

# The Good News

Newsletter— March 2016

A Publication of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

**The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through guidance of the Holy Spirit, to assemble and worship God, to love and encourage one another, to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to minister to all people, and to live in peace.**

**In a world where difficult issues remain, University Baptist Church continues its commitment to be a church where “there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female, for (we) are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28)**

## *Understand Difficult Questions*

After reading my “Good News” news letter today, I came across two articles that really touched me in a way that you can't even imagine. One was dealing with the Greatest Temptations, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. 1 John 2:16. Then I read the comment from D.W. and I immediately thought of John 16:13 because of what somebody told me, and when I read it, it said: “He will guide you into all truth.” But I still didn't understand.

Then D. W. said that it is our desire to learn that openness to God's Holy Spirit that will allow us to grow in understanding. But only if our heart is open to be taught. We can't “lock out” His ability to lead us into a greater perspective and understanding because He gives us that desire to learn. And when we get that understanding your heart will tell you and your life will change, so don't be afraid to ask questions.

We complicate the word too much and that's the one reason it is so difficult to understand the Bible. Because we assume that ancient people had the same customs, laws and understanding that we have today, and when we read the Bible and things don't make a lot of sense we get scared to ask questions. So, make another point, isn't it good to ask questions if you don't understand? The Bible is not about history or “how smart you are,” but how you can grow in understanding your relationship with God.

It's going to be a long journey, “with many stages and changes,” but you just stay on the right path and follow the “Road Signs” and He will point you in the right direction.

Comments & Questions  
Sherwood B.

## *How Do You Spread God's Word?*

Read Psalms 112

Someone once asked me how can they share the Word of God with someone who doesn't want to hear the word? My response was that you can't force what you believe on anyone else. In response to my response, I was asked if it was my duty as a believer is to go out and teach and share God's word with believers and unbelievers? That in itself is a true statement but I believe that Jesus said it best in Revelations 3:20 – "I stand at the door and knock: if any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in..." If someone chooses not to hear and open that door then I believe you have to respect their wishes but assure them that you'll return if they call upon you.

I believe the best way to share God's word with anyone, believer or unbeliever, is to be the ultimate example of your faith. People pay attention to who you are and how you carry yourself. They'll see if you're a positive example of your faith and they'll see if your growth has risen from where you were. One thing about spiritual growth though is that you have to grow with all humility and not mistake your growth with a sense of arrogance. – II Corinthians 11:29-30.

There's always a way to talk to people without looking down on them. That in itself will drive people away and your mission is to draw people in to all the wonderful blessings Almighty God can provide. Every day is another challenge and you'll face plenty of difficulty in a world consumed with greed and selfishness. How you approach each challenge will be closely watched and you'll have some that will root for you to fall flat on your face. None of us are perfect and there will be times when we fall but you have to depend on His strength to pick you up and keep going and keep spreading the word of God.

You spread God's word by trusting that He'll shield you beneath His wings and protect you from unrighteousness – Psalms 91:4. You spread God's word by praying for those with all sincerity that want to see you fall – Matthew 5:44. You spread God's word by giving Him your undivided attention when the world consumes you with all its desires. - Galatians 5:26. You spread God's word by walking with Him no matter how sore your feet may get and by knowing that he'll carry you – Micah 6:8, Isaiah 40:31, Ephesians 4:1-3. When others see how God's blessings have fulfilled your life and has shined a bright light upon your spirit and soul, then they'll want to know how and why . . . Spread the word! - Psalms 37: 5-6

### *Spread God's Word*

Spread my wings so that I can fly  
far away,  
Gliding precariously through each and  
every day.  
I see you watching me but your heart  
is far apart,  
All it takes is one step for your journey  
with God to start.

I said a prayer for you but you stand  
behind a wall,  
Let His voice awaken your spirit like His  
voice awakened Paul.  
His words are clear if you'd only take the  
time to listen,  
I've been blessed ever since He sent me on  
a mission . . .

To spread His word by growing with Him  
spiritually,  
Through the eyes of believers the whole  
world will see.  
How wonderful are the riches of a life  
in His kingdom,  
Let every knee bow before Him and all His  
blessings will surely come.

God Bless Everyone!

Justin H. U.

## *Understanding Prayer*

I have a couple of months and set out to get this down as I still smile about how a little child showed me how to pray.

I was in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina doing a job on a motel on the beach. Hurricane Fran had come through in June (1996) and everyone in the Carolinas headed to the beach. It was hot, muggy and the beach was right in front of us, the waves were still crashing and a lot of boats were washed up. One boat caught my eye – open fisherman, 25 ft. outboards and this little girl kept swimming out to the boat and collecting life rafts and skis that were washing out of it. Then the mother called. I could see the little girl from the roof and then I couldn't. I told the men putting the roof on that we had to go out there right now. We all ran to the beach chucking shoes, boots and shirts. Swimming out looks easier than doing it with a strong undertow and I swam deep looking for her and came up for air. Looking around I saw little legs kicking and swam under. This little girl had us all scared and she was caught under the boat by a cooler and I pulled her loose. She came up sputtering. She laughed saying she was beginning to pray real hard as she could not get loose. Little Charlotte was her name. She told me point blank she had just stated “Jesus, I need you right now!” Then she told me, “I saw a cooler upside down, put my head in” She found what we call an air pocket, but what she called, “Jesus' love.”

I have never met such a clear-minded, direct-speaking young individual that knew without a doubt that Jesus saved her. It has taken me years to really believe and yet I still struggle daily with the realization, why couldn't I see Him as clearly as this little child did? Why did I have to end up right here, yet I see God's hand in what I'm going through, plus I am so sure about who, why, where, and most of all the really great effect — the belief that God is in control. A lot of people say, “If God is here, why does He allow bad to happen?” The little girl stated it so right. I just believe and let God deal with the rest. I see where as an adult I try to see into the situation instead of using spiritual eyes, as the compass to my journey. What an amazing young lady she was, as her mom stood there hugging Little Charlotte and saying thank you, I told her, “No, thank *you*, because now I can believe.” Yet because I was unable to surrender, I was not saved at the time, but learned how if a child can learn to pray, so can I. The mother told me she learned from Charlotte too.

The work started back up and I resumed watching and realized that we were meant to meet. Now I see the application of Jesus in control. I had never had been before. That is where our frustration comes in, attempting to run the show.

Billy Graham spoke about it at an Evangelical Accountability Association meeting; “everything must be above board so that we are 100% accountable.” I close with this, that I needed and still learn to pray. It was so foreign to me because of pride – prayer has now become a tool that helps me to grow spiritually. Really, Charlotte showed me. We become child like to the world's standards yet we grow in our spiritual journey because of the growth and surrender, Christ's burden becomes ours too. The unsaved need to see Jesus. Thus our past is washed away because we are now walking in Christ's pathway. We make mistakes yet we can go straight to Jesus for forgiveness, continue on, instead of carrying guilt and hosts of sins that are holding up the spiritual growth that God has planned for us.

Closing, this reminds me of a man who had a full life yet even though he went to church and was a civic leader, when he died he went up to the pearly gates. St. Peter was there and asked him his name. He stated it and Peter asked him to enter in and follow him, taking stairs to an upper room to pray and see others. Walking past a room the man asked Peter what was in there? Peter opened the door and he could see a room full of presents. Peter says, “Charlie, those are all the blessings you missed out on during your life by not obeying God. You were saved by grace and your sin is forgiven yet you missed out on a closer walk with Jesus.” Prayer opens our eyes to spiritual maturity. I pray that all who read this are touched by the resulting thought – what can I do to improve my prayer life, plus the effect on personal growth. God Speed to everyone and just a note of Thankfulness for the cards of blessing and well wishes during the Holidays and all at U.B.C. Are part of our extended family. Thanks to Kat and D.W. at the paper too -- Previous editor and to all, remember all. “The ground work we do today is the foundation we stand on tomorrow.” What are you doing today?

Timothy Evans

Lord I need your strength.  
To help me each day,  
To do each task...  
Which comes my way.  
Help me Lord I need you.  
When difficulties come.  
Give me your peace.  
I need your power  
When Satan tempts me...  
To resist.

Lord help me to pray.  
Your will be done.  
When I do not understand  
Let me learn .  
Yes, Lord take me home.  
How blessed that will be.  
To be with Christ for ...  
Eternity.

By Jewel Wenger  
Submitted by Justin H. Underwood

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*My Psalm 23*

He fills me with His Spirit and wisdom every day  
He saved me from death  
He fills my days with beauty  
He makes me holy  
He gives me the chance to bring glory to His name  
Yea though I walk through a den of lions  
He steadies my hand  
For He walks beside me  
His mighty shoulders  
They bear my weight  
You create a force to stay those who wish me harm  
You supply me with Scripture  
My heart pours out  
Surely salvation is set in stone with my savior, Jesus Christ  
And I shall sit at the feet of the LORD in Heaven, forever.  
Amen!

Matt Wilbanks

*Pray With Reverence*  
Romans 8:26, 27; Ephesians 6:18

To pray without ceasing, that is one of Paul's imperatives. But it does not mean that we are to walk around constantly muttering under our breath; it means to always keep God close to our thoughts. And when we do pray, to put something into it.

Traditional Rabbis hold that there are three separate types of prayer, each one being greater than the last by way of "reaching God's ears": there is (1) praying, (2) crying, and (3) tears. Praying is silent, while crying (as a sidewalk crier, advertising their store) is of raised voice, but tears overcome all things. When one is moved to tears during communion with God, it is quite a beautiful thing.

When I was a child, dining with my family at Grandma's house (we call her Mama "D"), I would bow my head while Mama "D" said grace. Her prayers were always beautiful and began peacefully, but occasionally she would burst into tears. As a child I thought this was funny and shared a look with anyone else who thought so, too. But now I understand that the genuine love and emotion with which Mama "D" poured into her prayers, it almost moves me to tears. She truly does capture every thought for God and is a remarkable prayer. And she loves her children and grandchildren, and just wants what is best for us: a true love-relationship with God. I am truly blessing to have such a wonderful grandmother! (I love you, Mama "D"!)

Tears are the outpouring of love. The true unearthing of what lies in our hearts. Do we pray with supreme indifference, or do we put everything we've got into it? It's the routine prayer that is the prayer which goes unheard.

There is a traditional Japanese ceremony in the southern regions of Japan regarding their praying. And it requires much heart and concentration. First, the prayer approaches the shrine of his or her god. Then they clap their hands together as loud as they can, in order to get the attention of their god. The prayer will then bow to the ground to show respect and flip a coin into the offering (the largest one in their pocket) and begin to shoot their prayer to their god. This is done for two reasons. (1) To show proper respect, and (2) to be heard over the others by their god. And then with a final bow they clap their hands together with all of their might, even louder than the first time, and depart.

Of course I do not suggest we take up pagan rituals. However, we may learn a thing or two by this example. When we give thanks for our meals, let us not drop a few-word mantra and dig in; but let us reverentially speak to God about what it is that we are thankful for. Be specific, and be earnest. What blessings have you received in the last few days? You can never say "thank-you" enough, especially to God. Speak from your heart. As well, we do not have to go around shouting our prayer; but when we are in private in any case, let us at least speak our prayers out loud.

Does all of this actually allow God to better hear us? Perhaps not, anymore than God hears the prayer of the man kneeling down than the man standing up. God does not care about your posture. Kneel, stand, lay down. Whatever. Pray silently or at the top of your lungs. Just pray from the heart, with feeling and full emotion. The Holy Spirit that indwelleth will ensure, along with Jesus Christ, that your prayers reach the ears of God.

In all we do, we do to the glory of the One who strengthens us, who died for us, so that we may have life, and that we many have it more abundantly. Amen! God Bless!

-Matt Wilbanks

## *Jumping the Broom*

Ephesians 5:21-33

Christ is our divine Husband—And we the Church, His bride. This same principle may also be inferred from, the O.T., where the marriage relationship was one of the key analogies used to describe Yahweh's relationship with Israel ( Jer. 2:1, 3:6, 31:32, Hos. 1-31 ( in arranging a marriage, the bridegroom's family paid a "price" (Hebrew word for Mother) for the bride (Gen 34:12, Exod 22:16, 1 sam. 28:25) Sound familiar?

Now building on the O. T. imagery of Israel as the wife of god, the relationship between Christ and the church as a marriage. Christ is the bridegroom, and the church is the bride. Jesus Christ, the lamb, frequently referred to himself as a bridegroom. (Matt. 5. 5:34-35, 14:15-24, John 3:29) The Church is regarded as a virgin bride awaiting the coming of her heavenly Bridegroom. (2 cor. 11:2) While she waits she keeps herself pure, unstained from the world.

Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding to the marriage supper of the Lamb" and he said to me: "These are the true woods of God" (Rev 19: 7-9)

There were three phases to the wedding : The bride becomes betrothed to the bridegroom, and the marriage supper was [celebrated.in](#) a feast lasting up to a week. All three of these phases are seen in Christ's relationship to the church, the bride of Christ.

First, as individuals living during the church age come to salvation, they become a part of the church, the Bride of Christ, betrothed to the to the divine Bridegroom.

Second the Bridegroom (Jesus Christ) comes to claim His bride at the rapture, at which time He takes the bride to heaven, the Father's house, where he has prepared a place to live.(jn 14: 1-3) The actual marriage takes place in heaven, sometime after the Church has been raptured, prior to the second coming (Rev. 19:11-16. The bride is dressed beautifully in fine linen. (verses 8,14)

Third, the marriage supper of the lamb apparently takes place on earth during the 75-day interval between the end of the tribulation period and the beginning of the millennial Kingdom.

May you allow the Lord to keep and lead you in all you do. God Bless

Tony B  
Parchman

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### *Are We Free in Heart?*

John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free you, you shall be free indeed."

(The following was written by Stephen Powers in 2001. He had two strokes and currently has an aneurysm on his brain.)

We as believers have read all through the Bible how our Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior sets people not only physically but also sets people free spiritually. We also read that Jesus told his disciples to heal the sick, , cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons. "Freely you have received, freely give." Jesus was telling them that as our Father who is in Heaven gives to them freely, freely shall they give to others.

He is telling us as believers today that when he gives us something freely we shall give freely to others as well. The devil doesn't want us to have a heart to give freely, but he wants us to have a heart of hatred, selfishness, and evil. But we as believer need to tell everyone that we meet to have a heart that gives freely to all. If we don't have a heart to give freely we are not God's children but children of the devil whose heart is made of stone.

We also read in John 8:32 that Jesus said we will know the truth and the truth shall make us free in heart, soul, and mind. He is telling us that if he who is the Son makes us free, indeed we shall be free because he looks into the heart. We know that Jesus died on the cross to set us and the world free from all sins. As we have been freed from sin Jesus wants us to give his love to others freely as well. Jesus tells us that whoever receives him he will give them a fountain of the water of life freely to all who thirst. Jesus tells us that we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we may know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

So we see if God did not spare his own Son Jesus, but delivered him up for all of us, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things when we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior? We have been set free from sin and are no longer slaves to sin. We have become slaves of God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ to do their will and to have the fruit of holiness, and in the end, everlasting life. So let's keep our hearts free to do and to serve the Lord's will. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen and Amen.

Brother in Christ,  
Stephen Elliott Powers

*Title: Get Busy for Jesus*

Chorus: You can't get busy livin' till you get busy dyin'. The enemy is self. There's no denyin'. I'm livin' for Christ. He is my gain. I get busy for Jesus; you should get busy the same.

Verse one: It's time to circumcise the heart/cut the flesh back/ let the Holy Spirit get surgical on some cardiac/He removed spots and wrinkles by giving me a faith lift/Now I remain in his image unspotted and blameless/in the likeness of his image repin' like a trademark/Jesus Christ is the head the devil could never part/He keeps me humble and rested like I'm still in head start. Yet I'm ready for battle like Mel Gibson in Braveheart/standin' on the front line with the passion of the Christ/like my brother Reconcile I put that on my life/spiritual ruff ryders keep they faith on deck/wagin' war in the spirit where the real evil never rests/that's why I keep a Noisy Boy that Supernatural Real Steel/my John 3:16 has a one shot kill/quick to put the cross on'em let these demons feel the real/now they all disappear' like that dude in Copperfield/never compromise never ever will I bargain/I done come up in Christ since that fall in the garden/now I got confidence breakin' chains like Tasha Cobb/there is power in Jesus, He is the living God/I go from glory to glory to the essence of my Daddy/which means I put the flesh to rest in a pine box daily/no ceremony or eulogy I drop it straight into the ground/Where the rest of my wretched flesh will eventually be found;

Chorus: x3

Verse two: I'm on the higher learnin' Matthew 11:29th/the mind of the Christ is the teacher in my life/ it is no longer my desire to ever skip class/even tho his grace card is an eternal hall pass/still no Feris Bueller with my medulla oblon gata/instead I keep it focused on Jesus like a scholar/His wisdom excels the folly allowing me to see/ that the definition of futility is really found in me/ for the flesh is all wicked and the spirit is all righteous/ He's exposing the hidden vanity inside me as we write this/ on the path of revelation salvation's network/ I click on sanctification to check my net worth/ the spirit shows I'm low and so I deposit sacrifice/the very curse that is the fleshly existence of my life/now in pursuit of His gain slowly becoming his greatest good/it's with fear that I tremble as my salvation is understood/You shed your Red like Morgan making me a Free'man/ kind of like the Shawshank but I was eternally par'doned/free from hells fire and safe in eternity resting in the arms of Jesus right where I'm sposed to be/without your light of life I'm just another lost soul/suffering in the flesh that is the result of the fall/each and everyday the spirit will contend/with the mirror of self reflecting all the evil that's within/the sinful desires of the flesh the epitome of death/that which tries to eat us until there is nothing left/it seems like my flesh is once again walking dead/so I'm swingin' the sword of the Spirit and chopping off its head;

Chorus: x3

Kingdom Kid

The Good News will begin posting facts, stories, or writings about the death penalty on this page. If readers and contributors would like, we invite discussion in the form of articles or prayer. Thank you.

- A 2009 poll commissioned by DPIC found police chiefs ranked the death penalty last among ways to reduce violent crime. The police chiefs also considered the death penalty the least efficient use of taxpayers' money.
- A 2010 poll by Lake Research Partners found that a clear majority of voters (61%) would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder.
- A report by the National Research Council, titled Deterrence and the Death Penalty, stated that studies claiming that the death penalty has a deterrent effect on murder rates are "fundamentally flawed" and should not be used when making policy decisions (2012).
- Consistent with previous years, the 2014 FBI Uniform Crime Report showed that the South had the highest murder rate. The South accounts for over 80% of executions. The Northeast, which has less than 1% of all executions, had lowest murder rate.
- According to a survey of the former and present presidents of the country's top academic criminological societies, 88% of these experts rejected the notion that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder. (Radelet & Lacock, 2009).

Facts taken from: [deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://deathpenaltyinfo.org)