



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

 P.O. Box 85 -- Beechgrove, TN 37018

Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html> <http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

The Nails of the Cross

John tells us that Christ had "*print of the nails*" in His hands (John 20:25). Matthew tells us that the mob on the hill of Calvary challenged Christ to "*come down from the cross*" (Matthew 27:40). What was it that held Jesus to the cross?

(1) It was not the nails that held Him to the cross. He had the power to remove the nails. He could have called "*more than twelve legions of angels*" to help and remove Him from the cross (Matthew 26:53). He who had the power to still the storm, feed the multitude, and raise the dead could have removed the nails. The crowd could not have killed Christ if He had not wished to do the Father's will. "*Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it up again. No man taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself*" (John 10:17-18).

(2) The Father's will and wish held Him to the cross. Jesus prayed in the garden and said, "*My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass away from me: nevertheless, not as I wilt but as thou wilt*" (Matthew 26:39). It was the will of God that His Son become the "*propitiation*," that is an atoning sacrifice for our sins (I John 2:2). The Savior's love and our sins held Christ on the tree.

(3) God's eternal purpose held Christ to the cross. Jesus died to purchase the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). The church is the institution through which the eternal purpose of God is to be made known to the world (Ephesians 3:10). Without the death of Christ, God's purpose for the world would have been aborted. Thus His love for God and man held Him to the cross ---not the nails.

(4) The joy set before Christ held Him to the cross. In the Hebrew letter we learn that "*the author and perfecter of our faith*" disregarded His suffering and "*for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame*" (Hebrews 12:2). The mocking by the angry mob at the foot of the cross was ignored by Christ because of the "*joy set before him.*" Neither the lack of power nor the nails held Jesus to the cross. His resignation to the will of God and His love for the souls of mankind bound Him to the tree on which He died. Our love for God and His Son should cause us to remain faithful in the kingdom of God, despite the mockings of all who would have us depart from the path of duty.

G.K. Wallace, (Deceased)

Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
Restoration Radio
Jim Waldron
Manuelito Children's Home



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of April 12

1. If we will do something in the Lord's sight, he will elevate us. What is that "something" we must do? The verse will specifically relate these conditions.
2. Many passages in the Bible refer to military hostilities between men, but the Lord can bring them to an end. In one passage He is pictured as destroying specific weapons and the means of transportation for warriors. Find the appropriate passage and show how it fits the question.
3. Who would destroy (by conflagration) so many weapons over a span of years that they would need no firewood from woodlands?
4. According to a reliable statement that should be regularly affirmed, believers in God should use care to "_____."
5. In a passage that discusses the promise of God to Abraham's descendants as well as the plagues of Egypt, we learn that a famous Bible character was imprisoned with painful metal shackles. Who was this person?
(Note: to get credit for this you need to give the passage which mentions ALL of the key ideas in the question.)
6. Which is the better man, a poor but truthful man, or a wealthy liar? Prove it by scripture.
7. David said: "I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies." This text has become popular as a song among Christians. The question: Where is the text found?

Answers for week of April 5

1. According to an Old Testament prophet, what is said about the righteousness which was formerly done by a person who has since turned away from it and become wicked?
Answer: His former righteousness will not be mentioned (i.e. it will not count for anything).
Ezekiel 18:24 But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and

doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

Ezekiel asserts that the one that sins is the one that will die for it. (i.e. we aren't punished for what our fathers - or our children - do, but for what we do) - v.4-24. God is not unfair but very fair in judging each of us by our own actions (v.25-29). What the Israelites needed to do was to repent and live (v.30-32).

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2. What fruit was used in the proverbial argument of an Israelite when he wanted to prove the idea that a child inherits his daddy's sin, and what does the prophet say that the Lord thought of that argument?

Answer: Sour grapes. The prophet says the people will no longer use that proverb.

Ezek. 18:1 The word of the LORD came unto me again, saying, 2 What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? 3 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel.

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3. How can the things we say be a "minister of grace"?

Answer: They can be edifying to the hearers of our words and impart grace to them. (Most of the newer translations do not use the word "grace", but refer to the words being beneficial to the hearer.)

According to Strong's, "grace" here means "graciousness (as gratifying), of manner or act (abstract or concrete; literal, figurative or spiritual; especially the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life; including gratitude):--acceptable, benefit, favour, gift, grace(-ious), joy, liberality, pleasure, thank(-s, -worthy)." Eph 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

1 Pet 4:10-11 As every man hath received the gift,

even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

4. What were the circumstances that had caused people to mortgage their real estate and go in debt to pay their "royal taxes"?

Answer: During the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem some of the nobles were extracting a usury from them. There was also a famine in the land.

Neh 5:2 For there were that said, We, our sons, and our daughters, [are] many: therefore we take up corn [for them], that we may eat, and live. 3 [Some] also there were that said, We have mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn, because of the dearth. 4 There were also that said, We have borrowed money for the king's tribute, [and that upon] our lands and vineyards. 5 Yet now our flesh [is] as the flesh of our brethren, our children as their children: and, lo, we bring into bondage our sons and our daughters to be servants, and [some] of our daughters are brought unto bondage [already]: neither [is it] in our power [to redeem them]; for other men have our lands and vineyards.

Compare with this Joseph's management of the food in Egypt during the famine to illustrate people giving up property rights in order to get food. Gen 47:20 And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's. 21 And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof. 22 Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands. 23 Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land.

5. What men of Ephrath married Moabite women?

Answer: Mahlon & Chilon -- Sons of Naomi and Elimelech Ruth 1:2 And the name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife Naomi, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehemjudah. And they came into the country of Moab, and continued there.

6. If I am a friend of the world, what else am I?

Answer: An enemy of God.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

This is probably best explained by Jesus Himself: "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matthew 6:24)

Another good answer: Not of the Father 1 Jo 2:16

7. How are the tools of one who cuts wood compared to common attitudes of rebellion and boastfulness?

Answer: Ax and saw against their user.

"Showing the folly of rejecting the Lord and going one's own way, we have the ridiculous picture of the tools putting themselves above the woodcutter." (Isa 10:15) "Shall the ax boast itself against him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against him that shaketh it? as if the rod should shake itself against them that lift it up, or as if the staff should lift up itself, as if it were no wood."

Participants commented:

"The axe boasting that it was doing the work by itself or the saw rebelling against the one using it, as if they weren't needed. So Israel (Judah in this context) had treated God."

"How foolish it seems for the tools being used by the 'maker' to hold themselves higher than the one who uses them. The tools are nothing without the hand of the maker."

"Do we raise ourselves higher than the Creator? Our attitude should be as expressed in Isaiah 64:8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Compare Isaiah 29:16 and Isaiah 45:9

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Military connections: Andy Miller family in Japan; Drew and Adam Thomas. Shut ins: Laura Singleton at home, and William Miller at NHC in Murfreesboro. Joe Nichols, brother of Ann and Charlene, has returned home from the hospital. Sister Doris Mason is having trouble walking due to painful feet, but had experienced some improvement late this week. Melissa Dickerson has about two more weeks of bed rest and is recovering well. Kristen Toops has been sick but was at church Wednesday. Paul Haithcock is still having back pain after going to the hospital Sunday. Debbie Waldron's daddy, John Rice has been in ICU at MTMC. He was moved out to a regular room, but he has been diagnosed as having a MRSA complication.

Please remember the people in the area who have lost their homes and property in the Murfreesboro area storms. It will take a long time to clean up, and even longer for many to put their normal routines back together. There are many who have no livable house and are having to stay with others. For those of us who were not in the direct path of the storm, this is a warning about the fleeting nature of earthly possessions.

The emergency personnel that worked (and are still working) have done a good job of trying to get services back. Our power was out but came back in early hours of the next day.

Nice get-together...We had a good gathering yesterday with several members, visiting relatives and children. The children found enough "candy eggs" to make them "happy", and the adults found enough food to make them "highly satisfied". Thanks to all who made such great effort to help out. There were some scrumptious desserts, and Nancy Harvey had decorated some eggs so pretty that no one wanted to risk hiding (and losing) them.

Welcome, visitors

Let us know how we may serve you. We are glad that we are frequently blessed with visitors. Most of the time visitors are familiar with what to expect in our services, but if you have any questions why we do as we do, feel free to ask.

Food Pantry - Please continue a sustained effort to bring items. If you know of a pressing need for food please let it be known.

Attendance and Contribution for the Week

Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
Apr	5	14	24	21	21	\$605
Mar	29	15	26	25	19	\$841
Mar	22	15	21	25	13	\$705
Mar	15	17	24	18	12	\$619

Assignments	April 12	April 19
Song leader (SS)	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Announcements	Joe Green	Ken Thomas
Songleader-Worship	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	James Mason	Joe Green
Table service (center)	Steve Miller	Daniel Green
(center)	Tim Waldron	Joe Green
(outside)	T J Waldron	Wayne Gannon
(outside)	Daniel Green	Junior Conner
Closing Prayer	Junior Conner	James Mason

