

# Good News

*From Getwell*

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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

The lectureship was conducted last week. The speakers were excellent, attendance was good and the food was very good. What more could one need?

Next year's lectureship will be at East Ridge Church of Christ near Chattanooga, TN. The dates are October 13 - 17, 2024 and the theme is "Precious Promises of Christianity" 2 Peter 1:3.

Brother Phillips was able to be with us on Sunday, October 15 and he led singing at both services. Good job, Patrick.

Getwell is preparing for our closing at the end of the month. Getwell members will be looking for church families. Our prayers will be with them.

Thanks to everyone who supported us over the years.

God bless everyone.

Dewey Murray

# FINDING THE TREASURE

Acts 8:26-40

The Bible tells of a treasurer who found a treasure. Jesus' comparison of a sinner who learns the gospel to one who finds great treasure (Matthew 13:44-46) is illustrated by this Ethiopian treasurer, who found the gospel on a lonely road leading back to Africa from Jerusalem (Acts 8:26-40). Why did he—of all people in the world—find the treasure that day?

## THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LOOK FOR SOMETHING MORE.

This Ethiopian had traveled fifteen hundred miles one way to worship and was still reading his Bible on the way home. Because he was a eunuch, he had not even been allowed into the temple proper during the ceremonies (cf. Deuteronomy 23:1). You could say he rode three thousand miles to sit in the foyer. He knew something of the Bible but wanted to know more. He was like a man at sunrise tilting his manuscript to catch the first light. As he read Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus, he was catching the first rays of the rising sun of Christianity.

Who will find God's treasure today? Those who are willing to look for it. Growing up, we all played the usual childhood games. We played make-believe. We played many games of football, baseball, and basketball. And we played hide-and-seek.

While the rules would change from time to time, the basic gist was the same: One person would be "it," and the rest would hide, hoping to be the last one found. Since no one wanted to be "it," the role often was not played with much enthusiasm; those who were "it" did not always finish the game. Only those who zealously searched for those in hiding would be victorious.

God's treasure is available to all but requires a careful and diligent Bible student (2 Timothy 2:15). The way to heaven is "hidden" in the holy

Scriptures. Jesus said that the Scriptures (Old Testament) testified of Him, but His name is not found there (John 5:39). He taught in parables so that only those sincerely interested would find eternal life (Matthew 13:13-15). He said that the path to eternal life is difficult and narrow and will be found by few (Matthew 7:13-14). We do not find the path by a casual pass through the Scriptures, but rather by a diligent search. No single passage teaches all we need, but we must study to put the pieces together to know the truth that will make us free (John 8:31-32). We should all strive to find, understand, and observe God's will for us—to obey the gospel and become His children.

Several passages mention "seeking": God seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24); Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10); God rewards those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6); we are to seek first the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33); he who seeks, shall find (Matthew 7:7-8).

One may have to dig out from under denominational teachings and human traditions. Many today, like this treasurer, read their Bibles on the way home from church services and wonder why what they just experienced differs so much from what they read in the Bible. If you are one of these, read on. We should never be satisfied with a religion less than what we find in Scripture. We can do better. Christ's church does exist today, and we can be a part of it!

God promised that all who fear Him can learn the truth (John 7:17), and He will reward those who truly look (Hebrews 11:6; James 4:8; Psalm 9:10; 14:2; 25:14; 145:18; Proverbs 8:17). Some are too busy seeking worldly things (Matthew 6:32); others are waiting for some supernatural sign (Matthew 12:39; cf. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10); some would rather please men than God (Galatians 1:10). The truly wise person seeks the treasure of the gospel (Matthew 5:6; Proverbs 8). Its value is eternal; its worth is inestimable.

## THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANOTHER VIEWPOINT.

When Philip gave the treasurer an opportunity to learn more of God's Word, he took him up on it. This treasurer was humble enough to admit to a complete stranger that he did not understand what the treasurer was studying. (He could have told this aggressive preacher to get lost, but then he would have stayed lost.)

What was the eunuch reading? "The place in the Scripture which he read was this: 'He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so He opened not his mouth'" (Acts 8:32). The treasurer listened as Philip showed how Jesus' death on Calvary and His resurrection from the grave fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 53 in our Bibles).

Jesus was the "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8; cf. Mark 10:45). Jesus meekly submitted to the outrages perpetrated against Him and offered no more resistance than a lamb being slaughtered (Acts 8:32).

"In his humiliation his justice was taken away" (Acts 8:33). The verdict of Jesus' Roman judge was "innocent," but Pilate gave in to the Jews and changed the sentence to crucifixion (Luke 23:4; John 18:38; 19:6).

"Who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living" (Acts 8:33). How could one describe a generation so blind that they did not recognize God's own Son, and then murdered Him? Jesus' premature death was prophesied more than seven centuries before He was even born (Isaiah 53).

This was not what the treasurer had been taught in the worship service he had just left. He learned the truth because he was willing to consider another viewpoint. What about us? Too many religious discussions end with slammed doors and closed minds, raised voices and lowered respect for a friend, clenched fists and closed Bibles. Are we willing to calmly investigate another perspective? Do we do our own thinking, or do we simply accept what our preacher or parents tell us to believe? Truth never suffers from investigation—if we were right in the beginning, further study will simply

confirm it. But if we were wrong, we need to know before the Judgment (Matthew 7:21-23).

## THE TREASURER WAS WILLING TO LEAVE HIS PAST.

As treasurer for his country, he was doubtless an intelligent and industrious man. His religion was good. He was comfortable with it. He knew its customs, understood its theology. It taught high morals and had benefited his life. But now the preacher suggested that he give it up for something better. It no longer pleased God and was powerless to grant salvation. What went through his mind? Change religions? Go against my family? Offend my friends? Start over? Admit I have been wrong?

Nonetheless, he desired to please God more than others (Galatians 1:10) and was willing to change religions. In heaven no one will ever regret giving up false religion (John 12:42) or sinful pleasure (Hebrews 11:25).

Philip evidently said something about baptism in their study (although Isaiah 53 does not mention it) because the eunuch interrupted this traveling Bible class to point out that they were passing a suitable place for baptism. (Since that was arid country, he may have thought, "If I do not ask now, there may not be another river or lake until after he leaves.")

According to the book of Acts, something is wrong today when someone claims to preach Jesus, but whose hearers never request baptism. How can any man preach the gospel and answer the question, "What must I do to be saved?" and not give the answer Jesus told us to give? (Mark 16:15-16).

This treasurer may have been wealthy in Ethiopia before his journey, but he left this scene a far richer man. In the last view we ever have of him, he is pictured with a smile on his face. You will rejoice, too, when you find God's treasure!

If you are looking for the church you read about in your Bible, investigate the church of Christ in your community. If you desire baptism for the remission of sins, contact us; we will be glad to assist.