

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Bernida Wolfe: 102° temperature
 - Jimmy Woodall: Recovering from knee replacement surgery
 - Carol Jarabek: Recovering from foot surgery
 - John Wolfe: Early lung cancer diagnosis
 - Kim Self: Stomach ulcers and weekly Chemo treatments
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Bernida Wolfe's father: Dementia & Parkinson's; in hospice
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - Jimmy Woodall's sister: Cancer
 - Dorothy Macon, Sandra Perez's grandmother: Dementia
 - Frank Wineinger, Sandra Perez's uncle: Stage 4 cancer

THE GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear Gospel – Rom. 10:17; Acts 8:30-31
- Believe – Heb. 11:6; Mk. 16:16
- Repent of & Turn from Sins – Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess our Faith – Rom. 10:10; Mt. 10:32
- Baptism – Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- Live Faithfully – Rev. 2:10

Let us draw near with a **true heart in full assurance of faith [Believe]**, having our **hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience [Repent]** and our **bodies washed with pure water [Baptism]**. Let us **hold fast the confession [Confess]** of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but **exhorting one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. – *Heb. 10:22-25*



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

www.hwy70church.com

December 13, 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. 5:20ff

Sermon Topic – On Jordan's Stormy Banks

Memory verse:

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. – *Mt. 5:14*

What to Do When the Country Is Falling Apart

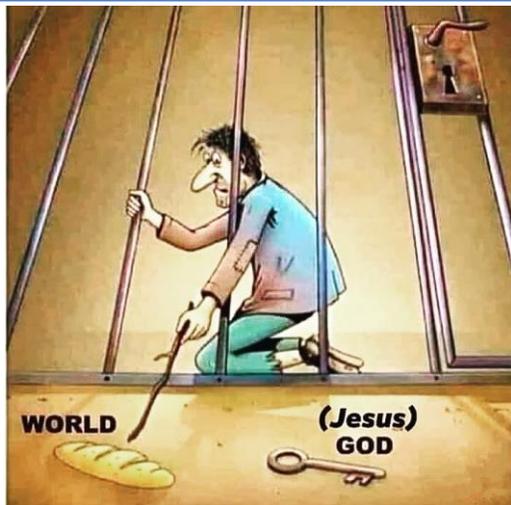
By Gardner Hall

(SEARCH FOR TRUTH, NOV. 16, 2020)

The prophet Habakkuk was overwhelmed with anxiety about two things: (1) The injustice in his country (1:1-4) and (2) the resulting destruction at the hands of the Babylonians (1:5-2:1). However, when the prophet turned to the Lord in prayer, his confidence grew to the point that he could rejoice in the Lord whatever happened (3:17-28). The final verse of the book, a statement from one of David's Psalms (18:33), is compelling. "Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!" (HCSB).

The reference is probably to an animal like the Palestine mountain gazelle. Their hoofs have sharp edges and the undersides are concave, enabling them to climb seemingly impassible cliffs and thus view the world, as it were, from above the fray. That's the idea here! God gave the prophet feet like those of a deer, the spiritual traction to climb into the spiritual realms and view the rise and fall of the nations with a compliant detachment.

God's followers today are often overwhelmed with the same type of anxiety: (1) The injustices in our countries and (2) their growing weakness. Rather than wanting us to fall into depression when being bombarded with news about the evils in our nation, God invites us through the prophet to pray to him and rise above the fray into the heavenly realms. A focus on him and eternity helps us avoid the despair that comes from a worldly focus. "Yahweh my Lord is my strength; He makes my feet like those of a deer and enables me to walk on mountain heights!" (Idea from my dad, Sewell Hall.)



Fixating on What's Important: What Kind of Sea Are You?

By Bill Fix

In preparation for today's lesson about the Jordan River, I learned several things about the river's physical qualities that I had never considered. And understanding those details helped bring out several spiritual applications.

The Bible is full of layered lessons like this. The hymn "There Is a Sea" similarly makes a simple comparison between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. One receives water, keeps it nice, and then passes it on to share with others so that they can enjoy God's good gifts as well. The Dead Sea, however, is the opposite. It takes and takes, not willing to share even a drop of what flows into it with another sea or river. The result is water that is so salty that no animal or plant life can survive in it. The final verse asks us which one are we more like? Do we share with others, or do we keep everything for ourselves, ultimately dying following a greedy miserable existence?

"Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you, do not turn away" (Mt. 5:42). We have a duty to share with others and help those in need. And while we may have opportunity to provide someone with food, shelter, clothes, economic opportunity, and any number of various items, the best thing we can share with someone is the gospel. It doesn't cost us anything to share, except perhaps time and effort. And it is the one thing people need the most.

This is a lesson that Peter and John, who had spent time fishing on the Sea of Galilee, knew well. "Then Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you...'" (Acts 3:6). After the lame man was given the ability to walk, he entered the temple with Peter and John "walking, leaping, and praising God." While the chapter doesn't tell us that Peter taught the man and converted him, don't you believe that he did? The man was so grateful he was telling (yelling) everyone within earshot how he had been healed.

What if Peter had been too busy or ashamed to stop and address the lame man? What if Peter had been like the Dead Sea instead of the Sea of Galilee? How would Acts 3 read had you been heading to the temple instead of Peter and John?