

Plain Path

Weekly newsletter of the Fry Road church of Christ

Sunday, June 29, 2014

Volume 19, Number 26

“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)

“THANKS BE TO GOD”

by Bob Pulliam

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

(I Corinthians 15:56f)

For what is Paul giving thanks in the passage above? You might think the answer to be simple, but some people apply human logic to the matter, and miss the true magnitude of God’s gift.

Let’s begin by looking at the problem. Paul tells us that “the sting of death is sin”. The problem isn’t that we “pass away”, although

that hurts loved ones left behind. Paul says that the *sting* is sin. But what sting could sin possibly have in death? Death is when sin’s wage is paid. Paul also said that “the wages of sin is death” (Rom 6:23). But does he mean that the wages of sin is to die physically? No, for even the infant who has never sinned will die, and Jesus himself

(Thanks, continued on pg 2...)

**Make Sure Our Next Meeting
Is on Your Calendar!**

July 12-13

Our Speaker Will Be Rick Moore

Thank You

A special thank you is in order for our VBS this past week. First, we need to thank our elders for setting aside this period for our young. And we had a wonderful group of seekers, wanting to know more about Jesus. And we are so glad that they took advantage of this opportunity to “see Jesus”.

Our teachers put a great deal of work into their classes, and gave their students a great learning experience. And our helpers made sacrifices that were of great benefit. Included were helpers who could only come a limited number of days for a portion of class time. But this was of tremendous help to the overall project.

We need to give some special note to Judy Farrell and Debbie McMurray, who put a lot more work into this than anyone can know. Ray and Mike put their efforts in here, too. Ray even took

(VBS, continued on pg 3...)

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

(Thanks, *continued from pg 1...*)

died too. Paul defines the death he refers to by contrasting death with life. Sin's *wage* is death; but God's *gift* is eternal life. As the "life" is spiritual life, so also the "death" is spiritual death. It is an eternal death. It is an eternal separation from God.

But separation from God doesn't mean that we cease to exist. Remember that mankind was created in the image of God (Gen 1:26f). Nothing in creation is like us. We have a spirit that will not cease to exist at death. It continues, just as Solomon pointed out (Eccl 12:7). So the sting of death is *not* that we cease to exist! The sting of death is that we are separated from God for eternity. And that separation involves torment (Lk 16:23; Mk 9:42-48; II Pt 2:9; Rev 20:15; 21:8).

Some choose to believe that

God will simply overlook sin. But we've seen that sin has a "wage" attached to it. A "wage" is an obligation that must be paid. Not paying that "wage" would make God unjust. God must, and will, pay out this wage. Just the fact that Jesus had to die on the cross for the sins of mankind should turn one's mind to the obligation God recognizes in this regard.

But there is a victory to be won! And it is won through Jesus Christ our Lord! The law can only define and condemn sin, and then express provisions for atonement. But until Jesus, there was no provision for atonement that could be adequate for sin's forgiveness. Only in Jesus' sacrifice can we find atonement for sin. It is His blood that provides for our justification (Rom 5:9). And "the law of the Spirit of

life in Christ Jesus" sets forth provisions for our receiving that justification. That's why Paul could say that the "law of the Spirit of life" has set us free from the law of sin and death (Rom 8:2).

When Paul says, "thanks be to God" (I Cor 15:56), it isn't some small favor God has done for us. And it isn't something we could have taken care of, but He saved us the bother. God provided redemption for the sins that would have sent us into eternal torment...

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

(I Corinthians 15:58)



**THIS WEEK'S
DAILY BIBLE
READINGS**

NEW TESTAMENT
READING

LUKE 21 - 24

June 29 - July 1

OLD TESTAMENT
READING

DEUTERONOMY 1 - 5

July 2 - 5

I TIMOTHY 4:13

Something to Think About...

**There is a sense in which
no gift is truly ours until
we are grateful for it.**

Kept Away By Hypocrites (Author Unknown)

The man who says he is kept away from church by hypocrites is not influenced by them anywhere else. Business is full of them, but they do not keep him from business. Society is crowded with them, and yet he never thinks of becoming a hermit. Married life is full of them, but that does not make him remain a bache-

lor. Hell is full of them, and yet he isn't doing anything to keep from going there. He makes you think that he is trying to avoid the association of hypocrites, and yet he makes not a single step toward the only place where there will be no hypocrites. Do you think he is being hypocritical about going to church?



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 (Rick Moore)
July 12 - 13, 2014

Annual Singing
September 6, 2014

Gospel Meeting (Joseph Casimier)
September 7 - 10, 2014

Sick and Shut-Ins

Sections have been removed to preserve members' privacy

Sermons:

Next Sunday:

Forgiveness:
The Sweetest Relief

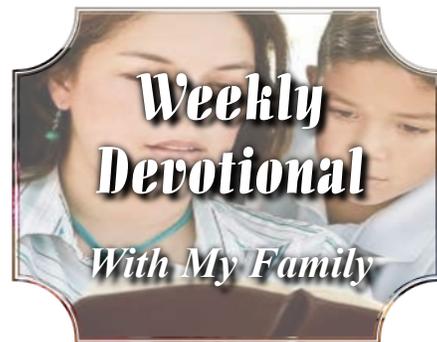
Tonight:

Deuteronomy's Place
in the Law

"... I was sick, and you visited me..."
Matthew 25:36

Visitors:

We are so glad you are here.
Please come again
whenever possible.



"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

(Matthew 3:2)

Next Sunday, we will begin a study of "The Kingdom of the Messiah" in our adult class. Of benefit to the whole family would be a study of a particular phrase. "Kingdom of heaven" is used 32 times in the New Testament, and only in the gospel of Matthew.

For your devotions at home this week, write down the places where the phrase is found, and then look for passages in the other gospels that are parallel verses. What phrase(s) do(es) the other gospels use in it's place?

Next, discuss what is being said in each of these verses; and then branch out to other passages in the gospels where the word "kingdom" is used. Now, what do those passages have to say about the kingdom.

Finally, discuss the ways these "kingdom passages" relate to you. Is the kingdom around today? Where? Who are you in it?...

(VBS, continued from pg 1...)

time off from work to teach the Junior High. Noah Dunsmore did a wonderful job leading each session in songs, which is such an enjoyable aspect of our time in these sessions.

Thank you to all who made this tremendous effort a success.



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
Steve Voss



DEACONS:

John Coleman	Ken Dunsmore
David Ellison	Ray Farrell
Aubrey Garner	Steve Geraci
Steve LaGrasta	John Light
Steven Martin	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