

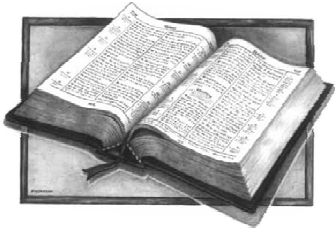
Diligently Seeking God (Hebrews 11:6)

PRAIRIE VILLAGE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Church Bulletin Articles from July 24, 2011

Hear sermons online at www.pvchurchofchrist.com

Scripture of the Week



John 18:37-38 – “Therefore Pilate said to Him, ‘So You are a king?’ Jesus answered, ‘You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.’ Pilate said to Him, ‘What is truth?’”

This conversation between Jesus and Pontius Pilate took place shortly before the beleaguered governor handed Christ over to the execution squad. Pilate knew the truth—that

Jesus had done nothing deserving crucifixion. But he didn’t let the facts of the case stand in the way of his desire to appease an angry, blood-thirsty mob. To Pilate, weighing the evidence and doing the right thing was of little value. What was most important to him was catering to the masses and going along with the crowd in order to be popular. Unfortunately, the people of our world are not much different than Pilate in their mishandling of the truth. When it comes to doing what is right, many people willingly discard the truth, if a lie is more beneficial in any given situation. Truth is viewed as relative, situational and even irrelevant. Jesus said that He came into this world to testify to the truth. His very purpose for being

here was to teach people life-giving, spiritual truth, and He was even willing to die for the few who would receive it. The truths of God, the matters of morality, the subjects of spirituality, the issues of eternity—these are the very things Jesus died to disclose and defend. Why are these also the issues that people most willingly trivialize and compromise? Shouldn’t we pursue the issues that affect our soul’s eternal destiny with the greatest interest and sense of need to find the truth? What is truth? Jesus answered that question very simply in John 17:17 when He said His Father’s word is truth. God’s Bible is absolute truth and the standard that every person will be judged by (John 12:48). You can’t afford to not take the Bible seriously!

Why Did Jesus Have To Die?

The most important message of all the Bible is the Good News that our Creator and Savior, Jesus, loved us enough to come to this earth and die for our sins. I think most of us understand that Jesus needed to shed His blood so we all could have the hope of a home in heaven with God, and I’m sure we’re all thankful for that. But understanding the fact doesn’t always make that reality any easier to deal with. Contemplating the truth that Jesus had to die such a painful death in order to secure our salvation can sometimes trouble our minds and make us feel ashamed. It can be a heartbreaking realization that our sins put Him on that cross. His death was

certainly good news for us, but how about for Him? Many times the question has been asked, “couldn’t there have been a better way?” Why did the Father require the death of His Son in order to save His creation? I have some good ideas, based on Scripture, as to why God sent His Son to die. But in all honesty, I’m not certain why He required a blood sacrifice in order to take away sins (Hebrews 9:22). What I am absolutely positive about is this—God’s will and plans and requirements are always best. The answer to the question is a resounding “No”. There could not have been a better way. God’s ways are always the best ways. His ways and thoughts

are higher than our ways and thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9). In fact, they are perfect. We just have to trust that our Creator had our best interests, as well as the best interests of His Son at heart. 1 Peter 2:23 says that Jesus, “kept entrusting himself to Him who judges righteously” the whole time He was enduring abuse by man. Jesus trusted His Father completely and so must we. I’m certain about one reason why Jesus had to die for us—so He could arise and defeat death for us. That’s why it’s written in Hebrews 12:2 that Jesus, “for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.” The joy of the resurrection far outweighed the shame of the cross.

Please Come Visit Us At...

Prairie Village Church of Christ

4616 Valley Station Rd., Louisville, KY 40272

Preacher – Louie Taylor

Phone Number – 502.807.3211

www.pvchurchofchrist.com

Times of Services

Sunday Morning Bible Study.....9:30

Sunday Morning Worship Service.....10:30

Sunday Evening Worship Service.....6:30

Wednesday Evening Bible Study.....7:30



What did the Death of Christ Accomplish?

We are eternally indebted to Jesus for what He accomplished for us on that old rugged cross. The Bible paints some vivid pictures of what sin does to us when we give ourselves over to it. When we give in to temptation, sin enslaves us and holds us captive (Romans 6:16; 7:14). Romans 6:23 says “the wages of sin is death.” Sin is a merciless killer that keeps our souls separated from God and away from His saving grace (Isaiah 59:1-2; Ephesians 2:1). If we remain in that estranged condition when we die, we will share an eternity in Hell with the damned. (Matthew 5:29-30). Thanks be to God that He loved us enough to provide us a way out of sin’s crash course with eternal destruction. The Bible also paints some vivid pictures of what God provides us with the sacrifice of His Son:

1. **Redemption** (Ephesians 1:7)— This is a price of release. It was a price paid to buy back a slave or a captured soldier. We are slaves to sins and prisoners of war without Jesus, but He purchased our release with His own blood.
2. **Justification** (Romans 5:8-9)— This word means to make right. It’s a legal term that refers to acquittal or pardon from all wrongdoing. We are criminals guilty of breaking God’s laws, but the blood of Jesus justifies us.
3. **Salvation** (Hebrews 2:10)— This word means deliverance or rescue. Before we come to Christ we are drowning in a sea of sin. Christ is the lifeline God sent to save us. Jesus secured our salvation through His own suffering.
4. **Reconciliation** (Romans 5:10)— This word indicates a change in status. Sin separates us from God and ruins our relationship with Him. In sin we are God’s enemies. In Jesus we are reconciled to God by His Son’s death.
5. **Forgiveness** (Ephesians 1:7)— Forgiveness is the cancellation of a debt. Our sins create a debt that we have no means of repaying without Christ’s offering. Jesus covered the debt of our sins with His own blood.
6. **Reanimation** (Ephesians 2:5)— This is spiritual life. Sin is a killer. We die spiritual when we sin. Jesus died for us so that we could be born again and live with Him forever. Have you taken advantage of Christ’s sacrifice?

GOSPEL MEETING AUGUST 15-17 WITH GERRY SANDUSKY — Please mark your calendars and make early plans to attend every day of this short, three day meeting with Gerry Sandusky of Madison Indiana. Brother Gerry has entitled this series of studies, “There’s A Great Day Coming!”. Each lesson will be taken from the New Testament book of 1 Thessalonians, and the goal of this meeting will be to motivate each one of us to live every day of our lives on planet earth as if it might be our last.