

The GoodNews

Newsletter — Spring 2021

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)

Golden Nuggets from the DogPen Church

Knowing God makes us strong and there is nothing better than having a personal relationship with the Lord. Psalm 139:1-10

The way we learn about God is by continually reading the Bible as the written word unveils the living word and God is one with His word. Joshua 1:7-9, John 1:1-4, 1John 1:1-4, Revelation 1:1-3

Walking in intimate fellowship with our heavenly Father fortifies us when tests come and it strengthens us to overcome adversity. 2Chronicles 33:12-13, Proverbs 2:1-12, Jeremiah 29: 11-14

The word has the power to transform our lives, and when we receive the gift of eternal life, God imparts His life, nature, and substance into our spirits. John 14: 15-21, Philippians 1:20-21, 2Peter 1:2-8

As we apply ourselves to the word, it sets us free and through the word our minds are renewed. We become new creatures in Christ and we are made the righteousness of God. Romans 12:1-2, 2Corinthians 5:17-21, Ephesians 4:21-24

Meditating on scripture keeps us from being conformed to this world. The more we renew our minds with the truth, the greater our lives will be transformed into the image of Christ and the more we will express the life and nature of God in us. Psalm 119:25-32, Romans 8:31-39, Galatians 2:20

God Bless!

What's Going On

What is going on? This new era is out of this world. This new generation of people is something to behold. Deuteronomy 31:26-29, Proverbs 30:11-14

It's bad enough that you have parents always on their phones while their driving, at home, and even at work. And like the parents, girls and boys cannot get away from heir phones either. All day every day they are texting back and forth or playing video games. Only God knows what else! There is no socializing with them and their phones and now the parents want to get mad when their kids don't pay them any attention. Proverbs 22:6

My grandkids are always on their phones and will not take the time to call their ol' granddad. I told one of my grandsons that I wouldn't be calling him because he does not take the time to call me unless he wants something — money! I'm not going to be a part of that. It's deep and I love them to death, but their parents are not teaching them things.

I think that they are old enough to know better for themselves but they are selfish. I know that parents today want to give their children things that they didn't have when they were growing up, but still you have to show tough love because the world we live in is even more dangerous than before.

Our children and grandchildren need to be in the church doing something positive for the community rather than running up phone bills for which they have no money or jobs to pay for. We should be teaching them to use their time wisely as idle time is playground for the devil. Psalm 101:2-3, Proverbs 4:19-27

We are all part of a greater community and we're all responsible for each other and the future of our children. So, let's teach them the value of principles and priorities before we're all scraping our heads and wondering, "what's going on?"

Continue to pray for me and others as I will do the same for you. Philippians 1:2-7

—Frederick Singleton

Endurance

Scripture reading: “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1: 2-3 (NASB)

The half brother and bondservant of our Lord Jesus Christ told us in his writings that we should “consider it all joy” when trials and temptations come our way. The natural human response to trials is not to rejoice, but in understanding what James was actually saying in this scripture, the believers will realize that they can grow from the trials that they face. The word “trials” connotes trouble, or something that breaks the pattern of peace, comfort, joy and happiness in someone’s life. The verb form of this word means “to put someone or something to the test” with the purpose of discovering that person’s nature. God brings such tests to prove and increase the strength and quality of one’s faith and to demonstrate its validity. That is what James meant when saying that we should consider it all joy for this process of spiritual growth. Every trial becomes a test of faith designed to strengthen. If the believer fails the test by wrongly responding, that test then becomes a temptation to evil. However, if we respond in the right way, our endurance gets stronger. When James says that we will be perfect, he wasn’t referring to sinless perfection but spiritual maturity. The testing of faith drives believers into deeper communion and greater trust in Christ that produces a stable, godly, and righteous character. So when trials come your way and you are tempted, if you overcome them, then do consider it all joy because your endurance just became stronger.

Alex Mead
Parchman, MS

DogPen Church Prayer

Loving Father,

We thank you that you know us completely and that you love us unceasingly. We thank you for loving us in our brokenness, in our suffering, and for providing encouragement and comfort through the Holy Spirit. We thank you for opening the eyes of our heart that we may see and acknowledge before you our ugliness and our need for you. Help us to see Jesus clearly each day that we may imitate his love and his life of obedience to a holy God. Blessed is the man that fears the Lord, that delights greatly in his commandments. Because you have inclined your ear to us, we will call upon you as long as we live. We will say of the Lord, he is our refuge and our fortress: my God; in him we will trust. We thank you for walking with us each day, for holding our hands, and for carrying us when we are too weak to walk. Renew our strength each day that, as we journey to and fro, we will not be weary, nor faint. Preserve us, O God, from all evil; preserve our going out and our coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy holy name: the upright shall dwell in thy presence.

In the name of Jesus, let the church say, Amen!

Who You Really Are

“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.” Romans 5:19

What do you see when you look into a mirror? I’m not talking about the complexion of your skin, the color of your eyes, your hair, or even the pimple on your forehead. I know that most people automatically think of their physical appearance or features when asked such a question. No. I want you to look a little deeper into the mirror of your life, and tell me what it is that you see on the inside.

If you are truly honest with yourself, you will discover who you really are and the changes that you really need to make. Too often, we easily see where other people around us, even those close to us, need to change instead of looking at ourselves. The mirror of our life shows everything. It reveals our thoughts, our actions, our intents, and even our agendas.

It’s very important to find out who we really are and allows the Lord to show us where to make the right adjustments because it will be the difference in where we shall spend an eternity. Romans 5: 17-18; 6:23

There is no doubt in my mind that many have looked into that mirror. Some have tried to wipe it off, some have enjoyed what they saw, but many will ignore it or even cover it up. I know the feeling because I was once that person that ignored certain “smudges”—attitudes or habits—because I didn’t want to change. Refusing to examine ourselves and making adjustments keeps us from fulfilling God’s plan and truly living the abundant life he has for us. If we don’t allow the Lord to speak to us, it results in sin.

The Bible tells us to be conformed into God’s image. (Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3, Philippians 3, 1 John 3)

We need to clean the dirt off our mirror so that we can reflect Christ’s characteristics in all we say and do. As Christians, the light of God’s word should be what reflects in our mirrors. He wants us to be a reflection of him so that we will be a light to the world. Matthew 5:14-16

I implore everyone to look into the mirror of your life and make changes that will give you eternal citizenship in the kingdom of light, heaven, and grace—which is freely given by the sovereign God in Christ.

God Bless!
Justin Underwood

Who You Really Are

Who you really are depends on which path
of life you choose to follow
It depends on whether you choose to eat the
Bread of life or the bread
of sorrow

By nature, we have sinned with our fathers;
we have committed iniquity
We have rebelled against the word of God;
we have done wickedly

If we look into the mirror of our lives, we
can see the child of hell lost,
guilty, and needy

The cross of Christ has brought an end to our
pride and ambition and has left us
at His feet crying for mercy —

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor that
thou bearest unto thy people: O visit
me with thy salvation

That I may see the good of thy chosen,
that I may rejoice in the gladness
of thy nation (Psalm 106:4-5)

The gospel of the grace of God in Christ will
no longer let us cover, defend, or
excuse any sin

Into our hearts, the Holy Spirit lets the light
of the glorious gospel of God
shine within

Now, we are beggars trying to help other
beggars to find and eat the
living bread

We are a bunch of nobodies trying to tell
everybody about the one who wore
a crown of thorns upon his head —

Taking us completely out of the kingdom of
darkness and putting us into
His kingdom

In his mercy and grace, He has pardoned
our sins, putting them away under
His precious blood — a worthy ransom!

God Bless!

A Sunrise Easter Celebration

Christ is risen!
Alleluia!

The Lord is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed!

It is fitting that the heavens should rejoice and the earth should be glad, and that the whole world, both visible and invisible, should proclaim his name!

It is the day of resurrection, let us be glorious in splendor for the celebration.
Let us cry: Christ has risen from the dead, by death trampling on death, and has bestowed life to those who were dead.

The light of Christ shines in the darkness.
And the darkness did not overcome it.

Matthew 28: 1-10 (The Message Version)

After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move. The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed. "Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, 'He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message." The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

Living God,
We worship you today with joy in our hearts and thanksgiving on our lips. When the powers of evil had done their worst, crucifying your son, and burying him in death, you raised him to life again: an act of power giving hope to the world.

Lord Jesus,
We rejoice that death could not keep you in its grip; that you were raised to life, alive for evermore. You greeted your friends and now you stand angst us in your risen power.

Spirit of God,
You are always giving life to the people of god, giving birth to the children of God. Remodel us in the image of Jesus, fill us with his love and enable us with his risen power, that we might be faithful to his way, used by you in the redeeming of your world. Amen.

Christ is Risen



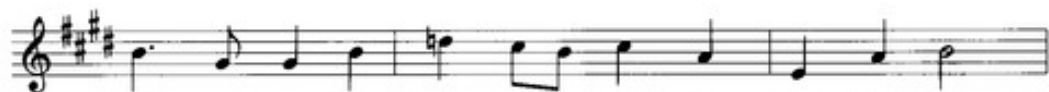
1. Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this
2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its From the cav - erns
3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en Nev - er - more shall



day of days! Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der:
of des - pair. Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing.
be the same. Break the bread of new cre - a - tion



All cre - a - tion is a - mazed. In the des - ert
See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of
Where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, de -



all sur - round - ing, See, a spread - ing tree has grown.
res - ur - rec - tion, Not a ser - vant, but a friend.
mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing Bring a taste
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san -



of love un - known.
shall nev - er end.
na ev - 'ry one!



*“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.
He has been raised; he is not here. Look there is the place they laid him.
But go, tell...”*