

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, November 30, 2014

Volume 19, Number 48

“Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path... Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart” (Psalm 27:11-14)

THE MESSIAH DECLARES ...

by Bob Pulliam

“Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven -- things which angels desire to look into.”

(Isaiah 46:9f)

FROM GENESIS TO MALACHI, the Old Testament prophesies the coming of one who would be Messiah. A great amount of detail is given regarding this coming King. But while the Jews had a great amount of information about the coming Messiah, they still had fully misunderstood Him. Thus, one of the greatest aspects of the Bible's prophecies finds its place among

the evidences that declare, "There is a God!"

The Great Expectation...

That the Jews were expecting a great earthly kingdom is no big surprise. They had visions of the Messiah's kingdom being every bit as grand as that of David and Solomon's. They never seemed to have tried to imagine that it would

(Declare, continued on pg 2...)

Your Children

By James W. Adams

MANY CHRISTIANS are seemingly obsessed by the goal in life of “leaving something for their children.” The Bible teaches that “parents should lay up for their children” (II Cor. 12:14). The most important consideration, however, is the question: What is the most valuable thing I can bequeath to them? Patrick Henry, famous American patriot, provided the answer in his will. He wrote, “I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one thing more I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion. If they had that, and I had not given them one shilling, they would have been rich: and if they had not that, and I had given them all the world, they would be poor.” These words have infinitely more worth than his more famous statement: “Give me liberty, or give me death.”



Church of Christ • 2510 Fry Road • Houston, Texas 77084 - 5817

PHONE (281) 578-1897 • FAX (281) 578-2478 • E-MAIL: church@fryroad.org

WEB SITE: www.fryroad.org

(Declare, continued from pg 1...)

be greater, and therefore expected an earthly kingdom (like many today). To further heighten their expectations, the Romans held Judea with a firm grip, and they believed the Messiah's coming would have to be with a spectacular display of power.

One passage that conveys the thinking of the people is Luke 19:11. Luke tells us that Jesus spoke a particular parable because "they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately." They knew Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem, the capital from which they thought He would reign. **The people were wrong.**

The disciples were ready to fight the mob who came to take Jesus prisoner. Peter even cut off

the ear of the high priest's servant (Jn 18:10). They thought Jesus needed to be defended on this night of conflict. They thought He would remain alive to sit on David's throne in the city of Jerusalem. **The disciples were wrong.**

The rulers of the Jews were the only ones enacting God's plan (Jn 11:49-53); but this did not make them right. They were not trying to fulfill **God's** plan. They looked upon Jesus as a pretender to the throne of David. In their minds, He could not be the Messiah, because they also thought the Messiah would have political aspirations like unto theirs. Jesus did not fall into line when they sought Him, and questioned Him. They had Him put to death because of their own envy (Mt 27:18). **The rulers of the Jews were wrong.**

The prophets made the call hundreds of years before Jesus came to earth. He fulfilled what had been revealed, even though everyone else was dead wrong about His mission, death, resurrection, and current reign! How could everyone be so wrong, and Jesus still be able to fulfill what was right?...

The Unexpected Twist...

Now while everyone was expecting the Messiah to establish a physical kingdom, He actually brought a spiritual kingdom. The only kingdom that would actually fit all of the descriptions given in the Old Testament. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 describes the Messiah's role as a sin offering. If Jesus were just another Jew, as some claim, and the Jews were not looking for this sin offering of Isaiah, then how

did Jesus come to fulfill the unexpected? I have an answer, because I believe what the Bible says about the fulfillment of this ancient passage. God brought these things to pass.

Perhaps nearly as persuasive is the role of the disciples. Here were men who had it all wrong during Jesus' ministry on earth. They sought preeminence over each other (Mt 20:21; Lk 22:24). They would have destroyed a village of the Samaritans because of rejection (Lk 9:5 1 ff). Here was a group of men who needed Jesus to keep them in line. Especially, to keep them from trying to lord it over each other! Yet, after Jesus departure, they fall into line as if He is still with them. The reason is, He was! Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth (Jn 16:13). In Acts, all bickering over preeminence is gone. The predominant theme is the risen Christ, rather than, "who is greatest?". Focused upon this truth, the apostles go forth in the name of their Master who still lives, and leads from heaven.

Conclusion...

Who could have seen, from beginning to end, the magnificent fulfillment of these things? These are matters into which angels longed to look (I Pt 1:10-12). Only God, in His infinite wisdom, possessed the plan which was executed in the fullness of time through Jesus (Gal 4:4).

How could the people all around Jesus have everything so wrong, and yet Jesus still perfectly accomplish His plan? He could do so because He was who He claimed to be: the Son of God (Lk 22:70). He could because the

(Declare, continued on pg 3...)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS

NEW TESTAMENT READING

HEBREWS 5 - 10

November 30 - December 2

OLD TESTAMENT READING

II SAMUEL 22 - 24;
PSALMS 42 - 50

December 3 - 6

I TIMOTHY 4:13

FAMILY NEWS & NOTES

*News and Notes of Interest
to Fry Road Members*

Because of the large number of visitors to our services, we would ask those wishing to identify with the congregation to do so by expressing this interest directly to the elders.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Gospel Meeting (Dee Bowman)
January 11 - 14, 2015

Gospel Meeting (Carl McMurray)
April 12 - 15, 2015

V.B.S.
June 21 - 25, 2015

Annual Singing
September 12, 2015

Gospel Meeting (Jim Deason)
September 13 - 16, 2015

(Declare, continued from pg 2...)

power of fulfilling these things was not in the hands of men, but in the power of God.



“Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? ...”

(Romans 8:35)

It isn't uncommon for me to hear Christians wondering about their salvation. We can intellectually know that God wants us to be saved, but then allow other knowledge of God demanding obedience to cancel this out. I'm not saying we can ignore the obedience, but we must be sure that we are not harder on ourselves (or others) than God is.

The text above presents a perfect study for this question. In the context, Paul points out the lengths to which God has gone to save us. It might be helpful for us to remember that God knows we aren't perfect, and that He does want us to be saved. Now read verses 31-39, and think on them.

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Jesus Christ:
Man of Conviction

Tonight:

Even When So Wrong,
We Can Make It Right

Preaching Abroad...

Grief Stricken

FOR THE RECORD

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

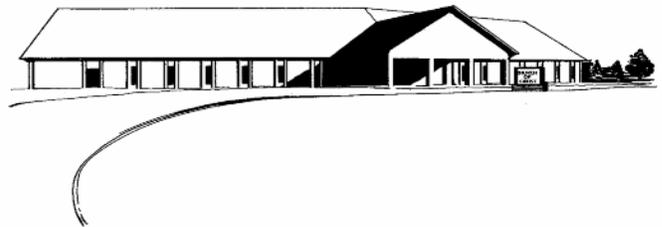
MONTHLY ASSIGNMENTS

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

IN KEEPING WITH OUR LONG STANDING AGREEMENT, THOSE SERVING PUBLICLY ARE REMINDED TO PLEASE DRESS IN A MANNER RESPECTFUL OF THE GOD WHOM WE SERVE.

ELDERS:

Ruben Amador
Matthew Heaton
Donnie Mangrum
Steven Martin
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Mike McMurray	Jason Mock
David Stevenson	Glenn Tomblin

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Assembly	10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Assembly	6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes	7:30 PM

EVANGELIST & EDITOR:

Bob Pulliam bob@fryroad.org