

HOPE Gazette

October 2022





Verse of the Month

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:20-21



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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!

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The Last Days: Part Five

Pastor Larry Mitchell

"CLEARING UP SOME MIS-CONCEPTIONS"

> As WE'VE Talked About Before, There Are People Who Believe That the IDEA of a "RAPTURE," is Purely SYMBOLIC, And it Really ISN'T Gonna HAPPEN The WAY, That PEOPLE THINK ! . . .

.....BUT They're IN . . For a BIG Surprise !

> AND THEN, There Are Some, WHO Believe That the CHURCH Will Be Here For the Entirety of the SEVEN Years of TRIBULATION, . . and THEN BE RAPTURED UP At the "SEVENTH," and LAST TRUMP of GOD, . . . ONLY to COME Immediately, "Back Down" With HIM, . . For the MILLENNIAL REIGN !

. . BUT IF That's the Case, IF WE NEVER Get RAPTURED UNTIL THEN, . . We're Gonna Have to TEAR Out a Major Portion of John's Revelation and THROW IT AWAY, . . Because Chapters FOUR and FIVE Reveal Events That Include the CHURCH . . Being THERE IN HEAVEN, . . BEFORE THEN !

> IN FACT, There's NO Further Reference to the Church Again, Until Chapter 19. Where the Church is Involved in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and the Wedding, and These Are TWO EVENTS That HAPPEN in HEAVEN, . . . NOT On EARTH ! . . SO IF We're Suppose to BE THERE, . . THEN, Its RAPTURE CITY !

> Somebody Said, "BUT Wait a Minute, Doesn't PAUL Teach That We'll Be "CAUGHT UP," In a Moment, In the Twinkling of an Eye, . . . "AT THE LAST TRUMP," . . . in **I COR. 15:52** ?

"YES, HE SURELY DOES !"

"Well, Wouldn't That TRUMPET Also BE . . the FINAL and SEVENTH Angelic Trumpet That's Mentioned in **REV. 11** ?"

"NO, IT SURELY . . WOULD NOT BE !

> The Seventh Angelic Trumpet of GOD in REV. 11 Doesn't SOUND UNTIL the FINAL DAY of the TRIBULATION, the DAY That JESUS Will Be COMING Back to Earth On a White Horse, Which Will BE the "REVELATION of CHRIST," . . NOT the "RAPTURE !" !"

. . . Remember, . . IN the RAPTURE, We'll ALL be "CAUGHT UP" to MEET the LORD in the AIR,



.. BUT at the REVELATION of CHRIST, . . JESUS Comes Back AFTER The Marriage Supper of the Lamb, . . to make WAR With the Armies of the World, . . And Then, . . to SET UP His Earthly Kingdom !!!

- > **In I COR. 15:51-53 PAUL says; "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all Sleep, [or Die,] But we all shall be Changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the LAST TRUMP;**
" For the Trumpet shall Sound, and the dead shall be raised Incorruptible, and we shall be Changed. "For this Corruption must put on Incorruption, and this Mortal must put on Immortality."
- > **IN I THESS. 4:15-17 PAUL says; "For this we say unto you, by the Word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the COMING of the LORD, Shall Not Prevent (or Precede) Them which are asleep."**

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, and 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 ever be with the Lord."

ALRIGHT, SO, In BOTH of These Scriptures, PAUL Refers to the "TRUMP of GOD !" . . THESE Are ONE and the SAME "TRUMPS," . . Because the Event IS the SAME, . Which IS, "The RAPTURE," . . "The COMING of JESUS CHRIST !"

IF We Study the LAST Angelic TRUMP in REV. 11. . I Think We'll Make a Discovery, That The EVENTS Surrounding the Seventh Trumpet Aren't the SAME, as Those Surrounding the LAST Trumpet of GOD, . . WHICH PAUL Talks About in I COR. and I THESS. Which Will BE GOD'S FINAL SIGNAL to WELCOME the CHURCH Into HEAVEN !

> Once Again, . . IF WE Wasn't Going to BE Taken UP Until the LAST TRUMPET in REV. 11, . . Then the CHURCH Wouldn't BE THERE, to Participate in the Wedding, and the Supper of the Lamb.

.. AND WE Wouldn't Get to SING the New Song, or Witness the Opening of the seals. . . DURING the Tribulation as the Word Definitely Says That We're Gonna DO !

> ALSO, **JESUS said, In MATT. 24:36 . . That "No man would know the Day or the Hour of His Coming. . . "** SO, IF WE'RE NOT CAUGHT UP Until the LAST TRUMP in **REV. 11**, Which is the FINAL DAY of the TRIBULATION Period,

... (Then, Anyone Who Has Studied the **Book of Revelation** and the **14th Chapter** of the **Book of Zechariah**). . . WOULD Be Able to Just About Calculate the Very DAY and Hour That JESUS Would Stand Upon the MOUNT of OLIVES at the REVELATION of CHRIST !

> HOW is THAT ? Because **Chapter 11 of REV. and ZECH. 14** Describes the RETURN Or the REVELATION of the Lord JESUS CHRIST, . . NOT HIS Appearing or the Coming After HIS Church !

> SO, There's a Major Distinction Between the "LAST TRUMP," Which is the TRUMPET of GOD, . . Heralding the RAPTURE of the Church,
- - - - AND the SEVENTH and LAST Angelic TRUMPET Which Precedes the RETURN of the "KING of KINGS and the LORD of LORDS, Coming Back With His Church, or Bride, On White Horses, to make WAR With the Enemies of GOD,

According to **ZECH.. 14:5 and REV. 17:14 and 19:14.**

> ALRIGHT, WE See Here In **II THESS. 2** . . PAUL Had to "CLEAR UP" Some MISCONCEPTIONS That HAD ARISEN, Early On, Concerning the LORD'S RETURN In the "CATCHING AWAY," of the CHURCH !
IT SEEMS as Though The Thessalonians Were in a STATE of Theological CONFUSION !

> AND IT Seems, There Are STILL Teachers, and Churches Today, STILL . . Teaching the SAME CONFUSION, . . Which PAUL Simply Says; "IS NOT TRUE !" [CHURCH of CHRIST]

> THEY Teach a "FIGURATIVE," RETURN of CHRIST;" WHO They Say, Comes Back to Earth, (Spiritually), By Entering the Hearts of Those, . . WHO BELIEVE, and ACCEPT CHRIST Into Their HEARTS.

> . . BUT Nowhere, IN the Scriptures, Does IT Indicate That "Receiving CHRIST Into Your HEART," . . Fulfills the Scriptures On Either the "RAPTURE," OR . . the "SECOND COMING."

DON'T Ya Know That the DEVIL Just Loves to STEAL the Reality of the Scriptures; . . And To Make People Believe ITS Just Another SANTA CLAUS Thing

.. or a TOOTH FAIRY, . . or an EASTER BUNNY THING !

> PAUL said to the Thessalonians; . . "Those Who Taught YOU, . . THEY Might've Been SINCERE, . . BUT They Were Sincerely WRONG !

You See, PAUL Had Gone There, BEFORE, AND HE Taught Them CORRECTLY, . . . BUT IT Seems That While HE Was GONE, . . Somebody Else Had CAME, and Said That CHRIST Had Already COME !

> AND THEN AFTER PAUL Had Heard About Their CONFUSION, and WHAT Had Happened, . . . HE Sent a Letter to Straighten Out Their Thinking ! [MESS]

... HERE in **II THESS. 2:1- 4**

HE says: "**Concerning the COMING of our Lord Jesus Christ, And Our Being GATHERED To HIM, . . WE Ask You Brothers, NOT To Become So Easily Unsettled, or Alarmed, . . [or shaken in mind or troubled,] . . . By some Pretended Revelation of the spirit, or by Prophecy, or by**

**Word, or By an Alleged Letter, Suppose to Have Come from US,
... to the Effect That the DAY of Our LORD has Already COME !**

[THEN HE Starts To LAY OUT WHAT to WATCH FOR, . .]

Vs.3 "Let No man Deceive you by any means; For that DAY will NOT COME, UNTIL there Come a "FALLING AWAY" FIRST, [An APOSTACY of Those Who ONCE CLAIMED to BE a PART of the CHURCH !] . .

**. . I TIM. 4:1 . . "Now, the SPIRIT Speaks Very Expressly, That in the LATTER TIMES [LAST DAYS] . . Some Shall Even DEPART FROM the FAITH, .
. Giving Their Attention to Seducing spirits and DOCTRINES of DEVILS."**

. . THEY'VE Grown WEARY IN WELL DOING ! . . [GAL. 6:9]

. . THEIR LOVE For the THINGS of GOD, Has Grown COLD ! [MATT. 24:12]

AND THEN WHAT HAPPENS ? PAUL Tells US; . . And the MAN of SIN, BE REVEALED. . the SON of PERDITION !"

**> NOW, IF WE STOP Right Here, at VERSES 3 and 4 . . WHERE PAUL is TELLING US That "the DAY of CHRIST RETURN," . . Doesn't COME, UNTIL . . There COME, an APOSTACY, FIRST, . . [a "FALLING AWAY," From the FAITH,] . . and the MAN of SIN, . . ["THE ANTI-CHRIST,"] . . BE REVEALED, .
. FIRST !!**

. . . NOW, IT Might SOUND a Little CONFUSING at First, Because IT Sounds Like HE'S Telling US Here, THAT the ANTI-CHRIST Will Be REVEALED . . BEFORE . . The RAPTURE OCCURS !!

. . AND WE KNOW That The TRIBULATION Pretty Much Gets Under WAY, . . WHEN THIS ONE-WORLD LEADER Comes ON the SCENE, . . AND HE BRINGS ABOUT PEACE IN the MIDDLE EAST !!

> . . BUT THEN, WE Read Here in Verse 7 . . IT says; "For the "MYSTERY" of Iniquity is Already at Work; [And Here's What We Need to Understand, . . There's a "MYSTERY," Going ON !] . .

" ONLY HE, Who Now LETS, Will LET, [HE - the HOLY SPIRIT - The POWER of GOD'S PRESENCE, - I JOHN 4:4 - Working IN the LIVES of the CHURCH] . . . UNTIL HE, Be TAKEN OUT of the Way." [WHEN "HE," [WHO Lives IN HIS CHURCH, . . REMOVES HIS Church] . . . "And THEN, [And ONLY THEN] . . the WICKED ONE . . [the

SON of PERDITION] . . WILL BE REVEALED."

> SO, IT Sounds Like, HERE, [Just the Opposite] The ANTI-CHRIST CAN'T BE REVEALED, UNTIL AFTER the CHURCH is RAPTURED !!

. . BUT YOU SEE, . . THAT'S the "MYSTERY !" . . .

BOTH ARE TRUE !!! . . THERES GONNA BE TWO REVEALINGS !

> The FIRST TIME - This ONE WORLD LEADER - [The ANTI-CHRIST] Will Take Center-Stage, . . HE Will Bring PEACE, and Everybody IS Gonna LOVE HIM !! [THIS Is HOW People Will BE DECEIVED] PEOPLE Will BE SO WILLING To TAKE HIS MARK !!



[HE WILL BE the LOVEABLE DR. JEKYLL]
 > .. BUT the SECOND REVEALING, .. [And Here's the MYSTERY] ..
 .. IS WHEN THIS ONE-WORLD LEADER'S "HEAD SPINS," And the
 DEVIL ENTERS Into DR. JEKYLL and HE Becomes MR. HYDE !
 [THE WICKED ONE] .. "The SON of PERDITION !

THE SAME THING HAPPENED to JUDAS -ISCARIOT, ...
LUKE 21:3 says; "Then SATAN ENTERED INTO JUDAS, .. surnamed,
 "Iscariot," Being One of the Twelve !"

.. SO, The REVEALING, Of THIS WICKED ONE, [the SON of the DEVIL,
WILL HAPPEN - AFTER, .. THE CHURCH IS GONE . AND THEN, The "GREAT
 TRIBULATION," .. The WRATH of GOD" .. WILL BE POURED OUT !!

> SO, THAT PUTS the "RAPTURE of the CHURCH," .. HAPPENING, SOMETIME,
 .. NEAR the MIDWAY POINT of the 7 YEAR TRIBULATION PERIOD !!
 ... BECAUSE, WHEN the WICKED ONE, .. The ANTI-CHRIST IS REVEALED, .. Through
 the Breaking of HIS TREATY With ISRAEL, ... THIS, Will BEGIN the WRATH Of GOD,
 Being POURED OUT Upon the ANTI-CHRIST, and ALL .. WHO FOLLOWS HIM !!



> SOME OTHER PROPHETIC SCRIPTURES
 Worthy of Our ATTENTION ARE
 FOUND IN; **ISA. 27:13** .. "And it shall
 come to Pass in that DAY, that the Great
 Trumpet shall be Blown, and They shall
COME, WHICH Were Ready TO perish in the
 Land of Assyria, and Egypt, and they shall
 worship the LORD in the Holy Mount of
 Jerusalem."

REV. 10:5-7 says; "And the Angel that I
 saw standing on the Sea and Upon the earth,
 Lifted up his Hand to Heaven, and Swore by
 him, that lives forever and ever, Who created
 Heaven and Earth, and all that Lies therein,
 that there should be NO DELAY ! .. BUT THEN
 When THE Seventh Angel BLEW HIS
 TRUMPET, Then GOD'S VEILED PLAN -
 Mysterious through the Ages, Ever since it
 was announced by his servants, the prophets
 - Would BE FULFILLED !

***** >

.. The END of Everything That WE KNOW, [in THIS World,] is Just About to
 DRAW to a CLOSE, .. BUT the Beginning of LIFE ETERNAL, IS Just About to BEGIN ! ..
 AND SO, I BELIEVE the CRY of Those WHO TRULY LOVE HIM, ...

IS BEGINNING TO SOUND EVEN LOUDER, ...

"EVEN SO, COME QUICKLY, LORD JESUS !"

> SO, Hopefully, THIS Has HELPED In ONE of the Major QUESTIONS
 Among Believers Today, Concerning the "RAPTURE," ...

[And THAT IS ..] .. TRYING to PIN-POINT the "SEASON," .. IN

"Which the "RAPTURE" of the Church" WILL OCCUR, ...

BEFORE the Tribulation ? .. OR in the MIDDLE of the Tribulation, ..

OR WILL It Happen AFTER the Tribulation PERIOD ?

.. THIS is Commonly Referred to as; PRE-Trib. MID-Trib. POST-Trib;

> My Question is; DOES IT Really Matter ?" JUST GET READY !!
I've Always Considered MYSELF . . to BE A "PAN-TRIBBER !"
"JUST KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS and EVERYTHING Will PAN-OUT !"

> ITS Commonly BELIEVED Among the Church, That the RAPTURE
WILL OCCUR Immediately BEFORE the Tribulation Period !

Or PRE – TRIB

OK, WHY DO SOME BELIEVE THIS ?

REV. 3:10 says; "Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also
will keep you FROM the HOUR of TRIAL, which shall come upon the whole
world, to test those who dwell on the earth."

> The Greek Word Here for "FROM," . . Really Means, "OUT FROM."
it says; " I also, will keep you "OUT FROM," the Hour of Trial."

> . . AND the ONLY WAY to "KEEP US" "OUT FROM" the HOUR of TRIAL, or
Tribulation . . . is to Eliminate Our Presence . . HERE Upon the Earth !!
AND the Means of DOING THAT, . . Would Certainly BE the REMOVAL of
the CHURCH, By WAY of the "RAPTURE !"

. . BUT WHO, . . Is to CONSIDER "WHEN," That HOUR of TRIAL Might BE ??
There's People in Other Parts of the WORLD that You Couldn't Convince
That the TIME of TRIBULATION Has Already Started !

> ALSO, . . LUKE 21:36 says; "Watch therefore; And Pray always,
that you may be Counted worthy to ESCAPE all these things that
shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

AND I THESS. 5:9-10 says;" For God has NOT Appointed us to Wrath, But to
Obtain Salvation, by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether
we wake, or sleep, we should live together with him."



CHRONICLES OF JENNY

By Linda Gauthier

What an awesome Monday morning!
Sunshine is warm and brilliant, the sky blue.
The temperature is in the mid 50's this morning
and it is truly a beautiful morning.

I am now visiting with Jenny for longer periods
of time. We are up to 35-40 minutes now.

The little horse nearby let me wrap an arm
around her neck. Jenny is watching. She is
moving closer now. I know, know, know she
wants to come right up to me. She doesn't. Is
she being stubborn... like a donkey?

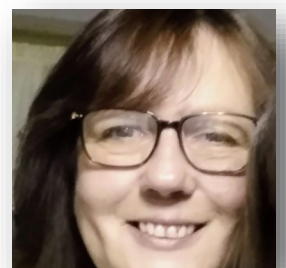
Down at the bottom of the hill is the bigger of
the two horses. They are just staring at me. I
believe I am no longer a curiosity and have
moved to being just a mild annoyance.

At the bottom of the hill lots of talking went on.
I moved my hands and arms while chatting.
With my hand open and flat, the bigger horse
puts his ears back and moves away.

At the top of the hill is Jenny, keeping me
constantly in her sight.

I leave once they all seem to lose interest,
saying individual goodbyes. I visit with the
goats and bunnies. The cats are running and
jumping, rolling over each other in play.

It was a good day.



Empty Promises

Poetry Series

By Mark Pitman

2002

**I seem to care less about the things of this world,
With all it's promise of wealth and fame,
It is all empty promises without Jesus' name.**

**In His name I can have it all,
Only upon His name do I need to call.
He promises all this and more,**

**For upon the cross He pour,
Out His blood to give us life,
No longer do I need to worry about hunger and strife.**

**His riches are boundless,
When in His name I confess,
All my sin, and in Him a new life begin.**







Life After Prison

One of the hardest days of incarceration may be the day it ends.

Kasey Parrott

aggravated by low incomes and having a criminal record. Jobs become hard to secure and upon release medical care and support are discontinued. This gives rise to additional challenges and often prevent people from successful transition back into their communities.

Recidivism and Race

Recidivism has plagued the black community for many years. The latest available data regarding people sentenced to state prison reveal that Black Americans are imprisoned at a rate that is roughly five times the rate of white Americans. Disparity is related to a mix of social policies that stretch beyond crime polities and are related to housing, education, public benefits, childcare, and employment.

Much can be said about the causes for persistent racial disparities found in prisons. Recurrent explanations for racial disparities emerge to show a legacy of racial subordination, biased policies and practices that create disparities, and structural disadvantages. Research shows that people of color are frequently given harsher sanctions because they are perceived as imposing a greater threat to public safety and therefore need greater control and punishment. Survey data has found that people associated African Americans with terms such as “dangerous,” “aggressive,” “violent,” and “criminal”.

Bias in policies and practices, both formal and informal, influence the degree which an individual is punished. Disparities are evident in policing, pre-trial detention, criminal history, and prosecutorial charging of crimes. Each of these areas has numerous statistics to show that Black and Hispanic offenders, particularly those who are young, male, and unemployed, are more likely than their white counterparts to be sentenced more harshly.

Recidivism

The U.S. incarcerates 716 people for every 100,000 residents, more than any other country. In fact, our rate of incarceration is more than five times higher than most of the countries in the world. Although our level of crime is comparable to those of other stable, internally secure, industrialized nations, the United States has an incarceration rate far higher than any other country.

Going home after being in prison is a challenging transition for the offender, their families, and the community. According to former Brookings Expert and Texas A&M University Director of Justice Tech Lab, Dr. Jennifer Doleac, recidivism studies in July 2018 show that without intervention, two-thirds of those who are released from prison will return within three years. This high recidivism rate is caused by many factors and challenges which make it difficult to build a stable life and avoid criminal activity. Most who reoffend have limited education and work experience, high rates of mental illness and emotional trauma, and high rates of substance abuse.

Upon release these men and women face additional challenges. Many have accumulated substantial court debt, owe child support, have tax debt, and suspended driver's licenses. Furthermore, they struggle to find affordable housing which is



Recidivism and the Church

Many groups offer numerous solutions to reform policy to address the issues. Yet it seems that supervised probation and other reentry programs have not had the intended success in reducing the recidivism rate, especially among those of color. As many are hindered with a lack of support for housing and jobs, many also face challenges reconnecting with their families and the mental impact of transitioning to a free society.

The church has a role to play. We are called to continue the mission of Christ and to serve everyone, regardless of our presuppositions and prejudices. As an instrument of grace and service to everyone, we are to demonstrate the love of Christ. John Wesley wrote that there is “no holiness but social holiness”. A statement as simple as that reiterates the need for service to others.

The church must respond to prisoner outreach as noted by the teaching of Christ. In his first sermon Jesus quoted Isaiah 61:1 and proclaimed that he had come to preach release to the captives (Luke 4:18). In his last sermon Jesus pressed that to each of us is to reach out to the poor, the oppressed (including the prisoner). In Matthew 25 we read,

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Jesus’ admonition to love our neighbor as ourselves is found throughout the New Testament. We find we are to love everyone (Luke 10:25-37; Matthew 5:44). We are to do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12). If we were in prison, we would want someone to reach out to us. This same need is present upon release.

Release back into society, especially for those who have served long sentences, would be awkward and possibly overwhelming. The conditions of release are often very difficult to

maintain. Many times, prisoners are released into programs and probation in which they must satisfy financial obligations along with time commitment. They are restricted in numerous ways and most often without a support system they would not be able to reach milestones and probation requirements. The current system seems to be designed to make people fail, especially those of color.

James 4:17 tells us that when we know to do good and don’t do it, it is a sin. Helping those who have erred return to their families and their communities is a ministry work which worships God. Yet it seems that in many communities the church is either uniformed or just absent from the process of helping these men and women reenter society.

I find this surprising. Liberation from bondage is the Christian story. The central story of the Jewish people (celebrated at Passover each year) is a celebration of bringing the people out of slavery and bondage (Leviticus 22:23). This continues to be a main theme throughout the Tanakh with God liberating the prisoner, setting prisoners “free” (Psalm 68:7; 146:7; 102:20). The death and sacrifice of Christ is for freedom- freedom from sin.

My church is one of the few in our town who highlight prison ministry as part of their daily and weekly life. Home to the UnChained Gang, a group of people who go into the jails and prisons throughout the state, our church is focusing on getting the gospel to those who are incarcerated. As people come out of jail and prison the UnChained Gang offers resources to find jobs, housing, clothing, and food. Other services they provide are annual offender gift bags (delivered with permission to the jails to provide socks, hygiene items, and even candy), and a program to help offenders send Christmas gifts to their children.

As I look at the good works of this group, I am also saddened that other area churches are not offering the same programs or working towards the same end. This brings up quite another area of concern for the church- are we promoting unequal treatment? Are we allowing our prejudices to stop us from this line of missionary work?

We have already established that racial disparity is found in incarceration rates and recidivism rates throughout the United States. While some churches address these in local areas, is the church overall guilty of intolerance? Are we ignoring our brothers and sisters in need?

Conclusion

Whether it is in the church or in society, we must ask what we are to do to help those who have made mistakes. We all make mistakes. Some of us get caught for them. Others don't. Although it doesn't seem fair at times, we all know that life isn't fair. God never promised it would be. The goal is wholeness. We are to be whole in Christ and help others to achieve the same goal- regardless of race, social statuses, or economic status.

The transition from incarceration to society can be difficult. I believe it is the call of those in the church to help support this transition. I am always reminded of Genesis 4:1-9 where Cain, knowing he killed his brother, replies to God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" Yes! We are not to commit acts of violence against one another, including violence of the tongue in form of gossip, slander, arrogance, and disorder (2 Corinthians 12:20). Secondly, we are to demonstrate brotherly love towards others with a tender heart and humble mind (1 Peter 3:8).

Paul wrote to the church at Thessalonica

"And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all" (1 Thessalonians 5:12-15).

There are so many things to discuss. Why does the United States have such a high rate of incarceration? Why and what are the reasons for the racial disparity found in the prison and jail system? How do we solve these problems? What can we do to prevent recidivism as a society? How can the church help in this problem?

My research shows that there seems to be no clear answer. There is not a wrap-around service that can address each need of prisoners upon release and often I find that budgets and finances are to blame. I suggest the problem is not of money but of motivation. The church must rise to help meet these needs.

³⁷ *"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?'"* ³⁸ *When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?"* ³⁹ *When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"*

⁴⁰ *"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these*

brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' (Matthew 25:37-40)

The church cannot choose when or whom it wants to help. We are called to minister to all. Christ went places and interacted with people that most of society overlooked. As such we must follow His example, going to minister those who are in prison, those we are reentering society, and their families as a means of ministry and spiritual growth.



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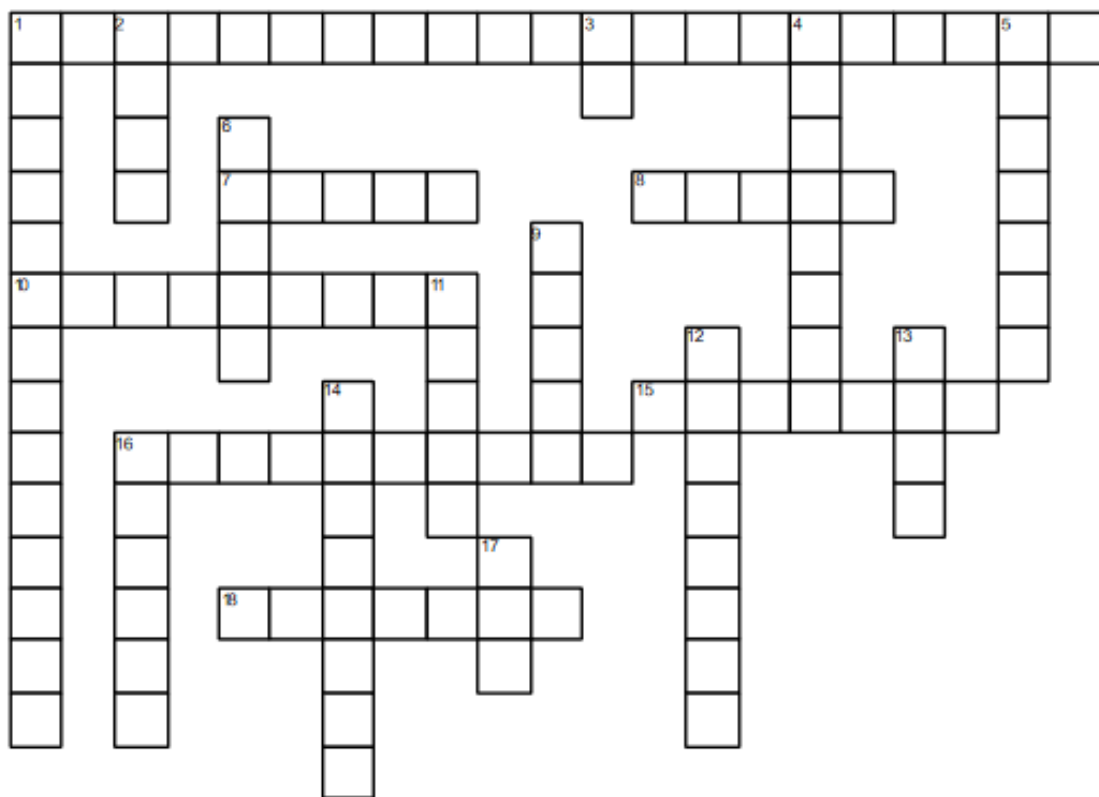
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Kasey Parrott

NOAH AND THE FLOOD — Part 2

Genesis 8 - 9



ACROSS

- 1 God blessed Noah and told him and his sons, "_____." (Gn. 8:21) four words
- 7 After Noah came out of the ark, what did he build to the Lord? (Gn. 8:20)
- 8 God said to Noah, "_____ again will there be a flood to destroy the earth." (Gn. 9:11)
- 10 What did the dove bring back to Noah to indicate that the waters receded from the earth? (Gn. 8:11) two words
- 15 When God smelled the aroma of the burnt offerings, He said He would never again _____ all living creatures? (Gn. 8:21)
- 16 God told Noah that from each man he will demand an _____ from the life of his fellow man. (Gn. 9:5)
- 18 To reassure Noah that God will not destroy life again by a flood, what was the sign of the covenant? (Gn. 9:12-16)

DOWN

- 1 When Noah came out of the ark, he build an altar and sacrificed _____ on it. (Gn. 8:20) two words
- 2 God blessed Noah by telling him that everything that lives and moves will be _____. (Gn. 9:3)
- 3 When Noah sent out a dove a second time, did the dove return? (Gn. 8:12)
- 4 What did God establish with Noah indicating He will never again destroy the earth with a flood? (Gn. 9:11)
- 5 After the flood, what did God bring about - the _____ of the years? (Gn. 8:22)
- 6 After the rain had ended for forty days, what did Noah send out? (Gn. 8:6-7)
- 9 After the dove returned to Noah with an olive leaf, how many days did he wait until sending out a dove? (Gn. 8:12)
- 11 How many days did Noah wait until he opened the window in the ark? (Gn. 8:6)
- 12 God told Noah that whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, He will _____ the covenant between God and all living creatures. (Gn. 9:14-15)
- 13 After Noah sent out the raven, what bird did he then send out? (G. 8:8)
- 14 After the waters receded and dried up from the earth, God told Noah to come out of the ark, along with every kind of creatures to _____ on the earth. (Gn. 8:15-17)
- 16 After the rain ended and the water receded, the ark rested on the mountains of _____. (Gn. 8:4)
- 17 Who established the covenant between God and man? (Gn. 9:17)

Peden Farms

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