

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - All members who had COVID-19 concerns appear to now be in the clear with negative tests.
 - Carol Jarabek – cataract surgery scheduled for 8-21
 - Kim Self—stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Angie Self—arthritis and Parkinson's—slowly improving
 - Joann Larkin—advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Sandra Perez's grandmother—Lewy body dementia
 - Bernida Wolfe's father—dementia and Parkinson's
 - Rick Parks' father—prostate cancer
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister—cancer
 - Sandra Perez's uncle—stage 4 cancer

IF GOD COULD...

Close the lions' mouths for Daniel,
Part the seas for Moses,
Make the sun stand still for Joshua,
Open the prison for Peter,
Put a baby in the arms of Sarah, and
Raise Lazarus from the dead...
Then He can certainly take care of you!

Cont'd. from page 3 "Why Send for Peter?":

It was "once for all" delivered to inspired men, and through them to the written form in which we now find it. (Jude 3, Eph. 3:1-f. 2 Pet. 1:14-f.)

Peter did exactly what God intended he should do. He preached the good news of Christ to Cornelius and his household and baptized those who gladly received the word. Note: He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." (Acts 10:48)

Cornelius was not saved—was not a Christian—until he heard, believed, and obeyed the gospel of Christ.



CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invitation

'Therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' – Mt. 22:9

Address

5080 Highway 70 East
Rockwood, TN 37854

Assembly Times

Sunday Bible Study – 10:00 AM
Sunday Worship – 11:00 AM

Please text/email any announcements, questions, or concerns to Bill Fix, (865) 934-9239 or fix.bill@gmail.com

: <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchofChristRockwoodTN>

August 16, 2020

We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors and members. If you have any questions or need any assistance, please let one of us know.

Adult Bible Class – Eph. 1:11ff

Sermon Topic – Checking Your Checklist...

Memory verse:

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. – *Ex. 20:12*

Fixating on What's Important: *Spiritual Lives Matter*

By Bill Fix

Much has been said recently about various types of lives that matter—black lives, blue (police) lives, children's lives, unborn lives, etc. Despite all the political rhetoric and accusations, it should be incontrovertible that the life of each and every human being matters, regardless of whatever physical differences may distinguish us. In fact, the idea that "all men are created equal" was one of our nation's founding principles, a point validated by multiple passages in the Bible, e.g.:

- So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Gen. 1:27).
- Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things (Ax. 17:25).
- Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple (1 Cor. 3:16-17).
- Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price for his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice (Ps. 49:7-8).

Just as we can't put a price on life, how much more valuable is one's soul? "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Mt. 16:26). God wants all mankind to realize this fact, as He "is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9).

How long must mankind argue about whose lives matter, disrespecting one another and even wishing ill upon other humans? Regrettably, sometimes Christians can even get carried away in the heat of the moment and say things that hurt our influence or that are hypocritical (Gal. 2:11-13). Racism, discrimination, and unequal treatment under the law were all issues the first century church faced; yet, what was their focus? As alluded to above, Paul urged the church to set aside such differences, "for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal. 3:28). This was necessary in order for them to "go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15). Likewise, Christians today must not let physical differences like race and politics distract us from our most important mission—teaching others so that they may be saved. Because all of our spiritual lives matter more than anything else (Ax. 2:38-39; 3:6; 16:30-31.)

Why Send for Peter?

By Robert F. Turner (July 1964)

An angel appeared unto a man named Cornelius. This devout, God-fearing, alms-giving man was praying to God—as was his custom—when an angel of God appeared to him in a vision. (See Acts 10.)

According to popular perceptions, this could mean hallucinations, latter-day revelations, or special divine appointment. A greater number would say this proved that Cornelius was saved from his sins—had experienced a "work of grace." I have heard of people "voted into the church" on far less evidence. But the angel was none of these things to Cornelius.

The angel told Cornelius to send for Peter, who shall "tell thee what thou oughtest to do;" or "tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved." (See Acts 11:13-f.)

Prayers, alms, and devoutness notwithstanding, this man still needed to be saved. Christianity is more than good citizenship, moral uprightness, or even respect for God. A Christian has all of this, and more; but these things are found among many who have not yet become followers of Jesus Christ and hence have neither salvation from past sins nor hope for Heaven. This lesson is especially needed by those who have placed their hope for Heaven in the "Great Architect" and welfare work of a lodge.

But why send for Peter? Could not the angel tell Cornelius all he needed to know? Or the Holy Spirit—did not this miraculous outpouring do all that should be done for him? When Peter **began to speak** (11:15), the Holy Spirit was indeed poured out upon these Gentiles—a marvelous thing for Peter and those Jews with him to behold. Until recently, they had thought the gospel was for Jews only. (See 10:9-16, 25-29; 11:1-4) It took this demonstration of divine acceptance (as subjects of the gospel) to convince the Jews that the gospel was for all nations. (10:44-f.11:15-f)

But now that they were proven proper subjects of the gospel, there remained the task of preaching to them, and urging those who would to obey. People must be **taught** of God; so they may **hear, learn, and come**. (Jn. 6:45) We draw nigh to God through the **word of reconciliation** (2 Cor. 5:17-f).

What the angel or Holy Spirit **could** do was hedged about by divine regulations. God had placed His truth in "earthen vessels" (2 Cor. 4:7) that its divine origin might be the more apparent. It was not His will then or now that heavenly messengers deliver the story of salvation to the world.