

Receive a sermon each week by Snail Mail or E-mail!

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God Is Just A Prayer Away



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WIBC	7:30 A.M.	1070 DIAL	INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
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WRVA	9:30 P.M.	1140 DIAL	RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
KXEL	10:30 P.M.	1540 DIAL	WATERLOO, IOWA
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WRFD	10:00 A.M.	880 DIAL	COLUMBUS, OHIO
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Issue 2

Three Lessons from the Resurrection of Lazarus

LESSON NUMBER ONE: Both Martha and Mary said the same thing to Jesus, "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." IF, IF, IF. Someone has tried to unravel the IF's of history. What would have happened IF Abraham Lincoln had not been assassinated? What would have happened if Stonewall Jackson had not been accidentally killed by friendly fire? Robert E. Lee said that he could have won the battle at Gettysburg IF Jackson had been there and gone on to win the Civil War. The United States would have been split into two nations.

The big IF is what would have happened IF Christ had not died on the cross for our sins and been raised up from the dead? There would be no Church, no salvation, and no Heaven. We can be glad there is no IF in history. Jesus did come into the world. He did die on the cross. He did arise from the dead. He did ascend into Heaven. He did establish the Church. He is coming again.

One of the big IF's is when some people live as IF Jesus had never come into this world, as IF he had never died on the cross for their sins, as IF there is no future life after death, as IF there is no Judgment day, as IF there is no hell and no heaven. However for the unbeliever there is one big IF they need to consider: What IF the Bible is true? What IF there is a resurrection of all the dead? What IF there is a Judgment Day? Ladies and

Gentlemen, THAT IS THE BIGGEST IF OF ALL.

LESSON NUMBER TWO: Roll away the stone from the door of the tomb. Martha said, "Lord he hath been dead four days and stinketh." There is no smell more offensive to a human being than the smell of a rotting human corpse. That reminds us of the spiritual rot of the unforgiven sinner. Paul tells us in Ephesians that Jesus made us alive when we were dead in trespasses and sins. Before we become Christians we were spiritually dead. I am not overdrawing the picture when I say as unforgiven sinners that the spiritual rot of sinners in that condition is offensive to God. You may be the best dressed person in town, you may be wearing the most expensive perfume, you may be the last word in sophistication, but outside of Christ you exude a foul odor in the nostrils of God. I am too polite to say it and I won't say it, but I will let Martha say it for me. She said in regards of her brother after he had been dead four days, he stinks. If you are still dead in trespasses and sins, You stink!

We have often noted that the Lord will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. In John two, He told the servants to fill the water pots with water before He turned the water into wine. Here He tells them to roll away the stone before He raised the dead. Then when they did all they could do in both cases He stepped in and worked the miracle. In time of sick-

ness we need to do all we can do first. Take the shots, swallow the pills, drink the goop, get the CT scan, get the operation, do all you can do first, then the Lord will do the rest as it pleases Him.

What a blessing this is. The Lord uses us to do His work. That man probably bragged about this for the rest of his life. Every time he was around Christians he no doubt reminded them of how he was the one who rolled away the stone when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. I did it! I did it! I did it! What a thrill it must have been to be used by the Lord for so great a miracle. We are not far behind. He uses us today to work the miracle of salvation. We must do our part. What can I do to bring on the miracle of salvation and help Him save the world? I can build a building. I can sing a song. I can preach a sermon. I can teach a class. I can give a dollar. I can knock on a door. I can make a phone call, and I can pray a prayer. I can do a lot of things to help Jesus save the world. If I can do it, by the grace of God, I will do it.

LESSON NUMBER THREE: Jesus cried with a loud voice "LAZARUS, COME FORTH," What a voice Jesus must have had. John in Revelation describes it as the voice of a trumpet: a loud voice. No need for amplification. No need for a transmitter. His voice was not only heard by those who were close to the tomb, but heard in the spirit world. "Lazarus, come forth!" It had been

pointed out that if He had merely said come forth, all the dead would have come out of the graves. It's a good thought but not necessarily so. There were many men named Lazarus and only one came back. The Lazarus in Luke sixteen did not return not did any of the others. Jesus did not even say Lazarus of Bethany, just, "Lazarus, come forth." Lazarus knew he was the one Jesus was talking to and no one else, and he came forth.

Paul tells us when the Lord returns He will descend from heaven with a shout and with the trump of God and the dead in Christ shall rise first, then they who remain alive will with them be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Think of that shout! He shouted with a loud voice when He raised Lazarus and He will shout with a loud voice when He raises the Christian. He shouted the name of Lazarus with a loud voice. Will it be true as well for us? As a Christian it will be your name that He will shout when He arrives at the Second Coming. When He descends with a shout accompanied with the blast of the celestial trumpet I will hear it loud and clear: "ED, COME FORTH!"

Lazarus was glad to come back, not because of this life style, not because he was popular in this world, as revealed by the size of those who came to his funeral; but because he would be in the presence of the Lord. To be absent from Paradise for him was to be present with the Lord. For us it is true the other way around. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. Better for him to come back. Better for us to go. To depart and be with Christ is very far better.

I know not the form of my mansion so fair I know not the crown that I there then shall wear; But I know that my Saviour will welcome me there And that will be glory for me.

* * * * *

Men Like Trees

In Mark chapter eight a blind man was brought to Jesus with the request to touch him. Jesus took him by the hand and led him out of the city. He spit on his eyes and said, "Seest thou ought?" The man said, "I see men as trees walking." Jesus touched him again and he saw all things plain. This man at first saw men as trees walking. In other words at first he had a distorted vision. There are millions of people today whose vision is distorted and they are never able to see things as

they really are. Here are some of the areas where people have distorted vision. The Devil has deluded millions into looking at men not as trees walking, but causes some to see men as animals walking, he causes some to see men as gods walking, and he causes some to see Jesus walking with no tree involved at all.

MEN AS ANIMALS WALKING

This is the distorted view of men as taught by evolution. Man is an animal-animal that walks upright on two legs. This view of men is the reason for much of the moral view of the human race. When a great racehorse reaches the age when he can no longer run in the big races they turn him out to stud. They may even erect a statue to him and name streets after him. He may be bred to many mares. However no one would think of calling him an adulterer. Why could not he be satisfied to be bred to one mare and one mare only until death did them part? We do not expect a great racehorse to be bred to only one mare because he is an animal. A Christian does not look upon a horse and say he ought to observe the same matrimonial status as a human.

The reason is because he is an animal. This is no doubt the reason for our view of sex today. It is perfectly all right and many would not think of themselves as being immoral who live together without marriage. People don't see anything wrong with this because they regard themselves as animals. There is nothing wrong with this when you consider that in their view they are animals.

The news carried the story of one popular movie star's husband who had been killed. At the funeral several other former husbands showed up to express their sorrow. I pointed this out to another preacher, and he made the remark, "Why they live like a bunch of dogs." This was natural because they see themselves as a bunch of dogs. They see men as animals walking. They have a distorted view of the nature of mankind. The reason without a shadow of a doubt is because of the teaching of evolution. These people believe they are animals so they act like animals and dress like animals. A casual observer can take note that many like animals reveal more of their body parts than decent people need to see. There is no need to critique these animals; they will only respond by saying what's wrong with that everybody is doing it, which indicates they are a part of the problem. We see them as animals walking. Then again there are some that have such a distorted view that they see men, not only as animals walking but also as gods walking.

MEN AS GODS WALKING

This is the way that the Devil wants us to see ourselves. This is what the Devil told Eve in the Garden of Eden at that debacle at the foot of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. Again Paul addressed the same subject when he told the Romans in chapter one. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.

Humanism began in the Garden of Eden and has surfaced again in these last days when men think that they can make up their own rules. Take a look at God's view of man as found in Romans the third chapter. Listen to God's description of the human rascal. There is none that understandeth; there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongue they have used deceit. The poison of asp is under their lips. Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood; Destruction and misery are in their ways; And the ways of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes. This is the way God describes the human rascal. The icing on God's damnation cake is when He says a few verses later; "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Either God or man has a distorted view of the human race. The humanistic view sees the human as god walking and God sees him as a lost and damned to hell sinner to be held responsible for his actions. And now another distorted view that some may have is the distorted view of the Lord Jesus Christ.

THEY SEE JESUS WALKING

Some people look up and see Jesus walking as a good man, they see him walking as a perfect man, they see him walking as a philosopher, but they don't see any tree. The tree Peter talked about when he said, "Him also ye hanging Him on a tree." This is a very distorted fatal view of Jesus. This was the distorted view of the Apostles when they first heard about the cross. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, "Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee." The Devil did not want Jesus to go to the cross and he knew the Lord would not listen to him, so he said, "Peter you tell Him." This would not be the last time the Devil would speak to people through the lips of a preacher. The greatest lies that are told today on this

planet are the ones that are told by preachers.

The thought of Jesus carrying a tree was unthinkable to Peter; this could have no part in the program of Jesus coming into the world. The other Apostle felt the same way. When Jesus said, "And they shall kill Him, and the third day He shall be raised again." They were exceedingly sorry.

Later on Peter saw all things clearly. He told the council in Jerusalem, "Him also ye slew hanging Him on a tree." In his first epistle he tells us, "Ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot, even the blood of Christ...." Hear him again as he declares. "Whom his own self bares our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." At first he could not see Jesus on the tree and now he cannot see Him anywhere, but on the tree.

The preaching of the first gospel sermon on the day of Pentecost was a message on the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Peter's vision had cleared up since that day at Caesarea Philippi when he said, "Be it far from thee Lord this shall never be unto thee."

Saul of Tarsus who led in the slaying of Stephen did so because Stephen preached the crucifixion of Jesus. He told them the righteous one had been betrayed and murdered by them, and when he looked up and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God, that did it. They stoned him. Paul's vision cleared up later and he saw the man Christ Jesus clearly when he said, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ."

Here is a good example of a man with a distorted vision. I have one of those popular study Bibles. The brilliant scholar who commented on Acts 2:38 said that it should be written like this, "And Peter said unto them, Repent for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." It is sufficient rebuttal to say that if Peter had meant it that way he would have said it that way. It is an interesting thing to note that all of the major translations both Protestant and Catholic translate Acts 2:38 the same way; repentance and baptism for the remission of sins or unto the remission of sin. Hundreds of world class scholars, from all denominations laid aside their personal beliefs and translated it the same way. Read it again in your version and hopefully your vision will improve and you will see the Man on the Tree clearly.

Be Ye Reconciled To God

The Apostle Paul said, "We are ambassadors therefore on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: we beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God. As a Christian you are an Ambassador for Christ. An Ambassador from the country of Heaven. As an Ambassador you have gone to the strange land of this world. A strange land to represent your government. While we live in that strange land we are to remember that our citizenship is in Heaven.

An Ambassador of the United States has an embassy. The American flag flies over that embassy in whatever foreign land he is sent. The American Ambassador observes the holidays of his country, and not the holidays of the foreign country where he lives. As Christians we observe the holiday of Heaven; the Lord's Day. That is why we follow the scriptural example; Upon the first day of the week we were gathered together to break bread. As a Christian I am not obligated to observe the holidays of the world, such as Lent, or that great pagan feast they call Super Bowl Sunday. The American Embassy in that foreign country is a little colony of America.

The Church is the Embassy of Heaven in this foreign land of the world. Many of the Lord's Ambassadors I have met have become denationalized. They have been influenced by the morals, and language of the world and sound and act more like citizens of the world than citizens of Heaven.

Not only is the Church an Embassy of Heaven, the thought can be extended to the Christian Home. Your home as a Christian is an Embassy of Heaven. Would a visitor coming into your home realize that? Would the visitor looking at your television programs, reading your magazines, hearing your conversations, drinking your booze, inhaling your cigarette smoke, go away thinking: I have been in the Embassy of Heaven, or would he say I have been in the Embassy of Hell?

In the national Embassy the lines of communications are always open to the Head of his government. The same is true in the Christian Embassy. We can always get on the hot line of prayer and communicate with the authority of Heaven. Actually we could say it this way, "God Is Just a Prayer Away."

Of course the time comes after not too many years that the Ambassador is

recalled and another takes his place. As an Ambassador you are not to be here forever. It is only a short while for all of the King's Ambassadors when they are called home. But until that day of our recall our main task in this world is to represent our native country-Heaven. Paul tells us to set our affections on things that are above and not on the things of the earth. One gospel song tells it like it is. This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. We are ambassadors on behalf of Christ, as though God were entreating by us: *We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be ye reconciled to God.*

I am a stranger here, within a foreign land: My home is far away,

Upon a golden strand; Ambassador to be of realms beyond the sea,

I'm here on business for my King.

My home is brighter far than Sharon's rosy plain,

Eternal life and joy through out that vast domain;

My Sovereign bids me tell how mortals there may dwell, and that's my business for my King.

This is the message that I bring, A message angels fain would sing: Oh, be ye reconciled, Thus saith my Lord and King, Oh, be ye reconciled to God.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS



Dear Ed Bousman,

Do you remember me? It's me Igor B. I write this letter to you because I find it to be necessary to let you know that I have received your gift. I have received the Holy Bible, Facts Concerning the New Testament Church, Studies in the Bible Lessons 1-5, and also newsletter. Now I have newsletters of September-December.

If I have time, I shall answer all questions of your lessons. I know that there are 30 lessons in studies in the bible. I have got the first five. I wish I could have time to do that, but I shall study them. However I shall always listen to the "God Is Just A Prayer Away" radio broadcast because it is heard with a very good and strong signal and power in my town of Ivacevichy. Now I know exactly when and where your radio is heard, because I have got your short-wave radio schedule. It is very wonderful to give people opportunity to learn the word of God from the

radio and from the paper too. Must I go to any Church, if I believe in God, or must I only read the Bible is that enough? If it is possible please continue to send me your newsletters and do continue your good work on the radio. I also want to know what baptism really means and what to do not to get into the hell. I don't want to be punished by God. I want to thank you for your help and support. Don't forget me. I find your gift to be very important and necessary. Thank you again my dear friend.

Always your friend
Igor from Byelorussia

Dear Mr. Bousman,

Thank you for the large print Bible you recently sent me and the Bible Studies. I appreciate them both very much. I've enclosed the first 5 lessons to be graded as I wait for the next 5. Respectfully Patricia from Hillsborough Correctional Inst. in Riverview, Florida **(We send large print Bibles to all of our prisoners because the light in their cells is so dim, so we are told. We have hundreds studying with us all over the world.)**

Greetings:

I am ashamed to say that I have been listening to you off and on for probably 20 years. I hear you over WLW and the reception is really iffy, but I was able this Sunday AM at 6:30 to actually hear the entire program. Your topic "Five out of Seven" was a witty yet scriptural presentation. I was raised in N. Kentucky and first heard of Jesus Christ while attending services in a "one room school house." I

have noticed down through the ages a gradual falling away from preaching the WHOLE COUNCIL OF GOD! The scripture that says, "The blind leading the blind and they both fall into the ditch" is so very true. We have blind preachers behind the pulpits, and rows of blind listeners (tares) filling the pews. A very sad and frightful condition. My heart is burdened for the lost sheep. Brother Bousman, may almighty God keep His hand of anointing upon you until He comes--also keep you and yours in the hollow of His hand!

In Christ Jesus,
John from Port Richey, Florida

Dear Pastor,

I am a Liberian from the Budubwam Refugee Settlement in Ghana, West Africa. Since I arrived here in Norway in September of 2004, I have been a consistent listener to your program. And I'm interested in your Bible lessons and correspondence course. I am looking forward to a good study in the word with you as I listen to the preaching and teaching on the radio. God richly bless you.

Sincerely Alice
from Nordfjordeid, Norway

Dear Brother,

First thank for God by his salvation I am a student of high school male 18 age. I have students I teach in spiritual. And I am prayer group with some brothers. Brothers I have shortage of materials to study the Bible. Like Bible study materials, Holy Bible, and Bible Dictionary. So please help me by these materials and help by pray to gate break through we

pray for revival hardy. By all your help thank you and God bless you.

Your brother Michal from Eritrea,
East Africa

Dear Ed Bousman,

.....Go and tell my brothers there they will see me. Mat 27:10. Greetings to you in the glorious name of Jesus Christ. Last time I received two periodicals of Sept. and Oct. 2004. As Jesus says go and tell my brothers you are receiving us with different ways through lessons, periodicals, the "God Is Just A Prayer Away" radio, pray and so on. And you are showing our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks to God and may God richly bless your life and ministries in the name of Jesus Christ. Until we meet in the next letter God be with us.

Yours in Christ,
Solomon Z. from Ethiopia

Dear Ed & Naomi,

My husband and I are current members at a Christian Church in Pennsylvania. We wanted to drop you a note along with this gift to let you know how much we appreciate all that you do for the Lord. You are strong examples in the brotherhood and we love you for it. Unfortunately there are many problems we face in the Church today that are making even the strongest of us feel defeated. Through it all you both have stayed strong and sound of doctrine which gives us hope for the future. We pray your Christmas was merry and that 2005 brings happiness and good health to you and even greater success to your ministry.

Steve and Judy
from Pennsylvania

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