

# Good News

*From Getwell*

Published by  
**Getwell Church of Christ**  
 1511 Getwell Road  
 Memphis, Tennessee 38111-7299

Phone: (901) 743-0464

Fax: (901) 743-2197

E-Mail: [mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org](mailto:mail@getwellchurchofchrist.org)

Website: [www.getwellchurchofchrist.org](http://www.getwellchurchofchrist.org)

#### ELDERS

Dewey Murray  
 Daniel P. Phillips  
 Ron Wallace

#### MINISTERS

Michael Wyatt, Minister  
 Ron Wallace, Assoc. Minister  
 Daniel P. Phillips

Publishers of  
**THE SPIRITUAL SWORD**  
 Alan E. Highers, Editor

Home of  
*The Spiritual Sword Lectureship*

Radio Program  
***The Truth in Love***  
 WHBQ-AM 560 / FM 98.5  
 Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

#### SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

##### SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.  
 Worship.....10:20 a.m.  
 Worship.....5:00 p.m.

##### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

Volume LXIII

August 14, 2022

Number 32

## ON THE HOME FRONT

On a personal note, my family lost my beloved Aunt Sarah Curtis. She was a faithful Christian and long-time member at the Macon Road congregation. Personally, she was always an encouragement to me as a Christian.

It was good to have Michael and Susie Wyatt back with us this past Lord's day. Michael has just concluded a gospel meeting in Moody, Mo.

Our sympathy goes out to Maxine Ward, who has recently lost a sister and sister-in-law. Please comfort her in this time of sorrow and loss.

The Polishing the Pulpit is quickly leaning down upon us. The dates are August 17 - 25 in Sevierville, Tennessee. Our own Michael Wyatt is one of featured speakers. His topic is "Raising Godly Youth". We were privileged Sunday evening to hear a preview of his up-and-coming lesson.

In conjunction with Polishing the Pulpit, which is a wonderful learning experience, Hugh Fulford, a regular Spiritual Sword contributor is scheduled to receive the "Lifetime Achievement Award" presented by Mike Hixson. Alan Highers, the Spiritual Sword editor is scheduled to speak five times. May God continue to bless this event and its planners.

Psalm of the Week

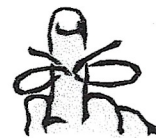
Psalm 2: 1-6

- Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?  
<sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,  
<sup>3</sup> Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.  
<sup>4</sup> He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.  
<sup>5</sup> Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.  
<sup>6</sup> Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Until next week.

Ron Wallace

# RON'S REMINDERS



## Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All

No one gets to heaven dry-eyed, smooth shouldered, and soft-footed. Christianity begins with self-denial, taking up a cross, and following the Nazarene along the way of the cross (Luke 9:23-26). It requires godly sorrow to enter the narrow gate and forgoing sin's pleasures to travel on the difficult road (Matthew 5:4; 7:13-14; 2 Corinthians 7:10).

One may have to come to Christ over the objections of family (Matthew 10:34), the ostracism of friends (1 John 3:13), and the mockery of the world (Matthew 5:10). He runs the risk of being labeled as part of a hate group, may suffer for political incorrectness, and in some places meet death prematurely as a martyr (Revelation 2:10).

Even avoiding these problems, one will invest significant resources. If he attends all church services and is involved in its usual activities (youth, visitation, caregiving, fellowship, revivals) for a couple hours a week, he will invest about 20,000 hours over fifty years. The average American family income (filing jointly) is \$117,795. If such a family gives 10 percent for fifty years, then they contribute \$588,975. If one is active in Bible reading, teaching, evangelism, and shepherding, then the investment of talent and energy is substantial.

Will heaven be worth all of that?

### A FREE TRAVEL PACKAGE TO PARADISE

What if I could tell you credibly that I had free airfare for you to fly to a unique island? When you step off the plane, you will be in a garden paradise. Its temperature is constant perfection. Its beauty is beyond comparison. Its amenities are luxurious. Its activities are enjoyable and meaningful. How much would such a trip be worth?

On the island, the music is amazing. Perfect voices, perfect pitch, and perfect harmony will leave you longing for more.

You will be given the keys to your own mansion, a lifetime supply of delicious food and gorgeous clothing, and a crown to wear. All your debts will be

paid, and you will become an instant billionaire.

You will never have to work again. No sweating under a hot sun; no toiling until your muscles ache; no long meetings or stressful deadlines. It is not a vacation; it is a transfer. It does not end; it will not become a fond memory lost in the busyness of a hectic return to reality. It is reality. The stressful life becomes the fading memory.

On this island, there is absolute safety, serenity, and security. No armies rattle sabers—there are no tanks, fighter jets, warships, or nuclear weapons. No violent person lives on the entire island. All citizens are peace loving. Doors have no locks; windows no latches; mansions no burglar alarms; premises no security lights. The island has no guns. No jails. No police force. No backlogged courts. No drug pushers, pedophiles, carjackers, or robbers.

There are no hospitals, doctors' offices, or pharmacies, for you will never need their services. There are no pills, shots, slings, wheelchairs, crutches, prostheses, casts, glasses, dentures, hearing aids, or canes. When you step off the plane, if you have cancer, it will be cured. If you struggle with heart disease, the effects of a stroke, or lingering results of an injury, these will disappear. If you have a handicap, it will be removed. The blind sees the island's beauty. The deaf hears its songs. The crippled walks its streets. The mute praises its Maker. You will never hurt again—no groans, grimaces, pain relievers, chiropractors, or pain clinics. If you are old, your youth will be restored.

You will never be sad. One day you will think, "I can't remember the last time I was unhappy." You will face no anxieties, tears, discouragement, despair, depression, troubles, sorrows, or unhappiness ever again. You will experience constant laughter, joy, release, ease, and elation—without limits, without end, without interruption.

You will meet grand heroes of the past. Abel, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, Ruth, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Esther, Daniel, Mary, Peter, John, Paul, and Barnabas all live on the island. You could live next door to any one of them. You might have lunch with another—or one after

another, day after day.

You will be met by Christian loved ones you had long missed—a mother, father, brother, sister, grandparent, friend, teacher, neighbor— and ancestors you never knew nor had dreamed of meeting. They are all alive - perfectly healthy and completely happy.

You will live forever in perfect health. There are no funerals, funeral homes, caskets, cemeteries, granite markers, or plastic flowers. Your body will not age; your eye will not dim; your hearing will not diminish; your tongue will not stammer; your skin will not wrinkle; your hair will not thin; your hand will not tremble; your step will not falter; your energy will not wane; your mind will not slow. There are no broken bones, skinned knees, or bruised bodies.

You will meet the King of the Universe—your Maker, Redeemer, Savior, and Father—and His Son, Jesus. They wait for you there. You will bask in their light, glory in their beauty, and worship their holiness.

Your family and friends may join you at any time. There are tickets for them. You can live together forever. There is an open invitation and plenty of room. Everyone who has a ticket is welcome.

(Read about these things in Genesis 25:8; Psalm 16:11; 116:15; John 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 12:4; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 11:1-12:22; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 2:7; 7:9; 14:13; 19:1-10; 21:1-27; 22:1-21. For scriptural discussion see [housetohouse.com/worth-it-all/](http://housetohouse.com/worth-it-all/).)

### A DEAL AT ANY PRICE

How much would a ticket to such an island be worth? A million dollars? A billion? A lifetime of preparation? How much abuse would one take to go there? Could any price be too high?

That island is, of course, heaven; arriving is the Judgment Day (Matthew 25:31-33); the plane is the church (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 15:24); the ticket is salvation (Acts 2:38; 15:11). Its price is free, for Jesus paid for it with His blood (Ephesians 1:7). It simply requires our reciprocal love, obedient faith, and absolute allegiance (Matthew 22:36-40; Mark 16:16; John 3:16; 14:15; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8-9).

When Jesus asked, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?" (Mark 8:36), He meant heaven will be worth it all. Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with that glory (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17). Since our earthly existence is less than one percent of

our lifespan as eternal beings (James 4:14; Ecclesiastes 12:7), any comparison quickly diminishes to negligible.

Remember heaven is one of two—and only two—destinations. We will exist in eternity (Ecclesiastes 12:7), but the earth will not (2 Peter 3:10-12). The only places are the lake of fire and the island (Revelation 21:1, 8). To miss the island is to end up in the lake. The stakes are high, but the odds are in your favor since God wants to save you (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9).

### COME, GO WITH US

As Moses said to Hobab, "We are setting out for the place of which the Lord said . . . Come with us" (Numbers 10:29). "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come'" (Revelation 22:17).

God is not inviting us to live in a shack on the backside of heaven; He wants us to move in with Him in the big house. God is not inviting us to sit on heaven's doorstep and listen to its songs; He wants us to be singers. He is not offering a tour of the gates of pearl, walls of jasper, and street of gold; He wants us to live in the halls of the palace and see the King in His beauty (Psalm 27:4).<sup>1</sup> There is a crown in heaven that will never be worn on any head but yours (2 Timothy 4:8); a mansion now empty, just waiting for you (John 14:2); robes hanging in its closets in just your size (Revelation 7:9); a place set for you at the Lamb's marriage feast (Revelation 19:7). Surely "the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalm 34:8).

Jesus reaches pierced hands to welcome you (Matthew 11:28). God looks on with interest (Luke 15:20-32). The Holy Spirit waits with pen in hand to enroll you in the Book of Life (Luke 10:20). Obey the gospel (Acts 8:35-40). Remain faithful (Revelation 2:10; 22:14).

Sound good? We have some extra tickets.

#### Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> This section is adapted from something I once heard or read. I have been unable to find the original source.

House to House Heart to Heart, Allen Webster,  
Vol. 22 Number 6