

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Jesus, the Only Way to Heaven"

By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church, Norton

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going... I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:1-4, 6)

The Holy Scriptures teach clearly that heaven is a real place, a permanent place, a personal place, a holy place, a place only for the born again and a place of reunion. Jesus proclaims that He *alone* is the way to heaven.

The Holy Spirit moved the apostle Peter in his discourse about salvation to the Sanhedrin (the religious leaders of his day) to boldly proclaim, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). There was no compromise or accommodation in Peter's preaching. In this anointed declaration, Peter wholly commits to Christ the unique status of being the one and only Savior. Peter and the other apostles never watered down the fact that apart from Jesus there is no salvation for anyone.

From the earliest beginnings of His earthly existence, Jesus was pro-

claimed to be the Savior. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that the child conceived in Mary was from the Holy Spirit. He also told Joseph, "She [Mary] will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21). (The name "Jesus" comes from the Greek form of "Joshua" which

means "Yahweh [the Lord] saves.")

Some may say that Jesus is a dogmatic and narrow-minded teacher when He says, "I am the way and the truth and the life." As Truth embodied however, the Lord alone can reveal truth to His people and unbelievers alike. He is our guide to living an abundant and fruitful life. His promise to the disciples who

followed Him was that they should know the truth, and by the truth should be set free (John 8:32). When the crisis of His ministry and the hour of His sacrifice arrived, he summed up the whole purpose of His mission in the declaration that He had come into the world in order to "testify to the truth" (John 18:37). Jesus' own declaration is, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies." (John 11:25).

Jesus is serious when He says, "...No one comes to the Father except through me." No one is able to go to God and enjoy Him as their "Father who is in heaven" apart from having Christ as High Priest, Advocate, and Mediator of their lives. Unrepentant sinners will face God as Judge, but they will never enjoy the benefits that are available to the children of God, such as eternal salvation, regeneration and sanctification.

Jesus gives an allegory to particularly represent His ministry that could be named "The Shepherd and His Flock." In this parable Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep... whoever enters through Me will be saved... I am the Good Shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me..." (John 10:7-8, 14). The Lord uses the word "know" (Greek *ginosko*) which refers to a relationship of trust and intimacy.

Do you *know* the Christ who is the only way into heaven? Does He *know* you?

Sticking Your Neck Out

How many times have you heard someone say, "I'm not sticking my neck out"? Taking a risk, venturing into unknown territories, trying something new... it's scary!

What if you didn't have to do it alone? It always helps to have a partner, someone to make it less frightening, someone to share the adventure with!

With God by your side, you can do anything. In 2 Samuel 22:33 it says, "It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect." God can strengthen you with the courage you need to stick your neck out.

At your house of worship this week, stand tall and sing His praises! Don't be afraid to try something new, God is with you!



- Sunday
1 Corinthians
3.1-23
- Monday
James
1.1-27
- Tuesday
James
2.1-26
- Wednesday
James
3.1-18
- Thursday
James
4.1-17
- Friday
James
5.1-20
- Saturday
Ecclesiastes
3.1-15

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER
Jennings received a nice slow rain Monday morning. It rained .90 during the night. This is some much needed moisture in western Kansas.

Keith and Helen Muirhead went to Jackson Hole, Wyo., to attend a memorial service for a long-time friend, Jack Dennis, Sr. They enjoyed visiting with Jack's daughter Peggy Butler and family of Bothell, Wash., and Jack Dennis, Jr. and family, Jackson Hole. They also visited their hunting friends, Har McMillian and Richard and Terry Manning.

Several Jennings residents enjoyed visiting with Claudine Bennett and her cousin while they were in town one day last week. Claudine is scheduled to have surgery this in Denver.

The Jennings community extends sympathy to the family of Rosalia Stephens. Her Mass of the Resurrection was held Sept. 3 at the church in New Almelo.

Sympathy also goes out to Doris Fleckenstein and family. Her sister, Ann Marie Wright, Goodland, died Wednesday, Sept. 5 Her funeral was held Friday, Sept. 7 at the First Christian Church, St. Francis.

The Jennings City Council met last Tuesday evening with three council members present: Stann Hartzog, Rick Foster and Louise Cressler.

Abbie Hissong and Tammy Fredrickson came to review the city's insurance policy with the council. The council voted to paint the walls of the Community Hall and refinish the floor. Nuisance properties were discussed. Several owners have not cleaned up properties nor paid for the city cleaning them. The back-up well has been wired into the electrical system. It can now be used in case of emergency. It was reported that the water leak on W. Main has been repaired and the hole filled. Water meters will be read Sept. 22.

LYLE NEWS

By DEANNA SUMNER
The Annual Powell Picnic was held in July at the Powell grounds. There were 29 guests present.

Kendra Guy from Abilene came to stay with her great-grandmother, Margaret Mager.

The Community Potluck picnic was held Aug. 12 with nine guests.

Wednesday, Sept. 12, Dorothy Magers and daughter Paula, from Greeley, Colo., came for a visit with Margaret Magers. That evening Rea and Dee Magers, Norcatur, came for supper and lots of visiting.

Liberty Star Club met to discuss upcoming events. Members present were: Angie Wilson, Veda Wood, Carolyn Plotts, Toots

Magers, Kathy Van Meter and Deanna Sumner.

Lyle Ladies have been busy sewing.

Kathy Van Meter attended the First State Bank of Holbrook's appreciation party, "Mexican Independence Day".

Toots and Kathy attended the open house 90th birthday party for Lula Hix at Whispering Pines, Norton, and then they visited Mrs. Pat Schwab at the Andbe Home in Norton, then went on to Norcatur for the block party.

Kathy and Joyce Sumner traveled to Garden City with a car load of goods for the Methodist Church to the Mission.

The paper you read for the news you need!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Cross Roads

EVER-FLOWING STREAM OF GRACE PART 4

Gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak: Isaiah 40:31 says, "But those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength."

"Wait on the Lord" (*qawah*) is one word, an active verb in the original Hebrew writings, and is the foundational truth to enjoying God's supernatural strengthening, which enables Christians to run the race, raise up like eagles, walk and not faint. To wait here is not inactivity or absence of physical exertion. It merely means hope in God as you do what He calls you to do and be willing to wait on Him for the results and directions to move on. The root word for the phrase "wait upon the Lord" has a "meaning of that twisting or winding a strand of cord or rope." A rope that is made by taking two or three strands twisted and wound together is a strong rope you can take hold of, and as you hold on, it will be strong enough to put you on your feet and/or keep you from falling. The application here is that you have a God who is fully able to keep you strong at all times. He will keep you from fainting from your callings if you hold onto His promises and obey His commands. Whatever it is that the Lord is calling you to be in Him or do with Him, He will give you the strength to accomplish what He has ordained you to do.

"Gain new" (*halap*) means to revive or to cause to flourish again. It is that tree that has decayed and is about to fall down but having been spoken back to life once again, it buds and produces fruit.

In June of 1994 I had the privilege of hearing Evangelist Billy Graham speak. It was the night before he was to leave for Mayo Clinic. He was weak and had to be helped up on the platform. When he made his way to the pulpit you could see him experiencing a "gained strength." He stood strong and spoke boldly and delivered the Lord's message in a strength that came from the Holy Spirit. It was impossible for him to faint from his calling.

There is a special enabling from God to those who put their trust in the Lord and obedient Christians enjoy the "Ever-flowing Grace of God."

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