



## Newsletter March 2018

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)**

### *What Does Jesus Say?*

Life is near, says the Seer,  
Hate will smear what you hold dear.  
What's a life amidst strife?  
Christ's love conquers all, overcomes fear.

What does Jesus say? “Fear not, little flock, for it  
is your Father's good pleasure to give you the  
kingdom” (Luke 12:32)  
The Kingdom – God – The Heavenly Light  
To live or to die.  
In Christ we burn bright.

When we die do we fly  
In the blink of an eye, through the sky;  
One last breath into death,  
Will we recall how? Will we know why?

What does Jesus say? “Truly, I tell you,  
today you will be with Me in Paradise” (Luke 23:43)  
Paradise – Zion – The City of Peace  
No more sickness or pain,  
In Christ the wars cease.

-Roger Gillett

*Savings Account*  
*By: Richard G. Jordan*  
*D.R. Parchman*

We, as Christians, Are asked to give up, or forego, many pleasures that are available to Non-Believers. Instead, we are to focus on the big pay-off when life on this earth ends; that “pay-off” being eternal life with rewards beyond calculation.

This process could be compared to a savings account in a financial institution in the here and now. However, no matter how responsible those institutions may be, and even with insured deposits, nothing they offer can compare with the guarantor that insures our “Deposits”.

Unlike earthly institution's that require actual money be put in their coffers, to make a deposit in the E.S.A (Eternal Savings Account) only requires that we believe, repent, and accept the promises found in the only contract, one sealed with blood from a cross, that has never been broken; The Holy Bible.

That contract is not subject to, no matter how many lawyers or theologians try, being interpreted in any way other than it's plain language. This “contract” has provisions that do not require penalties on interest rates, as do some earthly institutions, if we make an early “withdrawal”. For instance, such an act could be asking for healing, relief from cruel circumstances, or any other miracle that is available to depositors in the ESA. We can ask for such help, and it is often granted, and yet we still have the full, awesome, benefits awaiting us in eternity. By doing what is some times called “backsliding”, we do not have to start all over with another account. Our “contract” recognizes that we are not perfect and there are provisions available, i.e. repent in a sincere manner and ask for forgiveness, to put our account back in good standing with no penalties.

Some might even say that being a christian is an investment but typically, investments depend on outside forces over which you have no control. Invest in a company that goes bankrupt and you are left with nothing. Ignore the contract that has been so freely offered and stood the tests of time and you will find out what real bankruptcy is when your life is over. No Chapter 11's in that place where you can reorganize.

Why not “reorganize” your life now and have all your past debits (transgressions) forgiven? Join the ESA “Institution” where all deposits, no matter how large or small, are guaranteed safe for eternity by the ultimate Guarantor, Our Lord.

---

*“Our God is Awesome”*  
*Frederick S.*  
*Flora, Ms*

God is awesome – What an awesome God we have (Psalm 33:8). I really love to discuss scripture because I have learned to listen and I can listen to learn. (Prov. 2:1-11 Prov. 1:5-7)

God has done so much for me, I'm in a good place right now and it's because of God's love for me. (Psalm 31:7-8)

I love Him – I'm growing each and every day in His Word and in His love and it feels great. (Psalm 31:19-24 Eph. 4:15-16)

God's love must be present in us and with us daily. We must continually love each other not just on some celebrated special day or occasion. (Eph. 5:1-2; Thess. 4:7-9 ; 1 John 3:11-18)

Love is so simple but we make it hard by placing stipulations on it instead of just loving one another unconditionally. (Cor. 6: 1-10)

*How We Please God*  
*Stephen P. - Dog Pen Church*

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God, he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

To believe God is not the same as believing in God. To believe God means to trust Him inherently, completely, to put Him first. Unless we believe Him and follow Him this way, it is impossible to please Him. In Hebrews 11:6 we learn how we please God. “And without faith it is impossible to please God.” We please God through faith. God wants to be believed and trusted, and He deserves it. In order to live in a way that pleases God we must trust Him. Why is faith necessary in order to please God? Because faith which believes God always results in appropriate action. James 2:20; Faith is always response to God's word. Isaiah 53: 1; “Who has believed our message?” Romans 10:17 ; “So faith then comes from hearing...” Faith is believing God when He speaks, and obeying what He tells us is how we please Him. He speaks about repentance, speech, money, building an arc or walking around a city seven times, when we believe God it will always lead to obedience. Believing God's word is how it becomes profitable in our lives creating every good worth. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; May we willingly submit to His Word and act accordingly. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

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

---

*The Unbeliever vs. The Believer*  
*Justin U.*

There are always talks going on in prison amongst the guys about a number of things and I usually stay away from them because I choose not to waste my time on idle chatter. On this day though, my ears were raised as the subject was about religion.

Too many guys in prison have a Religion or choose to get involved with it. For whatever reason, they want to live their life as it is and not to be convicted by the Word of God.

The conversation that I picked up on was about how there was no god with all of the bad things happening to them and other people all over the world that seem to them to be undeserving. That seems to be the gist of most of the arguments against there being a god. I can understand that point because I once thought that way before the good Lord opened my eyes. -Isaiah 42:1-9; 2 Timothy 2:24-26

I was one to blame everyone else for the problems in life that I was having instead of realizing that I didn't have an argument at all. The Bible says you reap what you sow and we can't expect something good to happen to us when we're out there doing bad. - Galatians 6:7-9; Job 4:8; Proverb 11; 22:8, Hosea 10:12-13

We rob, steal, kill, lie, turn our backs on others, cheat, and everything else under the sun but then we cry like big babies when it happens to us. There's a saying: “If you can dish it out, then you should be able to take it.” -Romans 1:28-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Galatians 5:19-21; Phillipians 3:18-19.

\* A lot of us may be innocent of the crime that we have been convicted of but rest assured that none of us are guiltless. - Romans 3:23. There are consequences to every little thing that we do that is enmity against God and He may not punish you right then but he will in his own way and time. -Lamentations 3:33-42; Ezekial 33:10-20; Proverb 11:21

I can't speak for anyone else but myself and I know that I wasn't living a Christ-like life. I don't consider myself a bad person but none of us are good people other than through the virtue of Jesus Christ. -Psalm 14; Psalm 53; Romans 3:4-46

So whatever gripes that guys have against God are unwarranted and the person that they need to not believe in is themselves. -Proverbs 21: 29-30

When man sincerely and genuinely decides to walk in the light of God, then He will bring prosperity in every aspect of life if that's His will to do so. - Deut. 28:1-14 Psalm 128; Prov. 10:22; Romans 8:28

We need understand that there's a better walk in life with God at our side and that things aren't going to get any better pointing that crooked finger at his direction.

God bless Everyone!

*"The Unbeliever"*

There is no God says the prisoner  
out loud  
Adamant in his stance as he greets  
the crowd  
How could One exist and allow  
me to suffer  
While I take the fall for a crime  
committed by another  
Many years of my life spent behind  
these steel bars  
Unable to see the glowing moon or the  
sparkling stars  
Everybody has abandoned me and gone  
on with life  
I lost my job, home, friends, and  
even my wife

There is no God that would allow  
such a thing  
Hungry children starving while the rich  
wallow in lavish living  
Innocent bystanders being shot dead  
on the streets  
The homeless walking to and fro without  
shoes on their feet  
What about the elderly being beaten,  
unbathed, and abused  
And the culprits caught red-handed on camera  
only to remain accused  
What about the bad cops killing the unarmed  
without any repercussion  
Where is God in all of these  
vital discussions

Justin Underwood

*"The Believer"*

There is a God but you've ignored  
His voice  
And made the wide path in life  
your stern choice  
Yet, you want to blame God for  
every little wrong  
When it's you that keeps adding treasures,  
to the devil's throne  
It was you snatching old ladies purses  
and selling drugs  
It was you destroying the neighborhood  
trying to be a thug  
It was you being selfish and not showing  
the needy any love  
It was you that turned your back when  
God asked you for a hug

There is a God says the believer  
in Christ  
He was sacrificed that all may have  
eternal life  
Through Him we are gifted with  
grace and mercy  
Out of love, His blood was shed for  
all the unworthy  
He is a Just One and kind to all  
that do obey  
From the heavens, He sends an abundance  
of blessings our way  
Man suffers because of his willingness  
to live in sin  
Guilty of unrighteousness, it's only through  
Him that we can win

Justin Underwood