

Announcements & Prayer Requests

- Let's keep the following in our prayers:
 - Kim Self: Cancer and stomach ulcers
 - Angie Self: Arthritis and Parkinson's
 - Joann Larkin: Advanced dementia
 - Barb Agee's son (James)
 - Rick Parks' parents: Roy has prostate cancer; Helen has dementia
 - 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*

Jonah, con'd. from p. 3—so outraged the feeling of zealous priests and scribes that it would never have obtained a place in the sacred canon. How can we imagine that a people who attempted to slay Jesus because he showed them that a Gentile woman and a Gentile warrior, in the days of Elijah and Elisha, honored these two prophets as no man or woman in Israel did or would, have permitted a book so full of rebuke for their hatred of the heathen to be made a part of their own Bible? The thought is preposterous. Yet, this is the alternative to which those are driven who affirm that the story as told in the Scriptures is incredible. Like unbelievers in general, they take the harder side.



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

March 21, 2021

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 – Legal Principles and the Bible:
Contract/Covenant

Sermon Topic – Bible Answers to Great Questions

Stuff About Things: Canning Up Trouble

By Robert F. Turner (PLAIN TALK, November 1970)

Any preacher, or other saint who has been around awhile, and has traveled a bit, will tell you that there are certain problems which appear over and over, generation after generation, among brethren. They may be certain scripture interpretations, or hobbies, or matters involving human judgement, traditional practices, and the like—things which each generation must face and solve for itself.

Some of these are inevitable, and the sooner each church can face and settle—themselves, if not the problem—the better off they are. But others are senseless quibbles that survive only because there is someone in just about every church that loves to argue, or thinks it is a sign of brilliance to bring up something the brethren can't answer. (The querist usually proposes answer—some old saw that has long ago been thrashed to threads, but is new to the present victims. Subject matter may be anything from Cain's wife to the church treasury.)

One preacher wrote, "I have known of local churches that have had trouble after trouble for years and years. I think some of them can-up trouble for the future, even; like Mom used to can beans, corn, and sausage. When they get tired of fussing over one can of trouble, they can open up a new can of trouble, and eat away at each other." I understand and appreciate the writers disgust at this.

This attitude thrives where the brethren have no sense of direction—no positive goals toward which they press. Reminds me of the old man who made his first trip to the big city, and his court-yard cronies back home were anxious for a report on his trip.

"Wasn't you a-feered you'd get lost?" he was asked.

"How could I have got lost," the old man spat, "when I didn't even care where I was at?"

There are brethren who apparently have no real goals, and don't even care where they are at. Their idea of Bible study is to spend an hour arguing about Paul's thorn, and future planning is getting a preacher for the next meeting. Canned problems compose their steady diet—no energy to generate fresh ones.

Thank God for brethren who can-up **solutions**—and use them.

Is the Story of Jonah Incredible?

By J.W. McGarvey (Excerpt from *Jesus and Jonah*)

... [Jonah] represents God as desiring the repentance of the Ninevites, and of all in the proud empire of Assyria who could be influenced by their example. He selects as the preacher through whose word this great reformation may be effected, the most renowned prophet of the age. Knowing in advance that this prophet, great as he was, would be moved by his knowledge of God's goodness, and his own hatred of Nineveh, to run away from the task assigned him, God permits him to flee far out upon a stormy sea, that he might make him the means there of turning a company of heathen sailors to the true faith, and send them preaching round the shores of the western world, and that he might at the same time bring the prophet back better than ever prepared to do effective work in Nineveh. As a result of this preparation, the whole population of the great city is brought to repentance, and they appeal so earnestly to Jehovah for mercy that he spares them after having doomed them to destruction...

There is another side to the question of incredibility. If the story of Jonah is not history, it is, of course, a piece of fiction, and fiction which originated in the brain of an Israelite. Now I think it may be made to appear that the latter alternative is incredible—in the first place, that any Israelite, capable of conceiving and of writing such a story, would be so irreverent toward one of the great prophets of his nation as to make him act the part ascribed to Jonah. And even if an intellectual Israelite had been so recreant to the ordinary traditions of his countrymen as to write such a story, it is still more incredible that the leaders of the chosen people at any period of their history would have allowed such a document a place among their sacred books. There is nothing of the kind to be found elsewhere in the Bible, and such aspersions upon the names of prophets or patriarchs is not to be found in the apocryphal literature of the Jews. On the contrary, the Jewish writings which are known to be fictitious are often characterized by extravagant eulogies of Biblical characters.

This alternative is incredible, in the second place, because no Israelite, inventing, a story of God's dealings with a great Gentile city like Nineveh, would have represented Him as being so regardful of the welfare of its people, so quick to forgive their sins, and so tenderly mindful of the innocent within its walls. Especially would no Israelite write a story whose culminating point was a stern rebuke of his nation for animosity toward an oppressive heathen power. From this point of view, as well as from the other, such a book, if written as a fiction, would have **OVER→**