

HOPE

ISSUE

4

AUGUST 2021

Gazette

The Road Less Traveled

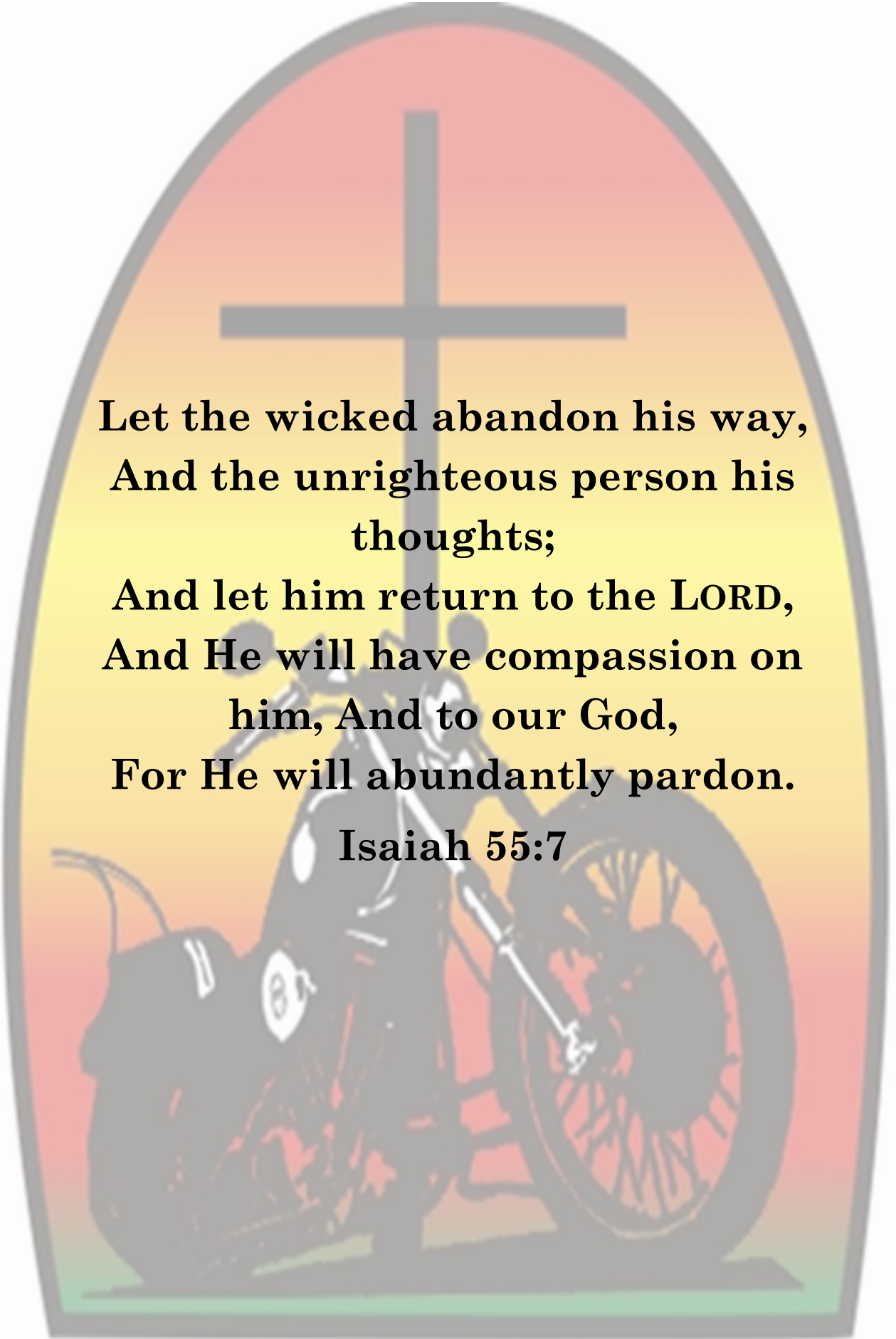
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salvation?

Apostles Creed

Father Forgive Them





**Let the wicked abandon his way,
And the unrighteous person his
thoughts;**

**And let him return to the LORD,
And He will have compassion on
him, And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.**

Isaiah 55:7

HOPE

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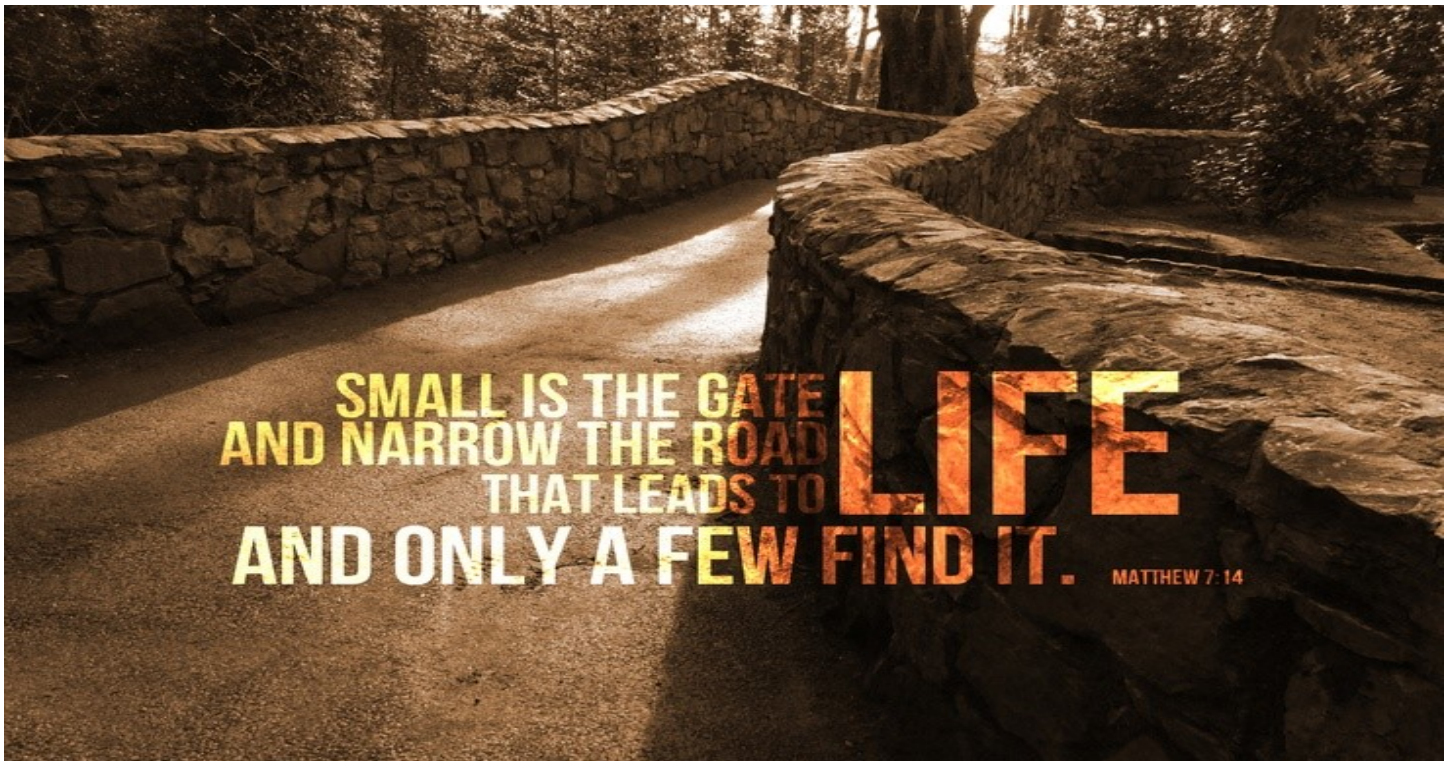
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Matthew 7:13-27

The Narrow and Wide Gates

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

A Tree and Its Fruit

¹⁵ “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes*, nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits. ²¹ “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; LEAVE ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’

The Two Foundations

²⁴ “Therefore, everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts on them, will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of Mine, and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and its collapse was great.”



The Road Less Traveled

Author: Kasey Parrott

Jesus had a lot to say about the path to wisdom, righteousness, and humility. As Christ completed the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), it calls to his listeners to understand how narrow the road was to heaven and warned about the two religions in our world. You might think, "wait, aren't there hundreds of religions in the world?" Not really. When reduced to their common denominator, we find there are only two. There is God's, and there is man's. God's is of faith; man's is of works. God's is of grace. Man's is of law. God's is of the Spirit. Man's is of the flesh. God's leads to heaven; man's leads to hell.

Man's religion is like the pretty present with a bow; however, it is nothing but worthless dust inside. God's glorious gospel stands alone, unattractive, and repulsive to the natural man! Yet, it contains treasures that will last for all eternity!

We find that we are called upon to make a choice. Everyone will make that choice, and it will be evident by what we do. As we read Matthew 7:13-27 we see the following outline emerge:

I. There Are Two Gates. v13-14

A. 'Enter ye in at the strait gate'

1. The word 'enter' is an imperative verb.

- a. It conveys a sense of urgency.
- b. It is a demand for action right now!
- c. It isn't enough to stand and observe the gate...one must enter!

2. It is important that we enter in the right gate.

- a. There is only one gate that opens to the narrow way.
- b. There is only one correct choice to be made here.

(John 10:9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

(John 10:1) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

- c. Christ is the gate...there is no other way to heaven!

3. A person will not just stumble through the gate.

- a. "Few there be that find it."

(Luke 13:24) Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

- b. No one is accidentally saved.

c. We must make a conscious decision to place our faith in Christ.

(Jer 29:13) And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

B. "Broad is the way..."

1. It suits the carnal mind.

a. Some folks are proud of the fact that they are broad-minded.

b. That simply means that they have no standards or guidelines by which to live.

c. There is plenty of room for the world, and its philosophy.

2. It is a crowded way.

a. "Many there be which go in thereat"

b. Sometimes in a large crowd a person can be pushed or carried along with very little effort.

c. It is an easy path to travel, one that is well worn by the multitudes who have gone on before.

3. It is a fatal way.

a. "That leadeth to destruction"

b. It isn't marked properly; our enemy is the master of deception.

(Prov 14:12) There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

c. He makes the gate look like it is the door to heaven...but nothing could be farther from the truth!

C. The choice is ours.

(Jer 21:8) And unto this people thou shalt say, Thus saith the LORD; Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.

1. Which way will we choose?

2. Will we go along with the crowd, or will we choose to follow Christ?

3. Our choice makes all of the difference in this world and in the world to come!

II. There Are Two Identities. v15-20

A. How do we identify someone who makes the correct choice?

1. We cannot tell just by looking.

2. Many make an outward show of spirituality, but...

3. Within they are wolves in sheep's clothing.

4. Paul said that even Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light!

B. Jesus said, "Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them."

1. Some will bear good fruit...
2. Some will bear evil or corrupt fruit...
3. Those trees, which do not bear good fruit, will be destroyed.

C. What kind of fruit are we bearing in our lives?

III. There Are Two Professions. v21-23

A. False profession.

1. Some call Him Lord, but do not do His will.
2. They may even do good works in His name, but ...
3. Jesus said, "I never knew you..."

B. True profession.

1. He that doeth the will of the Father will enter heaven.
2. Christianity is not just a matter of the lips...it is a matter of the heart!

(Rom 10:9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

3. Have you made a true profession of faith in Christ?

IV. There Are Two Foundations. v24-27

A. One is on shifting sands.

1. These are they who hear, but will not obey.
2. The structure stood for a time, but...
3. It could not withstand the storms!
4. A person may choose the sands of this world upon which to build, but it will not last!
5. Their life will come crashing in upon them.

B. One is on the solid Rock.

1. The man who makes this choice is considered to be wise.
2. With the proper foundation, Jesus Christ, his life will be able to hold up to the trials and difficulties that will come.
3. This represents the one who will hear the Word of God, and will choose to obey it!

Will we choose God's way or man's way? It is up to us. We are challenged to choose the strait gate and the narrow way. Most people are self-deceived. Anybody in any form of religion under the category of human achievement is deceived. Why would you be in religion at all? Why bother with it? Why restrict your life? Why try to subdue your sin? Why?

These are the words of our Lord at the end of this great Sermon:

1. Don't be on that broad road.

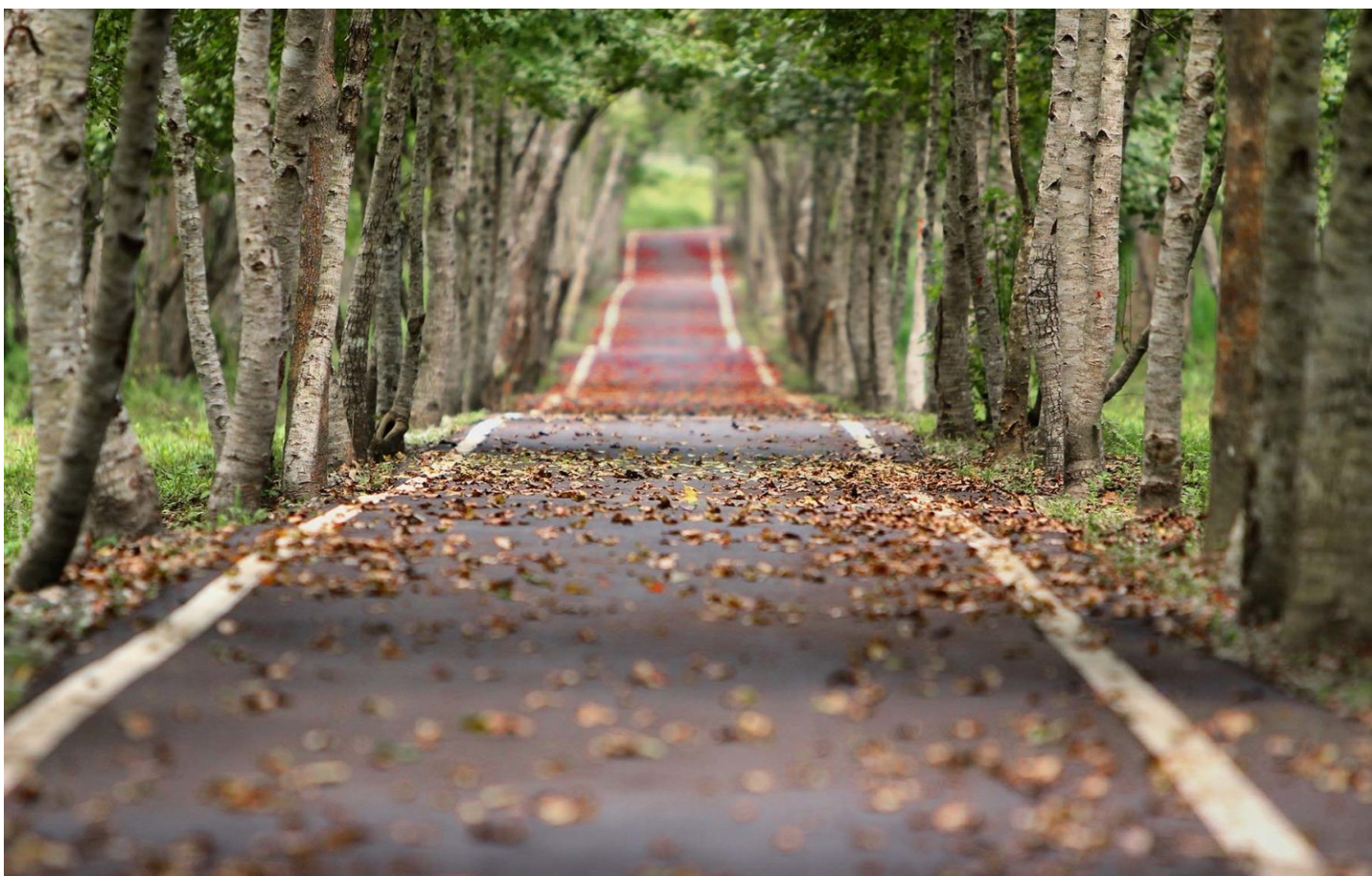
2. Find the narrow way.
3. Cry out to God to give you the strength and disconnect you from your sin and all that holds you back.
4. Come through the door of Jesus Christ to the narrow way which indeed leads to heaven.

We must choose to bear good fruit in our lives, to serve Christ with our hearts, and to build our lives upon Him and His Word. It is not an easy road. Christ tells us it won't be easy in Matthew 16:24. *"If anyone wants to come after Me, he must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Let's pray –

Dear Lord, thank you. Thank you for your wisdom and your direction in our lives. This message gives us a choice and makes the message clear: there is a narrow gate and a narrow way that leads to life, life eternal, and life abundant. It may be hard to find, but we have been given the directions directly to it in Your Word: "Come to Christ."

Lord, there is nothing we can do to purchase access to the narrow way. It is a gift of grace given to those who believe in You, in Your sacrificial death and resurrection. I pray, Lord, that You will open the hearts of those who have been hypocritical, those who don't know You and You don't know them. Do what You can only do; awaken the heart, give life, for Your glory we pray. Amen.





Freedom in Christ

Author: Candis Oswalt

Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. II Corinthians 3:17

In approaching this topic of devotion for July, we first need to define the word freedom. Merriam Webster dictionary lists ten subsets of definitions to the word freedom. I have chosen the first three to build on for our edification in this writing, as I believe these are the most relatable to the topic.

a: the absence of necessity, coercion,
or constraint in choice or action

Let us begin with the first one as it ties directly into our first form of freedom with the Lord. We have free will. Father God created us with a free will to decide whom we would follow. You may say there is coercion because not following him means an eternity of hell and suffering. However, the choice is still ours. There is no coercion brought to bear on us in making a choice to follow Jesus Christ. One of the most quoted verses about this free will is most likely:

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve...

Therefore have the free will to choose to follow Jesus Christ, seeking forgiveness is a free choice and brings freedom.

b: liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another

Here, then is the second area of freedom we will cover. Liberation (freedom) as noted in the opening scripture the word liberty and freedom are quite interchangeable. With our freedom in Christ, paid for by His death and resurrection, we are no longer under the power of the “prince of this earth or air or his minions.” He has no authority over us as we belong to Jesus Christ and His Spirit dwells in us, and we are no longer living in fear.

Romans 8:15-16

15 For ye have not received the Spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our Spirit, that

we are the children of God:

We are no longer slaves to fear but sons and daughters of the highest God. Given victory and freedom over/ from death, hell and the grave through Jesus Christ.

c: the quality or state of being exempt or

released usually from something onerous

To me this third subset definition is so closely related to and brought forth from the first two we have discussed. We are no longer bound by sin or the master of sin. We are no longer held captive or enslaved to fleshly living but are living after the Spirit and therein is liberty. We have freedom from sin – no longer bound in iniquities clutches but completely loosed from sin—we are now bound in Jesus Christ and He in us.

Luke 13:11-12

11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. 12 And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

John 14:20-21, 23

20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man loves me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Just as this woman was no longer bound by that Spirit so we are no longer bound by sin, shame, guilt, and condemnation, but instead are filled with the love, grace, and mercy of Jesus Christ and God the Father through the Holy Spirit. Wow, what amazing freedom there is in that.

In closing, I would like to go to a passage that brings me such release, freedom, and liberty, although not everybody would see this scripture that way.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Let us grab hold of this illustration that Jesus Christ uses in this passage. He is stating that He is the vine, and we are the branch. If we abide in Him, we will bring forth much fruit (be productive in the fruit of the Spirit). It is the vine that brings forth all the nourishment, it is the vine that seeks the water and what is needed for the branch to bring forth the fruit. It is solely the vines responsibility to keep the branch alive and well by filling it and providing it with everything it needs. The branch simply abides in the vine. The branch does not take off on its own seeking water or shelter or any other thing, it simply abides in the vine. Now, understand me, I am not trying to say we all can get lazy and that we are not supposed to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, I am saying we are the branches, and He is the vine, and He provides all we need if we will simply rest (Heb 4:9) in Him.

In his book “Ye the Branches, The Mystery of the True Vine,” Andrew Murray says, “You are the branch. You need be nothing more. You need not for one single moment of the day take upon you the responsibility of the Vine. You need not leave the place of entire dependence and unbounded confidence.”

What an amazing freedom to realize that I do not for one single moment need to try to be the vine. I must be the branch and rest in the Lord, the true vine. Such amazing liberty and freedom found in this beautiful thought. Abide in Christ.

This then is our liberation and freedom, dependence on not independence from GOD.



Freedom in CHRIST



*All Scripture is breathed out by God and
profitable for teaching, for reproof, for
correction, and for training in
righteousness, that the man of God may be
competent, equipped for every good work.*

Book Club: The Book of Malachi

Author Kasey Parrott



General Observations

Primary Type of Literature	Prophetic Prose
Other Notes	Malachi's literary style employs a dramatic use of questions asked by God and his people (for example, 3:7, 8).
Author	Malachi
Recipients	People in Jerusalem
Length of Book	4 Chapters
Key Phrases/Terms	"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire," says the Lord Almighty.
Setting	Malachi, Haggai, and Zechariah were postexilic prophets to Judah (the southern kingdom). Haggai and Zechariah rebuked the people for their failure to rebuild the Temple. Malachi confronted them with their neglect of the Temple and their false and profane worship.

Spurred on by the prophetic activity of Haggai and Zechariah, the returned exiles under the leadership of their governor Zerubbabel finished the temple in 516 B.C. In 458 the community was strengthened by the coming of the priest Ezra and several thousand more Jews. Artaxerxes king of Persia encouraged Ezra to reconstitute the temple worship (Ez 7:17) and to make sure the law of Moses was being obeyed (Ez 7:25-26).

Fourteen years later (444) the same Persian king permitted his cupbearer Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem and rebuild its walls (Ne 6:15). As newly appointed governor, Nehemiah also spearheaded reforms to help the poor (Ne 5:2-13), and he convinced the people to shun mixed marriages (Ne 10:30), to keep the Sabbath (Ne 10:31) and to bring their tithes and offering faithfully (Ne 10:37-39).

In 433 B.C. Nehemiah returned to the service of the Persian king, and during his absence the Jews fell into sin once more. Later, however, Nehemiah came back to Jerusalem to discover that the tithes were ignored, the Sabbath was broken, the people had intermarried with foreigners, and the priests had become corrupt (Ne 13:7-31). Several of these same sins are condemned by Malachi (1:6-14; 2:14-16; 3:8-11).

OUTLINE OF MALACHI

1. Title (1:1)
2. Introduction: God's Faithful Covenant Love for Israel Affirmed (1:2-5)
3. Israel's Unfaithfulness Rebuked (1:6-2:16)
4. The Lord's Coming Announced (2:17-4:16)

THEMES AND THEOLOGY

The theological message of the book can be summed up in one sentence: The Great King (1:14) will come not only to judge his people (3:1-5; 4:1) but also to bless and restore them (3:6-12; 4:2).

Although the Jews had been allowed to return from exile and rebuild the temple, several discouraging factors brought about a general religious malaise: (1) Their land remained but a small province in the backwaters of the Persian empire, (2) the glorious future announced by the prophets (including the other postexilic prophets, Haggai and Zechariah) had not (yet) been realized, and (3) their God had not (yet) come to his temple (3:1) with majesty and power (as celebrated in Ps 68) to exalt his kingdom in the sight of the nations. Doubting God's covenant love (1:2) and no longer trusting his justice (2:17; 3:14-15), the Jews of the restored community began to lose hope. So their worship degenerated into a listless perpetuation of mere forms, and they no longer took the law seriously.

Malachi rebukes their doubt of God's love (1:2-5) and the faithlessness of both priests (1:6-2:9) and people (2:10-16). To their charge that God is unjust (2:17) because he has failed to come in judgment to exalt his people, Malachi answers with an announcement and a warning. The Lord they seek will come—but he will come "like a refiner's fire" (3:1-4). He will come to judge—but he will judge his people first (3:5).

Because the Lord does not change in his commitments and purpose, Israel has not been completely destroyed for her persistent unfaithfulness (3:6). But only through repentance and reformation will she again experience God's blessing (3:6-12). Those who honor the Lord will be spared when he comes to judge (3:16-18).

In conclusion, Malachi once more reassures and warns his readers that "the day ['that great and dreadful day of the Lord,' 4:5] is coming" and that "it will burn like a furnace" (4:1). In that day the righteous will rejoice, and "you will trample down the wicked" (4:2-3). So "remember the law of my servant Moses" (4:4). To prepare his people for that day the Lord will send "the prophet Elijah" to call them back to the godly ways of their forefathers (4:5-6).



Ask A Pastor: Can I lose my salvation?

Pastor Larry Mitchell Responds

**WE'D LIKE To ANSWER the QUESTION That Is MOST OFTEN
Contemplated . . And ASKED, . . And THAT IS, . . .
WHICH IS IT, . . .**

"ETERNAL SECURITY OR CONDITIONAL SECURITY ?"

. . AND FIRST OFF, . . I'd Like To SAY, . . "There's a lot of Folks That Like Everything
IN BLACK OR WHITE," . . Meaning; "NO IN-BETWEEN," "THEY DON'T LIKE GRAY ARE-
AS !" "THEY Want IT ONE WAY or ANOTHER !"

. . . . SO, I Would Like START Out, By CHALLENGING Our Readers To CHECK OUT the AU-
THORS . . John Calvin [1509 – 1564] and Jacobus Arminius, [1560-1609] . .

WHO Initiated These TWO EXTREME Beliefs; . . Otherwise Known As;

"CALVINISM," and/or "ARMINIANISM."

. . AND IT IS MY SINCERE DESIRE To Try and Answer and Unravel the CONFUSION
That Has Ensued Ever Since ! [**I COR. 14:44 "For GOD is NOT the Author of Confusion]**

NOW, I'd Like To BEGIN, By Making the Statement That, . . .

" I DO SINCERELY BELIEVE That THIS is a "KNOW - SO - SALVATION !" . .

**Which Means; I BELIEVE That YOU Can KNOW . . Assuredly . . IF YOU ARE
SAVED or NOT."**

In **ROM. 8:16** PAUL Tells US; "The **SPIRIT** itself (the Holy Spirit) **Bears Witness,**
(or Confirms, or Comes into Agreement) **WITH OUR Spirit, . . that WE ARE the**
CHILDREN of GOD."

**I DON'T BELIEVE That a Person Has to Live in FEAR of NOT KNOWING THAT
THEY ARE SECURE . . in Their SALVATION or NOT !"**

For Many Years, There Has Been a Sharp Debate in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ . . Over the Issue, That ONCE You've Given Your Heart and Life Over to the Lordship of JESUS Christ, . . IS YOUR SALVATION ETERNALLY SECURE, . . OR is IT, CONDITIONAL, . . Meaning, CAN Your Salvation Be Null and Void IF You TURN Your BACK on GOD, and RETURN to a WILLFUL LIFE of SIN ?

AT the HOUSE of PRAYER, . . (Being a NON-Denominational Church) . . WE Have Those From BOTH Schools of BELIEF, . . BUT WE Have Been Blessed By a Willingness of BOTH SCHOOLS of BELIEF, to Co-Habitat With One Another . . as WE EARNESTLY

PURSUE the TRUTH TOGETHER !!

SO, the MAIN PURPOSE of This ARTICLE, IS to DO, JUST THAT ! .

IT Is For EACH of US to Prayerfully Search the Scriptures to Consider TRUTH on BOTH Sides, . . And to STAY AWAY From the FALSE From Either SIDE, and NOT Be Tempted To Just Be Obligated to Believe a Traditional, Man-Made Denominational Doctrine !

WE MUST REMEMBER, That These TWO MEN DID NOT ESCAPE CATHOLICISM, UNSCATHED IN THEIR BELIEFS !!

BY Reading CHURCH HISTORY, WE Can See That CALVIN was of Stern Character . . . Sometimes Very Impatient and Very Intolerable !

WE are Told That the Deep Intensity of HIS Convictions, Or WHAT HE Believed, Would Often Times Lead Him in His Zeal, . . to Harsh Conduct . . (and in Using His Own Words) . . at Times HE said, the *“Wild Beast of His Anger” Got Out of Control !*

I Said All THAT, to Say THIS; As a Result of Calvin's Un-Yielding and Dogmatic Approach for the TRUTH, [as HE Saw IT] . . HE Made Many Enemies and Therefore Opened the DOOR . . to ARMINIANISM !

JACOBUS ARMINIUS was a Native of Holland, and HE Wasn't Able to Accept the Doctrines of CALVIN, and SO HE TOOK UP the BATTLE AGAINST HIM !

ARMINIUS Then, Declared His Own Points on the Subject, and SO, the Church has Been IN a DISPUTE Over BOTH of These DOCTRINES Ever Since !

. . . SO, ITS GOOD To KNOW, HOW These DOCTRINES Came About, And To KNOW Something About THOSE WHO FIRST PROCLAIMED THEM !

The QUESTION Has Been ASKED, “CAN YOU LOSE YOUR SALVATION ?”

“WELL, The ANSWER To That is An Absolute, **“NO !”**

Once You're BORN-AGAIN, And You're NAME is Written in the Lamb's

Book of LIFE, . . As Far as GOD is CONCERNED, . . YOU'RE LOCKED IN !
. . BUT the TRUTH of the Matter Is, . . . People DON'T LOSE Their
SALVATION, . . . THEY "GIVE IT AWAY !"

HEB. 2:1-3 Tells US; "We must pay more closer attention to what we have
Heard, SO that WE DO NOT DRIFT AWAY from IT !"

"NOW, I'm NOT Going to Make This Article a Long Drawn Out Dissertation With
All The SCRIPTURE That Has Been Offered and Used From Both Schools of Belief, . .
[And They Are MANY] . . [SOME Used As They Are Intended, . . And Then, Others
Are Plucked Up and Stretched Out, While Ignoring What ALL The Scriptures Say !]

So, WHAT I Would Like To DO, . . IS NOT TAKE AWAY From the SIMPLICITY
of the GOSPEL, . . . BUT to ZERO IN, On the SIMPLE TRUTH Of the Whole Matter !

Lets Start With the OLD Testament as a Type and Shadow of the NEW;
Lets Start With the Children of ISRAEL, . . After Being SET FREE Through MOSES,
[Being a Type of Christ-Deliverer] . . ISRAEL Being Very Much the People of GOD,
. . Chosen By GOD, . . SET FREE By the POWER of GOD'S SPIRIT, . . BUT They
NEVER Did Learn To TRUST GOD, . . Because They NEVER Did SEEK . . to Really
KNOW HIM !

WHAT HAPPENED ? . . Even Tho They Were Very Much the People of GOD, . . .
BUT Because of Their Murmuring and Complaining, and Idolatry Etc. . . THAT Whole
Generation That Was Set Free To Leave Egypt, . . [the Land of Bondage] Approx.
1.5 Million People, . . ALL of Them DIED In the Wilderness, . . Because THEY Were
DENIED ACCESS to the PROMISED LAND !! [TYPE and SHADOW]

AND THEN, [For Another Illustration] . . We Have the ACCOUNT of ESSAU, . .
[Who Was BORN The Eldest SON of ISAAC, . . Of the Royal Line of God's Chosen,] . .
WHO TRADED, . . Or HE GAVE AWAY HIS BIRTHRITE, . . Traded HIS INHERITANCE
FOR A BOWL of BEANS !! [TYPE and SHADOW]

JESUS Asked in MATT. 16:26 . . "What Would a Man GIVE, in Exchange for
His Soul ?"

THEN, We Come Over to the NEW Testament Where HEB. 12:17 Tells US, . . .
"And Afterwards, when He [Essau] wanted his inheritance back, it was too late,
Even Though he sought that place of repentance with tears."

Paul says in II COR. 7:10 . . "For GODLY Sorrow Brings True Repentance;

But Worldly Sorrow is the same as No Sorrow at all; They both lead to Death."

Lets Consider the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant, Here in **Matthew 18:21-35 (KJV)**

²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, One was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and **FORGAVE HIM the DEBT. [But What Happened ?]**

²⁸ But that Same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

³¹ So when his fellow servants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their Lord all that was done.

³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all Your Debt, because that's what you desired of me:

³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your Hearts, DO NOT FORGIVE every one his brother their trespasses.

Another Scripture a Lot of People Like to Quote So Often is Found in

ROM. 8:38-39 . . Where The Apostle PAUL Tells US; " I am Fully Persuaded that Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things Present, nor things to come, . . . nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, Shall be able to separate us from the Love of GOD, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord."

. . . BUT What's NOT Included In This Long List, . . IS OUR FREE WILL of CHOICE ! JESUS Said in MATT. 24:12 . . "Because INIQUITY Shall Abound, . . the LOVE of Many Shall Grow COLD."

**AND Lets NOT FORGET the Apostle PAUL, When HE Said in I COR. 9:26-27 . . .
... "So I Run straight to the Goal, [HOW ?] . . with Purpose in every step. I FIGHT TO WIN ! I'm Not Shadow Boxing, . . . I'm Not Playing Around !**

SO, . . [Or This is Why] . . I Keep my Body under Subjection and Train it to do What its suppose to Do, and Not Let it Do, what it wants to Do, . . otherwise, I Fear That after having preached to others, . . I myself, might become a [KJV] CASTAWAY !"

The LT says; "UNFIT." . . The NIV says; "DISQUALIFIED."

The ORIGINAL GREEK, "ADOKIMOS" says; . . "REJECTED or REPROBATE"

I Would Like to Interject at This Point,, . . THIS ARTICLE is in NO WAY Addressing the "BACK-SLIDER," . . the "TRANSGRESSOR," . . "THOSE Who Have FALLEN," AND Haven't Gotten BACK UP YET ! { PROV. 24:16 says; "For a JUST man may FALL Seven Times, BUT He Rises Up EACH TIME !"}]

. . . . BUT WE ARE Talking About Those WHO Have Taken the LOooong and Seduuucing ROUTE of DECEPTION and Have . . . as ROM. 1:22 says; "Professing Themselves to be Wise, . . they became as FOOLS !

AND THEN Verse 28 says; "And, NOT WANTING,. . (There's a CHOICE Being Made Here). . . NOT WANTING to RETAIN the KNOWLEDGE of GOD, . . So GOD GAVE THEM OVER To a REPROBATE MIND ~!"

HE Gave Them Over to The LIE . . They CHOSE to Believe !

HERES the RUB, . . the Bible says in HEB. 10:26 says; "For IF we SIN, WILLFULLY, AFTER we have RECIEVED the KNOWLEDGE of the TRUTH, there Remains NO MORE Sacrifice for SINS."

(I Believe the SINS that the Writer is Talking About Here, are the SINS of PRIDE, and SUPPRESSING the TRUTH, . . which LEAD to a DEPARTING HEART, . .

Therefore, . . COMMITTING the SIN of APOSTACY !)

Vs. 28 – 29 says; “He that despised Moses Law, Died without Mercy on the evidence of Two or Three witnesses.” How much Worse punishment do you suppose HE, . . . [the person we’re Talking About] . . will be judged to deserve, HE who has spurned and trampled under foot the Son of God, and WHO Has COUNTED [KJV] the Blood of the Covenant, whereby HE WAS SANCTIFIED, . . an Unholy thing, and has Insulted and Outraged the HOLY SPIRIT, Who imparts GRACE ?”

. . . Which Brings US to the TRUE – BIBLICAL MEANING . . of ‘BLASPHEMY !’

. . . . Which is Exactly WHAT We’re Talking About !

WHEN SIN is CONFESSED, . . IT IS FORGIVABLE, . . I JOHN 1:9 says; “If we CONFESS our sins, He is faithful and Just to FORGIVE us our Sins, and to cleanse us from ALL un-righteousness.”

JESUS Said in MATT.. 12:30 “Wherefore, I say to you, All manner of SIN and BLASPHEMY shall be Forgiven unto men, . . BUT . . . “

. . BUT There IS a SIN, . . (Which WE MUST Talk About), . . [A SIN That JESUS Talks About] . . That ONCE IT IS COMMITTED,

. IT is Simply UNFORGIVABLE !!

. . . A SIN, in Which a Lot of Preachers, and Believers in the Body of Christ, Today, . . . Just CAN’T Seem to Come Into AGREEMENT With, . . . ESPECIALLY, and Even to the POINT, . . Where the Definition of Scriptures HAVE BEEN CHANGED to SUPPORT the DENOMINATIONAL – Calvinists BELIEF, . . That NO ONE Who ONCE, GENUINELY ACCEPTS CHRIST, . . . CAN EVER LOSE Their SALVATION, Regardless, IF THEY WANT TO OR NOT !” They Call it, “IRRESISTABLE GRACE !” !

. . . BUT We’re Going Look Into the WORD of GOD, . . Where I Believe We Will GAIN Some Valuable Understanding About WHAT JESUS Has to say ABOUT IT !!

WHAT We’re Talking About Here, Is Called; “The UNPARDONABLE SIN,” or the “SIN of BLASPHEMING the HOLY SPIRIT,” and Its Found in THREE of the FOUR Gospels! MATTHEW . . . MARK . . and . . LUKE .

AND So We’ll take a Look at the Account Given in MATT. 12:22 – 32 . . .

“Then, there was brought to him, one possessed with a devil, Blind, and Dumb; And Jesus Healed him so that he could Speak and see ! And all the people were amazed,

and they said,” Isn’t this the Son of David ?” And when the Pharisees heard of it, they said, “This fellow can only cast out devils by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of devils.”

“And Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, ”Every kingdom divided against itself, can only be brought to desolation; And every City or House divided against itself shall not stand; And if Satan cast out Satan, He is divided against himself; How then, can his kingdom stand ?

And if I, by the power of Beelzebub, cast out devils, then by whom do your children cast them out ? Therefore, they shall be your judges. BUT if I cast out Devils by the SPIRIT of GOD, then you know the kingdom of GOD has come unto you.” “How else can one enter into a strongman’s house and steal his goods, except first, you bind the strong man ?”

And then you’re able to steal from him. HE that is not with me, is against me; and he that gathers not with me, scatters ! “Wherefore, I say to you, All manner of SIN and BLASPHEMY shall be Forgiven unto men, . . BUT Blasphemy Against the HOLY SPIRIT Shall NOT be FORGIVEN unto men. Whoever Shall speak a Word against the SON of MAN, it shall be Forgiven him, BUT whosoever shall speak a word against the Holy Spirit, it shall NOT be Forgiven Him, in this world, or the world to come.”

The TRUTH is; “YES,” . . THIS IS Absolutely a “KNOW-SO- SALVATION,”

. . . BUT GOD has Always Been a GOD of BOUNDARIES !

HOW Do We Know That ? From the Very Beginning, in the Garden, . . GOD said;

“You May Partake of Every Tree in the Garden, Except For ONE !”

GOD Knows That WE are a People Who Stretch the Boundaries, We Climb the Fences, . .

We Take Things to the Limit !!! GOD KNOWS THAT WE NEED BOUNDARIES !!

GOD KNEW THAT WE NEEDED THE LAW . . TO BE A SCHOOLMASTER !!!

GOD KNOWS THAT WE NEED CONSTANT SUPERVISION !!!

WE Must Consider Paul’s Writings Where He Admonishes US to GET RID of EVERY Evil Root of Bitterness, . . to Cast Down Thoughts of Malice and Jealousies, and Envies and Strife, “TO FORGIVE, . . SO, That YOU MAY BE FORGIVEN !”

THESE are ALL ATTITUDES and CANCERS of the HEART !

WHY are ATTITUDES . . That are Left UNCHECKED so IMPORTANT ?

. . . Because They’ll Take YOU to a TREE That You DON’T Want to EAT FROM !!

Hebrews 12:14-17 Gives US a Solemn Warning of What it Means to IGNORE the

True Appreciation of What it Means to Be ONE of GOD’S People;

¹⁴ Follow Peace with all men, and Holiness, without which No man shall see the Lord:

¹⁵ Looking diligently lest any man **FAIL**, of the **GRACE** of GOD; lest any Root of Bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be **DEFILED**;

¹⁶ Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, Like Esau, who for one morsel of meat **Sold his Birthright**.

¹⁷ For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was **Rejected**: for he found no place of Repentance, though he sought it carefully with **Tears**.

Look at What Happened to **LUCIFER**; The bible says that Lucifer was created **Perfect in every aspect.**” (**EZEK. 28:15**) . . Until Iniquity or **PRIDE** was found in him.”

And the Danger That’s Being Presented Here, . . is **THAT**, OF **FINALLY** Being Turned Over to a **REPROBATE** Mind, and the Unpardonable **SIN** of **BLASPHEMY** !

What Would Make US Think, That IF Lucifer, . . **WHO** was in the Very Presence of The **LIVING GOD**, . . **WHO KNEW GOD**, . . IF There Were **BOUNDARIES** For HIM, . .

. . **THEN “WHY NOT FOR US !”**

I TIM. 3:6 says; “**NOT to put a NOVICE**, [or a Young unexperienced Believer in a Position They Can’t Handle] . . lest He be Lifted Up with **PRIDE**, . . lest HE **FALL** into . . (WHAT ?) . . **the SAME Condemnation as the Devil.**”

The Question is Asked; “ **WHAT IS That CONDEMNATION ?** ”

PAUL Tells US Here in **ROM. 1:28** Where HE Says; “**And even as they did not like to RETAIN the Knowledge of GOD**, . . **GOD** gave them over to a **REPROBATE MIND**, to go ahead and do those things that their evil desires wanted.”

The Phrase; “. . and they did not like to **RETAIN the Knowledge of GOD**, . . “ Means; **THEY HAD in Their Knowledge, the TRUTH**, . . But **NOW**, They No Longer Want to **RETAIN that KNOWLEDGE** !

Being “Turned Over” to a **REPROBATE Mind**, Means That You Have Allowed Your **MIND** To **LISTEN** To ALL Those, “Vane Imaginations, and Arguments, and Theories, and Pagan Philosophies, . . That **PAUL WARNS US** To “**CAST DOWN !**” [in **II COR. 10:5**]

. . We’re Talking About a Person That Has Taken that Long and Seducing Road of Entertaining those **VOICES**, . . **IN WHICH THEY FINALLY . . . I TIM. 4:1 . . Some have DEPARTED from the FAITH, giving Heed to Seducing Spirits and Doctrines of Devils.**“

. . **IN WHICH**, They **NOW** Have a **MIND** That **NO** Longer **WANTS** . . Nor Does it Seek

FORGIVENESS ! “. . and they did not like to **RETAIN the **Knowledge of GOD**, . . “**

DON'T EVER UNDERESTIMATE the POWER of PRIDE !

“PRIDE” is That “TREE” That You Don't Want to Find Yourself Eating From !!

I PETER 5:5 says; “For GOD Resists the PROUD, But HE gives GRACE to the Humble.”

HEB. 6:4- 9 says; “For it is IMPOSSIBLE to Restore and bring again to repentance, those who have been once enlightened, who have consciously tasted the heavenly gift and have become sharers of the Holy Spirit.” And have felt how good the Word of God is and the mighty powers of the age and world to come.”

“If they then, DEVIATE from the FAITH and TURN AWAY [DEPART = APOSTACY] from their Allegiance – (He says; “it is IMPOSSIBLE) to bring them back to repentance, for they nail up-on the cross, the Son of God afresh, and are holding him up to contempt and shame and public disgrace.”

(Now, IF it says Here in **HEB. 6 . . That it is **IMPOSSIBLE**, . . WHY Does it say**

in **MATT. 19:26 “That with GOD, **ALL** things are **POSSIBLE** ?”**

IT'S Because Once Again, GOD Will NOT Push His Righteousness on Anybody !

IF You FALL Into the MIND SET, That YOU NO LONGER Want Forgiveness, . . .

GOD Says; “ SO BE IT !”

HEB. 6 continues to say; “For the soil which has drunk the rain, that repeatedly falls upon it and produces vegetation useful to those for whose benefit it is cultivated partakes of a Blessing From GOD.”

“But IF that Same Soil, Persistently bears thorns and thistles, it is considered worthless and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.”

SO the BOUNDARIES That WE PUSH . . Begin in OUR MIND !

BUT WHERE DO They GO ? Jesus says in **MATT. 5:28 . . “Whoever looks upon a Woman to lust after her, has committed adultery with her, already in his HEART.”**

SO, IF We're NOT CAREFUL, . . OUR **MINDS Will TAKE US to a PLACE,**

. . **WHERE WE DON'T WANT to GO !**

SO, Many People Take on the Mentality, “Oh, the Lord Knows I'm Weak, SO, the Lord Understands MY SIN ! . . OR. . “Well, Nobody's Perfect, . . GOD Knows We're ALL gonna SIN !”

And These Statements are Partially TRUE, . . BUT When We USE Them as an EXCUSE to Commit WILFULL SIN . . . Then We're Headed Down that Slippery Highway of HYPOCRACY . . Instead of Reaping the Fruits of HOLINESS !!! (**Heb. 12:14)**

II TIM. 2:19 says; “Let everyone who confesses the Name of Christ, DEPART FROM SIN.”

GRACE Doesn't Give US an EXCUSE to SIN, . . BUT on the Contrary, IT Should TEACH US to LEARN From OUR SIN, and GET OUT of the SIN BUSINESS !

WHY ? Because **ROM. 6:23 says; “For the WAGES of SIN is DEATH . . . “**

WHAT HAPPENS, . . is That a LOT of People Get LAZY About Their SALVATION, . . And They Get Complacent and Then Pretty Soon, They Find Themselves Making EXCUSES FOR Their SIN . . . Instead of CONFESSING or ADMITTING Their SIN, WHICH Brings CHANGE, . . and a TURNING From SIN, Which LEADS to LIFE, By WALKING the Narrow ROAD of HOLINESS, . . INSTEAD of DRIFTING Down the Broad Highway of HYPOCRACY, . . . !!!

II PETER 1:10 – 11 says; “Therefore Brethren, be even more DILIGENT to make your CALLING and ELECTION SURE, . . for IF you do these things, YOU WILL NEVER FALL; And you will receive a Rich Welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST !!

II PETER 3:17 says;” . . his letters, (talking about PAUL) contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do other scriptures, to their own destruction; Therefore, my friends, since you Already Know This, [He's Talking to the BELIEVER] . . be on your guard so that you may NOT be carried away by the error of Lawless men and FALL from your SECURE POSITION; . . BUT GROW in the GRACE and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Please feel free to submit your questions to parrottkasey@gmail.com to receive an answer in the next edition!



Apostles Creed

Author: Mark Pitman

What we have come to know as the "Apostles Creed" has a long history and has been forgotten throughout the ages. However, its meaning is the core of our Christian faith. The Apostles Creed summarizes and is essential to our walk with God. It is fundamental to our profession of Jesus Christ as Lord of our lives. Just like we teach our children the "Pledge of Allegiance" to celebrate the birth of our nation we should do so with the Apostles Creed.

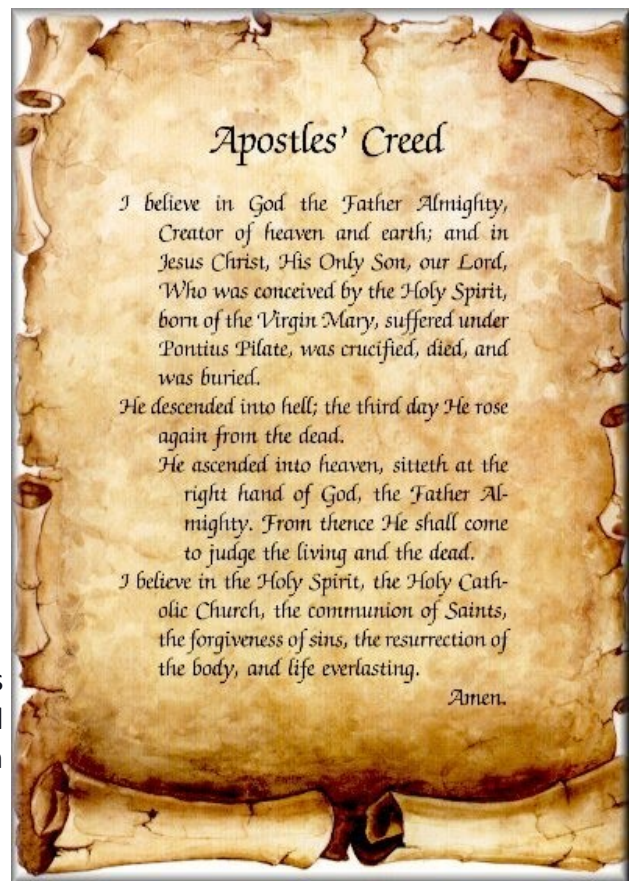
Our nation's birth goes deep back to our founding fathers—the principles which our nation was founded on lie within the creed itself. So let's take a look at the history and the purpose of the creed. As you read the following excerpts, reflect on your own life and see if it lines up with the core essentials of the Christian life found in the Apostles Creed. If you don't know Jesus as your Lord and Savior, there is an invitation provided for you at the end. Would you please not let another day go by without accepting this invitation? {Mark Pitman}

The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
(He descended into hell.)¹
On the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father;
from which he will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy catholic church; {The word "catholic" is intentionally left lowercase in the sense that the word catholic applies to the universal and ecumenical Christian church.}

the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting.



What is the Apostles' Creed?

Where Did the Apostles' Creed Come From?

The Apostles' Creed is not the invention of theologians, just as it was not the invention of the apostles. It was formulated by them, of course, but it came from what really happened in history and what really happened in their hearts and lives as a result of what really happened in history.

At our best, apart from God's intervention, we would not have created a philosophy that confessed God's supremacy and glory. Our creed would have asserted (not confessed) the accomplishments of ourselves. It would include the phrases "We think" and "We feel." But the gospel at the center of the Apostles' Creed is the shaper of the lives who confess it. It "makes" the confession "We believe."

{from: Jared C. Wilson [Christianity .com](http://Christianity.com)}

At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus gives his followers the threefold task of the church throughout the ages: 1) "make disciples of all nations"; 2) "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"; and 3) "teaching them to obey everything I have commanded."

In its earliest days, the church developed statements of belief to guide these foundational activities. The church's evangelizing mission to the nations was aided by concise statements proclaiming the identity of Jesus and his saving work, many of which are preserved in St. Paul's speeches and letters. The church's baptizing mission was accompanied by a profession of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The church's teaching mission was facilitated with summaries of Jesus' instructions and the central truths of the faith. In the ancient church, the creed was instrumental in fulfilling this threefold ministry of the church, and it continues to serve these same purposes today.

Yet, the early church knew that it is not the articulation of the creed that brings people to faith. It is the ongoing presence of Jesus with his church through the Spirit. The last verse of Jesus' instructions insures his followers of the reality behind the words: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (see Mt 28:20). In the church's evangelization, sacramental ministry and ongoing formation of disciples, the presence of Jesus is the heart, but the creed helps the church to carry out the tasks that Jesus commanded with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We don't believe in statements of faith, but in those realities they express. Yet, we approach these realities with the help of formulated statements that allow us to express the faith and hand it on, to celebrate it in communal worship, to assimilate it in prayer, and to live it more fully in active witness in the world. Here are some of the most important purposes of the creed:

Central truths

The creed is a summary of the central truths of Christian faith. It is not intended to be a complete compendium of beliefs expressed in the Bible. It focuses, rather, on the fundamental truths that characterize the life of a Christian believer. As an acorn contains all the elements of a large and verdant tree, the creed condenses into a few words the great faith contained in the Old and New Testaments.

As the authentic and authorized summary of Christian truth, the creed is a symbol of the faith of the whole church. It provides a sign of reception into the church and of membership in the community of faith. By reciting the creed, we state our personal and communal identity. We affirm that we are united in faith with the ancient church and with our fellow believers.

The creed was never meant to be a substitute for personal faith, for a trusting relationship with God. The creed, rather, gives substance to our personal faith. We profess our faith not in the words but in the reality to which they point.

Reciting the creed does not make us Christians, but it reminds us of the truths of our salvation and gives us an opportunity to personally affirm them.

Rule of faith

The creed is the rule of faith for the Christian life. It supplies a map that lays out the fundamental contours of how the Christian thinks about God and the history of salvation. This map of belief synthesizes the Christian faith and prevents the believer from taking a wrong turn and getting lost. It marks the boundaries of Christian belief and protects the church's essential teachings.

Before the church had a relatively fixed creed, the early theologians referred to the church's communal self-consciousness as the *regula fidei* ("rule of faith"). Although it was articulated in various forms, it presented the essential beliefs inherited from the apostles and passed on through the church. This was understood as the faith which was held "always, everywhere, and by all" (St. Vincent of Lerins, *The Commitorium*, 4, 3) and assured by the Holy Spirit.

This rule of faith, soon to be called a creed, expressed the faith which converts received from the teaching Church and were to keep as the standard for their subsequent life. With this rule of faith, Christians were able to interpret the Scriptures according to the mind of the church and test all other doctrines presented to them.

Throughout the church's history, the creed has served as this standard of belief which tests all others and serves the church as the expression of its common faith.

Christian theology, it evaluates theological opinions by testing them for consistency against what has been firmly believed. As a synthesis of the Gospel, the creed helps us understand its meaning and guides us in applying the principles of Scripture to the Christian life

Evangelization tool

The creed is a springboard for evangelization. The believer has received faith from other people and should desire to hand it on to others. Our love for God and other people, and the gratitude we feel for our faith, should impel us to speak to others about it. Yet, evangelization is difficult, especially if we haven't thought much about the content of our faith.

The creed is an ideal starting point for the crucial process of consolidating our grasp of the faith. It offers the Christian vision of the world's origins, meaning and destiny, and presents God's saving work in a clear and simple statement of beliefs. The creed is not complicated and ambiguous. It requires no hidden knowledge or superior intellect, and can be affirmed and understood by children as well as adults.

The creed focuses on what unites believers, rather than on what divides them. It thus encourages the kind of ecumenical understanding called for by the church today. The statements of the creed establish strong and clear boundaries for Christian belief, but those boundaries do not become barriers that exclude those who might not yet be able to accept other points of doctrine.

As we study the ancient confessions of the church, we develop our ability to express our faith in tune with the received wisdom of the ages. In our confused and creedless age, which hesitates to acknowledge any unchanging truth, our testimony to the ancient wisdom of the church and the guidance of God's Spirit can offer refreshment and confidence to those seeking the unconditional truth and love of our saving God. By articulating our own experience of faith in union with the words of the creed, we cultivate Christian testimony worthy of the Lord to whom we witness. {from : *Understanding the 5 Key Purposes of the Creed* {Stephen J. Binz}}

What Do We Believe?

The Bible— We believe it to be the verbally inspired Word of God. It is the only complete and final revelation of God to man in this age, and is the standard and guide of conduct and action for the believer and the church.

The BLOOD— Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. Hebrews 9:22. Even so the Son of man came to give His life a ransom for many. Mt.20: 28

The BLESSED HOPE

This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in LIKE MANNER as you have seen Him go into heaven. Acts: 1:11

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we be ever with the Lord. 1 Thes.4: 16-17

THE NEW BIRTH

Except a man be **BORN AGAIN** he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3:3

As many as received Him, to then gave He power to become the sons of God- which were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor the will of man, but of God John 1; 12-13

ETERNAL LIFE FOR THE BELIEVER

And I Give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish....John 10:28

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life. John 3:36

ARE YOU LOST?

If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are LOST. 2 Corinthians 4:3

All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

The wages of sin is death Romans 6:23

HOW CAN YOU BE SAVED?

1. **Acknowledge** you are a sinner

There is none righteous , no not one....

There is none that seeketh after God Romans 3: 10-11

ALL we like sheep have gone astray. Isaiah 53:6

2. Believe that Jesus died for you and trust Him to save you.

But God commendeth His love toward us , in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died FOR US. Romans 5:8

BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved. Acts 16:31

He that **BELIEVETH** on Him is not condemned John 3:18

He that **BELIEVETH** on the Son hath everlasting life. John 3:36

3. **CONFESS** Him before men to show you trust Him. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:10

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? Romans 10: 14

You must first believe in your heart before you can call upon Him. Now in trusting Jesus Christ you have eternal life.

Next, you should publicly confess Him before men, and then present yourself for believers Baptism by immersion as an act of obedience and identification with Christ. Come to our services or call the Pastor. We will be happy to counsel you and aid you in your growth and maturity as a new Christian.

In His service : Mark Pitman

A photograph of a simple wooden cross standing in a field of tall, dry grass. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a cloudy sky. Overlaid on the image is the text "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" in a large, bold, dark blue font.

**WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?**



“Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing.”

Author: Curly D Culper

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing."

It was on the cusp of death when Jesus could have cursed them. He could have let the torment of injustice turn to anger. His condemnation would have been validated. However, in all of these feelings and emotions, He chose the most extraordinary power He could. It was love. With His death, we are led to learn of the love He believed in, the love He wanted to share. When we choose to face the challenges set before us in life or tackle the demons within, we do so with the belief that the outcome will make us feel closer to God. When we are closer to God, we become leaders of love in our homes and communities, guiding those we *love*, in *love*, for the sake of love, as Jesus did.

People often talk about the sacrifice. What it took for him to lay his life down, but He knew, more than His disciples, that His kingdom was not of this earth. The living sees it as a sacrifice, for we do not know what Jesus knew as profoundly as He did. Moreover, Jesus, embodying the nature of God, was set to ascend once His trials were over. He faced His fears, for He knew love was the true power, and the crucifixion became the last and most demanding test of His life. He walked into that darkness, and He did so, knowing that the outcome would be greater than any other choice He could make. Love would be there and help Him through it all, no matter how bad or challenging it would get. Love is the guiding light to the victory of God every time.

How is anything a sacrifice if our souls are eternal? What are we giving up in death when we know in our hearts that our lives are temporary? Jesus gave up His life for us. He let them arrest him, punish him, and kill him, and He did not flee, for his heart was full of courage. He did not fight back because his message was love - love until the very end. Love is what we learn from great sacrifices.

Compassion comes from loving those that fear sacrifice, those that fear losing the lives and reputations they deem permanent. In wisdom, we learn of the true nature of life, that everything changes, but what is most valuable is what is eternal. The relationship we have with God leads us to the truth (both within ourselves and the outside world), and when that truth is known, then the courage and willpower that God has granted us toward the greater purpose can keep us from fear. It can ignite us at that moment. God grants us the ability to overcome, sacrifice our ideas, and help lead others to glory.

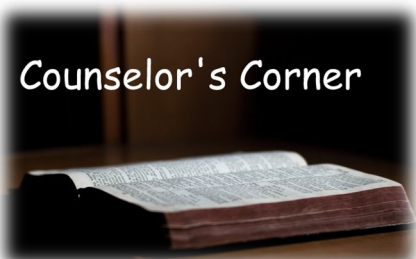
The sacrifice of the body ends on the cross, but it is our character that grows through the suffering when we take our first step into the shadows we see before us. When we lose the fear to flee, our knowledge of Jesus begins. We sacrifice our ego when we do what we know is right against the odds. The heart is afire when we face our problems head-on, for God is with us, and the angels are dancing with inspiration. We are not alone. We are given the strength to endure, and should we perish, our legacy is remembered and used as a lesson to help lead others. This is the way of the Lord, the way of those who seek to learn of love.

It is said that the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross washed us of our sins. It cleansed us and gave us the chance to learn of his story and how he overcame human death so that he could share in a love that is greater than fear or hate - a truly eternal love. We all know this. We tell this story, and we learn from his sacrifice. Confronting the challenges before us is no easy task, but we are far from alone, and in the stillness of our hearts, we know the truth. We know of a great, golden love that transcends everything.

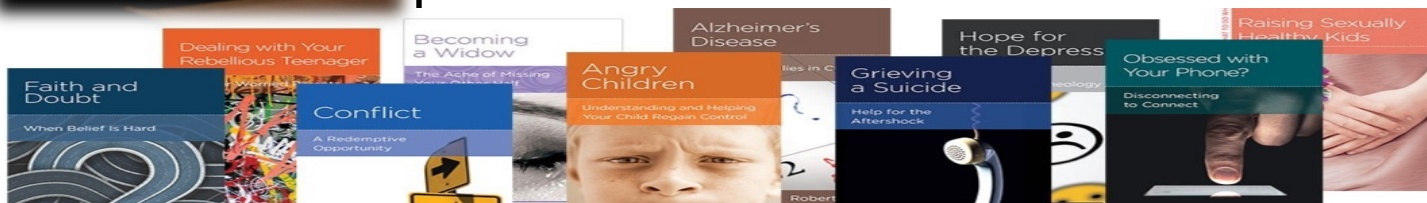


Odds & Ends

Counselor's Corner



CHURCH COUNSELING SERVICES



This month's highlighted booklet is *"Christ and Your Problems"* by Jay E. Adams. Do you have problems that seem too great to bear? Do you wonder if there is a way out of the mess you are in? This helpful booklet was written to put such problem cases in perspective. Showing first that no one's problems are unique, Jay Adams offers genuine hope based on God's promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13. Readers will gain the courage needed to take responsible action, knowing that a real solution is to be found in God's way.

Please take advantage of our Counselor's Corner in the back of the church. For you....or a friend or loved one.

Counseling Services Offered to Church Members. *If you need help, or know someone who needs help, please let Pastor Larry or John Leis know.*

Counselingathope@gmail.com

812-876-9002 ext 105



Vicki's Recipe Corner

Author: Vicky Swafford



White Brownies

1 white cake mix (2 layer)

$\frac{1}{3}$ c. Brown sugar

$\frac{1}{3}$ c. milk

1 egg

6 oz. Butterscotch or chocolate chip morsels

Stir all ingredients, except chips, until moistened. Add chips. Bake in 9x13 in (greased) pan at 325° for 30 min.

Note: You can use a 12 oz. pkg. of chips if desired.



Pork Roast with Garlic & Rosemary

3 lb. pork roast

2 cloves garlic, slivered

1 t rosemary

SALT & pepper

Score fat with a sharp knife. Make small slashes in several places & insert slivers of garlic. Rub surface with Rosemary. Sprinkle with salt & pepper. Place Roast in a shallow pan. Bake at 325° for ABOUT 45 min. per pound.



Crittenden Critiques

Keith is a graduate of the Illinois Culinary Institute of Chicago. He has worked in the restaurant business for over 20 years.

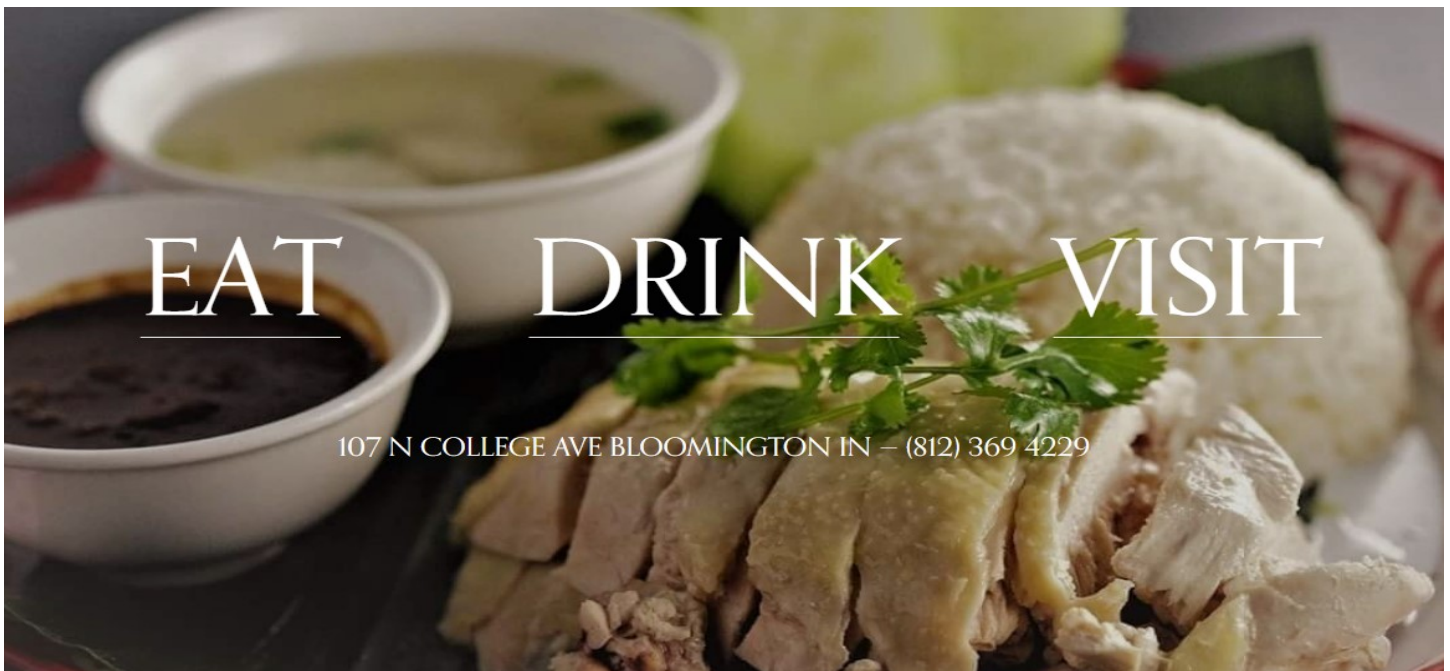
Blooming Thai
107 North College Ave
Bloomington IN 47402
812-369-4229

I was able to visit this restaurant about a year ago and it is still one of my favorite places. If you like Thai food this is the place to go in Bloomington. Blooming Thai is located on the square. It is not a very big restaurant but this Thai and Asian fusion restaurant will not disappoint you when it comes to taste and flavor!

The menu is very versatile and serves milk tea, smoothies, fruit soda's, coconut cake, mango sticky rice cakes, and Tom & Jerry cheesecake. The main menu has appetizers such as crab Rangoon, shrimp tempura and pot stickers.

Numerous entrée's are offered but I recommend rotisserie chicken, fried rice, red curry, curry noodles, and the chicken pineapple lovers. There are so many different options I suggest going with friends so you can share the various flavors. Furthermore, each menu option can be ordered on a heat scale of mild to spicy.

Service is great. Take out and dine in are both options.



Classifieds



Farm Fresh Eggs For Sale

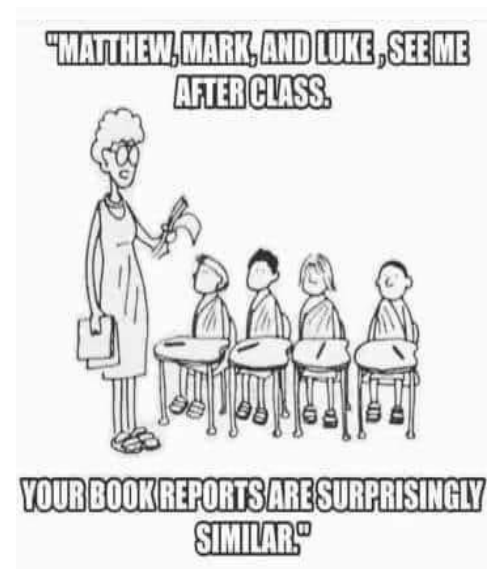
\$2 a carton

See Jeannette Parrott



Do you want to celebrate your anniversary or a birthday in a special way? Take out a classified ad and have a picture or special message entered! The cost is a \$5 donation to Circle J Kids Ranch!

Funnies



EMPLOYERS!!!

LOOKING FOR HELP?

If you are needing to hire new employees have you thought about hiring people with felonies in their background?

If you do, please email us below so that we can share the positions with parole, WorkOne, probation and other organizations to help people find jobs and move on. They have been told for years that no one hires felons, **IT IS NOT TRUE!!**

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

GOT A FELONY IN YOUR BACKGROUND?

Resources are available! Please contact Linda Webb for an information packet by emailing, calling, or writing to the address listed below. Resources include housing guides, food availability, and job information. Information is for both local and national

UnChained Ministries

House of Prayer Ellettsville

4100 North Hartstrait Rd.

Bloomington, IN 47404

812-876-9002

unchained.monroe@thehop-e.com

Linda Webb, Jail Liaison

Cell: 812-320-5047



MOTORCYCLE MATTERS

10 Fall Motorcycle Riding Tips: Safe Touring in Autumn



1. Beware of Falling Leaves

This is true on the road, but especially on the trails. Falling leaves create visual hazards, especially if they are wet. They can stick to your visor easily, or block a tree branch that's extending into your path of travel. Don't get distracted by leaves, regardless of how mesmerizing they are while falling.

2. Beware of Leaves on the Ground

Leaves on the ground present as equal of a hazard as falling ones. They cover up holes on the trails, rocks, or any other object protruding from the ground. On the road, also, they can cover up drain ditches and waterways. And remember that though leaves look dry, they ones on the ground are likely wet, which will quickly cause traction issues and a disaster on the trail.

3. Cooler Concrete, Less Traction

That says it all. Tires will come up to temperature with continuous riding, but it'll take much longer. And when stopping the tires cool down much faster, which naturally creates less traction on the road. The off-road will also be slicker due to cooler rocks and dirt.

4. Layer Up!

Layering is the only way to go during autumn riding. Start with good base layers and mid layers, and always pack along an extra fleece or something similar for added warmth. This allows you to easily adjust your comfort zone while out riding.



5. Don't Forget the Rain Gear

Fall is the most unpredictable time of the year. You can be riding in pure sunshine at 70 degrees (F), and then it can drop to 50 and start raining. Even the light mist can penetrate your gear, so make sure your outer layers are up to par in the waterproof department. If you're wearing gear that's not waterproof, don't forget the rain suit!

6. Wildlife: Extra Caution Needed

Wildlife is more active searching for food in fall, which has them scattered. Deer usually feed close to roads, and their most active feeding time is dusk and dawn. Fall is a time for hunting, also, which will further scatter animals like deer and turkey. Work on maximizing peripheral vision to proactively recognize a threat and react, such as covering your brakes while slowing down, and always keep your eyes moving.

7. Beware Frosty Roads

Regardless of how warm the day temperatures can get, the mornings can provide some frosty conditions. Even the thinnest layer of frost can result in a loss of traction. Try to stay in the middle of the road since more frost will collect around the edges, and preferably ride in car-tire tracks.

8. Camping? Make Sure You Got the Essentials

Remember, it's autumn, and it can be 75 during the day and 40 at night. Plan accordingly if you're going to camp—something we highly recommend due to the beauty. Just be prepared with a warmer sleeping bag, and find the most optimal place for a tent that won't take on any water or morning fog. For more, check out or [Fall Camping Tips](#).

9. Check Tires and Fluids

Now is not the time to question your tread depth. If the tread depth is less than 2/32 of inch deep, you need some new skins. The easiest way to find out is place a penny upside down in your tread groove. If you can see Lincoln's hair, it's time for a new set. As we said, concrete is colder, and traction is less. Add some rain and you'll want to be channeling that water away from the surface of your tires.

Also, check your fluids and top off if needed. You don't want dirty brake fluid to thicken up quickly while riding in the colder weather. And for those with liquid-cooled engines, make sure your coolant is fresh

10. Check Weather Often

Weather conditions are very unpredictable in fall, and fronts moving in can drop temperatures in a hurry. Keep an even closer eye on your favorite weather app while riding, especially if you're ADV touring and have some long distances to travel. This proactiveness is crucial to your riding comfort and safety, allowing you to plan a route around unstable skies, or find a hotel/campsite.

<https://blog.touratech-usa.com/2017/10/17/10-fall-motorcycle-riding-tips-safe-touring-in-autumn/>



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