

“LOOKING TO THE ‘LORD’S DAY’”

When we consider our collective worship, it really is a long way from one Sunday to the next. As busy as we are, a week seems to go by rather quickly, but spiritually there are so many temptations and difficulties and discouragements in a week’s time, we ought to be glad there aren’t any more than six days from one Sunday to the next. And considering the toll each week takes on our spiritual lives, **we ought to look forward to the Lord’s Day.** Sunday is a true oasis in the often dry desert of our weekly routine. The things we do on this day are much more than duties and responsibilities — they are blessings.

A part of what we ought to look forward to is the “mutual” aspect of what happens when Christians assemble. When Paul wrote to his brethren in Rome, expecting to visit them soon, he said, **“I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you — that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine”** (Rom. 1:11,12). As an apostle, Paul obviously had some encouragement that he could give to the Christians in Rome. But he also looked forward to being encouraged by them. It was a mutual thing. And so it ought to be with us. We should see our assemblies as opportunities to build up each other in the faith.

Such encouragement is not limited to Sunday, of course, but when we’re together on the Lord’s Day, we should encourage our brethren and be encouraged by them. This mutual encouragement is not only important; it is something we ought to look forward to very much. The first day of the week ought to be a much-anticipated day of refreshment.

Sunday should not be the only day when Christians meet together (Acts. 2:46). Nevertheless, God did intend the first day of the week to have a special meaning, a meaning that no other day has. It is, among other things, the one day each week when we observe the Lord’s Supper (Acts. 20:7). Sunday is the day, more than any other, when we receive inner strength and refreshment to go onward and successfully meet the challenges that are before us. In a sense, our attitude about the Lord’s Day — along with the feeling we have when we anticipate it — says a great deal about the state of our spiritual health. If we don’t find ourselves looking forward to the best day of the week, then it’s time for a spiritual checkup. This week, let’s think about that. **DP**

SERMON PREVIEW

APRIL 17: Gospel Meeting, Jerry Brewer

MAY 1: Why Acapella Music?

APRIL 24: But There is a God in Heaven

MAY 8: Sizing Up Satan

The Salisbury Beacon

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Douglas Post, Minister

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Office Hours: Tues–Thurs. 10AM–2PM

April 17, 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. **BECOME 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 # 383 HAVE THINE OWN WAY

SONG # 711 SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER

PRAYER

SCRIPTURE – EPHESIANS 1:3-11

SONG # 361 ALAS, AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED

LORD’S SUPPER

CONTRIBUTION

SERMON: “GOD’S ETERNAL PURPOSE EXPRESSED IN THE CHURCH”

SONG # 880 SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

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.

- **Jane Willie** had an MRI which revealed degenerative disc disease and arthritis. Aside from the pain & discomfort, Jane says she is doing okay. Please keep Jane in your prayers. .
- **Jimmy McMillion**, friends of Bob & Diane, has leukemia. He is 43 years old and raising 2 teenage girls and other children. He has been fighting this for 20 years.
- **Jenn Striecker** has been battling cancer for some time but is now refusing treatment. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Jan King**, Bob's sister, will be having surgery on 5/1 for removal of kidney. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Wilma Duke's**, mother needs our continued prayers as she struggles with dementia.
- **Vaughn Russell** friend of Jerry & Barbara passed away last week. Please keep the Vaughn family in your prayers.
- **Geri Plourde**, Doug's aunt in NC, was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and given 6 months to one year. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
- **Diane King** put together the new directory for us and we appreciate all her hard work and time she has put into it. Thank you, Diane!
- **Work Day** – thanks to all who gave of themselves and their time to make the building look great. God has given us a place to meet and being “good stewards” of it is a necessity. Again, thanks!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 18, 19, 20 (Monday 7pm, Tuesday 7pm, Wednesday 7pm) Gospel Meeting

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

May 7 (Saturday) Ladies Bible Class

May 8 (Sunday) Pot Luck

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!

BIBLE FACTS ABOUT JESUS

All we can know about Jesus is in the Bible. Outside of the Bible, there are just a few references. Some have invented false “facts” about Jesus. Such ideas are fiction, fabrication, and falsehoods. To know about Jesus, we must read the Bible. Here is what the Bible teaches about Him:

- Jesus is God (John 1:1). Jesus is Divine. He is Deity & Eternal. He existed long before the “Manger” in Bethlehem. He is God but He is not the Father nor the Spirit. He is part of the Godhead or simply God!
- Jesus knew His objective before He was born (Luke 19.10) – before He became flesh (John 1:14). He knew He had to come and die on the cross, to save the lost.
- Nobody knows what Jesus looked like. There are no descriptions, drawing, or paintings of His physical appearance. What mattered was what He taught and how He lived (John 12.48; 20.30-31; Acts 10.38).
- People wanted Jesus to be something He wasn't. The Jews expected a militaristic messiah who would defeat the Romans and establish a kingdom on earth like David's. Jesus refused to be that type of king (John 18.33-37). He stuck to his **purpose**.
- Nobody talked about **hell** more than Jesus. He talked about hell to motivate people to avoid it. He knows it is real (Matthew 5.22, 29-30).
- Jesus prayed for people He didn't know or did not meet personally, including you and me (John 17.20-26). He loves **all mankind**. He didn't care only for the people of His day. He died so that people could be saved even until the end of time (Matthew 28.18-20).
- Jesus made **prophecies**. He was a Prophet, though He was much more. He knew about and announced future events. One of those was the destruction of Jerusalem (Matthew 24). The city was destroyed in A.D. 70.
- Jesus never performed a **miracle** for personal benefit. His miracles were works of compassion to help others, and to give proof to His teachings and works (Matthew 9:6). .
- Jesus **shared** His life (John 15.9-17). He delegated his work to His followers. He was not a distant teacher who was untouchable or unreachable. Jesus established the church as a family. He said God was my Father and your Father (John 20.17).
- Jesus continues to be **present** in a spiritual, but real, way with His people. Jesus went back to heaven after His resurrection, but promised to be with us. He is with us now, as long as we do His Will (Matthew 18.20; 28.20).
- Jesus promised to **return to earth (John 14.1-4)** and bring back His people and judge the world. ARE YOU PREPARED? COME AND LEARN ABOUT JESUS!!! **DP**

WHEN THE SAINTS MEET HERE IN SALISBURY

Sunday Bible Study – 9:30 AM Sunday Worship – 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study – 6pm