for those who still remain in the war-ravaged country as well as for those who have escaped—living as refugees in Europe and elsewhere. Thankfully Christians across the globe have mobilized to respond to this crisis. Churches across the United States have rallied with relief support. Many have filled up boxes or buckets with needed supplies to then be shipped over and distributed to those still in Ukraine or to refugees who remain in neighboring countries. My home congregation, the Levy Church of Christ in North Little Rock, AR, is one such church. We filled buckets with needed items—praying over them for the Ukrainians who would receive them and for this terrible war to end. Through efforts like this in congregations all over our nation, thousands are being blessed.



Danny Dodd

But it is not just American Christians who are involved. All across Europe relief efforts are underway. For instance, in the Netherlands, one sister, Olga Orlachs, has not only gotten involved in providing humanitarian relief but also has involved others (including Americans) in helping to collect funds and supplies, which are taken by van to Poland and then into Ukraine.

Mark and Karen Abercrombie, whom the Levy church supports as missionaries in Leipzig, Germany, have renovated their church building in order to house Ukrainian refugees, actually working within a governmental program to help them through this transition period. Mark says, "We are just seeking to help them, love them, and give them some hope for the future." He further requests:

"Please pray for the effort here in Europe, to help the transition of so many women and children to a place of safety. Not only did these women and children have to flee their homes, but most of them left their husbands and older sons who were fighting for their country in that war-torn land."

A wonderful place of refuge for several Ukrainian women and their children is located in the countryside of France at Restored and Renewed Ministry. Several years ago, a Levy couple, both licensed counselors, fulfilled a vision of providing a retreat for missionaries in Europe by starting this incredible ministry. They purchased and renovated an old chateau in Lafauche, France, and now offer rest and renewal for missionaries in Europe and beyond. It is an amazing place of refreshment from the stresses and challenges of mission work. Sherry Pogue (her husband Allen, a former Levy

minister and elder, has since gone on to be with the Lord) and her team hosted these refugees. Sherry reports that it was a joy to host them. Among them was 89-year-old Luda who Sherry describes as "tough as nails and sweet as honey." Another was a precious six-month-old girl, Mia, who made the difficult journey with her family out of the war zone to France. Sherry states:

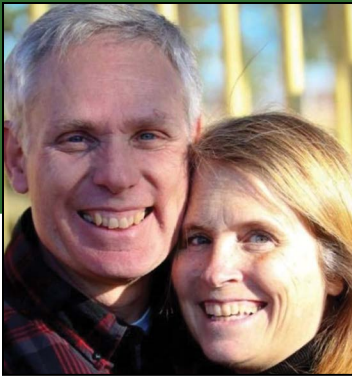
"What an inspiration they are to me! God has blessed me beyond measure to be a part of this with them. It is not always easy. Life is



Heart shaped unleavened bread with the Ukraine Bible in the background

messy with family. But we ARE family. So, we will just keep on doing what we can to make this the best home for our new family. For now, we will live in the springtime, in sunshine, and trust in our Father to care for us. He will make the path straight wherever it leads."

For some of the refugees the escape path led them to the nearby country of Lithuania. Ilia and Davia Amosov, who serve in the congregation in the city of Klaipeda on the Baltic Sea, are working with city agencies to organize aid and care for Ukrainian families there. One mother, Olha and her 9-year-old daughter, who fled from their hometown of Ivano-Frankovsk, are worshipping regularly with the Klaipeda church. Ilia reports that the church has helped her financially, but as he stated, "we found out her greatest need is not money, but fellowship and support since she feels really lonely." No doubt this is a feeling being shared by most who have been forced



Mark and Karen Abercrombie



Many congregations are collecting "Buckets for Ukraine."



Ukrainian refugees meeting with Christians in Warsaw Poland.

from their homes.

Another destination for many Ukrainians is the neighboring country of Poland. Warsaw, the capital city, has been described as "ground zero for refugees." At ground zero is Luksaz and Nicole Kondracki and their family. Luksaz is the bi-vocational minister for the small congregation in Warsaw. Through much effort they have been working to house and provide for 45 refugees—mostly women and children along with four men. Their long-term plan is to rent and renovate a former hostel in the center of Warsaw. It has the potential to house over 100 people. Currently (as of this writing) the Ukrainians are staying at an old lakeside retreat near Warsaw, but this is only temporary. Luksaz and other Christians have been traveling to the retreat each Sunday to worship with the refugees.

Within all of these refugee groups are both Christian and non-Christians fleeing the violence in their home country. Some in this process have come to Christ. Vita, a young woman, was one such person. She put Christ on in baptism after more fully realizing the gospel story once in Warsaw.

She is not alone. God is working in these most difficult days. Many, if not most of the refugees, will likely never return to their homeland. Their country, their towns, their families, and their lives have been turned upside down and forever altered, but in the midst of it many are discovering a different kind of new life—one defined by Jesus. For that we praise God!

And who knows how this story will end; what chapters are yet to be written. Each Christian mentioned in this article not only have the Lord in common, but also the Baltic Family Camp, which happens annually in Moletai, Lithuania. Missionaries and Christians

from all over Europe attend this camp, along with a group of us from the States, for rest and refreshment together in Christ.

If God wills and the war does not infringe, we are all looking to open up the camp this summer to these refugees; to encourage them in their distress; to support them in their struggle; and to continue to share with them the hope that is found only in Christ Jesus.

In the meantime, let's all keep praying for Ukraine; for the war to end; and for the refugees; as well as keep supporting the good works of our brothers and sisters in Europe and elsewhere who are on the front-line of this crisis. We are family!

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers" (Galatians 6:10). **MM**

Report from Mission Committee at Oliver Creek congregation in Bartlett, Tennessee;

All of our missionaries (Three families) are alive and accounted for. Praise God! The church collected \$3,000 in extra giving for Ukraine missions. We sent support to our interpreter in Ukraine. We also sent \$2,000 to the Sunset International Bible Institute. They are coordinating relief efforts for refugees. We are still sending our regularly committed financial support to our missionaries, while clothing was sent to Poland to refugees.

Note From Ukraine:

Dear brothers and sisters! Thank you for your prayers and your concern

I'll start with the sad news. This morning, as a result of a missile strike on the railway station of the city of Kramatorsk, our sister Lilia Bolkhovetskaya died. Blessed memory of our sister. She was an active member of the church, was baptized in 1999 and was a faithful helper in all matters of the church.



If I WERE THE DEVIL!

I might just convince man to focus on the LOVE of Jesus so much and with man's lack of knowledge of scripture he'll overlook his part of God's salvation plan to abide in the doctrine.

by Mark Bridges

Many years ago, Paul Harvey wrote an article, "If I Were the Devil." Google it. It's very interesting seeing what he would do if he were the Devil.

The Bible tells us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8). The Devil understands our weaknesses—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17)—and will use them in any way to devour us and bring us down.

This got me to thinking. The Devil's goal is to keep us separated from God by whatever means possible. What tool might the Devil use to complete his mission of keeping us from obeying God and living according to God's will?

If I were the Devil, why not lead people astray like with Adam and Eve, by adding one word to what God had told them and convince everyone that Jesus'

love has "fixed" everything so there is no need to keep His commandments. Besides, it's been proven mankind cannot do that because all are sinful (Romans 3:23).

So, what about the tool of LOVE? Yes, LOVE. Hang on and hear me out. The way the Devil has twisted, and will always twist, the Scriptures, plus mankind's general lack of knowledge of the Scripture, he has a chance.

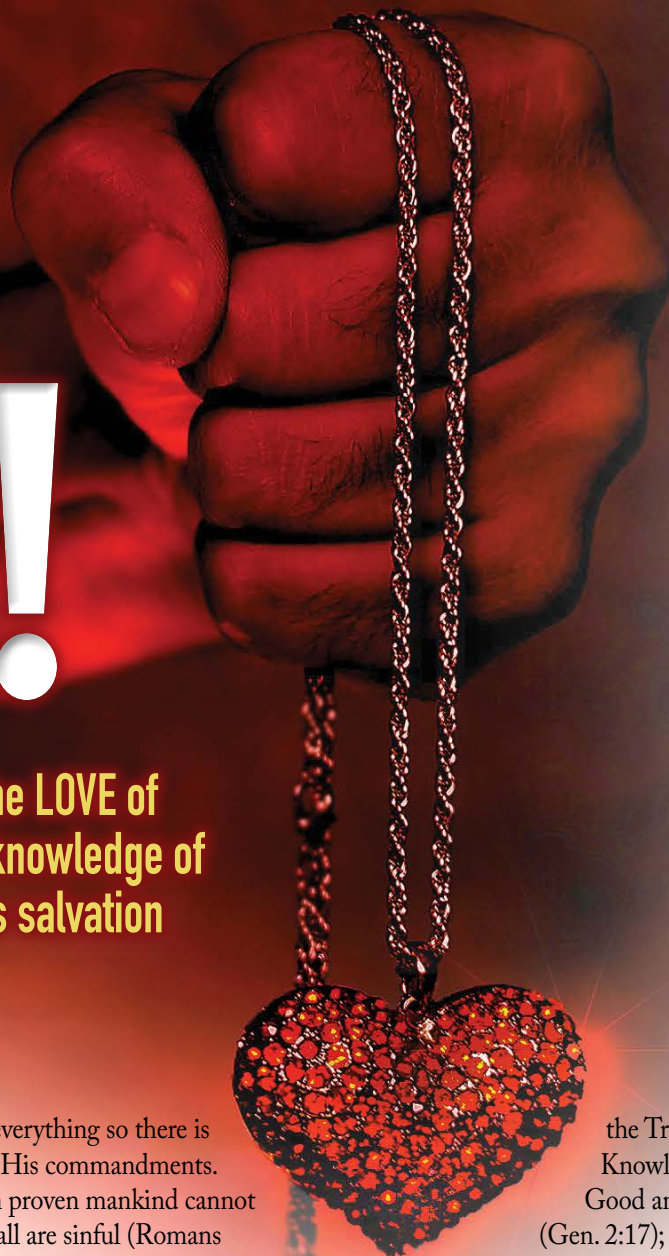
The religious world today overly focuses on the love of God to the point of letting knowledge of His words of obedience slip away, are forgotten, even ignored. Yes, if I were the Devil, I might put more emphasis on God's love and downplay the thought of obedience and submission to the way of life God desires from us.

From the beginning and throughout the Bible we read many stories of God's servants obeying His commands and showing their faith in Him. From the beginning: Adam and Eve, don't eat of

the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil (Gen. 2:17); Noah, build yourself an ark ...

this is how you are to make it (Gen. 6:14-17); Abraham, leave your land, and leave your family (Gen. 12:1-3); Moses, lead My people (Ex. 3:10). The Prophets were given instructions and warnings for the people, and the Apostles were given all authority to instruct the Church on how to be obedient servants.

All these things seem to show a love for God through obedience by doing what He asked. The very act of Jesus coming to be a perfect sacrifice shows obedience to God the Father and love for us. There is no question that God and Jesus love us, but is love enough to complete the circle of our relationship? Yes, and it's as simple as the parent-child relationship. We show our love through obedience and respect by obeying our parents because it "is



well-pleasing to the Lord" (Colossians 3:20). The same is true of our love for God.

Christ has proven His love for God the Father and for us by His death on the cross. The shedding of His blood, which cleanses us of our sins, give us "redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace" (Ephesians 1:7).

Think about this: if the LOVE of Jesus is the end-all and "fixed" the sin problem, why do we have other books after Jesus died that give us instructions on how to live and worship and overcome the evil one? God and Christ showed Their love, so it seems that obeying is our way of showing our love for God, with a committed life of service that works with the love of God.

The Bible tells us that Christ crucified was a stumbling block for the Jews of the day (1 Corinthians 1:22-24). If I were the Devil, I might use the LOVE of Christ as a stumbling block and convince everyone that His LOVE took care of our being obedient, so we're free from the need to "KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS."

Saying we love God or Christ, and believing They love us is just not enough according to the scripture, unless your goal is to lead people away from obeying God, which is always the Devil's desire.

I'd use Jesus' LOVE for us as a tool to destroy all the other words and commands He's given us, even though He said, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" (John 14:21). "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love" (John 15:10).

Don't let the Devil devour you

with false teaching or misleading scriptures about His LOVE. READ YOUR BIBLE! It's the tool God gave us to use against the Devil. Remember when the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4)? He just added the word NOT to what God said.

God's LOVE does not take away our role of obedience, or the works of the flesh. Jesus was an example for us of obedience to God the Father. Think about it, but please don't misunderstand me. I know we can't earn our salvation; we can't work our way into Heaven, but Paul commended the Thessalonians for their "work of faith and labor of love" (1 Thess. 1:3), love for God shown through obedience.

Following the Apostles' teachings, we by submitting, obeying, and abiding in His word, are qualified for salvation through the blood and love of Christ. Christ's love was free to us but cost Him His life. Surely, living for Christ will cost us obedience, and maybe our own lives, because of our love for Him. Remember when Araunah offered to give David a threshing floor? And David told Araunah he would offer no burnt offerings "to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing."

The Devil wants to devour us by any means possible. Do NOT underestimate his ability to twist even the love of Christ to gain a soul! **MM**

My people are destroyed
for **lack of knowledge.**
Because you have **rejected knowledge,**
I also will reject you from being priest for Me;
Because **you have forgotten the law**
of your God, I also will forget
your children.

Hosea 4:6

Abiding in Me!

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

2 John 1:9

He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 2:6

And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:17

Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 3:24

And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

1 John 4:16

If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

John 15:7

who desires
all men to
be saved and to
come to the
knowledge of
the truth.

1 Timothy 2:4

Grace and peace
be multiplied to you
in the **knowledge of God**
and of Jesus our Lord,

2 Peter 1:2

Visiting among Churches in north Mississippi

By *Eddie Lewis, Missionary to North Mississippi, 9423 Laurel Hill, Olive Branch, MS 38654. E-mail: lewis7946@gmail.com*

November 2021 through January 2022

By Eddie Lewis

We appreciate so much the opportunity to inform you about our mission work among the churches in North Mississippi. We appreciate the Germantown church of Christ sponsoring us in this ministry. This report covers ten Sundays during the months of February through April 2022. I served three of these Sundays as an interim preacher for the Coffeeville church of Christ. Also, I preached for churches in Cleveland, and Pine Bluff in Toccopola, MS and Batesville. We visited with four other congregation and met two new preachers in Mississippi.

Three Sundays I preached for the Coffeeville church of Christ. Please continue to pray for the church as they look for a full-time preacher. Madolyn and I always enjoy visiting with the church family there. They have no elders and around 40 in attendance.

In the worship I presented lessons on, "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory" based on Colossians 1:27, "The Love of God" based on John 3:16, and "Love Helps Those Who Cannot Help Themselves." It's a great series of lessons on how to grow in our Christlikeness.

■ **February 6:** Madolyn and I attended our sponsoring congregation, Germantown church of Christ. We wanted to be part of the Ministry Fair that Sunday and represent our mission work in Mississippi.

We attended a joint Bible class in the Fellowship Hall. Larry Scroggs was finish-

ing up his study of the Gospel of Mark. It was a very interesting lesson.

Dave Phillips preached on "My Place in the Body" based on 1 Corinthians 12. He encouraged us to use our talents and abilities in service to the Body of Christ.

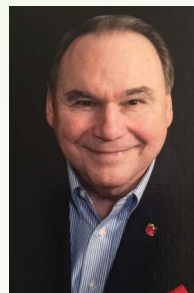
Sunday evening we traveled to Henderson, TN, and attended the FHU Lectureships. Dr. David Shannon, the president of FHU, was the keynote speaker. His lesson was on the "Compassion of Christ" found in the Gospel of Luke. He challenged everyone present to grow in our compassion for others and share with them the love of Christ. It was a great lesson. It was good seeing old friends from all over the country.

■ **February 12:** Madolyn and I attended Delta Enrichment at the West President church in Greenwood, MS. This year's



Tim McCarter, Gene Hill, Eddie Lewis, Luke Quinn, Jeff Jenkins at the Delta Enrichment

speaker was Jeff Jenkins from the Jenkins Institute. Jeff's theme was "Leaving a Lasting Legacy." He talked about marriage and the family. Several churches from the Mississippi Delta were present. It was a great series of lessons and a wonderful



time of fellowship.

It was great to visit with Jeff and learn about his ministry. He and his brother, Dale, have formed the institute in memory of their father, Jerry Jenkins. Their work is dedicated to encouraging preachers around the world through seminars, books, podcasts, and other ways. I know they have been, and will continue to be, a blessing to many preachers and their families.

■ **February 27:** I was invited to preach for the Pine Bluff church of Christ in Toccopola, MS. Allen Drewrey is the bi-vocational minister there. He and his wife were away



Tony Coleman and Me-Pine Bluff

at a conference getting some CEU hours for their work. Madolyn and I visited with the church in January and were pleased to be able to return and speak at the congregation. We enjoyed lunch after services with the Berries, the Colemans and the Brewers. They have three elders and around 40 in attendance.

One of the elders, Tony Coleman led us in the adult Bible class. They were studying the book of Ephesians. They were in chapter two and talked about the state of man before becoming a Christian. It was a good study.

In the worship I preached on "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory" based on Colossians 1:27. It is a wonderful lesson on the importance of us growing in the image of Christ.

■ **March 6:** I was invited to preach at the Cleveland church of Christ. Tim McCarter is the minister there. He and his wife,

Debbie, were out of town on vacation. I appreciated the invitation to sub for Tim. Madolyn and I know lots of folks there and appreciate the excellent work they are doing on the campus of DSU. They have two elders and around 40 in at-

tendance. We enjoyed a fellowship meal after the morning service and had the evening service after lunch.

In Bible class we looked at the golden text of the Bible, John 3:16. We considered each word of the text and showed the great love of God for man.

In worship I preached the sermon "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory" based on Colossians 1:27. It is a great lesson on growing into Christlikeness. We considered several passages that emphasize the importance of us being mature in our faith and growing in righteousness.

In the p.m. worship my lesson was "Love Helps Those Who Cannot Help Themselves." We looked at the fall of man and how God has brought reconciliation to us. Madolyn and I enjoyed our day of worship and fellowship with old friends.

■ **March 20:** Madolyn and I visited with the Antioch church of Christ near Blue Springs, MS. Ray Kennedy has been the preacher there for five years. He is a retired teacher/educator. He worked with the Union County School system. We enjoyed visiting with Ray and Pat, and eating lunch with them after services. It was good visiting with the folks at Antioch. The last time I had visited with



Ray and Pat Kennedy-Antioch Blue Springs

them was in 2015. They have around 70 in attendance and two elders. They have an active youth program. We enjoyed our visit.

Ray taught the adult Bible class. They are using the book "The Old Testament Book by Book." It is a part of the "Engraving Heavenly Truth Series." They only had a couple more lessons before they would start a new study. They talked about some of the minor prophets: Zephaniah through Malachi. It was an interesting study.

In the worship service Ray preached on "The Tabernacle: Shadow of the

Church." He considered several verses that compare the Old Testament Tabernacle to the church that Jesus built. Jesus was the new high priest and His offering for our sins was his own blood. It was a good lesson. We had a good visit.

■ **March 27:** Madolyn and I visited with the Marlow church of Christ near Walnut, MS. Danny Eldridge is the new bi-vocational minister there. We happened to be there for his first Sunday. It was a pleasure to meet Danny and his two daughters. They live in Henderson and



Danny Eldridge

will commute on Sundays. They had their fourth Sunday fellowship, so we stayed and got to visit with several of the members. They have no elders and about 40 in attendance. It was good

to visit with the church again.

Danny taught the Bible class. He looked at James 2:14-26, and discussed the relationship between faith and works. There was lots of good discussion. It was a good class.

In the worship Danny presented a lesson on "Grace Applied" based on Ephesians 2:8-10. He said it was a continuation of his Bible class lesson. He did a good job of discussing Grace and how Grace is conditional based on our faith. Our faith is seen in our response to God's word. It was a good lesson. We certainly enjoyed our visit and wish him the very best as he works with the good folks there.

■ **Sunday Night,** we attended the Area Wide Worship Service at the Germantown church of Christ. Several congregations from the Memphis area gathered to worship. It is a bi-annual service that brings together racially diverse congrega-



Michael Jackson and Tim Alsup

tions. The speakers were Tim Alsup from the Great Oaks congregation and Michael

Jackson for the Boulevard congregation. Their theme was the "Love and Power of God" based on Deuteronomy 7 and 8. Both gave wonderful lessons, and the singing was truly marvelous.

■ **March 28:** Madolyn and I attended a Gospel Meeting at West President church of Christ in Greenwood, MS. David Lipe was the guest speaker. David is originally from Pope, MS, and always enjoys coming back to Mississippi to preach. He retired a few years ago as a Bible Professor at FHU. It was good to see David and hear



David Lipe

him preach. In his lesson he answered the popular statement, "It doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere." He considered the story of Rehoboam's rise to power in Israel

and Jeroboam's deception of the northern ten tribes. It was a great lesson.

■ **April 3:** Madolyn and I visited with the Ripley church of Christ. They have a new minister. Donnie DeBord has been working with the congregation for just a few months. He is a bi-vocational minister teaching at FHU in the Bible Department. Dr. DeBord teaches Systematic Christian Doctrine in the graduate and undergraduate programs. They are very happy to have Donnie and his family working with the congregation again. The church has



Jessie and Donnie DeBord

three elders and a little over 200 in attendance. They are involved in many works and have an active youth program lead by their youth minister, Cody Hardin. We enjoyed eating lunch with Donnie, Jessie, and their children and Michael and Allison Harrison. Michael is one of the elders.

Continued from page 25

Donnie taught the Auditorium Bible Class. They are studying the book of Ephesians. They were in chapter two. He did a great job of describing the man lost in sin and how God in His grace saved us. In the worship Donnie presented the lesson "The Return of the King of Kings" based on Matthew 3. He talked about the mission of John the Baptist and how the coming of Christ was the fulfillment of John's mission. It was an excellent lesson.

■ **April 17:** I was invited to preach for the Batesville church of Christ. Michael Bates is the long-time minister there. He and his family, along with 49 others from the congregation, were away attending L2L in Little Rock. I understand that their young people did well in all their events. They told the young people, "It's not about winning, but that you learn something and grow in your spirituality." That is a true statement.

The church in Batesville has two elders and around 200 in attendance. They support several mission works. One of those works is the Christian Student Center at MDCC. There were two responses to the



Michael and Kathy Bates

invitation. One young girl came forward and put on Christ in baptism. Her grandfather got to baptize her. It was special to see that. Also, one lady came asking for prayers for herself and her son and her sister who have cancer. Please remember them in your prayers.

In Bible class I presented the lesson, "The Great Manifestation of God's Love" based on John 3:16. We discussed several of the words in this passage and their meaning. In worship I preached on "Christ in You, the Hope of Glory" based on Colossians 1:27. I looked at how we can grow in Christ. We must gain knowledge of Christ through God's word and walk with Him daily. We need to develop friends that can encourage us in our spiritual walk. It's a good lesson. We enjoyed our visit with the good folks in Batesville. **MM**

■ Update on CSC:

In February we had a good month at the Christian Student Center at MDCC. We averaged around 25 students in our Wednesday night Bible study. Most are from the men's basketball team. They continue to show an interest as we encourage them about their relationship with Christ. You can view our Wednesday night Bible studies anytime on Facebook at CSC@MDCC.

On February 15, we met with the two Christian student centers at DSU in Cleveland. Both the Bolivar and Cleveland churches have student center works. We were trying to have a special devotional and cookout with both groups to introduce our students to the student centers at DSU. We had a good meeting and planned a special get together at CSC @ MDCC for March 29th.

The first two Wednesday nights in March our attendance was down. With



Group at bonfire

the end of basketball season some of the students stopped attending. The third week we had players from the baseball team to come and boosted our attendance back up to 19.

Tuesday night, March 29th we had the bonfire devotional on the back property of the student center and the two Christian Student Centers from DSU joined us. We had around 19 students to come. It was a great time of fellowship and fun. We had games, hotdogs, chips, and s'mores to eat. The students got to meet and develop new friendships with the students from DSU. We are hoping as our students leave MDCC and further their education that they will seek out the centers there if they go to DSU.

We finished out the spring semester with our final Wednesday night study on April 27.

We had eight students to come and say good-bye for the summer. Four of these students will be back in the fall. We are thankful for that core group. We



Wednesday study group

thank you for your prayers and support of CSC. **MM**



READERS' RESPONSE

*Reasons Why We Continue
Publishing the Magnolia Messenger*

■ We appreciate the good work done with the publishing of the Magnolia Messenger.

(Victoria Newell, Hendersonville, TN)

■ God be with you. Love the Messenger and all the spiritual lessons that we receive for our soul and eternity dwelling!

(Velma Scott, Hurley, MS)

■ May God Continue to bless your efforts...

(Dale Terrebonne, Utica, MS)

■ Just a quick note of thanks. I really appreciate getting these ["Inscriptions;"] and the work you do with the Messenger. May God bless!

(Patrick Jones)

■ I enjoy the magazine very

much! The hard work all of you put into it is much appreciated. God bless each of you.

(Elizabeth Todd, Clarksdale, MS)

■ I'm grateful for the effort put forth by all your staff. Please keep up the good work. I enjoy the Messenger so much. May God continue to bless your efforts.

(Elizabeth Dickerson, DeQuincy, LA)

■ Would you please send the Magnolia Messenger to Adams County Nursing Center in Natchez. There's a resident that would like to get a good Christian magazine and I couldn't think of a better one. Thank you so much and God bless you.

(Glenda Wilson, Natchez, MS)

"PREACHER STUFF"

If you are a preacher, you need to be getting "Preacher Stuff."

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It is done by Dan Williams, minister, Franklin, Tennessee

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EQUIP 2022

September 9,10, 2022

Waxahachie, Texas

The workshop is designed for Bible teachers, Ministry leaders and workers in God's Kingdom. Last year's workshop was a success with over 300 attendees from 30 congregations.

*If you are interested in reserving display space, or need other information, contact: **April Askew, event coordinator,** at 512.466.3811, or email her at **aaskew1955@yahoo.com.***



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Church of Christ
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Sue, Pat, & Peggy Berry

(Dickson, TN)

JUNE FRANKS BOOKER

Jeff Booker
(Savannah, TN)

RUBY REAGAN

Margie McKinney
(Natchez, MS)

IN HONOR OF

DENNIS & KATHY

DOUGHTY
Tim & Cindy Wood
(Bartlett, TN)

JULIUS LEE WALES

PATRILLA MADDOX
Wilda Pounds
(Booneville, MS)

JAY ALEXANDER

Barbara Persinger
(DeRidder, LA)

JAMES PATTERSON

Barbara Persinger
(DeRidder, LA)

MAGNOLIA
MM
MESSENGER

OUTREACH – MISSISSIPPI:

“Person to Person Missions”

Eddie and Madelyn Lewis

A wonderful opportunity has opened up for anyone who has a heart and love for reaching the lost by doing mission work. Yes, and it is right here in Mississippi.

How many times have you thought about what a rewarding life it is to be involved in seeing a church grow and know you are being used in a way that is so pleasing to your Heavenly Father. If you are one of these people, then an opportunity is at your door. We are looking for individuals that have flexible time to go to an area where the church is very small and will die without help. You would stay in the home of good, strong Christian people, and spend about three days a week doing exactly what missionaries do when they go to a foreign country; socialize, make friends, teach the Bible and see the church grow as God gives the increase.

You don't have to go to a foreign country to be a missionary. It cost you nothing but your time. You grow in love, fellowship with new church families, and most of all YOU grow as a child of God. The benefits are eternal. We have couples ready to open their hearts and homes in various communities in MS right now. Please pray with us that we can find those that will reach out to their brethren that are suffering. Churches are dying and buildings are being sold. The time to help with this mission work IS NOW. To find out more details please call Jackie Meadows (901-308-3994). **MM**

On the “first day of the week.”

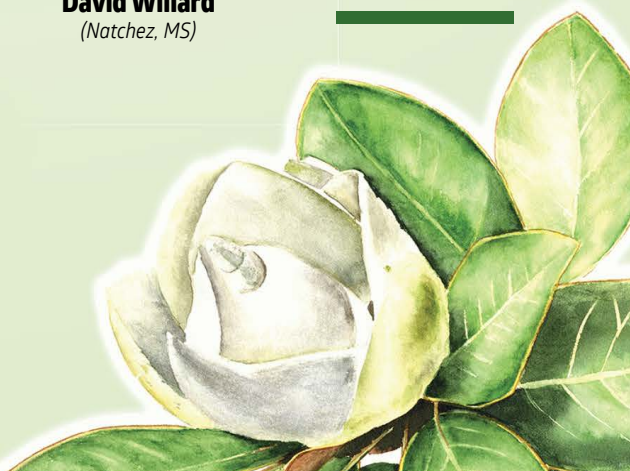
Guy N. Woods Comments about Acts 20:7:

(Brother Woods was one of the greatest Biblical scholars of the 20th century. His comments on this passage are well worth considering. -dd)

On the “first day of the week.” They came together on the first day of the week, “to break bread,” -to worship. “Break bread” here is likely a synecdoche for all the items of worship: Teaching, singing, the contribution, the Lord's Supper, and praying (Acts 2:42), derived, of course, from the fact that bread was “broken” (eaten) in the Lord's Supper.

Otherwise, where is authority for “fruit of the vine” in Acts 20:7? On the assumption that the phrase, “to break bread,” is a literal, and not a figurative allusion, this passage, at least, could not be cited to support activity other than breaking a piece of bread. In this case, where is authority here for the items of worship? It seems clear, therefore, that the phrase, “to break bread,” is a figurative statement embracing all the items of worship, including the Lord's Supper. **MM**

From “Questions and Answers,” page 67



The MAGNOLIA MESSENGERS

Preacher SEARCH

COFFEEVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

A congregation of 45-60 people. A 3-bedroom 2-bath house is provided.

Jim Peters 662-675-8623

John Allen 662-473-8702

MONTICELLO CHURCH OF CHRIST

A 150-yr old congregation in Monticello, Arkansas, is seeking a full-time minister. We have 100-120 members, 3 elders, 8 deacons, and a college minister, with a good mix of both younger and older members. Compensation includes a three-bedroom home on three acres of land right next to the church building. **Search Committee, c/o Monticello church of Christ, P.O. Box 485, Monticello, AR 71657 Marty Baker - Cell: 870-723-5192**

Work Office: 870-367-8676

THE CHRISTOPHER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Is seeking a minister for a congregation of about 33 members, located in Southern Illinois. Salary is \$36,000 per year. **Please send resume, references, and a sample sermon to jurbanmail@gmail.com Or call George Marshall at (618) 218-1401.**

DEERFOOT CHURCH OF CHRIST

Looking for Outreach Minister in the Birmingham, AL, area. We are about 400 members. Outreach Minister to help with the strategic and tactical aspect of reaching our neighbors and working with several ministries within the church. This position will also include teaching and some pulpit duties.

Michael Dykes

hiring.outreach@deerfootcoc.com

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST

We are in search of a Gospel preacher, willing to work, sound in doctrine and life. Please mail resume, background, and CD to:

West Walker Church of Christ

26036 Hwy 118 • Carbon Hill, AL 35549

CLINTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

(Clinton, MS) is currently seeking a minister who defines his ministry as preaching, teaching and equipping others to serve. We are a congregation of 50 + families that is seeking to grow. Under the oversight of 3 elders. If you would like to be considered for this position, please submit your resume by emailing to: **clintonmscofc@gmail.com; SUBJECT:**

"Preaching Position" If you have any questions, please contact the elders at 601-924-5300

BURNSVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

We are looking for a preacher. We are small church, around 40 in attendance

Contact Gary Orick, 662-660-6333.

House Parents Needed.

PINE VALE CHILDREN'S HOME

1872 County Road 700, Corinth, MS 38834

662-286-6555 pinevalech@pinevalech.com

S. WEST END BLVD.

CHURCH OF CHRIST

The S. West End Blvd. Church of Christ in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is seeking a full-time evangelist. The congregation has 75+ members, four deacons, and two elders.

Qualifications: Bible degree or equivalent from a Church of Christ related preaching school, college or university. Marital status preference is married.

profwemeyer@yahoo.com or mail to

William E. Meyer, 2221 Brookwood,

Cape Girardeau, MO 63701."

SEEKING ASSOCIATE MINISTER

WESTERN HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

Western Hills seeks an experienced associate minister to work with an established church of Christ serving the Lord faithfully on the western edge of Fort Worth, TX. The associate minister's primary responsibility is to facilitate the development, coordination, and execution of the involvement and evangelism ministries for the Western Hills family. **8800 Chapin Rd.**

Fort Worth, TX 76116

817-244-0132 • http://www.whcoc.net

job@whcoc.net

LITTLE MOUNTAIN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Seeking a bi-vocational minister. We are a small congregation located approximately 5 minutes from downtown Winchester, just off Hwy 64. We are a fundamental part of 2 on-site youth camps. The minister will be required to take an active role in the camps. Other sources of income may be needed. If you are interested in the position, please send resume w/references and a cd/dvd or link of 2 sermons. **Email: littlemountaincofc1900@yahoo.com (931) 636-7796 – Thomas Loudermilk (931) 247-2828 – Tim Michael Little Mountain church of Christ 710 Old Holders Cove Road Winchester, TN 37398**

INDIANOLA CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our current preacher is retiring at the end of May 2022 and moving to be with family. We are searching for a new full-time minister. We have office space at the building and a 3-bedroom 2-bath house within city limits in a good neighborhood.

Minister's duties would include leading auditorium bible study and 2 sermons on Sunday and leading Wednesday auditorium bible study. **504 Grand Ave, Indianola, MS 38751**

IndianolaMScoC@gmail.com

662-887-4025 - church building

662-207-9843 - Jason Zuehlke

THE CLARKE COUNTY CHURCH OF CHRIST

is seeking a visionary minister to assist in growing God's Kingdom. Athens is a beautiful city located 70 miles from Atlanta and is a suitable place to raise a family. For more information, visit **clarkecountycoc.org.**

WANTING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

We are looking for a Christian couple to come and work with children from hard places. You would work with children from the age of 12 to 18. These children need a great Christian example. Is that Christian example YOU? We hire both the husband and the wife. The compensation will be based on experience. There are other benefits. Call for more details.

Contact: Jon O'Keefe, Executive Director Phone:

662-286-65556

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Associate Minister-Youth and Family Advertisement The University church of Christ at 5651 Zeigler Boulevard in Mobile, AL, currently has an opening for a full-time associate minister.

There are approximately 110 Christians attending the University church of Christ.

The students range from grades 9-12 plus we currently have 4 college age students.

The University church of Christ Student Center includes office spaces, a computer room, laundry room, game room, a full kitchen, and a half-size basketball court.

Please send resumes to the following:

Richard Jay - Elder

richard.jay@spireenergy.com

SOUTH JACKSON STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

South Jackson Street Church of Christ in Houston, MS is seeking a full-time minister. We are a congregation of around 60 members. Parsonage provided and pay will be based on experience.

Qualifications include a degree from Church of Christ affiliated school. Mature minister married with children is preferred

Please send resumes and contact

Phillip Allen

pwareb145@gmail.com

662 312 5632

MERIDIAN CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Meridian church of Christ, located in Meridian, MS, is in search of a full-time minister. The Meridian church is a warm, welcoming congregation composed of 35 - 50 active members. The church is served by two elders and 2 deacons. Please submit resume' along with two audio/video sermons to :

Meridian church of Christ, PO Box 3476, Meridian, MS 39303-3476 or E-mail to both of the following:

Andy Duncan (Elder), hadunca62@gmail.com , Tom Fair(Elder), htfair1@gmail.com

by *Dennis Doughty*

"INSCRIPTIONS"

The Lord's Supper/Day

The Lord's Day is clearly Sunday, and for good reason. The triumphal entry into Jerusalem, as Jesus was hailed as the Messiah, was the Sunday before his arrest (Mk. 11). He arose from the dead "on the first day of the week, at early dawn" (Lu. 24:1), and His church was established on Pentecost Sunday (Ac. 2). The early church began to meet for worship on "the first day of every week" (1 Co. 16:2). To what other day would have John referred to when he wrote, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day" (Re. 1:10) other than Sunday?

The church came together "on the first day of the week...to break bread" (Ac. 20:7), as taught by the apostles (Ac. 2:42, 1 Co. 11:23). Furthermore, the church in Corinth was clearly rebuked for "when you meet together it is not to eat the Lord's Supper" (1 Co. 11:20-22).

It is our sacred duty to "assemble" on the Lord's Day (He. 10:25), to break the bread and drink the cup "in remembrance." To do otherwise is to fail in that sacred duty. It is not to be a Friday night Mass, nor replaced by a Sunday concert, or relinquished to an occasional sidenote. It is a gathering around the Lord's Table to "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (1 Co. 11:26). As it has been said, "No Lord's Day without the Lord's Supper, and no Lord's Supper without the Lord's Day." It is that simple, yet that profound.

Christian Cannibalism

According to the second-century Christian apologists, Justin Martyr and Athenagoras, there were three accusations levied against Christians by the Romans. They charged them with atheism from their refusal to worship the Roman pantheon of "gods." They were charged with incest by their referring to each other as brothers and sisters. The third charge was that of cannibalism, for they heard of their assembling together to eat flesh and drink blood.

Jesus did say, "He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him" (John 6:54-56).

While Jesus was not directly referring to the Lord's Supper, it is hard to not connect this statement to it. The bread and the cup are indeed tokens of his flesh and blood shed in his death, and Jesus' statement here might well be prophetic of its establishment. We are not cannibals, but we do assemble to metaphorically eat his flesh and drink his blood, and by so doing proclaim his death to us and the world. The bread and the cup are "true food" of the soul, and partaking weekly is one of the important ways that we abide in Him, and He in us.

Attached to the Vine

In the upper room Jesus took the unleavened bread of the Passover and gave it new meaning. "Take eat, this is my body." He then passed the cup signifying it was "my blood of the Covenant" (Mt. 26:26-28). Following a great after-dinner speech he said, "Get up, let us go from here" (Jn. 14:31).

Walking out into the night, through the narrow streets and out of the city, they began descending into the Kidron valley. Perhaps walking past a vineyard, he gathers his band of men and under the midnight moon, says, "I am the vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit" (Jn. 15:15).

To be a fruitful branch in God's vineyard, we must remain firmly attached to the vine. Truly, that attachment is confirmed and strengthened each Lord's Day as we too partake of unleavened bread and pass the cup, the "fruit of the vine."

Twenty-five years after Christ's death, Paul reminds the church of this important spiritual connection. "Is not the cup of blessing which we bless a sharing in the blood of Christ? Is not the bread which we break a sharing in the body of Christ?" (1 Co. 10:16). In this sharing we confirm our attachment to the Vine, we "abide in Him" as a branch, to bear fruit in our Father's vineyard.

The Corinthian's Supper

We learn more about the Lord's Supper in the N.T. church by Paul's writings in First Corinthians than any other place in scripture. Twenty-five years after Christ's death we see the Communion being the main reason for assembling, with Paul condemning them, saying, "When you come together it is not to eat the Lord's supper" (11:20).

The Corinthian congregation was reminded that the "Bread" was a "sharing of the body," and the "Cup" was "a sharing in the blood of Christ." This supper made all who partook united into "one body for we all partake of the one bread" (10:16,17). The teaching about the Supper was "received from the Lord" (11:23), that we do it "In Remembrance" of Christ's sacrifice (11:24, 25), and that by doing so we "proclaim the Lord's death until he comes" (11:26).

The church in Corinth was taught that this memorial meal could be abused and served in an "unworthy manner," making them "guilty of the body and blood of the Lord" (11:27) and resulted in physical punishment "by the Lord" (11:30-34). These teachings about the Lord's Supper make it clear that in the weekly assembling (16:2) the Lord's Supper cannot be ignored without God's displeasure and judgment, but is to remain the central part of our worship and spiritual life.

I started writing this weekly column for our class newsletter. Now sixteen years later, it has grown to over seven hundred readers each week. These short articles are designed for bulletin use, and are also a good source for devotional and sermon material. If you would like to start getting it each week, send me an email at dennis1848@bellsouth.net -dd



These Sent In Answers to QB, Last Issue

- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mary Lewis | 48. Veartis Reed | 95. LaShanda Stringfield | 197. Mary Smith | 256. Loretha Widger | 310. Shana Cox |
| 2. Jerry Neighbors | 49. Faye Stanford | 96. Brenda Broderick | 198. Taisheivya Smith | 257. Ruby Cameron | 311. Leah Bishop |
| 3. Charles Norwood | 50. Patricia Glover | 97. Suzette Endris | 199. Sasha Woods | 258. Maverick, Shane & Jason French | 312. Linda Swan |
| 4. Floyd Goode | 51. Jessica Watson | 98. Betty Bryant | 200. Kahleya Smith | 259. Bernice Richardson | 313. Mack Moore |
| 5. MacArthur Mullins | 52. Beulah Rupert | 99. Jerry Fleming | 201. Ryleigh Holliday | 260. Helen Gordon | 314. Sandy Dean |
| 6. Doris Jean Fletcher | 53. Caren Morris | 100. Edward Yancey | 202. Levi Burnett | 261. Rose Ard | 315. Mary Williams |
| 7. Emile & Peggy Rollins | 54. Bethany Stephens | 101. Brenda Green | 203. Seth Burnett | 262. Dorothy Booker | 316. Evelyn Netterville |
| 8. Millie Goode | 55. William Free | 102. Wm. & Atlean Snow | 204. Glenda Wilson | 263. Diane Dunaway | 317. Deborah Brannon |
| 9. Claranett Hathorn | 56. Blaise Fernandez | 103. Kathy Perry | 205. Jesse Brent | 264. Artis Hinton | 318. William Sutherland |
| 10. Mary Adams | 57. Everlean Myles | 104. Faye Stamps | 206. Mark Hayden | 265. Tommy & Nell Lawson | 319. Darryl James Sterling |
| 11. Earlean Williams | 58. Mable Hodges | 105. Scotty Balentine | 207. Kay Lemonis | 266. Barbara Taylor | 320. Joyce Talbert |
| 12. Betty Standard | 59. Roger King | 106. Martha Freeman | 208. Claude Edwards | 267. Judith Franks | 321. Dee Kepler |
| 13. Bobbie Loggins | 60. Brenda Redd | 107. George Lowrey | 209. Scott Floyd | 268. John Brooks | 322. Lessie Tanson |
| 14. William Pyron | 61. Maggie Edmonds | 108. Herman Pikes | 210. Margaret Teague | 269. Sherry Ross | 323. Gary McIntyre |
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| 16. Bonnie Skates | 63. Tishia Williams | 110. Betty Brown | 212. Sandra Grisham | 271. Frances Baker | 325. Dorsey & Margie Burton |
| 17. Vera Spencer | 64. Betty Skinner | 111. Shelia Caudill | 213. Reagan Hall | 272. Alice Dempsey | 326. Carolyn Harvill |
| 18. Mary Brannan | 65. Dorothy Banks | 112. Grace Childers | 214. Lyn Grisham | 273. Channing Ashbaugh | 327. Bronwen Pollard |
| 19. Sherry Townsend | 66. Sue Fisher | 113. Pat Shadle | 215. Mary Ann Wallace | 274. Bonnie Dixon | 328. Belinda Escoubas |
| 20. Burrell Brown | 67. Bonnie Howell | 114. Nell Millsaps | 216. Dillie Pearl Horton | 275. Bertha King | 329. Glena Jefcoat |
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| 22. Carrie McGrone | 69. Michelle Simpson | 116. Mrs. Dean Howe | 218. Layton Jones | 277. Peggy Hartman | 331. Sarah Smith |
| 23. Jackie Smith | 70. Admiral & Ruth Tidwell | 117. George Taylor | 219. Ava Shultice | 278. Dennis & Elsie & Kase Miller | 332. Don Nix |
| 24. Lee Ehret | 71. Sylvester & Linda Burton | 118. Sandra Gordon | 220. AJ Shultice | 279. Judy Beaver | 333. Jennifer Seal |
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| 29. Mary King | 76. Peggy Crouch | 123. Sarah Dantzler | 225. Marcine Taylor | 284. Steve Galberth | 338. James Thornton |
| 30. Suen Glenn | 77. Sherron Dixon | 124. Bert Tingle | 226. Charles Norwood | 285. Annette Parrett | 339. Gail Saxon |
| 31. Julius Lee Wales | 78. Roscoe Slate | 125. Rylee Sigle | 227. Idna Eddington | 286. Tracey Bryant | 340. Scott McKinney |
| 32. Peggy Wroten | 79. Wilda Pounds | 126. Karen Williams | 228. Mary Williams | 287. Rosie Lee Odoms | 341. Exie Motes |
| 33. Carolyn Miller | 80. Beulah Binkley | 127. Janice Galloway | 229. Valerie Sykes | 288. Liz Hill | 342. Shelia Grant |
| 34. Beverly Miles | 81. Billy Willingham | 128. Betty VanBuren | 230. Thomas Forrest, Sr. | 289. Carter & Kayleigh Blackmon | 343. Luccie & Eddie Clark |
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| 36. Doris Darnell | 83. Sonja Shelley | 130. Elizabeth Dickerson | 232. James Bricker | 291. Keitha Hare | 345. Ed Lyon |
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| 40. Bernita Booker | 87. Mary Whitehead | 134. Stan Neuenschwander | 236. Clara Allen | 295. Johnnye Blackmon | 349. Jane Barnett |
| 41. Idna Eddington | 88. Betty Spears | 135. Herschel Ford | 237. Peggy Jackson | 296. Bobbie Goodknight | 350. Marilyn Howell |
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| 43. Sarah Hill | 90. Sherian Martin | 137. Jeremiah Woodard, Jr. | 239. Noah Crider | 298. Stephanie Slaydon | 352. Steven Tutor |
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| 47. Pat Moore | 94. Steve Nelson | | 243. Myra Morris | 302. Roy Gambrell | 356. Frederick Alan Jones |
| | | | 244. Kathy Dickerson | 303. Geneva Baird | 357. Jane Kuykendall |
| | | | 245. Nettie Doss | 304. Martha Lewis | 358. Carolyn Perry |
| | | | 246. Ruby Silvers | 305. Brenda Ausborne | 359. Lloyd Swain |
| | | | 247. Luther Williams | 306. Rosie Taylor | 360. Jerry Redd |
| | | | 248. Clyde Bradford, Jr. | 307. Dan Daniels | 361. Tneshia Norbert |
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| | | | 250. Johnnie Perry | 309. Mary Ellen Patrick | 363. Gina Norwood |
| | | | 251. Ronnie & Cathy Livingston | | 364. Gregory Norwood |
| | | | 252. Mary & AnnaLynn Walters | | 365. Charles Norwood |
| | | | 253. Silas Nygard | | 366. Ruby King |
| | | | 254. Millie Grace Mosely | | 367. Jean Lewis |
| | | | 255. Barry Cole | | |

Bible Winner

Jeremiah and Shelia Woodard, who worship at Prentiss Church of Christ in Prentiss, MS.



Question Box June 2022

FOUR ACCOUNTS of the LORD'S SUPPER

An important activity in worshiping God is to take of the Lord's Supper. According to Acts 20:7, this was done each first day of the week. Passages in the Scripture that discuss the Lord's Supper are: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; and Luke 22:17-20. The words to fill in the blanks and to find in the Word Search puzzle below are from the NKJV. First, you might fill in the blanks, and then find the words in the puzzle.



- The disciples were to take the contents of the Lord's Supper cup and _____ it among themselves (**Lk. 22:17**).
- Jesus _____ the bread and gave it to the disciples (**Lk. 22:19**).
- Jesus took the cup after _____ and blessed it (**1 Cor. 11:25**).
- After taking the Lord's Supper, the disciples _____ and went to the Mount of Olives (**Mat. 26:30**).
- The "cup" was the New Covenant in the _____ of Jesus (**1 Cor. 11:25**).
- Before the fruit of the vine in the cup was divided among the disciples, Jesus gave _____ for it (**Lk. 22:17**).
- Jesus would not drink of the fruit of the vine until the coming of the _____ of God (**Lk. 22:18**).
- Jesus served the fruit of the vine and the bread as they were _____ (**Mat. 26:26**).
- Jesus' blood was _____ for many (**Mk. 14:24**).
- The grape juice or the wine is called the _____ of the vine (**Mat. 26:29**).
- Jesus said, "I will not _____ of it until the kingdom of God comes (**Lk. 22:18**).
- Jesus said, "This is my blood of the _____ covenant," referring to the fruit of the vine (**Lk. 22:20**).

D I V I D E
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T N A T W Y
W I I N A +
N + U R K E
Z E L R D S
N I W O F +

Prepared by Glenn & Beth Beall,
fofjoyirish@gmail.com

Please Send Your Answers To Us

(Print your name... Please. Thank you!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

NOTICE: Each person who sends in answers will be recognized in the next issue of the "MM" (see page 31). ALSO, by random drawing, the name of ONE student will be selected to receive a beautiful New Study Bible.

"The Question Box"

P. O. Box 1578 • Kosciusko, MS 39090