

The Good News

Newsletter— July 2017

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)

You can't save yourself! You can't save anyone!

We are not called to or equipped for saving a soul. That is the job of the Lord Jesus and we must leave it to him to do. Our job is to share the good news of the gospel and explain how they can have a relationship with our Savior and Creator of the universe. This is a huge responsibility.

The way that we share the Gospel varies from person to person and as nice as it would be if there was a single formula to bring others to Jesus, we must be as varied in our approach as there are varieties of people. This will mean stepping out our comfort zone in order to speak to people that may not be like us, or that may have contrary views of life. We must not fear rejection and we must certainly not allow even pride to use up and take any rejection we may encounter personally. It is not you that that is being rejected, but Jesus.

You cannot save anyone, but we are called to be the light that leads people out of darkness toward salvation. People are naturally drawn toward light. If even a pinprick of light is visible in a dark room it draws the eye and we gravitate toward it to investigate. When they do, then use your words to tell them that the light they see is in fact Jesus inside of you. The good news is that they too can have the Light of Life. It is really not that difficult, you just have to be open and have a relationship with Jesus yourself. Do you have such a relationship? Are you being approached by others in order to investigate the light in you? If not then I would ask that you pray and evaluate your life with and for Jesus.

You can't save anyone and you certainly can't lead others to the Person that can if you don't really know Him yourself. Have a great month in Jesus

Roger Gillette
Parchman DR

Enemies

These are not my words, but I wanted to share this with you, because this is something we all go through in life.

Haters are people who don't have the truest fruits of the spirit. Haters are also people who are being used by the devil to try you to toughen your trust in God. Some of the worst kind of haters are those who protest that they are Christians, but act like the devil. The devil can come through your closest friends or those who you thought were your friends or family. But you will truly know who your enemies are when you're at your lowest point in life. Can you imagine a family member, homeboy, or homegirl of yours that you grew up with, say that they didn't know you after all you and been through? Friend who have denied and turned their back on you after you came to prison? There is only one friend who will always be there for you and that is God. He will never leave you.

Sherwood B.

(Copy writer's note. It is well that we remember that one who loved Jesus did just these same things in the courtyard before the crucifixion. Jesus loved Peter when Peter acted like an enemy. Let us remember that Jesus' love of Peter did not stop when Peter's fear and disappointment brought him to act like an enemy.)

Acts 7:59 "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.'"

As a believer in Jesus Christ, I can—to some extent—relate to what my brother Stephen went through. And I'm sure many of my brothers and sisters reading this can too. Persecution is an integral part of being a Christian. In fact, if you have not been persecuted because of your faith in Jesus Christ, you should be concerned. 2 Timothy 3:12 tells us, "Indeed, all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." This scripture leaves no room for doubt. The reason for this persecution is simple. A Godly life exposes the wickedness of others. People do not like to be exposed. Instead of repenting of their ungodliness and turning toward the light you always are reflecting, they seek to destroy it. Persecution is not always violence but it does happen. In the time it takes you to go to Sunday Service there is a brother or sister in the Lord, some where across seas, dying for the faith. This level of persecution is foreign to our western world, but the day is fast approaching dear brothers and sisters. Still we do face persecution in many different ways. Through people talking down to you, being rejected by people you're close to, people spreading lies about you, trying to get you to compromise by tempting you. All of this is persecution, and it is an attempt to destroy your testimony. Even Satan and his demons try to persecute us by injecting doubt when we are afflicted by physical or emotional pain. Persecution is inevitable but we must not be disheartened or discouraged. Instead, we should stand firm in the faith of Jesus Christ, trusting that He will never leave us or forsake us, Joshua 1:5b. I want you to look at 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (notice these verses are in the same chapter that promises persecution). Verse 16, "for training in righteousness... that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Dear brothers and sisters, the word equips us so that we are able to stand bold in Christ Jesus in times of persecution. It is as we stand in the faith, possibly even dying for the faith, that our greatest work is performed. For then our Lord Jesus Christ is glorified. 2 Corinthians 4:7-18. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen and Amen.

Then above piece was inspired by the word of God through Stephen Powers and written by a fellow brother in Christ. Stephen has suffered two strokes and currently has a bleeding aneurysm on his brain.

OUR LORD ONCE WALKED
ON THE GROUNDS OF THIS EARTH.
HE MINGLED WITH US
AND SHOWED SORROW AND MIRTH.

WE KNOW NOT HIS STATURE
OR THE LOOK OF HIS FACE.
YET WE KNOW HE'S PREPARED
FOR US A HEAVENLY PLACE.

BELIEVE IN HIS SPIRIT
AS THE WORD TELLS US TO DO.
FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS
AND THAT PARADISE IS FOR YOU.

BY: Richard G. Jordan
DR Parchman

A Letter To Jesus
Read Psalm 107

Dear Lord Jesus,

I would like for you to walk with me for a few minutes so I can discuss something with you. I owe you a very hearty apology for my actions and for the total disrespect that I've shown toward you and the ways of righteousness. I know that for some time in my life you never knew me because I didn't take the time to get to know you. I saw you every day to and fro as I went about my life but I never even stopped to say hello or even ask you your name. I thought I was a pretty important person so I didn't have time to waste entertaining you.

I'm so very glad that you don't have the same ignorant mind-set as I did. It wasn't until I had to face some hard times in my life that I realized I wasn't important at all. My so-called friends didn't miss a beat and they kept the party train right on moving down the line without me. I'm not going to say I wasn't pissed about that but I am very grateful because it allowed me to meet a True Friend.

As I stood there with my back against the wall, I saw you just standing there watching me watch you. You never said a word and I gave you your space as you gave me mine. Over time I knew that I couldn't face my trials and tribulations alone. I knew that there was someone I could call on but that I had pushed away. After I'd taken all I could withstand, I decided to call on God and you walked out of the shadows. You stood right before me with a joyous smile on your face. I was taken aback but you shook my hand and gave me a look of acceptance. There was so much might in your handshake and a vigorous energy that rejuvenated my spirit, my body, and my soul.

We talked for so many hours and we shared stories about our lives. It was funny how you knew so much about my life but I knew so very little about yours. I feel embarrassed and ashamed that I saw you around the way every day but simply kept on walking by. You gave me your book (the Holy Bible) to read and you told me that you'd always be near to help me understand the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Every day I would read about you and all the sufferings you went through to help a lost soul like me. I thank you for sharing piece by piece your life through the gospels and for giving all of yourself to the world on the cross at Calvary.

Here I stand, a broken man, thankful that I'm now worthy of your love, grace, and mercy. Here I stand, a contrite man, grateful for your forgiveness and the salvation you give through your precious blood. Here I stand, a humbled man, embracing everything that you are, everything that you have been, and everything that you continue to be. (Omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God). I have found my way and I just wanted you to know that I now know and understand how much I need you to survive. I appreciate you for giving me the opportunity each day to hug you with my devotion. As we turn around from our walk to head back, I notice that all the sheep (my brothers and sisters in Christ) were walking right along with us.

How sweet it is to know that we all walk together as one in His light and in His love. How sweet it is that He holds us all together with one Divine Love—Praise the Lord of my Soul and God bless everyone!

Justin U.

A Letter to Jesus

I wrote a letter to Jesus because I wanted
To bear my soul,
For a time in my life I was so
Heartless and cold.

Ignorance was my name and it bore a
Path of misery,
Hard times beat me down because of all
My stupidity.

Between those concrete walls, He stood beside
Me protectively,
Humility picked me up when Jesus gave his
Love unconditionally.

I wrote a letter to Jesus because I wanted
To sincerely apologize,
For my part in His suffering and for each
Tear that He cried.

I'm thankful for His forgiveness and welcoming
Me with a warm embrace,
Joy filled my heart as He stepped out of the
Shadows with a smiling face.

Here I stand, worthy as a broken and a
Contrite man,
Through His blood, I can do all things by
His mighty hand

Heavenly Father,

We stand boldly before you in Christ Jesus, through whom we have been redeemed. His willing and obedient sacrifice for our sins has granted us perfection in your sight. Still we are unworthy to be called good and faithful servants and ambassadors of your glory. We thank you for giving us the purpose and privilege to do Your will. We ask You, Holy Spirit, to continue guiding us as we yield daily to your conviction, that You continue to sanctify us in truth, cultivating our mind and heart to the purity of You. God, continue to renew our strength daily as we feast on Your Holy Word. We pray that You will humble the hard hearts around us, and as we make ourselves available to You, we ask that You use us to shine Your Love, grace, mercy and peace in their lives. We ask that you use us Father God, for this is our Spiritual Service of worship. We give You all the praise for the glorious work You are doing through us. May you continue to lead our steps and give us the words to say. We ask all of these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

The Dog Pen Church In Christ