

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

Website: 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
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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.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

This week let us study Psalms 6:

Psalms 6

¹O LORD, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

²Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed.

³My soul is also sore vexed: but thou, O LORD, how long?

⁴Return, O LORD, deliver my soul: oh save me for thy mercies' sake.

⁵For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?

⁶I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

⁷Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

⁸Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

⁹The LORD hath heard my supplication; the LORD will receive my prayer.

¹⁰Let all mine enemies be ashamed and sore vexed: let them return and be ashamed suddenly.

Until next week.

Ron Wallace

RON'S REMINDERS



when the OMNIPRESENT GOD was ABSENT

God is everywhere. He is in heaven and on earth. He is on His throne (Matthew 5:34) and upon His footstool (Acts 7:49). He is at the North Pole and the South Pole, and all the way around the equator. He is at the top of Everest and the bottom of the Marianas Trench. He roams the Serengeti plains, meanders up the Shenandoah Valley, and traverses the icy crevices of the Himalayas. He walks in Red Square, Tiananmen Square, and Times Square. He is in the Outback and the Sahara and the crowded streets of London and Bangladesh.

GOD IS ALWAYS THERE

Since God is everywhere, "all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account" (Hebrews 4:13). Thus, He is at the hip-hop concert, in the licentious teenager's backseat, and at the rave party. He is in Vegas, Reno, and Atlantic City. He is in the alley where the drug deal goes down, at the bar where the alcoholic gets drunk, and on the street corner where the prostitute meets her john. He is in the greedy corporate boardroom, the sleazy strip club, and the hygienic abortion clinic. He attends every session of Congress and every hearing of the Supreme Court. He resides at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. He is aboard Air Force One when it takes off and lands. He was in the Twin Towers on 9/11. But there was one place where God was not.

EXCEPT ONE TIME (MATTHEW 27:46)

A thousand years before the crucifixion, the psalmist recorded the prayer that Jesus would pitifully cry from Golgotha's darkened hillside that Passover afternoon: "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" Or in English, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" Jesus was abandoned even by God, which was a new experience for Him. David continues his prehistory of the Savior's thoughts: "Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? . . . Be not far from Me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help" (Psalm 22:1, 11). For the first time in all eternity, the Father and Son were separated. God was not there.

It was prophesied that the sun and the moon would be darkened (Joel 3:15-16), and from noon until three o'clock that afternoon, it happened. It was dark over all the land, a supernatural darkness that could not be explained. It was not an eclipse because Passover was always held at full moon, when there could be no eclipse of the sun. It is reported that Dionysius, at Heliopolis in Egypt, took note of the darkness, and said that "either the God of nature is suffering, or the machine of the world is tumbling into ruin."¹ God sent three days of darkness to the land of Egypt before the first Passover (Exodus 10:21-22), when the lambs were slain to protect the firstborn ; God sent three hours of darkness at

at the last Passover before the Lamb of God died for the sins of the world (cf. John 1:29). Why was the omnipresent God absent?

BUT, WHY?

Matthew Henry calls this darkness "the frown of heaven." Why would God abandon His Son at His hour of greatest need, especially when Jesus was doing His Father's will? God still loved Him, but since He bore the world's sin, God's holiness was repelled. "You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness" (Habakkuk 1:13).²

God's holiness may be His chief attribute. It is referred to more times in Scripture than any other trait³ "Holiness is the central nature of the being of God from which such attributes as love, justice, and mercy emanate."⁴ In both the Old and New Testaments, we read of the inhabitants of heaven praising Him with the words, "Holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8). God's book reflects God's holiness. Truly, "Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Exodus 15:11). The word holy is found 611 times in the Bible and holiness, 43 times. Saint (100 times, including plural), sanctify (132, including past tense), and sanctification (5 times) all come from the same root as holiness. The darkness manifested God's holiness as hatred of the sin that Jesus experienced in that dreaded hour.

The justice of God inflicted upon Jesus the penalty that the worst of all sinners would face. Just what was taking place there that afternoon? The soldiers saw a routine execution, the Jewish leaders saw an enemy disposed of, the Romans saw a problem

resolved, the disciples saw their dreams come to an abrupt halt, the women saw their friend killed, and Satan thought he saw God's plan foiled; but God and the angels saw something else. God's great dilemma -- how He could be both just and Justifier -- was resolved.

Paul reasoned that God sent Christ "as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:25-26).

- He who knew no sin was made sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- He whom God loved was made a curse for us (Galatians 3:13).
- He who deserved no penalty was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5).
- He who was worthy of worship "was delivered up because of our offenses" (Romans 4:25).
- He who was Life "died for our sins according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 3:18), and became "the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4:10).

Endnotes

1 Henry Law, *The Gospel in Exodus*. Bottom of the Hill Publishing 2013 (originally published 1862)

2 Matthew Henry and David Winter. *Matthew Henry's New Testament Commentary*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1995. Print.

3 James Montgomery Boice, "Holy, Holy, Holy," *Moody*, January, 1985, 14.

4 George Allen Turner, *Nelson's Complete Book of Stories, Illustrations, and Quotes*, 374

Allen Webster, *House to House Heart to Heart*, Vol.27 No.10