

“LIFE IS EMPTY WITHOUT GOD”

However happily some folks may get along without God in the short run, they always find in the long run that life without God is a tiresome and unsatisfying. The unavoidable truth is that a person’s life is empty without God. Separated from our Creator – alienated from Him by sin – the thing that we call “life” is hardly worth the name. With Paul, we may well be moved to cry, “**Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?**” (Rom. 7:24).

After exploring every thinkable avenue of worldly fulfillment, Solomon summed it up frankly when he said, “Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun” (Eccl. 2:11). If we are as honest as Solomon, we are eventually forced to admit that it is God who makes life in this world worthwhile. “The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil” (Eccl. 12:13,14). Only in a right relationship with Him can we truthfully claim that life has been good.

That is not to say that faithful Christians are the only ones who enjoy life. It is possible to disregard God and still enjoy many of the pleasant things that this life has to offer. But without a recognition of God the problems of this world have no adequate explanation – and without God the best that we can do is “eat and drink, for tomorrow we die” (1 Cor. 15:32). As Christians, we may be guilty of taking the goodness of life for granted. We may have forgotten how oppressive life can be apart from the blessings we enjoy in Christ. We need periodically to pause and remember the “aimless conduct” (1 Pt. 1:18 NKJV) from which Christ rescued us. We must never lose the ability to empathize with the man outside of the Lord who, “having no hope and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12), is still bogged down in a life without ultimate profit.

This week, as we rise to meet each new day with joy and anticipation, let’s remember the millions in the world, many of whom live right around us, who are lost and struggling to believe that life is worth living. Let’s show by the way we live that Jesus Christ came “that they may have life and have it abundantly” (Jn. 10:10). DP

SERMON PREVIEW:

March 13 – No Bones Left Behind	April 3 – Why Acapella Worship?
March 20 – What the Carpenter Built Cross	April 10 – The Drawing Power of the Cross
March 27 – Wilderness Developments	April 24 – You Could See it in His Face

GOSPEL MEETING APRIL 17 – 20
Sunday 10 AM & Mon. – Wed 7 PM

ETERNITY! ARE YOU READY?
“Return to Me and I will return to you”- God!

The Salisbury Beacon

Salisbury Church of Christ

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Douglas Post, Minister

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Office Hours: Tues–Thurs. 10AM–2PM

March 13, 2016

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

Dear friends – we appreciate your willingness to worship God with us this Lord’s Day! If you would like more information about the Church of Christ, or if we may assist you in other ways, please let us know. **BE A PART OF OUR FAMILY – the Salisbury Church of Christ.** ****Please fill out a Visitor’s Card and place it in the collection plate****

ORDER OF OUR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS & OPENING PRAYER

SONG # 533 NEARER STILL NEARER

SONG # 686 TAKE MY HAND

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE – HEBREWS 11:13-22

SONG # 317 TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS

LORD’S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SONG # 821 OH, THAT WILL BE

SERMON: “NO BONES LEFT BEHIND”

SONG # 399 WITHOUT HIM

SONG # 740..... RING OUT THE MESSAGE

CLOSING PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAYERS, & CONCERNS

LET US PRAY FOR: Church Growth: Pray for both spiritual and numerical growth of our church. Debbie Post, Stella Reidy, Jack Callaway, Katie Gray, Flossie Hull, Barbara Kuykendall, John Tillman, Paul Marchesault, Marilyn Artis, Linda Alaban, Florence Tucker, the Jones/Dale family, the Gibson family, Larry Laten, Prince Ituen and all missionaries and military personnel serving overseas.

- **Elaine Bradley** said her son, Bruce Lauder, who is dealing with addiction issues, is also having seizures. Please keep Bruce in your prayers.
- **Ray Maddox** has not been feeling well. Please remember him in your prayers and visit him!!
- **Ruth Banks** is doing much better following her fall last week. Please continue to pray for a full recovery as well as for comfort at the passing of her brother.
- **Bob & Diane** ask for our prayers for their neighbor's son, Jimmy McMillion, who has leukemia, which has returned for the 4th time. He is 43 years old and raising 2 teenage girls and other children. He has been fighting this for 20 years.
- **Herman & Wilma Duke** left early Saturday morning for Kentucky as Wilma's 100 year mother, Cara, fell and broke her hip Friday. Her mother is currently in the hospital. Please keep Cara, Wilma and Herman in your prayers.
- **Gospel Meeting (35 more days and counting)**. Please pray for a successful gospel meeting, that those in need of the saving gospel message of Jesus Christ will come and hear it preached. Pray they will be influenced by the gospel and respond to it in obedience. Please pray for our speaker, Jerry Brewer, for boldness and clarity.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 13 (Sunday) Daylight Savings Time (Spring Ahead).

March 20 (Sunday) Evangelism Committee Meeting

April 17 (Sunday - Wednesday) Gospel Meeting with Jerry Brewer & Song Service

April 18, 19, 20 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday) Gospel Meeting

April 23, 2016 (Saturday) – Ladies Day, Laurel church of Christ

A SUMMARY OF THE BIBLE

Franklin Camp Deceased

There are some things one needs to carefully consider as one engages in the study of the Bible. This book which we are studying is no ordinary book. It may affect us in one of two ways: Properly studied and applied, it will affect us for good in time and eternity; the improper study of it will cause one to lose one's soul. The Bible is every man's book. It is not intended for some special group. But not only is the Bible every man's book, it is

written for the average person. Scholars may study it, but it is not written necessarily with scholars in mind. No one ever outgrows the Scriptures. The more one studies them, the wider and deeper they become. The Bible is a book which enables one to look into eternity. The best evidence of the inspiration of the Bible is to be found between its covers. No one will ever be a useful Christian unless one is a student of the Bible. Matthew Henry said, "The Scriptures were written not to make us astronomers, but to make us saints." It is no wonder the Paul urged Timothy to "rightly divide," or "handle aright" the Word of Truth, that he might be an approved workman before God.

The Bible is the greatest book in the world. It is the most accessible, and in it one finds Truth that can be found in no other book. The Bible is the only book that can give a satisfactory explanation of God, the world, man, sin, salvation, service, and life here, and life hereafter. The Bible acknowledges man's faults, it is patient with man's weaknesses, it is severe with man's sins, and it is honest with his virtues and his hopes. To own the Bible is to be rich. To study, to know, and to trust the Bible is to find life. To study the Bible is to be wise; to obey it, to be strong. To know the Bible and to handle it aright is the greatest accomplishment within the reach of any person.

One may know English, astronomy, literature, music, sociology, and philosophy; but if one does not know the Bible, one has failed in the only subject that brings all things into their proper relationship and that enables one to know life at its best. It is worth all the sacrifice that is necessary to give to such a study. The one who seeks to know the Bible will endeavor to study its contents book by book, meet its characters as they unfold through its pages, study its types, its doctrine, its topics, paragraphs, sentences, and words. This is a lifetime work. The Bible is the one book that can save many a heartache. The following was found on the flyleaf of a Bible placed by the Gideons in a motel in Birmingham, Alabama: "*May God bless the man who placed this book here. I am a young lady twenty-one years old, fatherless and motherless. Tonight this book saved me from taking a wrong step. May the next reader find it the comfort that I did.*"

One can never be great in the true sense of that word who does not know the Word, love it, live it, delight in it, and teach it without perversion and without misrepresentation. **The one who studies this book and knows how to handle it is in a position to render the greatest service in the world.** There is no higher ambition on earth. The Bible is a mirror that enables us to see ourselves. It is food which supplies the strength that we need, a lamp to guide our way, a hammer to break and to build, a sword to fight and to defend, the seed to plant and grow, and the goal to own and to become our reward. There are no experiences in life for which the Bible does not furnish a passage. May these thoughts lend encouragement to all of us to become diligent students of the Word that we may know the way of life and find the life that is life indeed.

WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM

Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm