

# HOPE Gazette

NOV / DEC 2021



## Leaving the Church Where are Christians Going?





Verse of the Month

*My soul, wait in silence for God alone, For my hope is from Him. Psalm 62:5*





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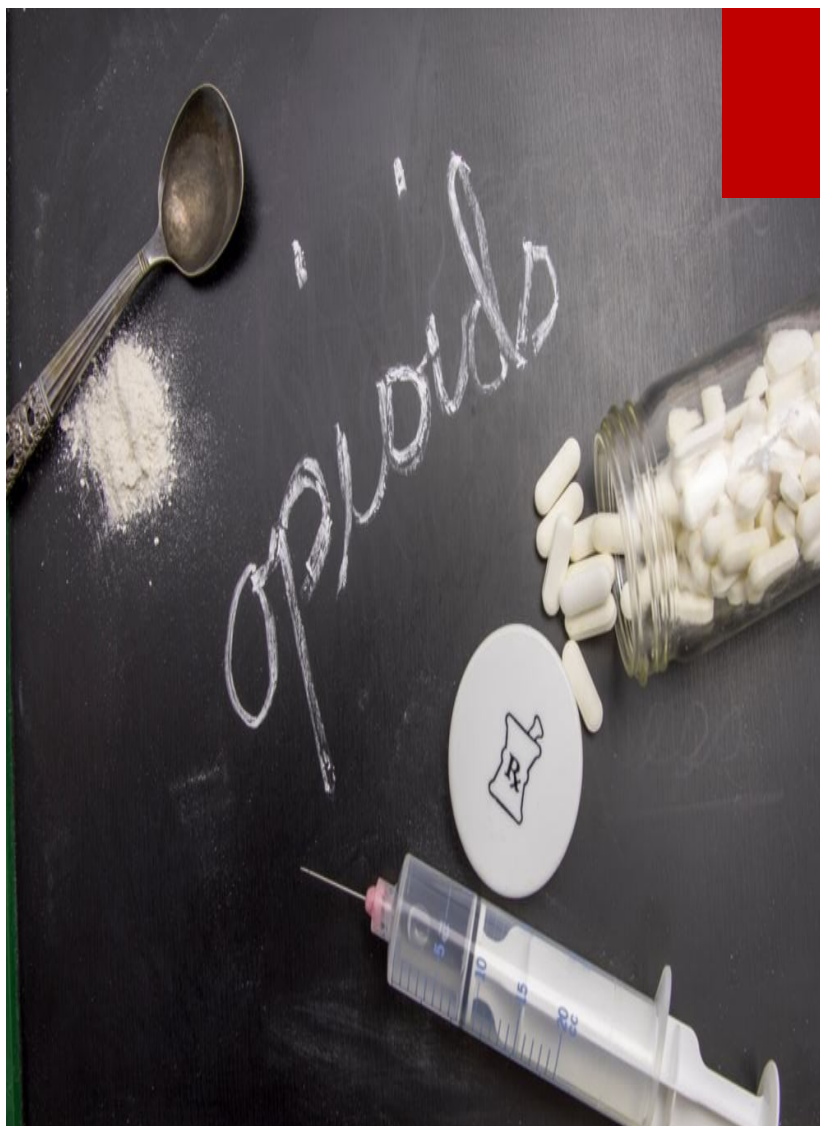


This Gazette is intended to share ideas, discuss theology, and to inform. This is a volunteer-based publication. It is through the hard work of many people that we can produce and share this.

If you have any questions please reach out to us!

Kasey Parrott

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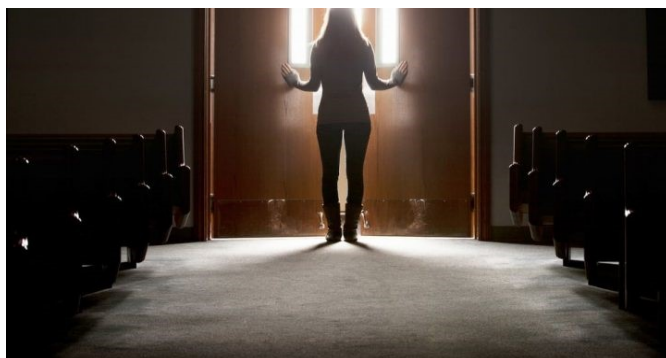


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## Opioid Crisis PART TWO

Mark Pitman

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## A Look at the Local Crisis - Part Two

Mark Pitman

In Part 2 of our discussion on the opioid crisis we will look at the Biblical view of drug addiction, the effect on the addict as well as the family and the society as a whole.

From Bible Gateway;

### **How Does the Bible Verse Hosea 4:6 speak to Drug Addiction?**

A common occurrence among those who struggle with substance abuse is an overriding sense of having lost their way. While many health care practitioners focus on the physical and mental aspects of drug and alcohol addictions, as they can be debilitating, many believe it is essential to include the Spirit. The benefits of spirituality can transcend the person who needs treatment by touching and positively affecting their family members as well. But not all are in tune with this belief, which is captured in the Bible verse Hosea 4:6, its mention of lack of knowledge, and the meaning behind it.

### **With Acceptance Comes Forgiveness;**

Many hold that spirituality is a key component to successful recovery, offering a greater path towards acceptance and healing for individuals with substance addiction and those who love them. For believers, the added support of a faith-based treatment program is thought to help make the transformation into a life of sobriety easier, not to mention the personal growth attained in the process.

### **In Darkness, the Light Can Shine Bright;**





One of the most powerful tenets of the traditional 12-Step program, originating in Alcoholics Anonymous, is based on many of the teachings in Christianity that focus on personal acceptance. This part of addiction recovery holds persons in treatment to be self-accountable for their actions and life choices made while asking forgiveness of those they've hurt along the way. The life one leads while immersed in active drug or alcohol abuse is filled with denial, darkness, and despair. There are many personal accounts of spiritual awakening during this time, through a thought, a feeling, or vision that brings a glimmer of personal acceptance to the forefront. This spiritual light, however, can open the door to acknowledging there is an addiction problem that needs to be faced and treated.

#### **What If Spirit Can't Be Felt;**

Not all who need treatment are at a place where they are able to face the truth. Even during an intervention, family members will find it difficult to accept the entire reality of the drug use, the broken family dynamic, and the damage it has caused. A sense of hopelessness invades daily life, making it difficult to have faith. This is why it's imperative for the family to be a part of the intervention, treatment, and addiction recovery process. In this view, without utilizing the benefits of spirituality, the entire family will suffer – unnecessarily. Let's look at the entire verse of Hosea 4:6 as an example of how drug addiction takes hold of the user and the family, and why for many, belief in a higher deity—in this case Christianity—truly brings salvation.

Lack of Knowledge Is Deeper than Intellect; Scripture provides many of the tools and teachings that can help to live a balanced, purposeful, and glorious life. Substance addiction and ignoring the existence of substance addiction go against the principles presented in Hosea 4:6. Within the verse, my people are destroyed for

lack of knowledge is not calling out the ability to take on information. It is more about the neglect of seeking information that is vital to living, which includes embracing spirituality. The lack of knowledge also refers to one's choice to ignore or refuse the important role of spirituality, which can lead to poor life choices and circumstances. In this view, respecting oneself through acceptance of God's word provides a greater ability to rise above temptation through continuous belief and gracious acts of faith.



### **Ignorance Is Not Bliss with Addiction;**

Hosea 4:6 serves as a reminder for many believers that without God's word, we cannot follow his wisdom. Without God's word, we cannot see our own light. Without personal vision and purpose, a person is easily led down a dark path and attracted to others who will do the same. Ultimately, self-destruction is at hand.

### **The Sheep Mentality;**

When we journey down an ill-chosen path or have no defined path, the risks intensify over time. Many people of faith think it important to consider the history of people and the destruction of civilizations in the past, when faith in God shifted to other deities. They visualize a sea of people proceeding blindly in a herd, with their individuality gone. Drug and alcohol addiction will create a sheep mentality for both the addict and the family. For the person dependent on drugs, he or she will become sheep-like, choosing to befriend others who use with the sole purpose of finding more drugs. For the family, the ability to initiate a change, though it will be painful, begins with an intervention. But many will choose to ignore the existence of the problem or hope that it will go away on its own. It won't. In fact, this entire cycle defines lack of knowledge.

### **Faith-Based Recovery Lives in the Actions We Take**

Hosea 4:6 reminds us to stay in faith. This has helped many throughout the drug intervention process as faith is challenged among family members throughout the recovery period. It is through acknowledgement, acceptance, and commitment that many, those with addictive behaviors and their families, believe it possible to find the courage, strength, and support to overcome this darkness we call addiction and embrace the light of recovery. An intervention is not about how to control the substance user; it is about how to let go of believing you can.

### **The Moral Conundrum of Addiction;**

Who has the moral obligation to fix the addiction problem? Substance users have become experts at making their addiction someone else's problem, or denying that they have a problem. Families can help by refusing to let the addict or alcoholic continue avoiding responsibility for his or her addiction.

### **Is Addiction a Moral Failing or a Disease?**

For a long time, society largely believed that addiction resulted from weak morals, and that faith and willpower were the cure to addiction. We now know that addiction is a disease caused by physical and psychological changes in the body. In fact, the very definition of addiction is that willpower alone is no longer enough to stop substance abuse. That's why receiving professional drug or alcohol intervention and



treatment is a critical part of lasting recovery. Families, on the other hand, DO have a moral choice: Will you allow the situation to continue until your loved one dies or goes to jail, or will you take the courageous action necessary to put accountability for addiction back where it belongs: on the drug user or alcoholic?

### **Why Isn't My Faith that My Loved One Will Get Better Actually Working?**

Enabling happens when families are trying to help, but in doing so, they are not allowing their loved one to feel the consequences of his or her actions. Committing to getting help to overcome addiction is the responsibility of the substance user. But usually, when families “help” their loved one, they are making the addict or alcoholic comfortable in their addiction. Comfortable people have absolutely no motivation to change their behavior. They'd rather be comfortable than face the discomfort and discipline of change that is necessary to overcome addiction. By shielding the addict or alcoholic from the consequences of their actions (by giving them food, shelter, money, bailing them out of jail, etc.), you are playing God and not letting God do His job of motivating the substance user through the natural consequences of his or her actions. “Don't be misled—you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant.” – Galatians 6:7 True faith is more than hope. It's trust. When you trust yourself to do your part, trust your loved one to take responsibility for their own life, and trust God to take care of the rest, that is genuine faith.

### **Accept the Things You Cannot Change**

Family members often unwittingly take responsibility for things that are not their responsibility. Here's who's really responsible for what...

#### **The family is NOT responsible for:**

Shielding the substance user from the natural consequences of his or her actions  
The emotions or hardships of the substance user  
Feeding and sheltering adult children, especially when they lie, steal and disrupt family life.



#### **The family IS responsible for:**

No longer enabling their loved one to be comfortable in addiction  
Arranging professional intervention and addiction services for their loved one  
Setting clear boundaries  
Attending to their own needs and healing .

The addict or alcoholic is responsible for: Admitting he or she has a problem  
Accepting help when it is offered  
Doing the hard work to overcome addiction  
Committing to long-term recovery.

#### **Have the Courage to Change What You Can;**

Substance abusers avoid addiction treatment because it's a difficult process to go through in order to achieve the reward of a sober life. Families likewise avoid intervention because they don't want to go through the difficult process of saying “no” to their loved one and weathering the emotional firestorm that it will bring. To get through this process, families need two things:

## 1. Courage:

Yes, this will be uncomfortable. Yes, your loved one will probably say that they hate you for refusing to continue accommodating them. Yes, you can weather the storm and e

## 2. Professional intervention assistance:

If your loved one had cancer, you wouldn't try to treat it all by yourself. Interventions also require expert help to have the best chance of success.

I could not have said it any better, the only other thing I can add is that for me, seeing the lives of the people I come into contact with within my work as a corrections officer is disheartening. I see people without hope of coming out of this addiction alive. The only hope they have left is God. If they think God has given up on them there is no more hope. But since God is all knowing and caring, He will never give up on them. God loves them more than they love themselves. He is the only one who can and will deliver them out of that darkness of addiction. You won't know God is all you need , until He is all you have . They need only to call on His name., Jesus, for the enemy of their souls is only out to destroy them. John 10:10 “ The thief comes only to kill and destroy; but I have come that they may live; and have it to the full”. NLV 2 Timothy 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 6 They are the kind who worm their way into homes and gain control over gullible women, who are loaded down with sins and are swayed by all kinds of evil desires, 7 always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth. 8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these teachers opposed the truth. They are men of depraved minds, who, as far as the faith is concerned, are rejected. 9 But they will not get very far because, as in the case of those men, their folly will be clear to everyone.

The lyrics of a song by Christian rapper Lecrae depicts the path an addict is on.



### “Broken” by Lecrae

I'm just a broken instrument in the hands of the Greatest So if the notes are off it's because I ain't nothing to play with And you can't fault me, but ain't we all off key? Majoring in the minors like there ain't no errors behind us Somehow he still makes these melodies with my felonies. I ain't buying what they selling me, what you telling me? Broken pieces acting like we ain't cracked Man we all messed up and can't none escape that We some broken people Came from broken homes Broken hearts inside a broken soul Alcoholics, the addicts, English, African, Arabs

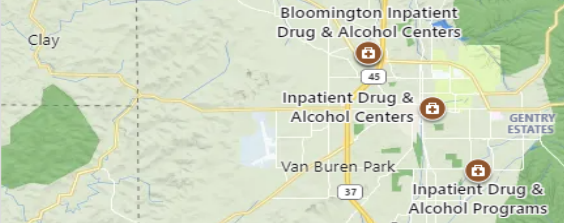
Ain't no riches to fix it You still broke when you have it If you ain't breaking bad and you still chasing the habit It ain't no wonderland and we still chasing the rabbit.

Some other comments I have heard from addicts. I have spoken with depict the true reality of drug addiction, such as;

Being addicted to heroin is like having a 800 pound gorilla on your back , once you try heroin you are hooked. I have even heard it said that drug dealers wait outside of drug rehabilitation centers for recovering addicts to come out of rehab so they can sell them more drugs.

In conclusion I have presented the facts about the drug culture and the crisis it presents, the treatment options, the responsibility of the family to the addict. The effects of the children in the addict's life, the separation and the pain it causes have been presented. All these factors and the financial costs to society all add up. But all the facts presented are of no effect to the addict unless they decide to take that step. It comes down to one thing and that is “choice”. The addict is the only one who can make it, no one can make it for them. Joshua 24 vs 14-15; Daniel 3 vs 17. Choose today whom you will serve before it is too late. Courts can't do it , programs won't do it , prison won't do it, only God through His power can break the chain of addiction and the abuse, poverty, and hopelessness it brings. He is the chain breaker. They may have to cut ties with people who don't support them and their new lifestyle. One thing I heard was that in doing this, you are not leaving someone to teach them a lesson, you are leaving them because you have learned your lesson. I want to share a quote from Brian 'Head” Welch , former Korn guitarist 'quote: “ The most important lesson that we're supposed to be learning right now is how completely lost we are without God. If we don't learn that lesson, then our lives are going to have zero meaning.” “It's real and I can't stop talking about it, because I didn't die and my dreams didn't die and my purpose for living is not dead. “End quote. God has a plan for your life and it is found in His Word, Jeremiah 29- 11 “ For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” “Let go and let God” be in control of your life and your reward will be eternal. Get involved in a church that understands and will support you in your new life. One that the people love you the way you are and know that you are learning and growing..

Local Addiction Help Bloomington Indiana



**Inpatient Drug & Alcohol Centers**  
421 E 3rd St, Bloomington · (833) 699-2815  
Open 24 hours

**Bloomington Inpatient Drug & Alcohol Centers**  
Bloomington, IN · (888) 927-5438  
Open 24 hours

**Inpatient Drug & Alcohol Programs**  
Bloomington, IN · (877) 867-7710  
Open 24 hours

**Inpatient Drug & Alcohol Blue Cross**  
Bloomington, IN · (855) 415-2270

*In His service; Mark Pitman*







## Leaving the Church

Pastor Larry Mitchell

The AGE Old QUESTION, That Many "Church Going People" Seem To Have is; **"WHY WOULD PEOPLE WANT TO LEAVE THE CHURCH ?"** OR Simply; . . **WHY . . DO PEOPLE LEAVE THE CHURCH ?"** . . I Mean, IT Just Doesn't Seem To Make SENSE, . . To RUN AWAY From The VERY BEST THING That Could HAPPEN To A LIFE !!

. . **AND The ONLY WAY That WE Can REALLY ANSWER a Question Like That, . . IS To SEE WHAT The BIBLE, And EXPERIENCE Would Have To SAY ABOUT IT !**

1. I Believe The Number ONE REASON Would Have To Be, That The ONLY REASON That Some People COME To CHURCH, In the FIRST Place, . . [In Many Cases] . . [And Lets Be Honest,] . . . **" IS To Get Some TEMPORARY RELIEF !"**

> MANY TURN To the LORD, Or Turn To CHURCH, Because DUE To The POOR CHOICES That They've Made in Their LIFE, . . They've LEARNED To SURVIVE, By Making Excuses, . . And Relying On SOB Stories !! OR By Manipulating The SYSTEM, . . OR Especially By USING Family and Friends, . . Trying To FIND Some Kind of RELIEF, . . o GO ON Making LIFE CHOICES, . . WITHOUT GOD !!

> . . BUT After Awhile, . . With NONE Of That NO LONGER Working, . . AND Finding NO MORE WIGGLE ROOM, . . . THEN, As a LAST RESORT, . . THEY Really DON'T TURN To GOD, . . BUT THEY TURN To The CHURCH, [With The Sob Stories, And The Manipulation] To FIND The RELIEF They're Looking For, . . .

> BUT Being DECEIVED Into THINKING That They Can MANIPULATE GOD, . . And/ Or The CHURCH/HIS PEOPLE, . . . . BUT, Many Have Found Out, . . . **HEB. 4:13 Says; "Nothing in All of GOD'S Creation is Hidden from HIS SIGHT. Everything is Uncovered and Laid Bare Before the very Eyes of HIM, In whom WE must give an Account."**

. . BUT Even Though GOD KNOWS The Deepest Thoughts And the of the Intentions of the HEART, . . And With HIS GRACE, STILL RUNNING At FULL Throttle, . . . HE GIVES the TEMPORARY RELIEF That They're Looking FOR ! **[Isn't GOD AMAZING ?]**

. . . AND SO, . . FEELING Much BETTER, . . THE RELIEVED . . . BOLTS FOR The DOOR, Thinking, **"I Can Take It From Here !"** [Which IS The CAUSE For the RELIEF To BE - ONLY TEMPORARY],

> BUT SOON, . . WHEN IT IS REALIZED, That The RELIEF . . WAS ONLY TEMPORARY, And That POOR CHOICES Of The PAST, Have Once Again, Been Followed By ANOTHER POOR CHOICE, . . . Of LEAVING GOD, And/Or The CHURCH!! AND THEN KNOWING, WE Are WITHOUT EXCUSE, . . WE STILL TRY To BLAME GOD, With NEON GUILT, Written On Our Foreheads !

> **PROV. 19:3 says; [NLT] "People RUIN their Lives By their OWN FOOLISHNESS, . . AND THEN, They Are ANGRY At the LORD."**

2. Which Brings US To . . the SECOND Reason, That SO MANY LEAVE the Church, . . Is Because They Have NOT Made a FULL SURRENDER To GOD, . . Which IS REQUIRED, TO BEING . . FULLY COMMITTED IN BEING OBEDIENT To GOD!! **[OBEDIENT IN FOLLOWING HIS INSTRUCTION FOR OUR LIVES !]**

> **PSA. 51:17, Says; . . "The SACRIFICES of GOD, are a Broken Spirit; AND a Broken and a Contrite Heart, of which, GOD will NOT IGNORE."**

> WHEN HEART FELT REPENTANCE HAS NOT Been MADE, . . CHANCES ARE, . . That Person's SALVATION IS NOT VALID!! **PAUL Tells US IN II COR. 7:10 . . . "For GODLY SORROW Brings REPENTANCE That LEADS to SALVATION, and Leaves NO Regret; . . But Worldly Sorrow brings Death."**

. . AND So, NOT Being Fully Committed, Becomes OBVIOUS In The Person's SPIRITUAL FRUIT;

- **. . NOT COMMITTED In COMING To CHURCH !**  
[ ESPECIALLY MID-WEEK CHURCH - **HEB. 10:25** ]
- **. . NOT COMMITTED In STUDYING GOD'S WORD !**  
[ NOT COMING TO BIBLE STUDIES or CLASSES – **ROM. 12:2** ]
- **. . NOT COMMITTED IN PRAYING To KNOW GOD'S VOICE In CULTIVATING A RELATIONSHIP With GOD !!**  
[ AND "NO," Meal Time And Bed Time Prayers Are NOT Enough ! ]

> In **II COR. 7:9** PAUL said: **"Yet, Now I'm happy, NOT because YOU were made SORRY, BUT because your SORROW, LED YOU to REPENTANCE"**

> PAUL Was Saying, ' "I'M SORRY, You Went Through Such a HARD TIME, . . BUT I'm Glad YOU Got SAVED, . . "I'm Glad YOU Finally Gave Up and TRULY REPENTED . . and GAVE Your LIFE, FULLY to CHRIST !"

**Webster's Definition For Repentance is: "to FEEL SORRY For " - Or "to REGRET SOMETHING YOU DID, Or Presently DOING !"**

> **SOME PEOPLE ONLY EXPERIENCE "JAIL HOUSE or FOX HOLE" CHRISTIANITY !**  
**THEY'RE NOT SORRY FOR THEIR ACTIONS, . . THEY'RE ONLY SORRY THEY GOT CAUGHT !! [SORRY FOR The CONSEQUENCES Of Their SIN ]**

**. . . THEY'RE ONLY SORRY That THEY'RE A SCUZBALL, WHEN They Find Themselves IN JAIL, . OR WHEN The Mortars and Bombs and Bullets Are Landing All Around Em'!**  
**HEARTFELT REPENTANCE PRODUCES NEW HEARTFELT DESIRES !**

I'm Reminded of The WOMAN With The ALABASTER BOX of PERFUME, In the Account Given in the **BOOK of LUKE 7:36-47 . . "** It Says Here; **"One of the Pharisees Asked JESUS over for a Meal. And So, HE Went to the Pharisees House and He sat down to Dinner. BUT Just then, a "Woman of the Town," [having learned that JESUS was going to be there] . . She came in with an Alabaster Box of Very Expensive Perfume, and SHE Knelt at JESUS FEET, weeping and washing His Feet with Her Tears, and drying them with her Hair; SHE then, Kissed his Feet, and Anointed them with the Perfume She had brought, . . When the Pharisee saw this, He said to himself, "If this Man, [Jesus] was really the Prophet I thought He was, He would have known what kind of a Woman This is, . . "Falling all over Him."**

**Jesus said to the Pharisee; "Simon, I have something to tell you !" "IF Two men were in Debt to a Banker, And One Owed Five Hundred Silver Pieces, and the other one, OWED**

Fifty. And Neither of them could Pay the Debt, BUT the Banker, Being Merciful, Canceled BOTH of their Debts. . . . Which of the TWO would be MORE THANKFUL?" Simon answered, "I suppose the ONE, Who was FORGIVEN the Most!"

"THAT'S RIGHT," JESUS SAID. . . . SO, JESUS, Turning to the Woman, BUT Really Speaking to Simon; "Do you See this Woman ? I came into your Home, and you provided no water To wash my Feet, But She has not stopped washing my Feet with Her Tears; YOU Gave me no greeting, But from the Time I arrived, She Hasn't quit Kissing my Feet. You provided no fragrance to Anoint my Head, But She has Anointed my Feet with Expensive Perfume. "Impressive isn't it ?"

"Therefore, I say unto You, HER SINS, Which are MANY, ARE FORGIVEN; For SHE Has LOVED MUCH ! SHE is Very THANKFUL ! . . . BUT to Whom LITTLE is FORGIVEN, . . The Same Loves Little, or Their Thankfulness is MINIMAL !"

WHAT THIS MEANS IS;

"OUR "REPENTANCE," IS REFLECTED IN OUR THANKFULNESS !"

>> THE BOTTOM LINE IS; . . WHEN OUR REPENTANCE DOESN'T BRING ABOUT A FULL SURRENDER, . . . AND HERE IT IS; . . .

1. . . WE'LL ALWAYS BE "RESERVING OUR RIGHTS"

[Which Means, We'll Always Be OFFENDED EASILY," . . . ]

2. . . WE'LL ALWAYS BE . . "NOT ALL The WAY IN," . .

[ Which Means We'll ALWAYS Be Looking For a WAY OUT." ]

3. . . WE'LL ALWAYS BE EASY PREY, . . IN SETTLING For RELIGION.

[ Which Means, [II TIM. 3:5 } . . They Will Settle For a FORM Of godliness, . . Which Denies the POWER thereof; . . . ]

> Which Means, The ENEMY, Through The UNRENEWED MIND, . . And the Appetites and the Desires of a Spiritual LAZY FLESH, . . IT Doesn't Want To Be Challenged By the WORD To CHANGE, . .

. . So, To Soothe the Conscience of the FLESH, . . IT SETTLES For A Watered Down GOSPEL That Doesn't Require Anything From That Person, But To Show Up On Sunday Morning [Every Once in Awhile] To Keep IN GOOD STANDING Among The CHOSEN !

> . . AND THEN, AFTER AWHILE, . . The Person FINALLY DECIDES, . . That IF THAT'S ALL THERE IS, . . . WHY BOTHER ? . . . SO, EXIT STAGE RIGHT !

> . . AND THEN FINALLY, . . [The CLASSIC – ADAM & EVE] . . . WHEN PEOPLE FALL INTO SIN, . . And They Don't Understand, What the CHURCH IS ALL ABOUT, . . . In MATT. 9:12 - 13 . . "JESUS said to them, "They that be whole, . . They don't Need a Physician, But they that are sick, . . DO !" "For I have Not come to Call the Righteous, But to call sinners to Repentance."

> . . SO, . . The REAL CHURCH IS A HOSPITAL !" AND The ONLY REAL WAY To Get TREATMENT, . . Is I JOHN 1:9 " If We CONFESS Our Sins, . . HE Is Just and Faithful To FORGIVE US of Our Sins, And To Cleanse Us From ALL Unrighteousness !"

> AND "IT'S JUST THAT EASY," . . When Spoken From a REPENTANT HEART !!

> . . . BUT THAT'S NOT The PLAN Of The ENEMY; . . WHEN WE DON'T Take The EASY WAY, . . The ENEMY Begins HIS RHETORIC Of GUILT and SHAME, And HANGS a YOKE Of CONDEMNATION About OUR NECKS, . . . AND The FIRST Thing WE DO, . . . [YEP, . . YOU KNOW . . ] WE RUN and HIDE From Those AT The HOSPITAL !! The CHURCH !





		Books of the Bible Crossword #1															
H	J	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y	F	G	J	P	
G	K	G	E	W	A	S	D	F	H	U	I	O	P	H	J	O	
U	M	J	U	K	M	B	V	F	D	E	S	P	O	I	J	K	
H	J	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	I	F	E	X	O	D	U	S	
J	H	S	A	S	D	G	H	J	K	C	C	F	G	B	D	W	
S	T	O	H	J	U	K	I	O	L	D	O	X	C	V	G	Q	
G	R	O	S	E	C	O	N	D	K	I	N	G	S	O	E	A	
N	D	H	H	U	D	F	G	H	G	Y	D	E	Q	I	S	S	
I	S	F	N	O	C	F	G	J	B	H	S	N	S	L	D	D	
K	E	V	M	P	H	I	H	O	N	G	A	E	D	K	C	F	
T	R	B	S	E	F	G	T	I	M	F	M	S	F	J	F	H	
S	T	F	E	E	R	F	G	I	K	D	U	I	H	H	G	T	
R	Y	J	O	S	H	U	A	L	V	K	E	S	H	T	H	H	
I	H	K	L	K	I	K	L	O	P	E	L	R	G	J	U	U	
F	F	I	R	S	T	S	A	M	U	E	L	L	O	U	Y	R	
GENESIS						DEUTERONOMY					FIRST SAMUEL						
EXODUS						JOSHUA					SECOND SAMUEL						
LEVITICUS						JUDGES					FIRST KINGS						
NUMBERS						RUTH					SECOND KINGS						



**This month's highlighted booklet is "Grief—Finding Hope Again" by Paul David Tripp** No matter what the circumstances, death shakes us to the core. It seems so wrong, and it is! We long for comfort, but we don't know where to look. Can God really help when we are overwhelmed with grief? With compassion and biblical wisdom, Paul David Tripp shows us how to think and what to do when death enters our door. He reminds us that we have a Savior who knows our sorrows, hears our cries, and promises to one day wipe away all tears. Hope and healing come from our relationship with Jesus, the One who promises to walk all the way through the valley of the shadow of death with us. **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***



## **NOTARY SERVICES:**

**Complementary for HOPE Members**

**If you are in need of a notary please contact Kasey Parrott at 317-513-9285.**

**There is no fee for this service.**

# Classifieds

 **stuff**

 **services**

 **jobs**

 **homes galore**



Farm Fresh Eggs For Sale  
\$2 a carton  
See Jeannette Parrott



Help Needed:  
Painting, Cleaning,  
And general Maintenance.  
Please call Tammy Leahy  
812-360-1621

If you have something to  
celebrate, a job to offer, a  
service you provide, then  
please contact Kasey Parrott.

812-876-9002



**PHAT DADDY'S BBQ**

Call Bruce at 812-327-6151  
[www.phatdaddycatering.com](http://www.phatdaddycatering.com)



**Teach me to do your will, for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.**

- Psalm 143:10 -

Written By Curly D Culper

The suffering of this world is too much for many of us. There is much we cannot control. The changes keep coming and the violence and misunderstandings don't make sense. This world is not how we would design it. The goodness of our hearts would have us all living in peace, and sharing in a beautiful harmony that we get to experience together, especially when our phones are put away and our televisions are off. So why does it seem like most of the time we are fighting the evils of the world? How can people justify being cruel, and how is anyone supposed to live and share love when it seems that so much is stacked against us?

We know in our hearts that God has the answer. We know that the peace we seek comes from our relationship with God and what we know about the world. We are seeking to find solutions and how to handle these problems, and all this can be learned from the word of God. What is shared with us is sacred, for there is much to discover in the direction of the Good Spirit, and we can in turn learn how to better

ourselves and the world around us. We do not have to suffer so, withering away in the tiresome voices of fear that break us down. We do not have to stay in those places that are most painful. We can give them up to God and feel the burden of our lives become lifted from us, and as we do so we become lighter, more lovely, as if we are standing on ground that God had intended for us.

It takes a lot of humility to follow God, and it takes even more to ask God to lead. It takes a lot of courage to let go of what we perceive as control, our power, and allow God to set the pace in our lives. That is what Psalm 143:10 means. It is a call, a request, as well as an announcement, that we wish to be set free under the direction of God. It is to be known, when declared, as in this Psalm, that the time has come for the one who seeks God to allow God to lead. It is taking a step back, so that a deeper, more eternal peace may be felt within, making us more confident in our journey on this temporary Earth.

Fear and doubt has been removed from the knowledge we seek, the knowledge God has to teach us, and this allows us to be led by the spirit to a place of peace, a land of goodness, a land on level ground.

We know the spirit is good, but did we know that the level ground is peaceful? What a burden gravity puts on us, and to find a place where our own weight is lessened, then we learn that we are blessed. All our welcome on level ground, and we can see just how good the world is that the Lord has made for us. The peaks and valleys train us, shape us, lead us to do great things, but in the end, nothing compares to the level land of the Lord. Leading with compassion is what the heart is seeking, and most of the time it works out for those people brave enough to try. We respond to a shared interest and a respectful approach to understanding, and helping others ends up being a remedy for discovering what everyone needs, love. The word of God will lead us to this love, to a place of peace on level



ground.

And what a joy level ground is. Hills, rocks, sand, mud, these are uncomfortable parts of some of the terrain we cross everyday, and when one must travel alone, we know what it takes within us to tackle these challenges. We see a hill and sigh, knowing we are going to need to exert ourselves, tighten up our muscles, and face the day. Some may get excited at the prospect of challenging terrain, but nothing feels quite like the peace we receive on level ground. A comfortable, even place to walk allows us a chance to relax and connect with the spirit, for the work we need to do in this world is lessened by such inviting, level places. We can take a break where things are even, and there is more opportunity for what goes on upon the land there. We do not always have to tackle the

mountains. We can seek the plots God desires for us, and by finding this peace we can connect more with God. We can learn about our eternal selves and allow that wisdom to build confidence within us, so that we may lift up others. We are given the opportunity through peace to be made whole. We get the chance to rest our bodies and learn to embrace God's grace. We learn more of the patience God has for us, which leads to the deepening of our own.

It is easy to get an idea on how this world operates from time to time. We live through trends and crises, and we get an idea, in our distorted wisdom, how things are and how we fit into the great plan of the universe, but where are we the strongest? Where do we find the most peace in a world that seems evil and far from eternal love? The word of God will walk us out of fear. When God takes over we are led, on level ground, to a place where we do not fret where our feet may go. The ground is good, and can give us a place to rest and relax. It is the place that God intended for us, and it is a place where we are most ourselves, serving in a world full of peaks and valleys. Notice the ground from time to time, notice where you are, and be grateful for all that is level in the name of the Lord.

*grateful*







AND ONE OF THE ELDERS SAITH UNTO ME, WEEP NOT:  
BEHOLD, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT OF DAVID,  
HATH PREVAILED TO OPEN THE BOOK, AND TO LOOSE THE  
SEVEN SEALS THEREOF.

REVELATION 5:5