

What The Bible Says

in 52 Penny Pulpit Essays From 2013

By Pastor Edward G. Rice

A Rural Pastor With A Royal Message

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Printed and bound in the United States by LuLu.com

Published by Pastor E. G. Rice Publishing

54 Main St. Box 99, Dresden NY 14441

ISBN: 978-1-304-75783-8
Library of Congress No. Pending

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By Pastor Ed Rice A Rural Pastor With A Royal Message

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Published in Loving Memory of Dresden's Grandest
Bible Student, Betty Smalley, gone home Jul 2005

Msg #1301 The Liberal Soul

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

For our Church to be faithful to the commission Christ gave we must take part in sending foreign evangelists preaching the gospel around the world. We have the Picketts in Manitoba, and support, in a small part, a dozen other missionaries around the globe. We want to do more in 2013. We are blessed with folks who give sacrificially and specifically to these missions. Paul's letter to the Philippians closes with six encouragements about their outreach. 1) Stay Faithful - "Now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful." (4:10) 2) Stay Content - "For I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." (4:11) Paul told Timothy "But godliness with contentment is great gain." Christ instructed us "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" 3) Stay in Communication - "Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only." (4:15) 4) Stay Fruit Bearing - "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account." (4:17) 5) Stay God Pleasing - "But I have all, and abound: I am full, ... an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God." (4:18) and finally 6) Stay God Believing - "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (4:19) Philippi had here a great encouragement to stay liberal in their missions obligation. So do we. "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

An Essay for week #01, Sun, January 6, 2013

Msg #1302 The Outline of All Outlines

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

A marvelous thing about the outline of God's revelation to Isaiah is that it is an outline of God's revelation to mankind, the Holy Bible. First described is the descent of man as he wanders from the place that God intended for him. "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for Jehovah hath spoken: I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me." Next it is made clear that there is a judgment pending. "The lofty looks of man shall be brought low, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and Jehovah alone shall be exalted in that day." Third, God desires to pardon mankind. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith Jehovah: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Fourth, God does have a point of no return. "If ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of Jehovah hath spoken it." Fifth, God will send a Daysman Redeemer. "Zion shall be redeemed with justice, and her converts with righteousness." Indeed, He has sent his Only Begotten Son, ... "For unto us a child is born..." Sixth God will always save a remnant. "Except Jehovah of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, we should have been like unto Gomorrah." And lastly, one day God will restore all Israel, and then all the redeemed of mankind. "And it shall come to pass in the latter days, that the mountain of Jehovah's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it."

An Essay for week #2 Sun, Jan 13, 13

A Question On the name of GOD

On 1/22/2013, Devon wrote: Good Morning Pastor Rice! ^ ^

Pastor, I've never had an issue believing God's Word (1 Cor 13:7) since I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour, perhaps living it but definitely not believing it. If that's what the Word of God says then I take it as truth (Jn 17:17). Here's my question. Jehovah??? It appears 7x in the Bible either as just Jehovah (Ex 6:3) or as Jehovah-something (Gen 22:14, Ex 17:15, etc.) and I've also been told that "LORD" is English for the Hebrew word Jehovah transliterated. I honestly don't know how to ask this question, but I'll do my best, Why is it like this at all? I certainly don't want to remove 'Jehovah' from the Bible as the NKJV and New Age bibles but I have no explanation for those "Christians" that use these new age bibles when dealing with this issue and building their faith in the Word of God rather than to create quakes of doubt. Pastor, I've been following you for some time now and find you to be a faithful, loving man of God and so trust your teaching when dealing with the Bible (AV 1611). Please help me.
Devon,

Dear Devon,

Thanks for asking. I love this name and every disciple needs to be its student. As you stated the name Jehovah is normally shown in English Scripture as "LORD" with all capitals. Sometimes in compound names it may be shown as "GOD" with all capitals. In the seven times that you mention, (Ex 6:3, Ps 83:18, Isa 12:2, and Isa 26:4, compound in Ge 22:14, Ex 17:15, Jud 6:24) the English translation "JEHOVAH" is used for clarification purposes; i.e. Isa 26:4 states it as "Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength." instead of "Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD the LORD *is* everlasting strength." The latter is indeed how modernist bibles render these more complex references where the actual name of JEHOVAH is more clear and better used. A good ground rule for ALL modernist English translations is that their driving concern was not truth, accuracy or clarity, but to establish and record 60,000 deviations from all previous translations. That is the only way they could get their work to have a lucrative copyright. In these 7 instances they could not use the simple clarity found in the King James Translation and still secure their copy right.

The name JEHOVAH, shown in English as LORD, comes from the Hebrew word YHWH and is in the Old Testament Scriptures

6,519 times. (6,510 times in English as LORD, 4 times as GOD, 4 times as JEHOVAH, and once as a variant.) The English pronunciation for this unpronounced Hebrew word was derived by inserting the vowel sounds from the other names for God. Most modernist scholars think they have done better by pronouncing it Yahweh. I do not trust modernist ecumenical profit motivated scholars and I use the old English derivation JEHOVAH. C.I. Scofield places a table entitled “God is revealed through His names” after the close of Malachi on page 983. It has been very helpful to me and is repeated here (without his permission, although Scofield and I go way back, ... 1960)

CLASS	ENGLISH FORM	HEBREW EQUIVALENT
Primary	God	El, Elah, or Elohim (Gen 1:1, <i>note</i>)
	LORD	Jehovah (Gen 2:4, <i>note</i>)
	Lord	Adon or Adohai (Gen 15:2, <i>note</i>)
Compound (with El = God)	Almighty God	El Shaddai (Gen 17:1, <i>note</i>)
	Most High, or most high God	El Elyon (Gen 14:14, <i>note</i>)
	everlasting God	El Olam (Gen 21:33, <i>note</i>)
Compound (with Jehovah = LORD)	LORD God	Jehovah Elohim (Gen 2:4, <i>note</i>)
	Lord GOD	Adonai Jehovah (Gen 15:2, <i>note</i>)
	LORD of hosts	Jehovah Sabaoth (1Sam 1:3, <i>note</i>)

I trust this helps. It was a blessing for me just to review it here. Keep up the faith and contend for the faith, and God bless.
Pastor Ed Rice

Msg #1303 Judgment of our Progressive Direction

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at they presence, ... to make thy name known to they adversaries, that the nations may tremble at they presence! ... For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.” Isaiah chapter 64 is only two chapters before the end of the book. We are approaching the final chapter of God's book as well. God desires to pardon; God sent His Redeemer; mankind is in rebellion; mankind is without excuse. Even so come Lord Jesus. There will soon be a one world religion. It will be pitted against Judaism. There will soon be an one world government. It will be pitted against Israel. Replacement Theology, wherein the Universal Church claims all the promises made to God's elect, is equally pursued by Catholic and Reformed theologians. John Calvin teaches Christians are the new-improved elect, and replacements for Israel. Christians dare not be ignorant of Satan's tact in the Church. The liberal progressive agenda, deceptively outlined in the inauguration speech this week, declares “In the Voting Machine We Trust.” It will cast out the constitution and install progressive Darwinian government; cast out capitalism and install socialism; cast out decreed morality and install popular morality subject to majority vote. The one world government will be voted in by an American people ignorant of this agenda which currently owns 52% of voters. Our president considers 52% as a mandate to press on with progressivism. Christians dare not be ignorant of the liberal Darwinian progressive agenda documented by Woodrow Wilson and today aggressively pursued by the Democratic party and the press.

An Essay for week #3 Sun, Jan 20, 13

Msg #1304 Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

What is a Christian to do when all the world is against him, when world religion pits themselves against the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, when even our freedom founded government calls wrong right and right illegal? Isaiah 12 puts it like this, "In that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me." The born again believer has a brand new position in Christ. We might be a minority, but we alone have Him as our comforter. God is my SALVATION. Only four times in the Bible is the personal name of God even translated into English. Verse 2 is one of those. The name was used 6,519 times and never pronounced in Hebrew. In reading the Hebrew, even today, the name '*Adonai*' (English "LORD") is always pronounced when "*JHVH*" is encountered in Scripture. So too the King James translators carefully did the same as they put this word in English. It is not to be used lightly or in vain. We can trust and not be afraid because "the LORD JEHOVAH" is my strength and my song; HE also is become my SALVATION! Praise His holy and revered name. Well water is refreshing and life giving. We use it for cleansing as well as drinking. When verse 3 says "Therefore" we should remember what it is there for, and when it says "With joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation," we should visit those wells daily. Five things to do in that day 1) Praise the LORD, 2) call upon his name, 3) declare his doings among the people, 4) make mention that his name is exalted and 5) Sing unto the LORD. Let's get going.

An Essay for week #4 Sun, Jan 27, 13

Msg #1305 Love & Marriage Illustrated

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

God punctuates the book of Jeremiah with illustrations that fit well into an application for our pre-Valentine's Day look at love and marriage. The opening is markedly simple. "Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree." This rod of an almond tree portrays the rod that budded when God made his selection of Aaron as his high priest. Our application is found in a counselor's question to the fighting couple in his office "Sir, why in the world did you ever marry this woman?" It is a good place to start. Remember your engagement and marriage. Remember what it was to be infatuated and in love and take her by the hand and go back there with your wife for an afternoon or two. The followup illustration is the seething pot! What a description of judgment awaiting the unfaithfulness of Israel and Judah. It is scathing! You made a vow to be faithful to that sweet thing till death do you part. The consequential judgment for your infidelity is likewise scathing. Most need to get a dictionary out for Valentines Day and see what it means to say "And so I plight thee my troth!" Jeremiah 13 is God's curious illustration about linen underwear. Suffice it here to say that marriage is the most intimate thing that will ever touch the bosom of man, and it is holy, yeah, holier than the linen underwear in God's illustration here. Again, flee fornication. Lastly, Jeremiah was taken to the potters house "and behold he wrought a work on the wheels." You two are one-flesh and a godly work in progress. Don't muck up the vessel with your selfishness. Let love have her perfect work.

An Essay for week #5 Sun, Feb 3, 13

A Response: God's Hebrew is Like Technicolor

When we stood on the Southern Steps of the Temple in Jerusalem we stood where Jesus stood, we walked where Jesus walked, we sat and listened where his disciples sat and listened; Yeah, on the very same stones. It took my Bible from black and white to living technicolor. It seems acceptable to make such analogy and use that illustration. But when I said studying Greek and Hebrew did the same thing for me, I was amazed at the backlash from King James Onlyites who expected I had abandoned and threatened their reverence for the King James English. One might be a little sensitive for infidels who say “A better translation is ...” I get that. But being called a hypocrite and turncoat for loving the experience of learning Greek or Hebrew is a little cultic. Holy Scripture is not purified the 7th time in the English as some have errantly supposed. The King James does not supersede nor exceed the Original Languages. Reading the original languages does indeed bring a vibrant new life and aspect to the Scripture just as much as standing on the Sea of Galilee and boarding a replica of the fishing boat Peter stepped out of enlivens a new awareness of Scripture. It is still like going from black and white and stepping into living color. I can declare so while still testifying that the King James is a perfect English translation of God's original languages. That is not hypocritical! Satan teamed with Brook Foss Westcott (1825-1903) and Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828-1892) to malign and destroy the Greek manuscript line and produce every bastardized modernist English bible in existence. That does not make the study and use of Greek the culprit! Those in the King James Only camps need to set aside their Greek & Hebrew phobias. Just because a Pastor uses a Strong's Concordance or loves the study of Hebrew that does not make them compromised; indeed it makes him competent. Does everyone need to stand on Mount Moriah or Mount Calvary to grow? Give me a break! I stand by my colloquial quote. Learning Greek or Hebrew is still like adding living color! Let's all mature a little bit.

And you still have time to join that Hebrew study group, we have 10 on board.

Msg #1306 Valentines Day God's Way

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

God's instructions for our marriage relationships are succinctly outlined by Apostle Peter and Paul writing identical instructions to two audiences. Peter states that wives are to submit to their husbands and husbands are to dwell with and honor their wives. At the same time Paul writes the identical outline to the Church at Ephesus stating wives submit, husbands love. The perfect example in both outlines, for both parties is our Lord Jesus Christ who submitted even unto death, and loves with an everlasting, unconditional, selfless love. Indeed Paul holds up the supreme intimacy of the marriage relationship for a human visualization of how very much Christ loves his Church. The two relationships serve to build foundations of understanding for each other. In Jeremiah 42 Johanan and a remnant of Jews come to the man of God and solemnly promise to do whatever God reveals to Jeremiah as the proper behavior in their situation. God reveals what he desires for them, Jeremiah preaches it to them plainly and in chapter 43 Johanan and his proud men refuse to do it God's way; calling God's preacher a liar and a false prophet. That is a pretty astonishing account except for those who have seen it over and over. The femin-nazi of our day boldly declare God's Word the liar and the preacher of the Gospel a false prophet. God is very clear about the husband wife relationship in marriage. So who are you going to trust? Each of us has that rebellion against God's truths dwelling in our nature. "Well I tried that submission stuff and it just will not work for us." Really? Do you suppose then that God was mistaken when he made his command so very clear? Do it God's way and you can find marital bliss. Happy Valentines.

An Essay for week #6 Sun, Feb 10, 13

Msg #1307 Home is a Rigid Body

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Before spring arrives, before generational hormones start to bloom, before the birds and bees start their annual visit it is altogether fitting to establish some of God's rules about love and marriage, home building and child rearing. An awesome key is in Lev19. There it states "Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy. Ye shall fear every man his mother and his father, ..." Fear of mom and dad is essential in child rearing, but that needs some good understanding. In geometry only the three sided polygon forms a rigid body. Love, security, and significance, the rigid body frame for a Godly home must have these three sides. These must first be present in ones marriage relationship. A dysfunctional marriage relationship has dysfunctional parenting. Love is not a gushy way of feeling, it is a command of God, a command to be selfless and unconditional. If you refuse that for your spouse your child will know. They are very perceptive. Security comes into the marriage relationship with the clause "until death do us part." If you will not make or pursue that vow with your spouse your child will taste insecurity in their nurturing. Imagine life where you are significant to nobody. A child who sees a parent insignificant to their spouse knows the flavor of insignificance in their own life. God intends that a child be in the protective custody of a mom and a dad who are locked in a rigid body of selfless unconditional love, with until death security, and "I sincerely care about you" significance. Being a good parent will first involve building that rigid body. Let's get building. Grayer heads can teach some rigid body geometry to their grown children and grand children. It is essential for our Godly homes.

An Essay for week #7 Sun, Feb 17, 13

Msg #1308 Child Rearing's Two Laws

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Parenting; when a child misses God's two 'must-learn' commands they never get to the 'should-learn' list. God targets children with only two commands, fear your mother and father, and obey your mother and father. (Lev 19:3, Eph 6:1) These capture the heart of the parent child relationship and are the most persistent challenge of child rearing; but still the most needed objective. God commands it of your child and a parent's highest priority needs to be training these two commands into their character. Hanging commands on a wall-plaque in their room will not get it done. It will take consistent, persistent discipline in daily life to get it done. That is the ingredient most lacking in this generation and installing it into the next will require a major change in how most do their parenting. The strong-willed child which doctors may excuse is nothing more than a child who has more will, more time, and more patience than their parent, ergo they win every struggle and are in control. God's dual commands will not excuse a so-called strong-willed child. A child who does not fear and obey his parents has lazy, inept, or dysfunctional parents. Put that child in the hands of a military drill sergeant or a state shock-camp officer and they'll dig ditches and fold their underwear into a perfect four inch square with no less than a sir-yes-sir. The fault and problem is not with the child, it is with the parent. Do it God's way, instill these two commands into your child. You can do so only with God's 5 step program of Proverbs 19:18, 22:15, 23:13, 23:14, and 29:15 to get to 29:17 and avoid 17:25. That will often require a parent's major change, but changing is better than involving that shock-camp officer later on.

An Essay for week #8 Sun, Feb 24, 13

Msg #1309 He's Coming Soon, There's No Doubt

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Events in our progressively liberal nation make Christians yearn for the second coming of Christ and the Kingdom's victory over secular atheism which unites with Rome and Mecca to war against right and Israel. Jesus said it would be like it was for Sodom and Gomorrah. That was unimaginable 50 years ago. When Jesus saw his disciples thinking that the Kingdom should immediately appear, he gave the parable of the noblemen gone into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return. Therein he teaches us to "Occupy until he comes." He teaches us that the citizens of this world will not have him to reign over them, despising his return. Lastly he teaches us that we have resource from him and are to use it all for our Lord, our Master and our coming King. The pound given to each servant in this parable is different from the talent in a previous parable. Here each of ten servants get one pound and are expected to show a gain in a day of reckoning. The amount of reward they receive in that day depends on how resourcefully they used the pound. For the servant there is coming a day of reckoning "For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given, and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him." "Occupy until I come" Jesus said. For those who would not have Jesus Christ to reign over them, citizens of this world who are not citizens of His Kingdom, He must say "Bring them hither and slay them before me." Be ye ready, for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of God is returning as King of kings and Lord of lords.

An Essay for week #9 Sun, Mar 3, 13

Msg #1310 Stewardship, of Every Breath

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Three principled lessons from Jesus' stewardship parables are that servants have resources and responsibilities, that there is a day of reckoning coming and that no man knows the day nor hour of that day. His parable recorded in Matthew 25 is of keen interest for two reasons. It is emphasized that different servants are assigned different amount of resources. To one of "his own servants" he gives five talents, to another two and to another one. It indicates that the talents are given according to every mans "several ability." As a lad I was taught in my Regular Baptist Church that this parable was about me using my trumpet playing 'talent' for the Lord. Use it or loose it, being emphasized as its theme. When I read the parable on my own I was absolutely appalled to find that the servant that did not use his talent for the Lord was cast into outer darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth! Wow! My Sunday School teachers were teaching me that if I didn't play my trumpet in our worship service, "there would be hell to pay!" This is obviously NOT what Jesus was teaching in this parable. The "hell to pay" teaching of Jesus must here coincide with his gospel message that "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom10:13) Ergo the single talent given to this unprofitable servant can be nothing more than the breath of life and the light of Christ which "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." (John1:9) "For God trieth the hearts and reins of every man." (Psalm7:9, Jer11:20, 17:10) and he that believeth on Christ is not condemned but he that believeth not is condemned already. (John3:18) Got breath? You better use it for your Lord.

An Essay for week #10 Sun, Mar 10, 13

Msg #1311a Saint Patrick Was A Baptist

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit Special Edition by Pastor Ed Rice

There was a 4th century Baptist Missionary to Ireland named Succat Patricus and over one hundred years ago church historian W.A. Jarrell put into print that Patrick was not a Catholic priest, but rather a Baptist missionary. Other zealous historians of the 1800's wrote, "Rome's most audacious theft was when she seized bodily the Apostle Peter and made him the putative head and founder of her system; but next to that brazen act stands her effrontery when she 'annexed' the great missionary preacher of Ireland and enrolled him among her saints."¹ From the History of the Welch Baptist we know there were Baptist Churches on the British Isle since 63 AD and from Succat Patricus' own writings we know his father, after his conversion to Christ, was a deacon in a Baptist Church. Baptists are distinct from Roman based Religions particularly by a soul's individual and INSTANTANIOUS new birth wherein a soul is Converted (with repentance toward God and faith in Christ), Justified, Quickened, Indwelt and wholly Immersed in Christ. Our derogatory name comes because all infant baptism is soundly rejected; holding to only believers baptism AFTER that personal conversion experience. At age 16 Patrick (that being his given Irish title rather than his given name) was forcibly taken from their Scotland farm to pagan Ireland as a slave. When he escaped and returned his father had died and the farm was lost. "Saint" Patrick was not a Roman Saint, able to answer Catholic prayers, but a saint of Christ who went back to Ireland to preach the saving gospel of his Lord and Saviour. There he established churches which only baptized born again believers, i.e. Baptist Churches. Saint Patrick was not even Catholic, he was indeed a Baptist Missionary and a Roman Catholic misnomer.

An Essay condensed from 9 pages of history by Dr. L. K. Landis and aptly contained in a tract from WILDERNESS VOICE PUBLICATIONS Fellowship Baptist Church P.O. Box 393 Liberal, KS 67901 (316) 624-7601

1 A Short History of the Baptist [1907], Henry C. Vedder, pp. 71-72.

Msg #1311 Scruples in Your Stewardship

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

There is much to be learned in failure. A little grey matter allows us to learn from someone else's failure without our own stumble. Isaiah 5:1-7 puts Israel's failed stewardship into song. Not much rhyme or meter but like all Hebrew poetry it is profoundly loaded with pertinent depth. "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" Profound! Jesus takes up the refrain in parable in Mark 12:1-12. Self centered, greedy, unscrupulous, pathologically violent men took over God's vineyard. Likewise, a new pope cannot erase the Crusades, John Wycliffe and William Tyndale's blood, nor bloody Mary's smoldering faggots at Smith's Field, John Rogers burning with his Bibles, Thomas Cranmer's execution for standing on the Great Bible, or unmitigated Jesuit Tyranny! Roman 'Christianity' is replete with the unscrupulous! Is yours? Five times Christ repeats the commission he left his saints. "Go ye and teach all nations." (Matt 28:18-20) "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15-16) "It behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: that repentance (NOT 'penance') and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations." (Luke 24:46-48) "As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (John 20:21) "And ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8) The wide road of corporate 'Christianity' via Catholicism, Protestantism, Calvinism, and/or Denominationalism gives His vineyard a very black-eye. There is a narrow gate and a straight path. (Matt 17:13-14) "Strive to enter in at the strait gate." (Luke 13:24). Robe yourself in scruples. Be a good steward. Take up His resources. Take up the cross. Do what your Lord commands, and occupy until He comes back to say "Well done thou good and faithful steward." Preach the Gospel.

An Essay for week #11 Sun, Mar 17, 13

Msg #1312 A Passover Lamb Without Blemish

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The days leading up to Easter Sunday mark a very precious time for the Bible believing Christian. It has nothing to do with pagan ashes on ones forehead and the Roman practice of lent. It has everything to do with rightly dividing Scripture and God's unfolding calendar. In accord with Exodus 12 where the first passover lamb was selected on the 10th of the Hebrew month Abib, and slain on the 14th day of their first month, even so on the 10th of Abib they selected the last Passover Lamb when they cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest." Then on the 14th day of that month they cried, "Crucify him, Crucify him." Between the 10th day and the 14th day they were to separate the lamb from the flock, watching to be sure it was without spot or blemish before it was slain as their passover lamb. We have ample Scripture to examine the Lamb of God. Scripture reports how he was daily in the temple teaching and healing. On that Palm Sunday after his Triumphal entry he went to the Temple and overthrew the money changers. After cursing a fig tree he arrived at the Temple early on Monday to do the same. On Tuesday morning early the disciples noted the withered tree and a lawyer asked about the first commandment. On Wednesday he took his disciples to an upper room and washed their feet. Don't let some clergy tell you what he thinks, search the Scriptures and find the perfect Passover Lamb and receive him as your Lord and Saviour. If you already have, examine the Lamb again this year and marvel again how he is without spot and blemish.

An Essay for week #12 Sun, Mar 24, 13

Msg #1313 Easter and April Fools

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The excitement and energy of the resurrection morning is best captured in the foot race toward the empty tomb. The casual unbelief and indifference toward the resurrection is best captured in the walk down the Emmaus road. The brazen doubt and skepticism award is won, hands down, by the disciple forever tagged as 'Doubting Thomas.' So I gauge my own response and Jesus responds to each in kind. Three disciples which were close at hand whenever Jesus turned around became Christ's inner circle. It is not revealed how James missed the foot race, but Peter and John only heard that the body of their Lord was missing before the race ensued. Only a glimpse into the empty tomb and a noting of the napkin that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes caused their assured belief. Inner circle disciples are that way, and the Lord is pleased with quick belief and ready faith. The indifference of the disciples on the Emmaus road is rebuked by Christ, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?" It is the Scriptures that dispel their foolishness and his breaking of bread that reveals the truth. Doubt and skepticism is given brazen rebuke. "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing." Quick belief and ready faith please our Lord. And without faith it is impossible to please him. These three recorded reactions to the Christ and His resurrection make a good barometer to measure faith. Can others see your faith? The day after Easter being April fools it should be asked, Whose fool are you?

An Essay for week #13 Sun, Mar 31, 13

Always Critical of a Critical Text

Dear Believer, ... or skeptic.

It cannot be overemphasized in these last of the last days that ANY critical text is edited by critics and is not to be trusted to be the Word's of God. Critic is polite for infidel. Ecumenical counsels bonded together into Bible societies to copyright and profit from what the critics thought God meant to say and some of you are trusting their opinions and using modernist bibles. I thought this travesty was predominately cornered in the Westcott and Hort pollution of the Greek text but was mistaken. New King James fans should pay attention to this note I was compelled to sent to our Biblical Hebrew Study Group:

Greetings in the name of the Lord

I added this note to my Learning Biblical Hebrew journal. I love it when a plan comes together.

Without more research the Hebraica Stuttgartensia is recommended for content of Hebrew with vowel points, not for content of Scripture. According to Jerry Rockwell of firstBible International, via "Unpublished Word", Vol 10, Num 1, Spring 2013, and Bleddyn J. Roberts' "The Old Testament: Manuscripts, Text and Versions" (pgs 10-11) and the "Cambridge History of the Bible", NY, Cambridge University Press, 1969, the Biblia Hebraica is from the ben Asher Hebrew text, a critical text, and not from the ben Chayyim text that is the basis of the Authorized Version (KJV). In 1524-1525 Jacob ben Chayyim, a Hebrew Christian, put together the Second Rabbinic Bible. The First Rabbinic Bible had disappeared from history and ben Chayyim, like Erasmus for the Greek Text, went seeking evidence of the Hebrew Text, compiling a four volume edition. This Second Rabbinic Bible became the Textus Receptus of the Hebrew, is often called the Masoretic text, and was used by the King James translators. (It was NOT used by the New King James translators else they would not get their copy rights) (You know by now that the prefix 'ben' is Hebrew for 'son of', it is good to study Hebrew) This Hebraica Stuttgartensia, is recommended because of its easy access to Hebrew students and NOT for its certain origins. Be ye careful.

Pastor Rice

PS Subsequent I discovered that the Hebraica Stuttgartensia is a version of the corrupt Biblia Hebraica family of error and may be used effectively to study the Hebrew language but not the Hebrew Scripture. Thank you Pastor Bruce Varner. PS That Biblical Hebrew Study Group may be joined by sending me an email and that "Learning to Read Biblical Hebrew Journal" can be accessed in draft at: (this link will need pasted into your browser)

www.GSBaptistChurch.com/Hebrew_study_group/Hebrew_journal.pdf

Keep studying and God Bless.

Msg #1314 America's Inordinate Affections

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

How bad could it get when the people forgo the moral compass of right and wrong, a compass driven by God and dictated in His Word? America has rejected our Lord Jesus as their Christ as in his Luke 19 parable, "His citizens hated him, and sent a message after him saying. We will not have this man to reign over us." The book of Judges closes with answer to our question. It concludes in verse "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." But it concludes in His-story with shock and awe that appalls even the most vile. And it came to pass that a Levite lost his concubine who played the harlot and he went to her fathers house to retrieve her. A Levite, a supposed minister of Jehovah God, a teacher of the Law of God and example of his Holy God, had lost definition of marriage, spurned God's written law and lost natural affection while nurturing inordinate affection just like the world around him. Man pursues fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness. The closing account in Judges, where this Levite gives his harlot concubine to marauding homosexual sodomites who rape her and leave her dead on his door step contains all these depravities of man. Society's calloused sensitivities are only appalled when 12 pieces of the dead concubine are dispersed throughout. An ugly war ensues when a whole tribe of Benjamin inordinately insists on defending the homosexual's 'civil rights' to sodomize. God has already documented how far man will go when every man is doing what is right in their own eyes. What is a Christian to do? Our commission, Preach the gospel to every creature and occupy until He comes again.

An Essay for week #14 Sun, Apr 7, 13

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Msg #1315 Jephthah's Awful Vow .. NOT Awful

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In Judges chapter 11, Jephthah, the Gileadite, walks across the pages of God's Holy Word to reveal to us truths that God would have us know for certain. It is shallow to dismiss truths because some scholar has improperly analyzed them, and given them a label. Jephthah's awful vow is not awful, nor is it just Jephthah's vow that is in view here. Consider that Jephthah, because of his lowly birth, was rejected of his brethren: rejected and driven out into the land of Tob. There he remained, forgotten, until his people had a great need because the children of Ammon rose up against them. Now they called for Jephthah to come and deliver them. I contend that Jephthah's walk across a page of His-Story, is intended to reveal to us His Heart. One chapter previous, in context, we read: "Moreover the children of Ammon passed over Jordan to fight also against Judah, ... And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, ... And the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Did not I deliver you from the ... the Amorites..., and from the Philistines?... Yet ye have forsaken me, and served other gods: wherefore I will deliver you no more. It is no small coincidence that God chose the rejected and exiled Gileadite to deliver his people. So what of Jephthah's 'awful vow'? Consider that in Numbers there is command "offer the Levites before the LORD for an offering unto the LORD." Consider that there is only one human sacrifice that is themed in this whole book. Now consider that Jephthah's vow was not awful, but a revelation of God's vow. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

An Essay for week #15 Sun, Apr 14, 13

Msg #1316 The Devolution of Democracy

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Of thirteen judges in the Scripture's book of Judges only Abimelech was chosen by the people in a democratic process. In a society where people do what is right in their own eyes this sheds a curious light on a democratic failure; not pretty. Judges 9 records an Abimelech who is overpaid, overtly ruthless, and power mongering. He killed 70 of his own brothers to further secure his position. Rather than judge or deliver the people, like all the other judges, Abimelech reigns over them making himself a king instead of a judge. He considers his election a mandate to do whatever he wants no matter what the law of the land says. In Washington and in Albany our leadership think they are the omniscient elected public servants who can legislate the all-knowing rightful path. They are furious when our representatives and actual legislatures prevent them getting their own way. In every venue of a society, power corrupts. Our constitutional balance of powers is essential to our existence. The Holy Bible is awesome literature; it has a perfect author. It is interesting that there are only two fables written in the whole of God's Word. A fable is a moral story where animals or inanimate objects do the talking. In Judges 9:8-15 one of the two is used to prophecy the ironic destruction of the demented, elected leader, Abimelech. The moral of the longest chapter of Judges is this, while God chooses and empowers nobodies to be superb judges and deliverers, man, especially those who have thrown off their Creator's rulebook, cannot choose leadership well. Here we are 3,419 years after Abimelech, and instead of learning and applying God's recorded lessons, we have scoffed them to our children and banned them from our schools. That is the devolution of man.

An Essay for week #16 Sun, Apr 21, 13

Msg #1317 Judges, the Main Thing

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Simon says, Take four steps back. That game is meant to teach careful obedience to only one master. Taking four steps backward through the book of Judges is meant to teach the same. We started at the end where a depraved society would have no God to reign over them, and every depraved man did what was right in their own eyes. We back stepped through the God selected judge, Jephthah, and found him and his vow a portrayal of what God was feeling and yet promising. A step back found us analyzing Abimelech, the leader chosen by majority vote and mimicking our own dilemma wherein it is said, In the voting machine we trust. One more step back puts us at the beginning of this book called Judges, and the ugly plight of mankind is portrayed in God's words. The people of God, fresh settled into the promised land, flowing with milk and honey, forsook the LORD God of their fathers and served other gods and bowed to them (2:12). They moved the LORD to anger, he delivered them into the hands of spoilers (vr 14), and yet he saved and delivered time and again with his judges. “And it came to pass when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them and to bow down to them.” Sounds like the Big Bang worshiping, humans came from monkeys reasoning, secular-humanist people I have been called to preach the gospel to! Indeed the book of Judges is a mirror, a mirror that shadows the face of the USA we are called to reach for Christ. Wow, ... discouraged but not in despair, keep the main thing the main thing in these last of the last days.

An Essay for week #17 Sun, Apr 28, 13

Msg #1318 The Profound in Parable

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Matthew 13 accounts seven parables given in rapid succession by Jesus of Nazareth. A parable is a paralleled simple, objective truth that prompts a deeper understanding of a more complex subject. In the hands of a master a parable can effectively do two opposites. For the seeing eye, the hearing ear, and the believing heart the parable is a profound revelation of the subject matter. For the blinded eye, the ear gone dull of hearing, and the heart waxed gross, the parable is a profound concealment of the subject matter. Jesus the Christ was the master teacher, making Matthew 13 and his seven parables profoundly interesting, ... at least to some of us. Jesus the Son of God states it thus "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." The complex subject matter in view is the kingdom of heaven, and it is necessary to keep a wide vista in examining such a wide subject matter. The kingdom of heaven can be entered in this life, and once entered it is within you. Except ye be born again ye cannot enter (John 3), except ye be converted ye cannot enter (Matt 18) and, Neither say Lo here!, or lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21) The kingdom of God is also soon to come to Zion and be set up through his chosen, Israel. Disciples asked their resurrected Lord, Wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? The Only Begotten Son of God responded, Not quite yet. (Acts 1) The kingdom of God is also an everlasting thing, "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." (2Pet 1:11) All this makes Matthew 13 all the more profound.

An Essay for week #18 Sun, May 5, 13

Msg #1319 Happy Mothers Day

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In Proverbs 31 King Lemuel's mother knew some things that Scripture communicates well. What every mother needs is a *daysman*. The 'thus saith the LORD authority' declares in Job 9 that her sin, her guilt, her shortfalls and her pending judgment frames a need for an advocate and mediator. Every mother's need can be met in Job's recorded prophecy "I know that my Redeemer liveth." (Job 19) Mom's #1 need is a daysman that saves from judgment. In verse 2 Lemuel's mother curiously describes three things that every mom is to be. She is to be a 'mothering trainer.' Every woman is created by God with moods, parts and hormones equipping her for mothering, not fathering. Second, notice the emphasis in this verse, a mother has a life giving womb. In our sick, depraved, and perverted society every mother needs to know and teach the three parts of conception; an egg, a sperm and a *womb*. Despite the ignorant law of ND there is no conception, child or pregnancy without a womb, and despite U.S. Court rulings, purposely separating a life from a woman's womb constitutes premeditated murder; lessons that need taught to all. Thirdly, in this curious verse, a mother is a wife with hallowed vows. The song, 'First comes love, then come marriage, then comes daddy pushing a baby carriage,' needs to be revived and rehearsed in our day. Lemuel's mom knew and taught that you cannot be a completed and Godly mother without vows to a father. Vows stating, 'till death do us part,' instill stability into God's child rearing entity, the home. No court, politician, or democratic vote can revise God's definition or design for the home, and King Lemuel's mother knew and taught these Godly truths. You should too. Happy Mothers Day.

An Essay for week #19 Sun, May 12, 13

Msg #1320 Stubborn Stiffnecked and Rebellious

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The book of Psalms is divided into five volumes and when literary genius is divided in chapters, sections or volumes the third usually captures the heart of the matter. Psalm 78 is in the third volume of the Psalm collection and begins “Give ear, O my people, to my law.” This marvelous work of 72 verses goes on to expound the purpose of that law, the blessing of heading the law, and then the stubborn, rebellious, and stiffnecked reaction of man to God's law, and what God was finally going to do about that reaction. It is a tremendous study, worthy of considerable analysis. The leading illustration of stiffnecked rebellion and unbelief is captured in the tribe of Ephraim. The impressive list of things that should have secured complete belief fills 32 verses. There are then 10 verses to cover the 10 plagues of Egypt and then 12 more verses to document Ephraim's unprecedented pigheaded stubbornness and rebellion. Finally in verse 65 there is an amazing and disturbing analogy: “Then the Lord awaked as one out of sleep, and like a mighty man that shouteth by reason of wine.” Now look what God had to do to conquer the stubborn rebellion of man. He “smote his enemies in the hinder parts,” he “refused the tabernacle of Joseph,” and he chose the tribe of Judah, .. the mount of Zion, ... and the Throne of David. If you will see your stubborn rebellion conquered you will have to approach a Jew that died on Golgotha of Mount Zion and now sits on the throne of David for ever and ever. The gospel is his death, burial and resurrection. Believing is seeing. Jesus said “I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

An Essay for week #20 Sun, May 19, 13

Msg #1321 Beware of Darkness

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

On memorial day we commemorate, remember, and honor those who gave their life to secure and maintain our freedom. In this observation it becomes obvious that the battle for true freedom is ongoing. Oppressive darkness swallows freedom all around us. Just this week it swallowed the boyscout organization. They no longer have the freedom to call homosexuality and sodomy an immoral abomination to God, the God that they used to exalt and serve. It is a sad day when immorality triumphs by distorting 'civil rights' and even uses our federal government to provide leverage. We, as a nation are headed back into darkness. Ephesians 5 says you were sometimes darkness. Before one is quickened by Christ, the unregenerate soul, the unsaved individual, is not only 'in' darkness, they 'are' darkness. The quickened are no longer darkness, they were converted to be light, but they have an adversary, and that adversary is darkness. In the Scripture the 'roaring lion' was at Golgotha, Psalm 22; it is the wicked and Godless leader, Proverbs 28; it is the false prophet/teacher, Ezekiel 22; and it is this ever present darkness in man. Ergo, you were darkness, your unsaved loved one still is, your lost neighbor is darkness, and your unregenerate coworker is darkness. Each is that roaring lion seeking whom they may devour. There is a battle going on and you must not only fight for right, you must fight for light. Be sober, be vigilant. They do need salvation; they are 'in' darkness; but be aware, they 'are' darkness. Don't be devoured. The lion takes the weak and stragglers, being those who skip out on Church attendance, Bible study, and prayer time. Ephesians warns us to be careful who we fellowship with, we were darkness, now we are light. Let your light so shine.

Msg #1322 All The Words of God

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

All modernists ecumenical Bibles completely leave out 20 verses that have always been in the Holy Bible. They say that Matt 17:21 is not supposed to be in the Bible. They take their pen knife and cut it out! Then they take their knife and cut out Matt 18:11, 23:14, Mark 7:16, 9:44 & 46, 11:26, 15:28, Luke 17:36, 23:17, John 5:4, Acts 8:37, 15:34, 24:7, 28:29, Rom 16:24, and 1 John 5:7, then they take Col 1:14 and cut out the clause "Through His Blood" because they think God did not mean to say that. For over nineteen hundred years believers have considered these 20 verses to be inspired, inerrant, infallible Scripture. But now, modernist ecumenical scholars contend that no Bible in existence today is inspired. They contend that only the original manuscripts were inspired, i.e. only what came from the apostle's pen! All these original manuscripts are lost and, consequently, they say, there is no inspired Word of God in existence. They think, however, that their excellent 'textual-criticism' will be able to restore the originals from the two oldest existing manuscripts from Alexandria Egypt. Both manuscripts came from the pen of Roman Catholic Church Fathers, Clement of Alexandria and Origin of Alexandria. Catholic Saint Origin is considered the Father of Textual Criticism and the Father of the Allegorical Method, whereby Scripture "conceals a secret hidden meaning that only the supremely spiritually astute can see and comprehend." Baptists never have trusted Catholics, especially their textual criticism. Look what they did to the Word's of God in Psalm 12:6 "The words of the LORD are pure words." They pervert this verse to say "The promises of the LORD are promises that are pure"^(RSV). Baptists will never agree with such folly. We use the ONLY complete English Bible with all these verses still intact, the Authorized King James Bible.

An Essay for week #22 Sun, Jun 2, 13

Msg #1323 Good Theology is not Reformed

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

When I, a retired systems engineer, pick up another eight volumes of systematic theology expect some profound critiques. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer steps back from all previous theologians and profoundly presents a view he labels “The Church, the Body of Christ.” When one accepts the dispensational truth of Scripture, and then rightly divides the Word of Truth, the Church, being the body of Christ, occupies a central role of this dispensation, but not all dispensations. When the Covenant Theology of John Calvin and Roman Catholicism exalts the Catholic Church to occupy the central theme of all ages and all time, insisting that it swallow and replace Israel, as God's chosen and elect, insisting that it swallow and replace all the promises made to Israel, to Jerusalem, to Zion, to their regathering, to the literal throne of David, and to their 12 tribes and 144 thousand witnesses, it places an unpardonable strain on not only Biblical prophecy, but on the whole Bible, from Genesis to maps, and especially on the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Now, they say, only a few spiritually enlightened 'clergy' can see and interpret this allegorical, hidden and secret meaning of Scripture. That such nonsense, springing from Roman Catholic Church Fathers, Saint Clement of Alexandria, and Saint Origin of Alexandria, made it intact through the Protestant Reformation, and got grounded into John Calvin's Institutes, is downright diabolical. Chafer steps away from this bias to write a dispensational systematic theology that presents what the Bible actually intimates about the Church, the Body of Christ. It is unfortunate that Baptists, and even Baptist Preachers do not spend significant time studying theology, the greatest of the sciences. Only a little such study would keep Baptists well distanced from the Calvinistic TULIPS and their Reformed Theology that never really got reformed.

An Essay for week #23 Sun, Jun 9, 13

Response Msg #1323 Good Theology is not Reformed

Dear Bro. Rice,

I thought it was unique that you just sent out this penny pulpit. I've been dealing with this very thing. Is it not true that this "TULIP" doctrine came from Jerome a Roman Catholic and did not originate from John Calvin? And there was no Calvinist doctrine amongst true Bible believers in early history was it? And what about Charles Spurgeon, Calvinists or no? Well anyway I'd appreciate anything else you have on Calvinism and any advice you'd be willing to give. God bless you Bro. Rice and your family!

Your missionary in Bulgaria (one of them),

Bro. Danny Kessler

Dear Brother Kessler,

Thanks for writing with your concerns, it is good hearing from you. We have been in revival and faith promise meetings this week and have prayed for the Kesslers in Bulgaria.

Your questions are well put.

Is it not true that this "TULIP" doctrine came from Jerome a Roman Catholic and did not originate from John Calvin?

The T.U.L.I.P. model came from the Presbyterians via some counsel which was convened because the Armenians had contended Presbyterian error in 5 points. True, John Calvin never did hear of the model, much less make it. The model does, however, carefully outline John Calvin's doctrine.

And there was no Calvinist doctrine amongst true Bible believers in early history was it?

Although it would not be called Calvinism, the notion that God predetermines everything that ever happens to an individual, especially the circumstances of his death, originated in Roman Catholic Church Fathers of Alexandria Egypt. It got firmed up via Jerome's Latin Vulgate with three very bad 'P's -penance, priests, and predestination, which then got grounded in Roman Catholic Saint Augustine of Hippo's very bad doctrine. Since Catholic Doctrine contains a Covenant type Theology and its Replacement Theology, and since that theology claims that the Catholic Church is the new Elect of God replacing Israel as such, it is natural that John Calvin's Reformed Theology would be quite messed up concerning the elect, dispensationalism and God's promises to Israel. Short answer, yes it was around since Roman Catholic Church Father Saint Clement, 3rd century, but it was found in Roman Catholic history

not in 'true believers' history.

And what about Charles Spurgeon, Calvinists or no?

Charles wrote a defense of Calvinism which basically states that he could never be an Armenian who periodically loses his salvation. He was, like so many unstudied Baptists, holding onto Calvinism so he would not be called Armenian. A studied Baptist will shed the name of Calvinist as soon as he understands the larger picture. Spurgeon, although a tremendous orator, was enamored with the genius of Saint Augustine and John Calvin, and would not cross his intellectual heroes, even in their most damnable heresies. Sounds like to many Baptist I know.

More detail is given in my attached book, and I will send you my other book under another letter. www.GSBaptistChurch.com/elect/election_predest_man.pdf
A whosoever will in Christ.

Ed

Brother Kessler,

I do not mean to belabor you, but you can tell you have asked some questions with which I struggled for many a year before getting it all resolved in my head, and I appreciate that others have to resolve this issue for themselves. It naturally concerns me when so many Baptists are falling into lockstep with both John Piper and John Calvin.

My greatest enlightening came when I reasoned that God created man with his own individual sovereignty, which we sometimes call free-will, although it is not really completely free. That means that, although God knows all that is knowable, he does not know, in fatalistic certainty, the decisions you have yet to make. In your delegated 'sovereignty', you are 'free' to go any of a number of ways. I know my wife. I know what she is doing tomorrow, next week and next year, but not with fatalistic certainty. God knows us better than we know a spouse, but he does not know us with fatalistic certainty, i.e. our fate is not predestined, ergo, whosoever will may come. You will have to get to a similar understanding to grapple with the exactness of Scripture, the election of saints for service, (not of the lost for salvation) and the 'whosoever will' declarations of God. Let me know how you make out.

A bigger picture analysis of Reformed Theology and its error is attached. I think it should be owned by every Baptist, but I am somewhat biased toward the author.

At www.GSBaptistChurch.com/seminary/master_thesis/thesis_reformed.pdf

Ed

Hi Pastor Rice,

I pray all is well with you, Bev, your children and grandchildren!

The subject of your email caught my attention as it seems many are talking about the same. I am just looking into all the debate but it seems to me that if one considers that God is the Creator of time itself and therefore above it that the debate is silenced regarding predestination since the essence of the concept integrates time. I would be interested to know your thoughts on this consideration!

Blessings to you!

Trudy Avers (formerly Rice)

In other words, God is able to see and orchestrate our world both as a snapshot and video and that view is beyond human understanding. So in time we have been given a choice but all in a snapshot is known and controlled by God - we have no words to describe or comprehend the latter because we are not capable of such a perspective.

Sent from my iPhone 6/18

In other words, God is able to see and orchestrate our world both as a snapshot and video and the snapshot view of an entire video is beyond human understanding. He is also able to intervene for us, thank you Jesus!
Romans 8:28-34, & Ephesians 1:3-14

Dear Trudy,

What a joy to hear from you, and especially to hear you weigh into this doctrine with such a profound understanding. The excellent explanation you gave is well regarded and accurate, but it cannot silence the debate. It is indeed perfectly logical that since God made the space-continuum, and is free to move in it without restriction; and God made the matter-continuum, and is free to move in it without restrictions; that God also made the time-continuum in such fashion that he is free to move in it without restriction. This profound analysis is likely the best that the finite will ever do in comprehending the infinite, and it is good that you worded it so well.

The real debate in this doctrine, however, is this: Does the prevailing error of three Johns, override the prevailing truth of John three? The three Johns are the protestant genius of John Calvin, the insightful theologian, Johnathan Edwards, and the contemporary

Baptist, author, and 5 point Calvinist, John Piper. Of course, John 3 is the mainstay of a myriad of WHOSOEVER WILL Biblical teachings. The three Johns contend in their doctrine that God, before the foundation of the world, choose the individual souls which would be saved from hell, and the individual souls which would be condemned to hell. They are so predestined with an unchangeable fate, and nothing that they may think, say or do will ever change that predestination. There have been several persuasive arguments about the foreknowledge of God, the omniscience of God, and/or what you have addressed, that God is not restricted in time like we and our understanding is.

None of these arguments deal with the real issue; does man have any control of his own thoughts, his own decisions, his own actions, his own destiny? I have little doubt that you would answer the same way that your Bible does, yes, yes, yes, and yes. The error of the three Johns is that their answer is no, no, no and no. All that you said about time, and snapshots in it, is profoundly true. It still remains that a believer be able to word an understanding of 1) the whosoever will economy of salvation, 2) the sovereignty that is surrendered to man, and 3) that God changes his mind, (just ask Moses or Nineveh) especially relating to the truth that prayer changes things. (just ask Hezekiah, Joash, or Jesus.) We only have a finite mind. It is challenged to comprehend an infinite God. We cannot disallow the prevailing truth of John 3, no matter what the intellectuals who preceded us have done with a misguided doctrine of election.

The length of this answer reveals that you have touched a passion of mine. Bev and I are so glad to hear from you. We are doing well. Wishing we could see more of our 11 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. We also want to encourage you continue your growth in the knowledge of God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Please write again.

Ed

Msg #1324 Are You Just IN the Light?

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

”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 aptly expresses the conflict of all ages. The two kinds of fruit in 7:20 and the two types of foundations of 7:26 equally come to bear on all ages but are much more applicable to this age of grace that we now operate in. In this dispensation we experience a completely different economy of righteousness. The New Covenant, that the Lord initiated, is different from anything ever seen in this world. The two masters, two fruits, and two foundations have always been in contrast and conflict, the one contrary to the other. They have been illustrated as oil and water, iron and clay, and light and darkness. But in this new economy of righteousness “Ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: ... Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.” (Eph5:8,10) Christians are proving what light is. It is not that you were in darkness, but now you are in the light. No, no, it says you WERE darkness, but now you ARE light. Under the Old Covenant when you stood in that light and did right, you received blessing for it. Under this New Covenant, in Christ, you ARE that light, and when you let that light shine on your neighbor, you need to expect hatred and persecution for it. Those who refuse dispensational truth, and think we are all under one grand covenant, cannot rightly divide the word of truth. They stumble on this concept. In the last of the last-days expect this to get worse before it gets better.

An Essay for week #24 Sun, Jun 16, 13

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Msg #1325 A.S.K. Really?

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked: ...” It could be that the three-strikes-and-you're-out rule for baseball came from Amos, who rehearsed this theme from God eight times in his first two written chapters. In the seventh chapter, however, when all their strikes were tallied and the promised punishment was begun, Amos said, “O Lord GOD forgive, I beseech thee:...” Both times this happened God records this dumbfounding response, “The LORD repented for this: It shall not be, saith the LORD.” Prayer changes things. Not only does it change 'things', it changes God. This concept and these verses don't set well with theologians grasping at Reformed Theology, but they are a tremendous asset to the Bible believer that needs a God who responds to their prayer and supplications. We have one. Amos never had the promise “whatsoever ye ask in my name, I will do it.” That promise came under a new covenant. We have that promise from our Lord, and Savior. Scripture says “But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” If the prayer of Amos, God's prophet, can turn away the fierceness of God's wrath when it was well overdue, how much more can the prayer of a saint, who is under a new covenant, with better promises, refine the heart of God concerning a lost loved one, a neighbor, a state or a country. A. S. K. and it shall be given you.

An Essay for week #25 Sun, Jun 23, 13

LETTER TO THE EDITOR,

The Corning Leader PO BOX 1017 Corning, NY 14830

In his 06/26/2013 letter in your paper Gary A. McCaslin worded well the necessity of stomping out all the conservative Bible believing fundamental Churches that remain opposed to the LGBT agenda. The LGBT community will not be at liberty to practice and promote their complete agenda while these Bible believing Christians have the freedom to practice their faith and preach it on our streets. What they call the “Word of God” is even older than McCaslin intimates. That Roman Emperor had nothing to do with it, nor did the Roman Religion that he formed in the 4th century. The conservative Bible believing Christians, which McCaslin wants to silence, actually believe that those sixty six archaic books written down by forty different men over a period of 1,592 years, are the infallible words of Jehovah God! They believe that twenty seven of those books, written over 1,900 years ago, which they call the New Testament, were penned and authenticated by twelve ordained apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ himself. They further allege that those twenty seven antiquated books authenticate the thirty nine older books that they call the Old Testament. As to how one would silence this vocal few so that the LGBT community can have universal acceptance, with nobody calling them '*sinner*s', nor calling '*sodomy*' an abomination to God, I suggest you first go to the history books. They have already been crucified, boiled in oil, thrown to the lions, tortured, beaten, burned alive with their Bibles, imprisoned, and banished. They don't even believe in evolution for crying out loud. I contend, therefore, that it is Gary McCaslin who needs to hear the truth, not the Bible believing conservative Christians. They are indeed founded on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Truth, and the Word, according to God's Holy infallible Word.

Baptist Pastor Edward Rice is a Steuben County Resident

Edward G. Rice

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Gary A. McCaslin's Infernal Letter

Corning, N.Y. — <http://www.the-leader.com/opinions> 26 June 2013

Exodus International, one of the nation's most prominent coalitions of groups promoting harmful "gay conversion" therapy, recently offered a heartfelt apology to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community and announced that it was disbanding. In the same week, the queen of England signed a new charter designed to stamp out discrimination against homosexuals. This is clearly more evidence that the human species is becoming more understanding and inclusive rather than fearful and condemning toward our LGBT brothers and sisters.

Also in the same week, the membership of The Roswell Street Baptist Church of Marietta, Ga., joined the ranks of several fundamental churches who have asked the Boy Scouts to leave their church.

Roswell Street Baptist has sponsored Boy Scout Troop 204 since 1945, but Rev. Earnest Easley said on CNN the church had no choice but to ask the Scouts to leave.

"We cannot and will not put our arms around any organization that stands morally opposed to what God's word teaches," said Rev. Easley.

By "God's word" Rev. Easley is referring, of course, to the Christian Bible, which is literally a small library of books compiled almost 1,700 years ago when the Roman emperor Constantine charged Christian leaders to get their act together and provide him with information on the Christian faith.

Seventeen hundred years ago, people were living in pre-scientific times, which means they literally believed the Earth was flat and the center of the universe.

They also believed illnesses were caused by demons and God opened the doors of heaven to make it rain.

Thankfully, science has helped us move beyond these limited understandings of a book that also affirms slavery, disparages the role of women in church and society and was the primary tool used to keep the right to vote from African Americans and women. While the Bible has many wonderful stories of love and compassion, all Bible lessons cannot be simply translated into our 21st century lives.

Churches that continue to discriminate against the LGBT community are using six obscure passages from these ancient texts to shackle their minds to fourth century ideas that have no modern understanding of human nature. Medical, psychiatric, business, educational and legal communities have all set aside their past prejudices of the LGBT population; only conservative churches continue to lag in this natural evolution of thought.

There are few other places where humans are so attached to the past. We all want the latest cell phones when we go to the store, we want the latest medicines when we go to the pharmacist and we want our doctors to treat us using the latest research. We want 21st century trained dentists to fill our teeth but fundamental churches want to continue allowing fourth century understandings of God, the

world and humanity to fill our minds.

Mel White is a former speechwriter for Jerry Falwell. White came out as a gay man and founded Soulforce – an organization committed to freedom for LGBT people from religious and political oppression.

He once stated that, because of high suicide rates for gay adolescents who have been rejected by their church and families, a gay teenager would more likely be safer in the home of an atheist than a church family. This is a truth conservative churches of today need to hear if they ever intend to have any credibility in the future. Gary A. McCaslin is a Corning resident.

Pastor Ed Rice

On 6/29/2013 7:46 PM, jimmy workman wrote:

Pastor, my name is Jimmy and I am a believer in our Lord Jesus Christ and have been since 1964. I am writing regarding your recent letter about the need for the LGBT community to silence Bible believing churches so they may be free to promote their wicked agenda. I agree with the premise of your letter but wanted to point out a misprint that I noticed. Your letter says that ".....which they call the New Testament, were penned and authenticated by twelve ordained apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself." You see the obvious error of course.....there is no book of Andrew or Philip or Thomas etc.

Also Luke, the physician wrote the books of Luke and Acts and was himself not an Apostle. And let me not forget Paul who was the 13th Apostle who wrote most of the New Testament. So you see the error and I'm sure it was unintentional. As I said, I otherwise agree with your letter and can see a time in the not too distant future when true Christians will be handcuffed and taken to jail for preaching the truth from the Word of God. Perhaps our Master will not delay and put all things right soon! If I am wrong in this, please let me know and forgive this brother.

In Christ, Brother Jimmy

Amen! Even so, come Lord Yeshua, my God and King!

Brother Workman,

Thanks for pointing out the mis-communicate'. Sometimes brevity makes for a necessary awkwardness. The mention of the 12 Apostles writing and/or authenticating the NT Scriptures was meant to capture the fact that 1) Paul was indeed the 12th Apostle, as the NT justifies blatantly, 2) Luke, who authored two books, had his works authenticated by the Apostle Paul, 3) Mark, who authored one book, had his work authenticated by the Apostle Peter, and 4) those Apostles who did not directly author a book or epistle, were still participant in authorizing the 27 books called the New Testament. You were very astute to capture and point out these oversights. If I had more editorial space I would have further developed the truths you pointed out, crucial truths about how we got our New Testament Scriptures. Pastor Ed Rice

Msg #1326 Believing IN the Christ.

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In John10 Jesus spoke of thieves, shepherds, sheepfolds and doors, “but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.” It is accurately recorded but one thousand and eighty years latter we can barely get our mind around all that Jesus taught in this chapter. It is, however, paramount that one comprehend his declaration “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep, ... Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it up again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.” (vr.11, 17, 18) The “whosoever believeth in him” of John3:16, cannot be separated from the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ, nor his being the “Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world”, nor his resurrection to be one's only living Redeemer, only Mediator, and only High Priest. “While we were yet sinners Christ died FOR us.” The “whosoever” must believe and ask and receive that substitutionary death of Christ for themselves. The gospel message is that Christ died, was buried, and that he rose again on the third day. (1Cor15) Conversion is this truth believed, and accepted, i.e. repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:20) If he is not one's Prophet, Priest and King, i.e. Saviour, Mediator, and Lord, they have not yet believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, and are on a broad road that leadeth to destruction. In this day of compromise one needs to clearly hear and clearly preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. John3:16 has great depth; and so does John10.

An Essay for week #26 Sun, Jun 30, 13

Msg #1327 Keeping the Wine Press Pressing

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Israel and I come up with solid rationale, and highfalutin excuses, why we cannot be obedient and fruitful in our present circumstance; but God says, "What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it?" (Isaiah 5:4) Apathetic agnosticism (AA) reigns supreme in upstate New York, but if I were only in North Carolina, where there is a Baptist Church every twelve feet, I could, ... and I would, ... If I were back in Ohio, where people welcome door-to-door visitors sharing the gospel, then I would, ... and I could, ... If I were in Florida, where people respond in kindness to street preaching, then I would, ... "My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill." I and/or you are parked right in the middle of God's fruitful vineyard, and are expected to yield much fruit for our Lord's joy and glory. What fruit are we supposed to be yielding? Well there is a wine press right over there, and in the Bible wine is generally symbolic of the joy of the Lord. That's a sweet fruit for our labor. What has he done for his fruitful vineyard? Well he fenced it (vr2), i.e. placed clear borders in our lives. He gathered out the stones thereof, i.e. cleared sin and every weight which easily besets us. He planted it with the choicest vine, i.e. people still need the Lord even if they won't readily admit it. And he built a tower in the midst, i.e. he is our strong tower, our refuge, our vantage point, our warehouse and operation center. In the fifties great ministries were built by door-to-door visitation, today, could be, it only builds great frustration. Labor in the well beloved's vineyard anyway, His wine-press makes real joy.

An Essay for week #27 Sun, Jul 7, 13

Msg #1328 You Need to Have a Pastor

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The prophecy that God gave to Jeremiah before Judah fell into punishment and captivity does not portray the office of pastor in very good light. One wonders why he revived and reinitialized the office under his new covenant. Its very first mention in chapter 2:8 show a failure in priest, lawyer, pastor, and prophet. Pastor is a lesser word for shepherd and the job description is given in 3:15: “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” But the pastors became brutes (10:21). They destroyed God's vineyard (12:10). Precious few remained true to the word of god (17:15-16) and they were hated for this stand. So God said the wind, that was supposed to be the breath of God in them, would 'eat up all thy pastors.' “Woe unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the seep of my pasture! Saith the LORD.” (23:1) The chapter continues “Behold the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch...” That Branch arrived and said “I am the good Shepherd...” (John 10) The office of Pastor was revived and initiated for His churches. We have a perfect example to follow and Psalm 23 describes how our perfect example operates. If you do not have a pastor that can come to your home and counsel, (that excludes all those TV preachers.), a pastor that puts his pants on one leg at a time (that's 'pants' not 'pantaloons'), then you are operating outside the clear boundary of God's Word. Getting into his boundaries always provokes his blessing. God's intent is that his pastors feed his flock with knowledge and understanding, keep them from fear and dismay, and cause that they shall not want. (23:4) It's a tall order.

An Essay for week #28 Sun, Jul 14, 13

Msg #1329 See The Depth and Believe

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

A pool in Mammoth Cave illustrates the crystal, clear, cave water. As our group stared through this crystal pool and saw the colorful formations on the bottom, our guide dropped in a penny. It flipped and swirled as it sank and sank, getting smaller and smaller until it disappeared altogether. The pool we stared through was fifty feet deep! The Gospel of John is like that pool. It is crystal clear and you can see all the way to the bottom, but when you research, you find there is great depth in this book. Nothing manifests that truth like chapter ten. It contains a parable, and Jesus said, "They understood not what things they were which he spake unto them." Then he drops in a penny, as it were. He claimed to be the Only Door, fulfilling Psalm 22. He claimed to be the Good Shepherd, fulfilling Psalm 23. But when he claimed to be the fulfillment of Psalm 24 he was met with disbelief. He is still ridiculed in disbelief today. When he said he was the Good Shepherd of Psalm 23 he claimed to be Jehovah God. When he said he had power to lay down his life for his sheep, and then he had power to take it up again, he claimed the same more emphatically. Those not of his fold, who would not hear his voice, called him a liar and a lunatic. Those who say of Jesus the Christ, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want," they hear his voice, see clear to the bottom of the pool, and inherit His eternal life. Liar, Lunatic, or LORD, each must choose, "For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

An Essay for week #29 Sun, Jul 21, 13

Msg #1330 England and Athens

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Pastor Watts, of Bury England, reports that an illustration of England is found in Athens; his text was Acts 17. England now, and Athens then, are very religious people; they know there are gods, and they know they should be worshiped. They provided the world with the KJV, Whitefield and Spurgeon; yet in all things they are yet, to superstitious. England now, and Athens then, are very intellectual; always eager either to tell, or hear some new thing. Darwin's picture is on the ten pound note. England now, and Athens then, are very accommodating people; "May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?" They brought Muslim prayer rugs to school to teach children to pray towards Mecca. Wanting never to offend they make an altar "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD." Paul corrects and reproves by presenting four points in his preaching. Preaching unto them the God that made the world and all things therein; it is intuitively known, but it needs said out loud repeatedly in a world filled with evolution-fiction. Second, He is a personal God, and can be known personally; despite agnostic beliefs, He is not far from every one of us. God loves us; we are His offspring and His image and likeness. Lastly, Paul preaches that God has appointed a day of judgment, and that He "Now commandeth all men everywhere to repent." The four point message still draws three reactions. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. . . . Howbeit certain men clave unto (Paul), and believed." The world where we minister is not different than the one the Apostle Paul found. The message we preach should not differ, and the response we report will be the same.

An Essay for week #30 Sun, Jul 28, 13

Msg #1331 Scholar-wanna-bees and Balderdash

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

When Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, nailed the identity of the fourth guy walking around in his fiery furnace, it was unbelievable: (Dan3:25) so unbelievable that all the modernist translators of our day have disagreed with 1,400 years of Hebrew scribes and scholars, disagreed with fifty-seven skilled multilingual scholars from Cambridge, Westminster and Oxford, disagreed with these superior linguists that worked in six companies for a period of seven years completely funded by one King James of England, and then disagreed with the very Word's of God. This is all very common for the modernist scholar and translator who want to tell you what they logically reason God *meant to say* in His Word. Here, they reason, Neb could not have know that Jehovah God had an Only Begotten Son. What God's Word meant, they say, was "and the fourth looks like a son of the gods." (RSV, NIV, ASV, NASV, NEV, ESV et al.) Bible believers, however, know that 450 years before Neb came on the scene, one David, king of Israel knew and clearly recorded the presence of the Only Begotten Son of God. (Psalm 2) Bible believers know that Neb knew Daniel, and every one who knew Daniel knew all about Jehovah God, Hebrew – *Elohim* (*Hbrw plural, not dual but plural, i.e. three or more*) and his being a triune, Father, Son, and Spirit, Godhead. Modernist "scholars" are without excuse, also knowing His eternal power and Godhead. They pretend that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon could not know, even after he knew for certain; "But there is a God (*Hbrw Elohim*) in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days." (Dan2:28) Scholar-wanna-bees think Daniel wrote Aramaic and Hebrew scribes didn't get that translated as good as they. Balderdash.

An Essay for week #31 Sun, Aug 4, 13

Msg #1332 Great Plainness of Speech

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Hebrews is a book to Hebrews, to convince the Hebrews that in Christ, they are no longer Hebrews. Its theme is the full sufficiency of Christ. Its introduction is the best of Hebrew poetry. Its first point, which ought to be given the more earnest heed, is Christ's sufficiency in the gospel message. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?" is a redundant question. (Heb. 2:3) This "so great salvation" at the first began to be spoken by the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted.... ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3). That is pretty serious if you have not been converted, and conversion is testified to be no less than "Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20: 21) Only you can initiate your conversion by believing the gospel; "how that Christ died for your sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." (1Cor. 15:3b-4) Some trite church goers say there is nothing you can 'do' to be saved, but my Bible says unless you are converted by doing what Romans 10:9-10 says, you will not be saved from your sin, nor will you enter his Kingdom. Are you Saved? Have you been converted? If you are, you should get your feet shod with this short gospel message and go out and ask someone else the question. If they get upset, it's because they ain't. The church is apostate concerning the gospel and Christ's "so great salvation." A gospel witness needs to be clear in a dark misguided world. Except ye be converted you can not enter the Kingdom of heaven: use great plainness of speech.

An Essay for week #32 Sun, Aug 11, 13

Msg #1333 A-Ask, S-seeK, K-knock, ASK Him

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ's opening message to humanity, he gives an English acronym "A" for ask, "S" for seek, and "K" for knock. In a closing message, days before his crucifixion, he declares, "Whatsoever ye ask in my name, I shall do it." Prayer is a vital ingredient of a believers life, and Christ's sufficiency in prayer is in his perfecting of it, his promise for it, and his purpose in it. When God set aside infiniteness and took on the form of finite man, every thing that Jesus did, every miracle, every compassion, every teaching, was thoroughly *baptized* in prayer. Jesus often spent all night in prayer, and if the Only Begotten Son of God needed that, how much more do we? When a unit is surrounded and pinned down in enemy territory, now-a-days, they pick up the radio and call in a barrage of bombs and fire-power that saves their lives and frees them for more maneuvers. When you read Jesus Christ's promise, "Whatsoever you ask in my name," it would be better that that comes to your mind, rather than anything said by "name it and claim it", "blab it and grab it", TV evangelists. Jesus never prayed for a softer pillow or larger house. Thrice he prayed that a cup pass form him, but even there he prayed, "Not my will but thine." The disciples, James and John used his very words to petition him with the desire of their hearts, and he told them, "No, you cannot sit on my right hand." Recall that Paul too was told not to his request. To pray in Jesus' name is to make his purpose our purpose, his cause our cause, hid compassion our compassion. True disciples still pray, "Lord, teach us to pray."

An Essay for week #33 Sun, Aug 18, 13

Msg #1334 Moved With Compassion

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.” Get your Bible and look up Lamentations 3:22, if your Bible doesn't have God's mercy keeping you from being consumed, you have a corrupted, ecumenical, modernist Bible. Put it in the trash and get an uncorrupted King James Bible. Compassion is the theme of this essay, corrupted Bibles is just a sidebar. Christ is all sufficient in salvation 4-me, 2-me and through-me. Christ is all sufficient in prayer 4-me, 2-me and through-me. Christ is all sufficient in compassion 4-me, 2-me and through-me. If Lam3:22 is in your Bible correctly it says we are not consumed *because* of his compassions; that is sufficient! His salvation is his grace, is his mercy, is because of his compassions. His compassions are displayed in Psalm 73:38, 86:15, 111:4, 112:4, and 145:8 where God is “full of compassion.” They are manifest in Christ in Matt14:14, 15:32, 20:34, Mark1:41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2, and 9:22 where he was “moved with compassion.” Could one call themselves *Christian* without his compassion indwelling them? “And be ye kind one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” (Eph4:32) Again, “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion on of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.” (1Pet3:8) Certainly we are compelled to have compassion on other believers and to love the brethren, but the love of Christ constrains us to have compassion on the lost, compassion on your enemies, and compassion on the most despicable of all humanity; but for His grace, and compassion, “there go I”. No matter what they pierced, no matter what they tattooed, no matter how reprobate your self righteousness paints them, his righteousness indwelling in you will move you with compassion.

An Essay for week #34 Sun, Aug 25, 13

Msg #1335 Coming for His Church

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The sufficiency found in Christ is present in the promise of His 2nd coming, the purpose of His 2nd coming, and the plan for His 2nd coming. “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go... I will come again... that where I am, there ye may be also.” (John14) The affirmation he left in this promise is powerful, “if it were not so, I would have told you!” The analogy throughout is as a groom coming back to take his bride, and his Church, Greek *Ecclesia*, i.e. a called out, gathered together body of believers, behaves as the chaste kept virgin looking for that day. “For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2Cor 11:2) Those who have “thee/thou” in their Bible, note the use of “you” here, and know the relevance. He will not jilt his Church at the alter. In the mean time that “chaste virgin,” His called out, gathered together body, is likened to stewards with certain talents to be used for their soon returning lord. One cannot miss this analogy in the Holy Scriptures, particularly in the teachings of Christ. Observe that no man knowing the time or his return is in his purpose for his *Ecclesia*. Keep striving for the increase of His Kingdom and keep looking up. Observe also that his *Ecclesia* is not a “universal-catholic” body, it is a local assembled body, independent and autonomous. The former errant idea is purely Roman in conception. Stepping away from Rome will also cause one to understand the plan in his coming; first coming FOR his saints (1Thes4:14-18) then, after a wedding, coming WITH his saints. (Rev19) Keep looking up.

An Essay for week #35 Sun, Sep 1, 13

A Baptist Brider Question About Msg#1335

Dear Brother Rice,

My name is Evangelist ... My questions have to do with the local church and the fact that you made reference to it in your last article ...

I hate to admit it, but I may not be as settled on the doctrine of the local church as I could be. Perhaps you could help me. Although I have not held that position, I preach from time to time for good baptist pastors who are without apology Baptist Bride in their position on the church. My thoughts are that if they are right, that is where I want to be.

However, in my own personal study of the subject, I have come upon several passages that seem to conflict with the Baptist Bride position. These verses have kept me from moving to that position. I will list a few of them. I would appreciate your comments and input on them.

I Corinthians 12:13. If I interpret this as water baptism it seems to conflict with the later part of the verse.

Galatians 3:27. If I interpret this as water baptism it seems to put me into the category of the water baptism for salvation crowd.

Ephesians 2:16. It seems to me to be saying that we get into the body of Christ by the cross.

Then I have found the phrase, "one body", at least 10 plus times in Paul's epistles. I speak of passages like Romans 12:5, where Paul identifies himself along with the Christians at Rome as being in one body. I find the word "churches" in the New Testament, but never "bodies."

Of course I believe in the local church, but could it be that the Lord has one church, and that this church is manifested in local assemblies? I ask this because of the instances where the church is referred to in what appears to be an institutional sense, like Matthew 16:18.

Also, I have some practical questions you might address:

If the only way to get in to the body of Christ is by water baptism in a legitimate Baptist Church, doesn't that mean that you are dependent on a man to get you into the Body of Christ? If a man can put you in, that same man potentially could put you out, could he not?

If baptism is required to get into a certain local church, then how can that church take you by letter of transfer, and if they do where is the Scriptural authority for this?

Let me emphasize that I have submitted the above passages and questions because I sincerely want your comments. ...

If you provide some commentary on them that would be helpful to me personally, I would certainly appreciate it.

I realize you are a pastor and very busy, so there is no rush on this, but I will keep an eye out for your response.

Evangelist

Dear Brother,

I expect you know ... and knew the late Evang. Harold Boyd; both are briders (well, Harold isn't now) that I have the greatest respect for. I only spent two weeks a year with Brother Boyd, and spent every day with my Bible, so I never really bent that way.

Quite like you I am not as settled on the doctrine of the local church as I could be, but where I have settled, I am very comfortable. Comfortable but not staunch; I would not brake fellowship with anybody over this alone. I do thank you for your questions. I miss Brother Boyd and our open discussion about these things. I agree with each point you contested. I have settled where I am because I will never give an inch to the doctrine of a catholic, or universal, or invisible church.... not one inch. When a person gets saved they enter the family, not the church. They are not part of the church until they unite with a group of believers. Ecclesia does not just mean "a called out body of believers", it means "a called out AND gathered together body of believers." Not only so, but one is not a part of the bride of Christ at this point. The bride is only a bride for one day, and our day is not until He comes for us with a trumpet. Notice that, at that time, all local churches will be raptured and there will be one "gathered together" body of believers, united, universal, and called a "Bride of Christ." Until then we all stay local.

I contend that this position flows the very best with the most Scriptures about the church. I can be pretty hard nosed about it because I am a pastor. Evangelists/Missionaries have got to be very careful what they get hard nosed about, else they will loose churches, especially the ones with hard nosed pastors.

There are a couple references to a universal church that must be dealt with. I read somewhere (I think it was Dr. Carol author of the Trail of Blood) that England could say, "Upon this rock, the jury system of trial by peers, I will build my judicial system." England could say that, even though there never was assembled a universal mother of all juries. The only thing ever assembled was individual,

local, 12 man juries. The context of the original statement still stands. As does Christ's. Understanding that, jelled my position substantially. I wholly reject that there is a catholic, a universal, and/or invisible church in existence today. There will be one right after the trumpet sound that gathers it together, but not right now.

Such a position does not answer all the errors of the Baptist Brider, but it goes a long way toward comprehending their systematic error. Generally, Briders think there are two types of believers, their type, which got into a properly founded and established Baptist Church, (by water Baptism,) and a lesser type, who are in an apostate church if they are in a church at all. Such a division is artificial and concocted at best, and wholly unBiblical at worst. The position I have settled into very comfortably allows that a person gets saved by grace through faith and without water Baptism. He is now in the family of God. He is converted, justified, quickened, indwelt and baptized (wholly immersed) into Christ. That is what salvation does.

Note that he is baptized (not with water) into Christ, that is, he is given a position in Christ, but is not yet made a part of the church, i.e. any local church, as there is not a catholic one. Church membership still remains to be accomplished. Now, you and I know what it means to step out of our position in Christ. It is irrespective of any church membership. When we do step out, we might act like all hell, but, if truly born-again, we still have that position in Christ. Christ longs that we get back into position with him, and we can, with repentance and a prayer. (1John1) We have not talked about church membership or water baptism yet, just salvation, a new family, and a new position. As a pastor, or as an evangelist/missionary we spend significant time prompting Christians to get into their proper position, a position that is form fit to them because they were previously baptized into Christ, where that position was molded into an image, "if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." (Rom 8) We have gone a little off track here, but our baptism into Christ must somehow fit well in this system of understanding, and it does. It gives us our position in Christ, wherein we can be In-Christ but not necessarily in his church. Note the distinction.

Now, here is this believer, redeemed, blood bought and saved by grace, but saved, let's say, at a Billy Graham like crusade where he is told

to go back to his Catholic-Episcopalian-Methodist-Presbyterian church and live for Christ. He is no less saved than you or I, but he is misled. At his church he announces his decision to accept Christ as his Saviour. They look at him strange, send him through their confirmation classes, sprinkle him with “holy” water, and give him a Jr. Boys Sunday School class to teach. He does what Billy told him, and he gets busy serving the Lord. He may or may not know something is wrong, it might take years for him to understand that he is serving in an apostate church. He has not been Scripturally baptized. Is he less born-again than I, or than the most self righteous Baptist Brider that I know? Will he only be a guest at the wedding and not part of the Bride of Christ, because Billy misled him into an apostate church, instead of getting him into a Landmark Baptist Church with all its genealogies properly transcribed in an unbroken trail of Baptist Church record? Is he a second-class citizen of the kingdom? Give me a break! The whole Baptist Bride theological system is fatally flawed! Those hanging around on its fringe only bite off the chunks that they can stomach, and are most comfortable if they can get you to stomach the same amount. Myself, as an Independent Baptist Pastor, who does not really need them comfortable around me, will not bite off a single piece of it. I am pretty settled in my position, and it helps me to realize that the Catholic-Episcopalian-Methodist-Presbyterian church in town has genuine believers in it, and often a word from me, and a prompting of the Holy Spirit which indwells them, (if indeed) and they will get into a proper position and join a Bible believing Church, that might, or might not have Independent Baptist in its name or lineage.

Christ's kingdom has no second class citizens, but it does have citizens which are serving/setting in a wrong church environment. You and I serve better in His Kingdom when we know that, say it out loud, and shun the elitist attitude/position which is inherent in the Baptist Brider doctrine. You need not shun the Brider, some of my fondest peers and mentors, but surely shun the attitude. If one is not too hard nosed they can maintain good fellowship with a misled Baptist Brider, and even use their excellent Sunday School material effectively.

I, again, thank you for asking. I miss Evang. H. Boyd and his probing into my open communion and Baptist Brider anti-positions. My position can always use some tweaking and better definition, and I welcome your further input.

Pastor Ed Rice

Msg #1336 Dual Trumpets

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

This year Yom Kippur, on the 10th day of the month Tishri (called Ethanim in the Bible) will be on Friday, 13. September. That made last Wednesday the first day of the Hebrew seventh month and the Holy Bible says “Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. Ye shall do no servile work therein...” (Lev. 23:24-25) Christian's should know better, but one said, “This week was filled with stupid Jewish Holidays.” I was ashamed and prayed that God would forgive our ignorance of His holy days. The Feast of Trumpets is revelation. “Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly...” (Num 10:2) The Sabbath day, the blowing of trumpets and the holy convocation observed on the first day of the old Hebrew's seventh month is prophetic of their regathering, (Isa 18:3, 27:13, 58) ergo it is prophetic of Christ's gathering of His Church as well. (1Thes 4:16-18) Be careful not to go all Romish-allegorical here, there are indeed two literal gatherings portrayed in this feast of trumpets. Christians are ever looking up and listening for one trumpet; a trumpet that will call together His Church into one called out and gathered together body of believers. Consider anew Revelations 4, “After this I looked and behold a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither...” There will be a trumpet that calls to regather all Israel, but about seven years prior there will be one that raptures the Church. These Hebrew holy days are important to Christians.

An Essay for week #36 Sun, Sep 8, 13

Msg #1337 Key Hebrew Holy Days

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Yom-Kippur was observed Friday last week. Hebrew Holy-Days that commemorated the past, more-so prophesied the future. God given feasts and holy days were to be observed “throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance forever.” The Christian need not exactly observe these Hebrew holy days because they daily live them. The Passover lamb, slain on the fourteenth of Abib, was our Passover Lamb, the Only Begotten Son of God, who died on Golgotha in that selfsame hour. The Feast of Unleavened Bread represents the sinless life our Saviour lived. The Day of Firstfruits, Pentecost, wherein Sinai Law initiated the Old Covenant, the Holy Spirit initiated the New Covenant for Christians. Three Hebrew Holy-Days indicated three crucial events of God's redemptive calendar. The next three are no less important. The Day of Blowing the Trumpets finds Christians looking to the clouds and listening for the trumpet that will report “Come up hither,” and Hebrews for the Trumpet that will completely regather their whole nation in the Holy Land; each will sound soon. Yom-Kippur, the Day of Atonement, the day to afflict the soul, when Israel's citizens “stand before God in silence and contemplation, removed from the frenzy of the world,” marks the redeemed life of the atoned for saint, but in an equal foreshadowing, it marks the Day of the Lord when Israel “shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.” Christians living out these Holy Days will not prevent their complete fulfillment for God's Chosen and Elect Nation, Israel. Christ will come for his saints, then with his saints, and will literally reign from God's Holy Hill of Zion.

Msg #1338 Tabernacling Through Sukkut

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot walk us into our autumn each year, yet we remain aloof to their prophetic nature and importance. The Feast of Trumpets portrays the regathering of Israel; the Day of Atonement portrays the sorrow of heart that will subdue his nation when they look on Him whom they have pierced; and the Feast of Booths is a joyous festival portraying the day when the tabernacle of God is with men. Third century Clement of Alexandria Egypt hypothesized that God could never fulfill all of this for the annihilated Jew. He built a philosophy that a mother church should lay claim to all of Israel's promises. That philosophy became Roman church doctrine and reached its tentacles into every Protestant Denomination. There is an elitist attraction to pretending that Christians are the new chosen ones, that we are the elect ones, and the Jews are a discarded people that God is done with.

Theology books call such a philosophy *Covenant Theology*. It is an errant, dangerous philosophy straight from Alexandria Egypt. In reality these three feasts have a literal fulfillment yet to come and a spiritual fulfillment presently. For the born-again believer, there was a trumpet calling out the gospel; there was a Yom Kippur where sins are atoned for by The Passover Lamb; and the Bible is clear about His present tabernacling: "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1Cor. 6:19-20) We heard, He atoned, and now tabernacles in our booth. He will yet do all this for His chosen and elect Israel.

An Essay for week #38 Sun, Sep 22, 13

Msg #1339 Alexandrian Doctrine, Alexandrian Bibles

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Even while some of Evangelical Christendom refuses the covenant theology which came out of Alexandria Egypt, a theology which denies the Millennial Reign of Christ as a dispensation, they still cling to an ecumenical bible that comes from Alexandria. Roman Catholic Saint Clement's disciple, Saint Origen of Alexandria (185-232 A.D.), is called both the Father of Textual Criticism, and the Father of the Allegorical Method. He used both 'toolboxes' to disembowel God's promise of a Millennial Reign of Christ from Jerusalem's Mount Zion; predicating his reign in a catholic church instead. Today both 'toolboxes' are used by Bible critics, and the scholars-so-called who trust them, to predicate that there is no verbally inspired, infallible, inerrant Holy Bible in existence. Ergo they think nothing of throwing twenty whole verses into their trash can. What's worse, the allegorical method insists that Scriptures are so obscure that only a Catholic Church Clergy can uncover their true meaning. A hundred years after Origen, when Rome took over the Catholic Church, they killed commoners that would dare read a Bible without them. They still use the allegorical method to poo-poo the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church, and to abscond with all the promises made to God's chosen people Israel; as do Protestants. I say Evangelicals use Alexandrian ecumenical bibles because every modernist English bible is based on two manuscripts from Alexandria Egypt, the Sinaiticus and the Vaticanus Manuscripts. Critics and translators incorporated these into their copyright works with no regard for verbal-inspiration, inerrancy or infallibility, doctrines that they have rejected. Evangelicals think these compromised bibles read much easier than the 15th century English and they discard the inspired, infallible, inerrant Holy Bible and pick up an RSV, NIV, ASV, NASV, NEV, et.al. Its a dangerous world for a Bible believer.

An Essay for week #39 Sun, Sep 29, 13

Msg #1340 Is This Our Last October Here?

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

And God said, Let us make man in our image, and after our likeness..." God's purpose for man was, is, and forever shall be, perfected fellowship, perfected worship, and perfected union. Since the fall of man, however, the purposes of man have been selfishness, pride, and ingratitude. Man has always needed the thorough washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost before he could accomplish God's purpose. Titus 3:5 declares that this cannot be accomplished by our own efforts, only by salvation. God has carefully walked man through test cases, called dispensations in the Bible. Periods where our conscious was tested to see if it could bring us back to innocence before God; if formal self governance could purge us of that old nature; if his unconditional promise might renew our mind; or even if His laying down the law at Mount Sinai would cause our reform. These dispensations are gracious demonstrations in our past which ended in a world flood, a Tower of Babel, a bondage in Egypt, and the cruel crucifixion of God's Only Begotten Son. Presently we live in a dispensation. where whosoever will may call on the risen Only Begotten Son, choose Him as Lord and Saviour, and receive His quickening, His justification, His redeeming, His washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. That is the gospel. The Revelation of Jesus Christ reveals that this gracious dispensation will soon close. As all previous dispensations, it closes in failure on mans part. As it was in the days of Noah, as it was in the days of Sodom, "even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed." (Luke 17:26-30) The transition to the seventh, and final dispensation will begin with the rapture of His own. Be ready, be saved.

An Essay for week #40 Sun, Oct 6, 13

Msg #1341 The WORD in Six Triplets

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Revelation of Jesus Christ is *from him which is, and which was, and which is to come*, it is likewise *from the seven Spirits which are before his throne*; labeled as *from Jesus (Saviour) Christ (Anointed One, Messiah)*. These 66 six books are the Revelation of God, the Words of God. Jesus is the Revelation of God. He is the Word of God, *who is the faithful witness*, who is *the first begotten of the dead*, and who is *the prince of the kings of the earth*. The Prophecy that tells of his coming says “Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.” (Psalm2) In The Revelation of Jesus Christ His salutation continues, *Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.* He had told Nicodemus “For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John3) His salutation announces *Behold, he cometh with clouds; behold every eye shall see him, behold they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.* It closes with this triplet *I am Alpha and Omega, I am the beginning and the ending, He is the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come.* We worship Christ, *the Almighty.*

An Essay for week #41 Sun, Oct 13, 13

Msg #1342 Prophetic Truth and Accuracy

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

For us it is a minor thing to comprehend how two witnesses slain in the streets of Jerusalem are seen all over the world for three days. For Martin Luther and other Protestant Reformers it was so incomprehensible that they thought the Revelation of Jesus Christ and its companion book, Daniel, were not inspired or belonging in the Bible, at best calling them allegorical, apocalyptic fiction. Protestants believed so little of these books they carried Roman Covenant Theology right into their reformation where it presently leavens as Reformed Theology. For the Bible believer, however, these books are true and accurate. Daniel has six chapters of history and six chapters of Biblical Prophecy. The first six teach us how to accurately read the last six. The interpretation of Neb's dream, and its exact unfolding in history reveals that the Stone Cut Out without hands, which smashes all previous kingdoms into chaff, is indeed the Christ who will come as King of kings and Lord of lords to a battle called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon. He is the Ancient of Days, with hair like pure wool, and he is the Son of man come with the clouds of heaven to the Ancient of Days. All power is given to him. Likewise, in the literal, grammatical, historical understanding there is a little horn which, in separate visions, replaces three of ten, and comes out of one of four. It waxes great, has eyes of a man, speaks great things, and desecrates the daily sacrifice in the Temple at Jerusalem. He casts down hosts of heaven and is called the King of Fierce Countenance. He persecutes the Woman, Israel for 3 ½ years of a seven year tribulation. Jesus calls him the Abomination of Desolation. I'd sooner believe Jesus than a Reformed Theologian.

An Essay for week #42 Sun, Oct 20, 13

Msg #1343 Discerning The Biblical Rapture

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

It is not coincidence that those who deny the pretribulational rapture of the Church use a bible that conceals who the Fourth-Man in the fire was, a bible that conceals that it was Lucifer fallen from heaven, it was not our Morning Star; it was not the Day Star which shall rise in our hearts that falls in Isaiah 14:12, and a bible that conceals where *hell* is located in God's Word. If their scholars, translators and Bible critics want to conceal these crucial truths, truths about The Son, the Devil and Satan's final destination, don't expect them to be upfront about the pretribulation rapture of the Church. Three five nines in 1Thessolonians, Hebrews and Romans tell us that we, who are to be raised incorruptible, are not appointed to wrath. The seven years of Great Tribulation is indeed the pouring out of the wrath of God. The Bible says Christ is coming FOR his saints. The Bible says he is coming WITH his saints. One must precede the other. The Bible says Christ is coming to take his Bride to the wedding, and the Bible says he is coming from the wedding. The Bible says he is coming to catch us up in the clouds (rapture) and he is coming when his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives (Armageddon). In Revelation 4 there is a trumpet sounding from the open door of heaven and it says "Come up hither..." and in 1Thessolonians 4 the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; it will say "Come up hither..." and we will meet him in the clouds. One cannot see these simple truths after trashing 1John5:7 and confusing the Fourth-Man in the fire with Lucifer!

An Essay for week #43 Sun, Oct 27, 13

Msg #1344 Forgiven Much and Thanksgiving

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

It is curious that Mary recites word for word the observation of her sister: "Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." (John 11:21,32) Attitude shows in our approach to Christ, even in troublous times, even when He is our Lord and Saviour. Martha's attitude was previously addressed by Christ: "Martha, Martha thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen the good part." (Luke 10:41-42) Mary had the right attitude from the start. Let's suppose she was from Magdala, was called Mary Magdalene, and out of her came seven devils. John 11:2 clarifies that her overwhelming gratitude was the object lesson to the Pharisee in Luke 7, where she brought her alabaster box of ointment to Jesus. Martha came to Jesus to correct him, to point out her disappointment in him, and to ask for his help. She, again, needed a reminder of who he was. "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live." Mary came to Jesus, fell down at his feet, and with her sister's very words, she worshiped him. She loved much, because she had been forgiven much. Her sins which were many, were forgiven her. Her attitude caused the shortest verse in the Bible, and Jesus wept. Her great love showed up in a second alabaster box in John 12, and after his resurrection Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene. You and I have been forgiven much. The next time Martha shows up in life, when cumbered about many things, when people don't do things just the way you know they should be done, and frustration wells up inside, you have not fallen at Jesus' feet and remembered who He is.

An Essay for week #44 Sun, Nov 3, 13

Msg #1345 Thanksgiving for Relationships

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The wise have made November a month of daily thanksgiving. The list starts with salvation, he who is forgiven much loves much, and seconds with a relationship: spouse or parent, child or friend. Down the list comes circumstance; way down things. All need thankfulness for our relationships, but all need lessons and reminders about them; noble thoughts, as it were, that prioritize their maintenance. Two profound Scriptures dealing with relationships; Song of Solomon, and Numbers 6. The former treaties requires a book, the first line should say, "You're so vain, you probably think this song is about you," the second, "This Song portrays God's love for Jerusalem." Any student can take it from there. Numbers 6 deals with the God-Israelite relationship and is ideal for a concise study on all intimate relationships, foremost our relationship with our Creator, the LORD thy God. In ten point outline: 1) Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all they soul, and with all they might. (strength and mind Luke10:27) 2) Know Him and hide His words in your heart. 3) Diligently teach His words to your children. 4) Write His words down everywhere you look. 5) Don't let life cause you to forget about Him. 6) "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God and serve him, and shalt swear by his name." (vr13) 7) Be monogamous. 8) Don't tempt. 9) Diligently keep His commandments. 10) Do right by Him. (vr18) It is left as an exercise of the student to apply these ten steps to every other relationship that they have. They fit like a glove for a spouse. They fit well for friendships. Parent-Child relationships are temporal, intended that they leave and cleave to a spouse after 20 years, but all our relationships could herein benefit.

An Essay for week #45 Sun, Nov 10, 13

Msg #1346 Premeditated Thanksgiving

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“I am doing fine under the circumstances,” said he. “Well, what are you doing under there?” asked I. In these last of the last days if Christians get under the circumstances the Devil has gone in league with human resources to shovel more circumstances right on top, making it seven times hotter than it's want to be. The useful key that gets you out from under, is rehearsed in several Bible Epistles: it is “In everything give thanks.” An examination of this key reveals that it is always accompanied by a song, a praise and a rejoicing. While raising three boys our home had one question that my sweet wife made forbidden: “Well what could possibly go wrong next?” Wisely, I have not broached that question even after that 20 year task was completed. The twilight of life causes realization that the broke cars, broke finances, and broke opportunities pale when you are waiting for a spouse's cancer test to come back. The OT accounts of a cruse of oil that did not fail give adequate strength to deal with physical circumstances that get us down. Simply trusting and casting all your care are practices that mature us. They cause us to grow when facing the trials that are common to man. There are greater cares down the road and God's care pales Obama care. Rehearsing the use of God's key, “In everything give thanks”, and accompanying that with praise, song, and rejoicing, gives maturity that allows multiple circumstances and yea, heavier circumstances, to result in His glory. Indeed that is what the trial of our faith is all about. When tempted to ask that forbidden question, be sure to meet its answer with a premeditated thanks giving. In everything give thanks. To steal a pistachio slogan, “Get cracken.”

An Essay for week #46 Sun, Nov 17, 13

Msg #1347 National Thanksgiving Prayer

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

On our national Thanksgiving day, thank the LORD for being born in the greatest nation on the earth. There is a progressive movement afoot which denies her Christian heritage, foils her trust in Christ, and strives for her “evolution” to socialism. There is need of a new movement in America, not of those who would march on an inept Washington, but of those who would kneel. Isaiah said of his falling nation, “Judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no ... intercessor:” E.M. Bounds, stated it, “God's greatest movements in this world have been conditioned on, continued and fashioned by prayer,... Persistent, prevailing, conspicuous and mastering prayer has always brought God to be present.” Abraham Lincoln, said, “I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom, and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for that day.” America is falling in the street. “It is religion and morality alone which can establish the principles upon which freedom can securely stand. The only foundation of a free constitution is pure virtue,” said our 2nd president, John Adams. On our national Thanksgiving Day, pray for the greatest nation on earth. Robert E. Lee put it, “Knowing that intercessory prayer is our mightiest weapon and the supreme call for all Christians today, I pleadingly urge our people everywhere to pray. Believing that prayer is the greatest contribution that our people can make in this critical hour, I humbly urge that we take time to pray – to really pray.”

An Essay for week #47 Sun, Nov 24, 13

Msg #1348 Be Outspoken And Not Dumb

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

For better or worse December is the month wherein the birth of Christ is given great emphasis. There is a message in every accounting of every detail of Christ's birth. Sometimes the certain priest of the course of Abia gets overlooked. Zacharias and Elizabeth walk onto the opening page of the Gospel of Luke, coming with twenty or more years of unfulfilled prayer; Elizabeth was old and barren. There is an emphasis that they were both righteous, both walking right, and both blameless, but years had passed without their prayer answered. There is an emphasis on Zacharias' faithfulness in the priest's office and that this day's "lot" put him before the altar of incense. An altar involves both surrender and sacrifice; incense signifies the prayers of saints. The candlestick stood on the left of the Holy Place, providing all available light in the room; the table of shew bread on the right, and the altar of incense was centered against the veil that shrouded the Most Holy Place. The angel of the Lord stood on the right side of the altar of incense, in the shadow of the altar. He told Zacharias, "Thy prayer is heard," and he was dumb for not believing. When there is a longstanding unfulfilled prayer in your life, remain faithful in your priestly service. This story caps off the truth that God has the greater good in view. Yours will not be as great as a John the Baptist, but a greater good just the same. Also, when the promise of answer appears in the shadow of the altar, believe it, else you will be dumb, and not tell others of the great promise. You gotta love the lead account approaching the story of the birth of Christ. Learn from it and lean on it.

An Essay for week #48 Sun, Dec 1, 13

Msg #1349 Believing It All

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Gabriel's announcement to Mary is so miraculous that one may miss the seven things it communicates about God's Messiah, things which are flat out believed by anyone who would attain the eternal life offered in John3:16. There is a lot in a name and his was JESUS, "for he shall save his people from their sins". This must be added to other names, for unto us a child is born... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace, ... Emmanuel, which is God with us. That quite captures the next revelation from Gabriel, "And he shall be great." Another title connecting him to the "decree" in Psalm 2, "the Son of the Highest," if one missed that it is reiterated in his next sentence, "Son of God." Forth, "The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David." In Luke20:42 Jesus messed with the Pharisee's minds with this revelation because David called him Lord. Fifth, this JESUS "shall reign over the house of Jacob." Calvin's reformed theology twists and doubts this revelation, but a Bible believer dare not. Sixth, he will be on the throne forever, and if one miss that, it continues, His kingdom shall "never end." He is presently enthroned in the heart of the believer where he is indeed Counselor, Comforter and Prince of Peace. What a Wonderful revelation from Gabriel. Oh, that seventh revelation reiterated here by Gabriel, a revelation staunchly affirmed by the Fundamentals of the last century, a revelation soft peddled by the American Baptist sect who refused the Fundamentals, a revelation maligned by modernists with corrupted texts of the Bible, it is in Isaiah 7:14, "Behold a virgin shall conceive." I trust this Christmas finds you believing it all.

An Essay for week #49 Sun, Dec 8, 13

Msg #1350 Mary's Worship, My Worship

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

As Luke recorded, Elizabeth and Mary could flat out preach about the Lord Jesus Christ, Saviour and Redeemer of mankind. Preaching is the act of backing one into a corner and forcing a decision upon ones audience; anyone who says woman cannot preach is likely unmarried and in need of more clarity. What they meant to say is that Biblically, woman can not hold the office of Bishop/Pastor or be in any position where they usurp the authority of a man. Backing one into a corner with the tongue and imposing a decision, woman can do that just fine. Notice such finesse of Elizabeth and Mary in Luke1:42-55. “Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.” It needs clarified that Mary is NOT the mother of God, she is the Mother of Jesus, and that “Blessed” implies God has done something that mere man or nature can not do. Especially noted by these two pregnant preachers is that every human pregnancy is a soul in the making, a miracle of God, but this one is blest prima facie, i.e. true and authentic without need of further evidence. My soul doth magnify the Lord, my spirit rejoiced in God my Saviour, for he hath regarded my low estate. Any born-again believer can echo Mary's body – soul – and spirit message. Attaining the height and crescendo of Mary's worship is a worthy goal for this Holy – Day celebration. As she states it, the proud are scattered in the imagination of their hearts, the low exalted; the materialistic are empty, the hungry are filled; He hath holpen his Servant Israel. You gotta love that past participle in this Holy – Day celebration; and you have got to make the decision, “What think ye of Christ?”

An Essay for week #50 Sun, Dec 15, 13

Msg #1351 We Worship The Christ

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Concerning the birth of Christ Matthew gives us Joseph's perspective and wise men who traveled from the east, Mark is virtually silent, Luke tells of the taxing decree, crowded inns, angels and shepherds, but John presents tremendous insights that are often overlooked. Before addressing His birth John reveals five of His character traits. In the beginning Christ was with God; in itself, an interesting morsel, that before birth he existed. The Christ was God, and Creator of everything, and He was Life, and He was True Light. When the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, his name was the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father. Today the world has this pretense of celebrating his birth. Roman paganism attempts to enshrine a day of longest dark in an aviance of their holy mass and penance. American commercialism enshrines the purchase of trinkets and gift giving to all. Martin Luther's protestantism honors the evergreen tree more than that purveyor of everlasting life. The humanist manifesto holds out for distraction, a fat red man with tiny reindeer. It is John who clarifies that the Light shined and the darkness comprehended it not. It is John who pens that Christ was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew him not. Alas, John writes the sad truth that He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. There are ill and ilks in the world that comprehends not, many traditions and isms in those who received not, but as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. God in the flesh. His name shall be called Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins. Christians worship Him everyday.

An Essay for week #51 Sun, Dec 22, 13

Msg #1352 The Rip-Tide of Sin

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, ... “ (Heb 2:3a) Along the east coast of America there are places where powerful rip-tides flow rapidly out into the ocean. A rip-tide is formed when high tide draws water into lowland areas, and low tide funnels them back through subtle valleys in the sand. An unaware swimmer captured in a rip-tide is helpless to get back to shore. No matter how gallant his effort he is carried further and further out into the ocean depths. Without a savior that will pluck them out of their plight and set their feet back on solid ground, all hope is gone. The swimmer does not initially realize his dilemma. Cries from shore go unheeded. When they suspect their situation may be worsening they swim harder until their whole focus is getting back to the shore. They are certain they can swim the distance because they do not know the power of a rip-tide. The theme of the whole Bible is Salvation. Salvation defines a lost estate, a helpless condition, and a savior who can restore that estate. With Christmas behind us, and a new year before us, it is important to know that no religion, no mass, no penance, and no new leaf can save us from the rip-tide of sin; you need a Saviour. Those already saved from that rip-tide, rejoice in, and openly worship our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. Those still dabbling in sin, and not understanding the power of a rip-tide put their strength in religion, mass, penance, peace on earth, and turning over new leaves. Cries from the shore go unheeded. What your loved one needs are cries from our knees. Salvation is of the Lord.

An Essay for week #52 Sun, Dec 29, 13

Published at www.GSBaptistChurch.com/ppulpit/biblesays13.epub

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