

The GoodNews

Newsletter — February 2020

A Publication of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, MS

The purpose of University Baptist Church is, through the 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)

A Dog Pen Church in Christ Prayer

Gracious Lord,

Conform us to Thy character, to the image of Christ, the the mind of the Spirit. Help us to see our need for holiness, to desire holiness, to pursue holiness. Grant us all to practice holiness today, not out of merit, but out of gratitude – by the grace of the Spirit and through faith in Christ Jesus. For it is written, “But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me, my glory, and the lifting up of mine head.” – Psalm 3: 3.

Thank You for being a Faithful God that we can always count on – One who will never let us down; One who will never leave us, and One who sill never stop loving us. Help us, O Lord, to find our rest in you, to find our hunger for you and your wisdom, and to be filled with your goodness today. Help us to trust Your abundant love and generosity so that we can give to others as you have so faithfully given to us. We give You the glory and praise for all the great things you have done in our lives and we rejoice in Your mercy and care for us. We ask that You protect Your church's unity. Give us understanding where there is distrust, and heal us where we are divided.

We thank You for Your arms that carry us and that allow us to sleep in peace.

We ask You all things as we sit at Your feet at the throne of grace in Jesus' name – Amen!

What Christ Wants

What Christ wants from us is that we live out His Righteousness. Instead of following our own inclinations or taking our lead from our peers, we should live according to His pattern and principles. In other words, Christians should be people whose lives follow the example of Christ and obey the commandments of Christ—Psalm 119:25-32, 105-112; Rom. 7:22, James 4:7-10.

The Bible teaches that God is holy in His character, so He has established a holy standard for His world. 1 Peter 1:13-16; John 8:12. That which measures up to God's standard is righteous. That which violates God's standard is sin. Humans, however, resist God's authority. Instead of living in submission to our Creator, we insist on living by our own standards.

Every time that we choose to disregard God's law in what we desire, say, and do, we rebel against a Holy God. Every rebellious act and attitude, no matter how large or small by human estimation, is sin. Sin is a serious matter, because as much as it may or may not injure other people, it is ultimately a rejection of God himself. Those who are sincerely for God must also be solidly against sin.

John reminds Christians that Christ Himself is righteous because He fully meets the standards of a Holy God.—1 John 3:2-10. His Righteousness is the unchanging standard for righteous behavior. In other words, what is right does not vary from time to time or from place to place.—Deut. 7:9; Heb. 13:8. No situation ethics exist in Christianity. There is absolute truth, goodness, and righteousness. Morality is not relative or variable; it is what corresponds to Christ's unchanging standard.

Although the lives of Christians are not immune to Satan's temptations, we know from experience that all of our good resolutions cannot defend us against sin. We are born with a sin nature that betrays us time and again. Humans are unable to defeat the devil, so they easily succumb to his strategies. What we cannot do, Christ came to do. When the Son of God was manifest, He broke the back to Satan's powerful opposition to God. Part of the way in which Christ is destroying the works of the devil is by what He is doing in the lives of Christians,—2 Cor. 5:17-21; Eph. 4:21-24; Romans 8:1-4.

Through the new birth, sinful humans are born again into God's family. God gives His children a new nature with power for victory over sin. By renovating His people from the inside out, God is destroying the control of Satan, one Christian at a time.—Psalm 64. In our lives, He is claiming the triumph that He won on the cross. All He wants is for us to ask Him for help so that we may become more like Him—God bless!

— Justin Underwood

What Christ Wants

The Bible is the window through which we may
look and see our Lord sharing the “good news.”
If you are to win Christ, it will little matter
what you lose.
Wounded, grieving, and breathless on the cursed
tree, Thou hast suffered thus for me.
This is the good news of the great mystery of
the Mighty God of necessity
We have not an unapproachable God; He hears,
He pities, and He helps.
He enables us to take, without trembling, the
great and decisive steps.
What Christ wants is for us to fix our eye
of faith on our heavenly position---
the Bright and Morning Star.
The very path of righteousness that is the Light
of dawn shining near and afar.
As our Savior, He received us and we were born
into Him in newness of life.
What a safe and impregnable position is ours
in Christ.
What we are to experience, He purchased; what
He purchased for us, we ought to experience.
Through death with Christ have we apprehended our deliverance.
All Resurrection life springs out of death else
it wouldn't be new life.
The believer must learn “not I,” but the Lord
and Savior Jesus Christ.
It is from the inner circle—the hive; the heart
---where Christ reigns.
What He wants is for us to live in His peace
and not to wallow in worldly gains.

God bless!, Justin

To All

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me” (Phil 4:13)

I hope this finds you all well today, prayed up and knowing me and God loves you! I wanted to encourage you all to start your day with the Lord, in prayer, read a few verses in the Bible and ponder on them. In order for us to be productive in our walk with the Lord (Jesus) we have to put Him 1st in our lives in all we do. Matter of fact, what's the greatest commandment? It's to “Love the Lord (Jesus) your God with [all] your heart and with [all] your soul and with [all] your mind” (Matt 22:37) Now, this is why most people fail with Jesus from the door, why? Cause people want Jesus in their life, they want to do better, but they don't want to give their [all] to Jesus. They want Jesus in their lives, however they still want to do them, live how they feel is ok, do as they see fit. That won't work, notice the 1st commandment says [all] your heart. [All] your soul, and [all] your mind, not some of it.

In (Matt 16:24-25) Jesus said, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.” What's being said is we must give our lives up, all our wants and ways, we have to deny ourselves our wants and ways and take up our cross with all its pain and suffering due to leaving our selfish ways, and follow Him, learn His wants and ways and submit to them at all cost. Therefore we have to give Jesus [all] of us, turn to the Word (Bible) and diligently seek to learn His will for us, His ways then follow by trusting and obeying Him at all cost. When He says “to save your life you have to lose it” again He's saying our way won't work, it's His way or the pits of hell. Your choice . . . However Jesus is your only hope, matter of fact in (Acts 4:12) it says “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”

Jesus gave His life for us. He gave His [all] not some, therefore He wants our [all] not some. He done His part to the fullest! What are you going to do? He's calling you . . . in (Matt 11:28-30) Jesus said “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” When He said (take my yoke) He means submit yourself fully to His leadership, live as He lived, do what He done, walk in His footsteps (Phil 2:5; 1 Peter 2:21; 1 John 2:6) How do we do that? = The Bible, we diligently study, seek to learn His ways, His will for us, then follow at all cost. Now I know first hand it's easier said than done, however if I did, there's no doubt you can. It's a battle of its own, but will be well worth the fight if we faint not, in due time we will be granted “Eternal life”. If you don't man up and fight you're in for a prize you're not going to like: “Hell” and once you get it, it's yours there's no giving it back or trading it out. People times running short and once Jesus comes back for us, if you have not already gave Him your [all] and been granted the comes and then say here I am, I'm yours Jesus. Sorry it don't work like that. No one knows when Jesus will arrive for us, however He tells us over and over what to look for and to know when we see it the end is near. In (2 Tim 3:1-4) it describes how people will be in the last days, it says : “People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their

parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God (Jesus).” Think about that . . . look around you . . . in the world . . . do people not fit the description of the people described above? 100% Therefore, wake up and realize the end is nearer now than ever. When? No one knows the day or hour, however I here and now promise you one thing, it's coming and sooner than later. People “Jesus Christ” is our only hope. It's your choice though, either turn your life over to Jesus make Him the Lord of your life, take up your cross, denying yourself and follow Him seek to learn, live, in His ways or do you . . . I here and now make you another promise, doing you will get you one thing. A one way ticket to the pits of hell!

Jesus has done His part 100%, what are you gonna do?

“But be ye doers of the Word, not just hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22)

You're in my prayers . . .

– Blake Dempsey –

Waiting For The Rain

Let me ask you something, do you ever look back on things and realize that you actually learned something, but you didn't know that you had? I think we all do that from time to time. What may seem boring and like a punishment, now is exactly what you needed to face the life you're living in now. Once a week or so, I'll say hmmm, that's what that was for. Most of those life lessons came from my Dad. What did you learn from your Dad? Do you make that same discovery that I do? This is just one of the many.

When I was little, my Dad was always working. Day until just a little after dark. So many nights he would sit outside in the swing, and I could hear the chains on the metal poles that were holding it up. Squeak, squeak, squeak. We didn't have air conditioning in our house, so I knew why he was sitting out there. Sometimes, with my gown on and my feet bare I would run outside and hop in the swing with him. The smell of pipe tobacco and hand soap on the breeze. Many times, I would ask him, What are you doing, Daddy? And he would always answer. Sometimes it was this, or sometimes it was that, but one always stuck with me. I'm just waiting on the rain – Daddy would say. Just sitting out there and feeling the breeze on our faces and smelling that certain smell that only a good rain storm can bring. Heat lightening flashing off in the distance then the thunder comes gently rolling in. I knew what he was talking about, but until a few years later, I didn't realize that it was so much more.

Any idea what he was teaching me with that? I'm sure someone taught you the same lesson, maybe not in the same way, but the lesson is still the same. My Dad knew that the rain would come, with it, could be the life giving moisture that we need and that all the farmers crave when those drought months come. Every ear of corn withering away. Tobacco plants that dry out way too early. Those gardens that don't produce as much as they should to keep the family fed. He knew, and he put his trust in God. He knew that God would always provide. Can you

do that? Have you been doing that? Put complete lives into God's hands and say here Lord, do with them as you please. Not only are there days of enjoying the life giving water, but there are also times when the rains come, and don't stop for a good long while. The waters rise and the flooding starts. Higher and higher it goes. Do you trust the Lord to take care of it, or do you just jump right in and think that you know the solution?

A wise man once told me that it's not by my hand that things get done, or taken care of. It's the Lord. We work on his time clock, and we should just turn our eyes to him and pray. Let the Lord know how very thankful we are to Him. It's not easy, but I think we as humans feel like we have to do it on our own, and we have to do it quickly. The faster the better, but why? Why do we need to do it faster and why try to make something perfect that's already been perfected? My Dad, sitting in that old swing, taught me how to have patience. Can you imagine that? And I don't even really know if he was trying to. How do Dad's do it? They know what we need even before we do. They know how to comfort, how to play, how to protect, how to teach, and so much more. You already know where I'm going with this, don't you? If our fathers here on earth can do so many things, don't you need to take a second and third look and see what our Heavenly Father has done for us? I thought the Dad I had hear on earth hung the moon, but my Heavenly Father did hang the moon! How can we go through this life and not see the miracles that Our Father provides? Every day that you wake up, is because the Lord wanted you to. He gave you the very beat of your heart, the oxygen that you breathe. There are so many things that He does, and I just hope that when you read this that you can look back and see at least some of the things.

I see so many people that turn away from the Lord because they don't get what they want when they want it. They take things into their own hands and if it doesn't immediately happen, then they say, well God isn't listening., or God doesn't care, or even going so far as saying that it proves that there isn't a God. That just seems so ungrateful to me. It's as if all the miracles that He does for us every single day are just swept under the rug and forgotten. When did we lose our patience with the Lord? How can we stand before the Lord and demand anything? He has done everything for us. Absolutely everything. The Lord will always be with us, and I know that in my heart. So instead of throwing up our hands and saying God doesn't hear me, or I'm just going to do this myself and if God is okay with it then He'll tell me. The peace that my Dad found in that old swing taught me so very many things. Instead of demanding from God this or that, or taking things in our own hands and doing it when we want to or how we think it should be done, we should just wait for God to take care of it and show us the right way. To make a long story just a little bit shorter, put your faith in the Lord and come join me. Just waiting for the rain.

Golden Nuggets

Matthew 7:14 – “Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be, who find it.”

Dear Readers,

We read in Matthew 7:14 that few will find the way to heaven and it will be those who shall confess their salvation to be a great miracle of God's free grace.

You see, only God in His free grace, can take us off the broad road to destruction and place us on the narrow road to everlasting life. – 1 Corinthians 1:26 – 31.

He will take the souls that have been truly born again by the Holy Spirit; He will take the very people who have been converted by Him and that experience hereafter sorrow over their sinfulness, a heartfelt joy over salvation in Jesus Christ, and a heartfelt gratitude to God for His great salvation – Psalm 18: 1-20; Psalm 32; and Rom. 7:24 – 25

When the Holy Spirit firsts begins to work salvation in a sinner, He does not begin with revealing Christ to them and that is because there is no room in our hearts by nature for Christ. Rather he brings the sinner face to face with their tragic misery and dangerous state of sinnership before God.

Only when the sinner experiences he has no future but condemnation from his side, that the Holy Spirit enable them to cast themselves upon God as the only place of refuge. When the lost and miserable soul sees their condition, they'll beg the Lord to make room within them for the gospel message of Jesus Christ and Him Crucified. It is then the Holy Spirit unveils the unspeakably rich way of salvation and deliverance through the blood and satisfaction of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Have you experienced the great way of deliverance through the power of the Holy Spirit applying God's word to your soul? Have you examined yourself and the road that you are traveling?

Those that travel the narrow road to eternal life are those that desire to surrender “Everything” soul and body for time and eternity into the hands of the Lord; that lie at his feet in true submission; and that confess, “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” – Luke 11: 1-4.

This message is a billboard sent by God to each one of us on the pathway of life to warn each one of us that all the ways of man end in death, but that the throne of Christ opens up the door of grace. – Isaiah 55: 1-7

Will you hear His voice before it is too late? = Psalm 2:12.

God Bless!

from the Dog Pen Church – part 2

*A Prayer for the Writers and Readers of the Good News — all of this community working to live out
Christ's love*

Generous God, you gave us our voices,
no two the same,
no finer instruments with which to praise you.

For these we thank you, Lord.

You gave us words and music,
peculiar gifts,
with which to wound or wonder,
bore or bless, inspire or disable.

For these we thank you, Lord.

And in your Church you have gathered us.
In your community
of common folk and complainers,
prophets and puzzled people,
you have made a place for us.

For this we thank you, Lord.

So let what we say and do here,
what we ponder and decide here,
be real for us and honest to you,
and prepare us for the life of the world
in which you are also praised.

Amen.