

What The Bible Says

in 52 Penny Pulpit Essays From 2017

By Pastor Edward G. Rice

A Rural Pastor With A Royal Message

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in 52 Penny Pulpit Essays From 2016

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 #1701 Day One Relationship #1

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The very best relationship cannot continue when the lines of communication are cut off. It is headed for trouble when those lines are strained or broken. Any married couple knows the importance of keeping communications in good working order, and have, at one time, tasted the joy of having a right relationship. A relationship with the Lord is the most important one in life. Others will not do well if this one is not right. Lines of communication to our Lord are prayer and Scripture. In this new year spending more time in both can enhance an intimate, personal, gratifying relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. I need that. The Apostle John, the beloved disciple, had it, and said, "That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full" (1John 1:3-4). Jesus had told John, "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (John 15:15). The fellowship that can make your joy full is friendship with God. That is a relationship worth pursuing. Prayer, talking with your friend, and Scripture, hearing from a friend, are more important than anything else in this new year. All of our relationships could be improved, this one first and foremost. When this one is right, all the others fall into proper place. Read your Bible, Genesis to Revelation of Jesus Christ, this year. It will improve your life more than the greatest diet known to man.

An Essay for week #1 Jan 1, 2017

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Msg #1702 Abide IN Him

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

There are things one can do to improve relationships this year. Lines of communication need to be improved. Showing affections and feelings needs some practice. Making effort to spend more time together is always commendable. The latter, the time together thing, would be called abiding together, and Jesus commanded it of us. "I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman.... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine" (John 15:1,4). In the military, with frequent TDYs that took me from family weeks at a time, abiding together took on a new urgency. Ninety-five percent of marriages broke during remote tours. But abiding is bigger than living together, or even being together. Jesus stressed "Abide IN me, and I IN you." When born-again, one is baptized into Christ (wholly immersed into), and indwelt by the Only Begotten Son of God. It is a permanent arrangement. He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." It is, however, possible that a born-again one might step out on Christ, to not abide with him, to, as it were, excuse themselves from his presence while they go out on their Ranger Bass boat, or their white-tail deer hunting trip. We need to make it a practice to consciously ask His permission before we step out. "Excuse me Lord, I am going on this drunken binge and I will be back in a few days." See how that works out for you. No... abiding in him means we keep our mind stayed on him. That is why God directed, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Don't step out on the Lord Jesus Christ, abide in him.

An Essay for week #2 Jan 8, 2017

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Msg #1703 Nine Fruits of the Spirit

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8). Much fruit is God's goal for every believer. “The branch in me that beareth not fruit,” Jesus said, “The Father taketh away” (vrs.2). The wayside, stony, and thorny soil bear no fruit (Matt13). When a professed believer bears no fruit, recall what Jesus said, “By their fruits ye shall know them” (Matt 7). Eternity does not depend on our knowing, so at the funeral give them the benefit of the doubt. In the mean time plead and pray for loved ones as lost souls. The fruitless are taken away and the fruitful are purged to bring more fruit. God's goal is much fruit. In Galatians the Apostle Paul gives eighteen WORKS of the flesh, and nine FRUITS of the Spirit. Consider these nine fruits, consider if they are for your consumption or for others to consume. The fruit “love” that comes from you is for others, but joy and peace are fruits that you enjoy for yourself. Your longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness, others enjoy, while your faith, meekness, and temperance are fruit feasts for everyone to enjoy. The first fruit mentioned, love, is first on purpose. The Apostle John, who mentions us to abiding in Christ to bear fruit, writes his first epistle as a dissertation on love. Love is the first fruit that needs to be tender and plentiful in our lives. John's dissertation contends that love's absence is God's absence. The well purged vineyards around our church bear much fruit when branches are overflowing with sap. It is the presence of the sap that pushes out much fruit. No sap, no fruit! Abide in Christ, keep your mind stayed on him, and bear fruit.

An Essay for week #3 Jan 15, 2017

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Msg #1704 Saturday's Woman's Rights March

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

I attended the “woman's rights” march on the Saturday after Donald Trump's inauguration; he is our new president. In Seneca Falls they considered it their right to flood the crosswalks on every green light, so I stayed longer than I wanted. Nobody knew exactly why they were marching, so I took a survey of their signs to see what all the hubbub was about. I saw five planks. The first was the right to be amoral in every way. Every sexual perversion never asked about paraded on the crosswalks. Being incensed about the Y chromosome and insisting it does not matter is not very scientific, but it was the main battle cry of “woman's rights.” The right to abort a human life and throw it in the trash was also claimed as their amoral right but it took a back seat to sodomy and the Y chromosome denial. They devised the term “transgender” and cram it down our throats, as if Y chromosomes present or lacking, don't really matter in their artificial world. The reality is that Jehovah God, man's Creator, made Y-chromosomed and not-Y-chromosomed, and He has the say for our moral right and wrong. There is no transgender and He has declared who should have sex with whom. He also clarified when a new soul is conceived and takes his image and likeness. Amoral rights are wrong, God's rights are supreme.

The second plank they marched across during green lights is that black-lives matter more than blue-lives matter, and way more than white-lives matter. It is kind of their affirmative action of who should matter more. Reality is that blue-lives, being commissioned to stand between the good and evil of society, matter more. Green-lives, commissioned to stand between the good and evil of nations, are right up there as well, but black-lives are not more deserving of rights because of race or color. Saying otherwise is actually racism.

The third plank I saw on the crosswalk was that carbon dioxide, simple CO₂, was going to end the world as we know it. The brain-washing ability of the liberal progressive is displayed in earnest by their calling CO₂ the most dangerous pollutant in our world. The reality is that it is a perfectly natural ingredient in God's green earth. We exhale it daily. Real science knows that ocean temperatures rise, algae populations quadruple, and all the CO₂, that we could every feed them is devoured, turned into the O₂, that we inhale. Algae's photosynthesis produces over

half of our oxygen and consumes CO₂ to do it. They grossly exaggerate what rain forests do for us. Liberals look at one tiny piece of God's impressive, self-regulating, cyclic system, i.e. CO₂ levels, and suppose the world is coming to an end unless they step in and save it. The progressive demagogues call that “science,” and have pulled blinders across the eyes of three generations. They have fossil-fuel-phobia because of the hoax. Carbon dioxide labeled as a dangerous pollutant, give me a break, where is the “logic and reason” Barrack boasted about.

The illegal cross walkers also supposed that the Muslim religion has more religious rights than those who pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God. It was affirmative action for Islam and Shari'a law. Ignore the Islamic invasions of the past, the 17th century of Spain, the Islamic State called for in Muhammad's '*Qur'an*', the sociology-economic-political-militant-religious-system and pretend it to be a peace loving religion. There is nothing peaceful about suicide-bombers and terrorist truck drivers. It is mass delusion that they be given more rights in our public schools than the teacher who would read a Holy Bible, and pray in Jesus' name. The Islamic invasion, not CO₂ levels, is what will change the world as we know it. “Woman's rights” march indeed; these are planks of the progressive liberal's agenda!

Lastly, the plank that “woman's rights” marchers paraded in my windshield was to take Jerusalem away from God's chosen people, Israel, and force them to make a two state solution. They would label Israel as “occupiers of Palestinian land,” and force them to share God's ancient “city of peace” with the terrorists that have vowed to “wipe Israel and Judaism off the face of the earth.” That is nothing but diabolical. Satan and the powers of hell were jubilant at Saturdays march and his minions are eager that all five planks get nailed down. Pray that our new president will have the wherewithal to rip up every one of these progressive planks. It is a formidable task for a minority group. Obama had a pen and a phone, but we have a Book and an Almighty God.

An Essay for week #4 Jan 22, 2017 (a 785 word oped)
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Msg #1705 The Abider's Promise

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it” (Jer6:19). In Jeremiah the prophet's day, God had a grievance with his chosen people, Israel. In our day God has the same grievance with America. A preacher of righteousness will not be popular. Jesus tells us that the world will hate those who abide in him, and gives love and hate in stark contrast (John 15). There is no room for straddling the fence. He pleads that you continue in his love, assuring that we have the ability to step out of it. “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love” (15:10). Christ's plea to abide in his love is followed by three sobering realities. First we will be his friend, not his servant. He has intimately shared everything with us in the Holy Bible; all of his plans and wishes are written down for us We can be a friend of God, like Abraham, Moses or Daniel. Second is that the world is going to hate God's friends. It is not about you, it is about Christ. He has uncovered the sins of the world, and they are not going to like your candle. Thirdly, his friends have a Comforter and Spirit of truth dwelling in them and are commissioned to bear witness, as they bring forth fruit. There is a tremendous promise associated with these three sobering realities. “That whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (15:16). Two things, the promise is only for those abiding, as witnesses, with fruit, and the word “may” is different than the legal term “shall.” Abide in him.

An Essay for week #5 Jan 29, 2017

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Msg #1706 Spring Time and Love

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Happy Valentines Day comes in February like a carrot on a string. It is meant to entice us to press through the cold, dark, frigid throws of winter, remembering the love of life, and push towards the rejuvenating breath of spring time and love. This essay focuses on ten building blocks of blissful matrimony, while you focus on this question, “Why in the world did I marry this woman?” (or gender specific?) List item 1) get your life priorities right, love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. That includes a weekly tithe of all that He has blessed you with. The physical and emotional will take care of themselves when we get this one right, God said so. 2) Love and be faithful to your local independent, Bible believing, Baptist Church, it is His most important resource in the maintenance of your life and home. 3) Regularly share your salvation testimony, with a when, where, and HOW. The latter should include so much Roman's Road that anyone could do what you did. It should be your most told story, in that your wife, children, and grandchildren could recite it from memory. These three are building blocks for life as well as blissful marriage. 4) Marriage is a spiritual union, put your main emphasis there; remember Christ's illustrations of the lily and the song-bird. 5) An intimate, personal, passionate relationship with your spouse only comes from one you have with Christ. 6) Learn to communicate well, it is a learned behavior. 7) Children are motivated only by feelings, don't be childish. 8) Use the two golden phrases often (but not together), “I am sorry,” and “I love you.” 9) Control your thought life, casting down imaginations (2Cor10:5). 10) Come back for this one next week.

An Essay for week #6 Feb 5, 2017

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Msg #1707 Holding Her Heart

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.” The most challenging construct in a blissful marriage is a husband who knows how to hold on to his wife's heart. It cannot be done with force or manipulation, in fact holding her heart must be an ongoing, thoughtful, tender, deliberate art. God held Abraham's but lost Israel's, held King David's but lost King Solomon's, held Daniel's but lost Belshazzar's. If you will do it successfully it will require selfless love. Immature love is selfish and most do not go much past that. Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” Giving your time, priority, attention, even your wallet are less than your life, but many falter there. Your wife also knows when you make her the most significant person in your life... or not. Selfless love will lead to one's genuine significance. She will feel significant physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Don't leave out the latter, God says that if a wife is to learn spiritual truths, let her ask her husband at home. Husbands better open their Bible and teach spiritual truths in the home. Take the lead here or lose her heart. The third aspect of holding on to her heart is giving her security. A wife needs to know that this arrangement is “till death do us part.” Our Saviour and Lord said, “I will never leave you, nor forsake you.” A husband must learn to pass on God's selfless love, his genuine showing of significance, and heart felt security. All three must be physical, emotional, and spiritual. Use these to cradle her heart in strong gentleness. Hold it gently, and marriage is a taste of Paradise. Happy Valentines.

An Essay for week #7 Feb 12, 2017

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Msg #1708 What Every Christian Should Be

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Ephesians is the first of the Apostle Paul's prison Epistles, written after two years of his silent reckoning. The Holy Spirit of God aptly inserts a depth in his communication. "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.... To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God" (2:19-20, 3:10). In this boldness every christian should be under a pastor, a shepherd and teacher, for the perfecting of the saints, that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine (4:8-16). Hebrews 13:7 and 17 (mark them in your Bible) stating that your pastor should have "the rule over you." Every christian should also be active in the body of Christ (Eph 4:4-7). Not a denomination, with their catholic church, but an independent, autonomous, Bible believing, solid, local, Baptist one. Every christian should be effectually working their vocation, i.e. calling (4:1,4, Php3:14, 1Cor 1:26, 7:20). Don't be deceived by Presbyterians and Calvinists, your calling and election are not to salvation but to service. Effectiveness comes from dedication to the work, dedication to prayer, humility of heart but authority in purpose. And every christian needs to be exercised in the Word. "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night... Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... but his delight is in the law of the LORD" (Josh1:8, Ps1). This I say, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk.

An Essay for week #8 Feb 19, 2017

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Msg #1709 Your Praise And Worship Team

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In a Laodicean church a good praise and worship team can raise the dead, make the spirit of man feel ever-so alive, cause the slumbering one to clap their hands and the lame to dance. But when your praise and worship team is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit dwelling in your soul, your team will slay that resurrected spirit and teach you to die daily. God teaches, "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom6:11). The Laodicean team uses their powerful, sensuous, repetitive pounding music to awaken and energize the spirit. The Trinity Team uses the quick and powerful two edged sword to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart... for if ye live after the flesh ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death) the deeds of the body ye shall live (Heb4:12, Rom8:13). The worship team you follow is a matter of life and death. The Laodicean team readily admits that their copyright bible is a Not Inspired Version (NIV). They suppose that only the autographs were inspired and nobody has an inspired, infallible, inerrant Bible from God. But God, in his inspired Word calls them wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked. He counsels them to buy his gold tried in the fire, white raiment, and eyesalve (Rev3:17-18). Don't be settled into the Laodicean church with their rock bands. They have a different Word, a different Way, a different Truth, and a different Life. Be honest, they have a different Christ. The Word said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John14:6). Worship in Spirit and Truth.

An Essay for week #9 Feb 26, 2017

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Msg #1710 The Good, Great, and Chief Shepherd

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

When David wrote “The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want,” God was using a shepherd boy as a pen to write a preamble for his only begotten Son. Jesus said, “I am the Good Shepherd... I am the Great Shepherd... I am the Chief Shepherd” (John 10:11, Heb 13:20, 1Pet 5:4). How disparaging it would be to go through life with David's twenty-third Psalm memorized, yet not knowing its three-fold fulfillment. “The Good Shepherd giveth his life for the sheep,” and can say, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved” (John 10:9). The Good Shepherd is God's fulfillment of David's twenty-second Psalm, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?... All they that see me laugh me to scorn... saying He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him... they pierced my hands and my feet... They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture” (Psalm 22). On the cruel cross of Calvary the Good Shepherd gave his life FOR the sheep, in place of, instead of, in substitution for, in propitiation of, the sinner... For while we were yet sinners, Christ died FOR us. Have you used the Door? Only the SAVED have a Great Shepherd, that fulfills David's twenty-third Psalm. That Great Shepherd of the sheep, brought from the dead, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, can make you perfect in every good work, as he “maketh me to lie down in green pastures... restoreth my soul, leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his names sake.” At Christ's 2nd coming that Chief Shepherd shall appear with my crown of Glory and fulfill David's twenty-fourth Psalm, “The earth is the LORD's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.”

An Essay for week #10 Mar 5, 2017

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Msg #1711 Despise Not Propesyings.

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The book of Daniel can be gloomful if one does not align it with the Revelation of Jesus Christ. There are ten toes of iron mingled with clay (2), world image worship (3), resurrected tree stumps (4), hand writing on the wall (5), dens of lions (6), a dreadful, terrible, ten horned beast over-run by a “little-horn” (7), a “little-horn” that practiced, prospered, and became a King of fierce countenance for 2,300 days (8), and seventy weeks of years with the last week divided into three-and-one-half year periods (9). In chapter ten Daniel is in mourning, in eleven there are wars and rumors of wars, and in twelve there is a time of trouble such as never was. Believers are not to spend their time looking for the anti-christ, giants in the land, or half-breed angels, but for a rallying trumpet, and then for the coming King of kings, and Lord of lords. Those who allegorize the Revelation of Jesus Christ do not recognize God's dispensational divisions and cannot rightly divide the Word of Truth. Pay them little heed. These chapters in Daniel detail the Stone cut out without hands (2), the fourth Man in the fire (3), the King of heaven and earth (4), the Hand of God writing (5), the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (6), the Ancient of Days (7), the Prince of princes (8) and the Messiah the Prince (9). In chapter ten Daniel saw His “eyes as lamps of fire,” in eleven he stood to confirm and strengthen him, and in twelve Daniel understood God's timing in all these things. Be a student of Biblical prophecy, “comfort one another with these words,” and “despise not prophesyings” (1Thes 5:20). “According to the prophecies which went before on thee,... war a good warfare” (1Tim 1:18).

An Essay for week #11 Mar 12, 2017

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Msg #1712 Stepping Out of the Box For God

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed” (Hebrews 11:8a). This verse, from Hebrews 11, called the Hall of Fame of Faith, seems straight forward enough, but make no mistake Abram's obedience was marked by great personal conflict and sacrifice. Even his first step of obedience took a great faith that only comes from God's great grace. The record of Abram's call is in Genesis 12, “Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house” (Genesis 12:1a). When the LORD “had” said, “get thee from thy fathers house,” that house consisted of Noah, the oldest man on earth, Shem, Noah's son who helped build the ark, Grandpa Eber, that gave him the family name “Hebrew,” and Eber's son, Peleg, who was named because of the great division of nations occurring at the rebellious tower now called Babel. We have errorantly been taught, and then taught, that Abram was only stepping away from the Godless Ur of the Chaldees, but Abram was actually told to leave Noah, and the whole Godly line of Shem, the only Godly line left on earth. Separating from the Chaldees is a no-brainer. We are not sure how compromised the Godly line of Shem had become, but Abram was now called to step out and become his own-man, a friend of God who believed him, trusted him, and obeyed him. It is a good thing to live under the shadow of a godly father, but God only has children, no grandchildren. You don't get in on coat-tails. Some may need to strike out on their own in their relationship with God. Abram did.

An Essay for week #12 Mar 19, 2017

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Msg #1713 Faith Without Works

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

A Bible believer has a great reverence for all sixty-six books of God's revealed Word, but the very first epistle ever written to the Church should hold a special place in our awe. James is that epistle. God wrote us twenty-one epistles, this one was his first. James, the half brother of Jesus himself, wrote it before Gentiles were included in the gospel's outreach. If you do not get the eight things in his outline, get these three, God wrote you an epistle by inspiration, it is the first epistle he ever wrote, and you will not get out of it what he put in it unless you, "Study to show thyself approved unto God." The eight things are completely interwoven in this epistle. "Faith without works is dead" (2:17). Curiously, his epistle written to Gentiles several years later teaches that "works without faith is dead" (Rom 4:1-5). Faith without discrimination is good. (2:1-9). Society currently teaches that all discrimination is bad, but my parents taught me when it came to my friends discriminating carefully is wise. It is only blind or stereo-typed discrimination that is bad; be sure that all have sinned, and God can save anybody. Faith without trial is fake, and faith with an unbridled tongue is a fire. Faith without receiving is empty lust (4:1-3). Faith without wisdom is vain (1:5-8). Remember the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. James discriminates between Godly wisdom and man's wisdom. A brain forging ahead without God is called philosophy, and it ends up unstable in all his ways. Faith without patience is spoiled-figs, and finally, faith without grudging is real (5:9). Faith that holds a grudge is not pleasing to God, or anybody else. These eight qualities of faith are neatly interwoven throughout five chapters James.

An Essay for week #13 Mar 26, 2017

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Msg #1714 Before This Coming Palm Sunday

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

On Friday, six days before Passover, Mary took a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair. (John 12). This was a reenactment of her salvation experience. John 11:2 says she had done this before and Luke 7 records that previous there was an alabaster box, tears and weeping, and three Christ-honoring customs fulfilled by the most unworthy woman. The Pharisee who thought himself worthy of Jesus, ignored the custom of foot washing done to every guest of a dinner, the custom of the greeting kiss, given to both cheeks of the most familiar guests, and the custom of anointing the head with oil, done for only the most honored guest. In John 12, three years latter, Mary still did not consider herself worthy of the presence of the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Lamb of God, the Prince of Peace, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the one called Jesus. Nor am I. Recall Jesus' words to the hypocritical Pharisee, "Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head. Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little" (Luke 7:44-47). Before Palm Sunday reenact your salvation experience, it will make the next two weeks most holy.

An Essay for week #14 Apr 2, 2017

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Msg #1715 A Picture of A Passover Lamb

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb, ... And ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month: and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening” (Exodus 12:3,6). God knows how to operate a calendar. God knows how to paint a picture. God knows how to depict His Passover Lamb. Fifteen-hundred years after God's paint dried his King, his Only Begotten Son, offered himself as the King of Israel on the tenth day of the ancient Bible month of Abib. God in heaven knew, and his Anointed Son on earth knew, that he was instead going to be The Passover Lamb. They knew that in four short days, on the fourteenth day of this holy month, the Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world, would be nailed to an old rugged cross. For fifteen-hundred years Hebrews had separated a Passover lamb on the tenth day and slit that little lambs throat on the fourteenth day of the month. God knows how to paint the picture; the Pope in Rome would smudge up God's picture with a “Good Friday;” the Arch-Bishop of Canterbury would smear it with “Maundy Money Thursdays.” It is apostasy. If Moses was kept from the promised land because he put one little fingerprint smear on God's holy picture, what will these apostate churches answer? Disregard the “clergy;” focus on the week before us. Focus on God's Passover Lamb. The lens you use to examine God's Lamb cannot be an ecumenical copyright bible accepted by the apostate churches. In English, it will only be an Authorized King James Bible. Make no apologies. Watch the Lamb.

An Essay for week #15 Apr 9, 2017

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Msg #1716 Resurrection Morning

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In 1840, in Paris France, Louis Gaussen, a French theologian published his book "*Theopneustia*" (Inspiration). It thoroughly defended against the onslaught of attacks that skeptics, scoffers, scorners and scholars were leveling against the infallible, inerrant, verbally inspired Word of God. In his first revision he added eleven pages that rebuke and refute the scoffers who supposed eleven contradictions in the Bible's four resurrection accounts. (p218-228). Dr. Gaussen says that the eleven wild speculations appeared to be ill-founded and too often solved already to be in his first edition. Nevertheless, the scoffers perpetuated the list and, "We have thought proper to make a replay" (p220). The skeptics, scoffers, scorners, and scholars did not change their course or tactic in one-hundred-and sixty years, and the believer need not change the defense. The details of the resurrection accounts are all exactly true because the details of God's Holy Bible are all exactly inspired. Inspiration, inerrancy, and infallibility must be received by faith, and is only viable for those who first have the faith and indwelling of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Truth. Now all the scoffers have their own copyright version of what they think God meant to say. (There are still a few gender-neutral and sodomite-friendly versions vying for copyrights but the vile pollution has already been accomplished.) The resurrection of the Only Begotten Son of God, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ, is a fundamental doctrine of true Christianity. It is appalling today how many "churches" align themselves with the scorners. Blessed is the man that sitteth not in the pews of the scornful. I don't trust their copyright bibles either. Every Lord's day, every Sunday, every first day of the week, as it dawns in the morning, believers worship and acknowledge Christ's resurrection. We have for nineteen-hundred years.

An Essay for week #16 Apr 16, 2017

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Msg #1717 A Precious Type of Christ

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Holy Bible, from Genesis to maps, is about our Lord Jesus Christ, but there is a name recorded more than his in its pages. That name comes second to his in the New Testament's beginning and second to his in its ending. God chose a shepherd boy, “a man after God's own heart”, and anointed him to be King of Israel. Jesus, the Only Begotten Son of God, is God's Anointed One (Hebrew - *Messiah*, Greek – *Christ*). In believing that, the Apostle John affirms, “you may have life through his name” (John20:31). So David is the Bible's most recorded “*type*” of Christ. King Saul's great beginning, ongoing struggle to destroy David, and keeping him from the kingdom typifies Satan's struggle against Christ. God giving David the heathen for his inheritance, and the uttermost for his possession is exactly what David records as upcoming for Christ in his second Psalm. Even David being deposed and driven from Jerusalem, and later reinstated as king is a depiction of our present distress. Bible believers know that Christ will soon come back to Jerusalem as King of kings, and Lord of lords. As much as David typifies Christ, he typifies man. His adultery and first degree murder cap the truth that “There is none righteous, no not one... For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10.23). With deep insight David wrote “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.... The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 34:18, 51:17). The life of David is worth another look. One can learn of Christ; one can learn of his own vile nature.

An Essay for week #17 Apr 23, 2017

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Msg #1718 A Disturbing Type of Man

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

While David as a type of Christ is invigorating, David as a type for man is disheartening. When Nathan, the prophet of God, portrayed a man's thoughtless, selfish, injustice “David's anger was greatly kindled against the man” (2Samuel 12:5). Someone else's sin comes into instant focus. “As the LORD liveth the man shall surely die. And he shall restore the lamb four-fold... because he had no pity.” God's anger against David's sin was no less. The death penalty was passed to David's child of adultery, and the four-fold price was paid as God said, “Behold I will rise up evil against thee out of thine own house.” Evil in our own house is an awful price for ones selfish sin. In the next chapter David's daughter, Tamar was raped by her half brother, her rapist, Amnon was murdered by David's son Absalom, and Absalom was exiled and banished from his father. “And David mourned for his son every day.” After this three-fold payment in one chapter David is tricked into bringing his exiled son home. David's enemies could never topple his kingdom, but Absalom did. “*Aba*” - Hebrew for “*father*” and “*shalome*” - Hebrew for “*peace*” combine in the name of “Absalom” who brought his father not peace but war, because of sin. “Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight?... by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme.” God hates man's sin, because sin will take you farther than you want to go, sin will keep you longer than you want to stay, and sin will cost you more than you want to pay. Sin has dire consequence. Learn some valuable lessons from David, teach them to our children.

An Essay for week #18 Apr 30, 2017

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Msg #1719 Not by Law, Works, or Penance

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Galatians is the first epistle written to the Gentiles. The Gospel of Christ is to the Jew first, and also to the Greek, and so is the New Testament. The first of the Gospel records, Matthew is aimed to the Jews, the first of the epistles, James, is aimed to the Jews. The second epistle written was Galatians, and it deals with the line between Judaism and Christianity, i.e. law vs. grace. "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, ... for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Gal 2:16). Ecumenical bibles make this faith "*in*" Christ, but God's word says it is the faith "*of*" Christ that saves. Salvation is through faith, that not of ourselves, it is the gift of God (Ephesians 2). It is not our faith, nor our will. "Not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:13) Judaism, like all religions, had risen to the ultimate "we can do it our self" attitude. Their righteousness, attained by keeping the law, was man made righteousness, rebuked as hypocritical by Jesus Christ our Lord. "For by the works of the law there shall no flesh be justified." Defiled religions weigh the works of man, or the penance of man. True repentance requires that one see his helpless estate and call on, trust in, and believe in Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God. "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?" False teachers, false priests, and mislead clergy, are still bewitching. Miraculously, "God sent forth his Son to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Gal 4:4-5).

An Essay for week #19 May 7, 2017

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Msg #1720 Independent Baptist Needed

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

This week I accepted a degree from a theological seminary whose university worships pragmatism. I am grateful that they have acknowledged my seven years of ceaseless studies. I am grateful that in years gone by they held a position on the fundamentals of the faith, the inerrancy of the Scriptures, and the purity of King James Bible. Their keynote speaker Dr. Elmer Towns and his wife Jackie, spent over three hours mocking Baptist distinctives and deriding these three positions as my heart broke. Dr. Towns will be a great financial help to them, just like Syria was a great military help to Judah's King Asa in 2Chronicles 16:7-9. The world of the Independent Baptist shrinks as the Hybel-Warren-Syrian kingdoms grow, install rock bands, lower standards, mock my King James Bible, and advance their interpretive-dance-drama. Lord help us.

This week, 1600 miles from home, my granddaughter's friends admitted an uncensored worship of fantasy's Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, but no knowledge whatsoever of Christ, the Coming King of kings. If grandchildren are to put more stock in Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Universe than in David Benioff's "Game of Thrones," or Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings," it will take Independent Baptist's going door to door and talking about the True King, interpretive dance won't cut it. Will you walk by someones grandchild this week and NOT tell them about the King of Glory? Lord help us. Lord help the Independent Baptists who go door-to-door with your Gospel, and herald your holy plea on the street corner. People need the Lord. If you would this week, when you knock on a door or hand out a Gospel track, pray for our 1600 mile heart-string to Texas. God can do anything, God can reach anywhere.

An Essay for week #20 May 14, 2017

Msg in audio at www.GSBaptistChurch.com/audio/gs170514.mp3

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Msg #1720a Independent Baptists Unedited

What The Bible Says Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

This week I accepted a degree from a theological seminary whose university worships pragmatism. I am grateful that they have acknowledged my seven years of ceaseless studies. I am grateful that in years gone by they held a position on the fundamentals of the faith, the inerrancy of the Scriptures, and the purity of King James Bible. Their keynote speaker Dr. Elmer Towns and his wife Jackie, spent over three hours mocking Baptist distinctives and deriding these three positions as my heart broke. Dr. Towns will be a great financial help to them, just like Syria was a great military help to Judah's King Asa in 2Chronicles 16:7-9. The world of the Independent Baptist shrinks as the Hybel-Warren-Syrian kingdoms grow, install rock bands, lower standards, mock my King James Bible, and advance their interpretive-dance-drama. Lord help us.

Also this week, we had been 1600 miles from our oldest granddaughters for four years. It was such a blessing to take them out to dinner, and also see our great granddaughter, and great grandson. We were just enthralled to spend a little time with them, and only wish we could get to know them, and they us, but alas we are headed back to New York tomorrow. My granddaughter's friends admitted an uncensored worship of fantasy's Iron Throne of the Seven Kingdoms, but no knowledge whatsoever of Christ, the Coming King of kings. If grandchildren are to put more stock in Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Universe than in David Benioff's "Game of Thrones," or Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings," it will take Independent Baptist's going door to door and talking about the True King, interpretive dance won't cut it. Next week when I knock on the door of a complete stranger with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, I will be praying for Pastor Erick Knight and my friend Gary Dyess of Victory Baptist in Copperas Cove Texas. When I give a Gospel Track to a stranger on the street, I will whisper a prayer for Pastor Bragdon of Gateway Baptist, Gatesville Texas. Will you walk by someones grandchild this week and NOT tell them about the King of Glory? Lord help us. Lord help the Independent Baptists who go door-to-door with your Gospel, and herald your holy plea on the street corner. People need the Lord. If you would this week, when you knock on a door or hand out a Gospel track, pray for our 1600 mile heart-string to Texas. God can do anything, God can reach anywhere.

An Unedited Essay for week #20 May 14, 2017

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Msg #1721 What Independent Baptists Preach

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Consider that Jesus likened the kingdom of heaven to ten virgins that took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom, but consider first that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. The very first Gospel record is to the Jews and presents Jesus as the Christ, the king that will sit on the throne of David and rule the world from Zion, the City of David. The parallels for the kingdom of heaven that are depicted in the Gospel According to Matthew are not about Christ's Church, nor it's soon coming rapture. Matthew is to the Jews and all about the King being put in place in his kingdom on earth. The parallel about the ten virgins is no exception to this rule. No Protestant clergy or theologian can give a proper commentary on these ten virgins because they hold that a catholic, universal church has taken over all promises made to the Jews; they see no dispensational divides whatsoever, and are covenant theologians at best. To see the depth of the parallel of the five foolish virgins with insufficient oil, and five wise virgins prepared to meet the coming bridegroom, one needs to rightly divide the Word of Truth with a dispensational discernment. Independent Baptists are not Protestant, not Calvinists, and not Denominational and do that very well. Certainly the application is clear, the soon coming Kingdom of Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people, but in a day when lukewarm Christianity abounds you should connect to the truth taught in an Independent Fundamental Baptist Church following the Old Paths. The Laodicean rock bands draw crowds and entertain the flesh, but they have no "Gold tried in the fire."

An Essay for week #21 May 21, 2017

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Msg #1722 The Bewitching of America

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In God's very first epistle to Gentiles he asks, “O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you?” Trying to keep the law instead of relying on faith of Christ was a bewitching accomplished by Judaizers who feigned praise on the young Gentile believers. Today this same bewitching is obviously attempted by Elen G. White's Seven Day Adventists, but more subtly by Rome and her Protestants. The average accepted model is that, “At the 'Gate' Saint Peter weighs ones good deeds against their bad and hopefully they get in.” When one is bewitched they are charmed under a spell and that describes most of “Christendom” which sets under “Clergy,” and do not read their Bible. Now, even if they do, their “Clergy” give them an ecumenical, uninspired version that is not “quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword.” What is a believer to do against such a spell bound world? Might I recommend that you sharpen your sword. Don't try and defend your KJB, try and use it. The sword is not a defensive weapon it is an offensive weapon. The gates of hell are not offensive weapons, they are defensive. “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein day and night,” is not a suggestion for Joshua as he invaded God's occupied promised land. If you want to be a tree planted by the rivers of water, a young man with a cleansed way, one with great peace who lets nothing offend them, you need to memorize and use the Word that is forever settled in heaven. Discard all of man's copyright versions; use an inspired inerrant Holy Bible on your spell bound neighbors and kin. The Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God, memorize it.

An Essay for week #22 May 28, 2017

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Msg #1723 Use Your Talents, or Die?

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

God wrote his first gospel to report to the Jews the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand, but the King was rejected, and now it would be a long time before he would install his kingdom. It is assured that he will come. Jesus illustrates his coming in the Olivet Discourse. In Matthew 25 the parable of the ten virgins, and the servants given talents drives home that one must watch, and has serious stewardship responsibilities. Notice that the five talents, the two talents and the single talent were given out based on a servant's ability (25:15). Notice the one who got one, and did not use the talent, was cast into outer darkness. The talents that the Lord gave the servants are no less than a knowledge of God. Romans teaches that "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men," and John reveals that the Christ, the true light, "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Everyone has at least the one "talent." "For the invisible things of (God) from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead: so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). When a man buries that "talent" under an evolutionist's "science" text book, and does not put that resource to the exchangers, nor pay heed to its importance, that unprofitable servant is "cast into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30). The Lord is soon returning. He is first coming for his own; make sure you are one of those, and then watch for him, with your lamp shining bright, and your "talents" well invested. Matthew writes an awesome gospel, it should be revisited often.

An Essay for week #23 Jun 4, 2017

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Msg #1724 Trust God's Words

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

An infinite God writes a book to his finite creation. It says that six-thousand years ago he created everything in six days and rested on the seventh. It says he sent his Only Begotten Son to save his people from their sin and he died as a “*propitiation*.” It says that a day is as a thousand years and his earth would have a day of rest when his Only Begotten Son, his Anointed One (in Hebrew, “*Messiah*,” in Greek, “*Christ*”) would come back and rule and reign for a thousand years. He says the words of his book are *His* words, the truths of his book are inerrant truths (without error), the “thus saith the Lord”’s of his book are infallible (they will never fail), and that every jot (the smallest Hebrew letter) and every tittle (their tiny letter demarcations) will be fulfilled. The rebellious, finite, rational, man scoffs at his book and changes its words. He theorizes that it took billions of years for natural science to produce planets and life. He swears that reducing our carbon-footprint is the only salvation for mankind. He is certain that our utopia will come when love conquers hate and we hush, ban, and exile those believers who know that God's book says sodomy is an abomination. Christendom is embarrassed by their infinite God's Holy Book. They change its words, delete its verses, insert gaps in his creation account and copyright what they think God meant to say. The people all agree, “This is so much easier to understand,” they say. Now and again, you might find a believer; their finite minds won't understand all the words of their infinite God, but they cling to, and believe, every one of them. “Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.”

An Essay for week #24 Jun 11, 2017

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Msg #1725 The Good Samaritan

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan more eloquently answers the unscrupulous lawyer's first question than his second. The eloquent answering of, "Who is my neighbor?" is so renowned that it made "Good Samaritan" a cliché, but look more carefully at that lawyer's first question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25). This lawyer was tempting Christ, with his question, and likely emphasized the "I" as if he were a special case, and the "do" as if there were some kind of work in the answer. Jesus, knowing "there is none righteous, no not one" (Rom 3), knowing that "all we like sheep have gone astray" (Isa 53), knowing that "by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified" (Gal 2:16), and knowing "the law was a schoolmaster, to bring us to Christ" (3:24), told the haughty lawyer, "Go ahead, keep the law." A mature believer can look into the depth of Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan and see that no human priest can give out eternal life. They might just have a Roman dress and backward collar, or be a legitimate Aaronic Priest, but there is no salvation from a priest, he passed by on the other side. So to the Levite, with the keeping of all the Levitical law, and ministering daily in the temple, had no power to save. But when there came a despised and rejected one, who reached out with compassion and touched the half-dead pilgrim, salvation came from his hand. To inherit eternal life, you need to be touched by the Good Samaritan, the Lord Jesus Christ, who said "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14). Priests and works won't cut it. Praise His Holy Name.

An Essay for week #25 Jun 18, 2017

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Msg #1725.5 Humor In Church

What The Bible Does NOT Say
Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Baby boomers are turning seventy and hearing-aids are only aids. Our adult Sunday School class teacher was closing his lesson early in order to entertain some provocative questions. His lesson was on God putting a new song in the believers heart and his question was, “What is it that makes you want to start singing?”

A faithful member in the second row didn't hardly ponder the question before he gave a resounding observation, “When I am standing next to a beautiful woman, that is what does it for me.”

As the pastor, I had no idea where Bill was going with this, so I winked at my wife seated beside me and gave Bill a hearty, “Amen, that makes me want to sing too.”

“Especially with summer coming on and most of them are only half dressed!”

An older lady sitting behind him put her hand on her mouth and said, “Oh my.... Ooh my!”

A younger man behind me, not sure what was going on, woke up, “Yeah, brother, Amen, that's what I'm talking about.”

Bill knew he had an audience. “And the way they walk down the street right in front of you, like there is nothing wrong!”

Her hand still on her mouth, and shaking her head, “Lordy, Loordy.”

A fellow on my left was audible, but more soft spoken, “Singing, not sinning! SINGING!” Two others began to wake up.

Bill's wife was grabbing his arm and leaning over to whisper something, but he would not be stopped. “And then they put them on billboards, with black-velvet dresses so you will buy their whiskey! It's a big production to get us all sinning!”

“Bill,... Bill! Stop a minute!” his wife now had him leaning his good ear in her direction.

The teacher could not contain his huge smile. “Well that brought more input than I was expecting.” People were eager to move on to the next question and pretend everything was good.

This preacher was there, April 9th, 2017. A good sense of humor is essential in the ministry. If I could get this down to three-hundred words, I might publish it as a Penny Pulpit, but Call-To-Glory would not likely publish it as a devotional.

Another Essay for week #25 Jun 18, 2017

Msg #1726 The Fate of the Rich Man

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Robert Ingersoll, credited as the founder of atheism in America, listened to his father, a Presbyterian Pastor, preach, “The rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torment... in the flame...” (Luke 16). A faithful witness for John Calvin, his father taught him that God, before the foundation of the earth, chose this rich man to go to hell, and there was nothing the rich man could do about it. To these false teachings of Calvinism Robert Ingersoll wrote in 1878, “If that is the God of the Bible, I want nothing to do with him.” Calvinism brought a similar response from Charles Taze Russell, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Glover Eddy, and Ellen White, all of whom founded cults opposing Calvinism, but also violating the simple truths of God's Word. That is pretty sobering, but Jesus' account of Lazarus and the rich man is very sobering. The rich man did not have another life. He did not have another chance. He did not have another witness to his family. Our life is like a vapor that appears for a little while, then vanishes away. Eternity is looming in your not too distant future and hell is real. The Bible says more about hell than it does about heaven. In life the rich man had options. “Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Rom 10). “Whosoever believeth in (the only begotten Son of God) shall not perish” (John 3). There are 164 “whosoever” in the Bible, ninety-three are in the New Testament. All of us have the power and responsibility of choosing who we are going to believe, and there is a judgment day coming. Choose you this day whom you will serve. Trust Christ.

An Essay for week #26 Jun 25, 2017

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Msg #1727 Wanted: Full Time Reconcilers

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In Luke 16 the unjust steward goes haplessly about using his lord's resources to secure his own well being just before he gets fired from his job. He has authority to barter the forgiveness of peoples great debt to his lord, and he uses that authority to gender their gratitude. No wonder he is called *unjust*, but look what our Lord says about him, “And the lord commended that unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light” (Luke 16:8). This is not hidden allegorical stuff, it would be wise for you to do what this unjust steward did. You have authority to barter the forgiveness of peoples great debt to our Lord. II Corinthians 5:18 calls that “the ministry of reconciliation,” and, sure enough, you and I, as born-again believers, are supposed to be in that ministry. Too many stop memorizing at verse 17 and never connect to verse 18! All that “new creature” stuff and the “old things passing away” is so that we can be full time reconcilers. All around us are souls indebted by their sin, and we have our Lord's authority to adjudicate their sentence. Luke 16 charges that we would be wise to do so, that people would be grateful to us for it, and that we should be about our Father's business, full time – recall the theme here, we cannot serve two masters (Luke 16:13). Be a minister of reconciliation today, give some indebted soul the gospel. If they take the deal, they will be forever free from sin's debt, and forever grateful to you for preaching to them, just like in Jesus' Luke 16 parable. Awesome.

An Essay for week #27 Jul 2, 2017

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Msg #1728 Only Those Who Believe, See.

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Prophet Isaiah records God's words with such fervor that one needs to carefully heed every first, second, and third person pronoun. "My servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high" (Isaiah 52:13). Dr. Luke records in his *Acts of the Apostles* that a newly ordained deacon, Philip, found an Ethiopian eunuch who was confused by these pronouns (Acts 8:34). When he got it straight he got born-again! So it behooves us to read carefully. God's inerrant word has no misplaced, dangling or squinting modifiers. None. Zip. Notta. "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?" *That man*, it says in Isaiah 53, will see this soon-to-be exalted servant, the Christ (Hebrew - *Messiah*), grow up as a tender plant (vr2). *That man* will see *him* despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief (vr3). *That man*, the believer, to whom the arm of the LORD is revealed, will see *him* carry *our* sorrow, see *him* wounded for *our* transgressions, see *him* bruised for *our* iniquity (vr4-5). Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson won't see it. Bill Nye the Science Guy won't see it. Bill Maher the atheist comedian won't see it. That trio of frogs (Rev 16:13) say Bible believers are child abusers when they teach God's Holy Word as truth! Isaiah, however, carefully uses the first-person plural pronoun when he records, "All *we* like sheep have gone astray; *we* have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on *him* the iniquity of *us all*" (vr6). Evangelist Loren Dawson used to say, "If you go in under the first *all* and come out under the second *all* you will be born-again." It is just that simple, Neil.

An Essay for week #28 Jul 9, 2017

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Msg #1729 The Foolishness of Preaching

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

When God moved on Dr. Luke to write down accounts about His Only Begotten Son he did not just arrange them in chronological order, there is always a theme unfolding. When the corrupt lawyer tempted Christ, “Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus answered with the parable of the Good Samaritan. That chapter starts with seventy disciples sent out into the villages. Jesus warned them, as lambs among wolves, that they might not be well received. Jesus promptly pronounced woes on Chorazin and Bethsaida, they should have repented. The city where God's Son did innumerable miracles, Capernaum, is given a special condemnation because of their rejection of the Christ. The nineteen-fifties were marked by a tremendous reception of the gospel, and a growth of Independent Baptist Churches. The agnosticism and apostasy of the 21st century has ground most of that to a halt. The gospel is not being well received. Christ's woe could be pronounced on our cities and like Capernium, America has seen a special side of Christ and is all the more accountable. The disciple is not to glory that the message is well received. It is not. They are not even to glory in the devils being subject unto them. “Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, ... but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven” (Luke 10:20). In the military and in business we are goal oriented and success driven. As a feckless preacher of the gospel our satisfaction and our joy must come from three things: 1) our names are written down, 2) our “boss” is pleased with our service, even if our audience is not, and 3) we get to call our “boss” Aba-Father. The lawyer was taunting Jesus with his sarcasm, and that is not unusual today. Preach the gospel.

An Essay for week #29 Jul 16, 2017

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Msg #1730 Be Ye Also Ready

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Bible says, “What is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). But Jesus said, “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2-3). Jesus' prepared place for prepared people has been in the works for one-thousand and eighty years and we have every reason to expect him to return in 2017. If he don't, live the year anticipating that you might go to him. Consider that a prepared people can't go to a heavenly mansion with this old body. “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality” (1Cor 15:53). If our mortality catches up with us this year, Jesus gives us example. Death is separation. Jesus said, “Father, into they hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost” (Luke 23:46). And the Bible says “For thou shalt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10, Acts 2:27). That is the separation. His spirit went to God, his soul to hell (for us), and his body went to the tomb. If the saved die before Christ's return the body goes to the grave, but the soul and spirit go straight to our LORD God. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2Cor 5:8). Believers with such confidence are a tremendous testimony. Some may have more cause to anticipate going this year, but any one could. Carry yourself with confidence in Christ.

An Essay for week #30 Jul 23, 2017

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Msg #1731 Deep Water People

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Trials of life can soften the soul, but for some God sends enough trial to completely melt the soul. When a soul is melted it can be poured out like water. Jesus Christ was (Ps 22:14). One is therein equipped to pour out their soul to God. Hannah did (1Sam 1:15). At the NE Vision Summit Pastor Doug Fisher aptly described *soul melt* using Psalm 107:21-30. There, those “that do business in great waters... see the works of the LORD, and his wonders in the deep.” It is God who brings the stormy wind on these deep water people, and “their soul is melted because of trouble” (107:26). Perhaps you've been there. Perhaps you are there now. You surely know someone doing such a melt down. Know that cancer can put one there. “They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end” (107:27). At wits' end one loses all understanding of a situation, none of it makes sense. “Why Lord?... What am I supposed to do?” We reel to and fro. The leader Moses was there; the prophet Elijah was there; the rich man Job was there. They all said, “God, just kill me!” but he didn't. (Num 11, 1Kngs 19, Job 3). Naomi was there, and could have turned bitter, but she didn't (Ruth 1:20-22). Go back and visit why God melts souls, “Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving and declare his works with rejoicing (107:21-22). Keep that foremost and you will soon get to verse twenty-eight, twenty-nine, and thirty, the desired haven. God is good, all the time.

An Essay for week #31 Jul 30, 2017

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Msg #1732 Going to a City

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Curiously, the New Jerusalem, that God lowers from the new heaven to the new earth, has walls, gates and foundations. Roman Catholic Saint Origin taught the Catholic Church how to allegorize away all the literalness of God's Holy Word, but a true Bible believer dare not follow their pernicious ways. Logically this new city, where God literally dwells with man, needs no gated walls standing on stone foundations, but it sure enough has them. When a born-again Christians departs this world they immediately stand in the presence of God. That is heaven, but there is coming a city that is described in Revelation 21. Abraham looked for a city whose builder and maker is God, and when the Revelation of Jesus Christ reveals it to our eye it has description and dimension that this world cannot contain. Only a precious few would believe it to be literal, and one might call them Bible believers. The walls signify that some things will not be allowed in; the Pearled Gates, the twelve tribes of Israel whereby the Only Begotten Son entered into this world; the twelve foundation stones reflect the Apostles who laid the doctrinal foundation of the the New Covenant. These symbols present in the New City of Peace will be reminders through all eternity. As incorruptible but finite humans walk on streets of pure gold, they will remember Apostles of the New Covenant that got them there, the tribes of Israel that opened the way for Messiah, and the walls that ban all sin from the presence of a Holy God. Bob and Darlene Puffer sing, "Jesus Knows Me, This I Love." If he don't know you, you too will be banned from this city. Receive Christ before it is eternally to late. I am going to a City.

An Essay for week #32 Aug 6, 2017

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Msg #1733 With a River of Life

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Apostle John saw “A pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.” Revelations twenty-two continues the description of the New Jerusalem, a prepared place for a prepared people. Everything in this description of heaven will be a reminder of the seven dispensations of God that perfected his tabernacling with man. The walls, gates, foundations and streets are now accompanied by a river, a tree, and the throne of God and of the Lamb. The river of water is reminiscent of Jesus' declaration at the well, “Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4:14). That springing well is to “flow rivers of living water” out of our belly (John 7:38). In the Kingdom Dispensation the pure water flowed out of the temple to heal the land (Ezek 47:1-9), and the fruit of the tree of life were for the healing of the nations (Ezek 47:7,12, Rev 22:2). Reminders abound but perfection is attained... “And there shall be no more curse.” The 144-thousand servants are called out as present in verse three. Those with his name in their foreheads (Rev 7:3-4) have a special place of service in heaven. Alas, however, the bulk of this chapter contains the assurance that “These sayings are faithful and true” (22:6, 10, 16, 18), and “Behold, I come quickly” (22:7, 12, 17, 20). The sixty-six books of the revelation of God, written by forty men over 1,500 years ends with the Revelation of Jesus Christ, and “if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy,...” God's warning is very clear.

An Essay for week #33 Aug 13, 2017

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Msg #1734 The Romans Road

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

At that Church you went to (are going to) did anyone ever take the time to show you from the Bible how you could know for sure you are saved and going to heaven when you die? Could I show you right now, with just a few verses, out of this 400 year old English Bible how you could know that? John 3:16-18, 36 says God loved, and God gave, and if you believe what he did for you, you can be saved and have (present tense) everlasting life. God wrote out what you need to believe about his Only Begotten Son in what we call the Roman's Road. First, Romans 3:10, 23 says ALL have sinned, ALL come short. Romans 5:8 says while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us; He died in our place. Verse 12 tells how we got like this, we are not sinners because we sin, we sin because we are sinners. Now verse 18 shows that Adam brought us into condemnation, and only one man, Christ Jesus, can bring us out. Look here at Romans 6:23. Eternal death looms over us because of sin, but God, because he loves us, offers a gift. A gift has a giver and a receiver. The receiver does not pay for the gift, does not purchase the gift, and does not work for the gift; that's why its a gift. The giver has purchased the gift at a great price, all the receiver has to do is accept the gift, no strings attached. But the gift may be turned down. One could say to the giver, "I'll not accept this gift from you." The thing about salvation is, there is a formal method for accepting and receiving God's gift. Religions tell us we must work, be good, do penance, attend church, build karma, or change our life to deserve salvation, but look in Romans 10:9-13 what God says you must do to receive his gift, and look too, who all can receive it. Would you pray right now and accept God's gift? That is all it takes to receive eternal life.

You could show this Roman's Road to your neighbor and lives would change.

An Essay for week #34 Aug 20, 2017

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Msg #1735 Know Christ, Know Peace

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

In an essay one cannot describe the peace of God that passes all understanding (Phillipians 4:7), but surely the four commandments that precede it could be expounded (vr. 4, 5 & 6). “Rejoice in the Lord alway,” is easy until one gets to the “alway” part. In all things, in all circumstances, and in all ways can be a challenge for some of us. “Let your moderation be known unto all men.” Baptists are often extremists, and rarely, if ever, “moderationists.” Moderation around the dinner table dare not be addressed here, nor the exotic chemicals called “sugar-free” or “diet” that create and plague obese bodies, but we could point out a needed moderation in our point of view. Extremes plague our pulpits and pews. “Be careful for nothing,” is an interesting command. Our children often make us full-of-care instead. After enough exotic pills and aforementioned chemicals health issues often concern us. It is hard to be “careful for nothing” when our country is governed by infidels who pursue reprobate agendas; just the same this is not a mere suggestion. The last command before the superb promise is instrumental to accomplishing the previous three, “But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.” To often we have a “word” of prayer, when we should have a “season” of prayer; we are “nestled” in prayer, not “wrestled” in prayer; we have “trivia” in prayer, but not “travail” in prayer. That perfect peace of God settles in only after the rejoicing, moderation, lack of worry, and seasons of prayer. Recall the line “NO Christ, NO peace. KNOW Christ, KNOW peace.” Let's get cracking, if there is ever a day in need of peace, it's today.

An Essay for week #35 Aug 27, 2017

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Msg #1736 Redemption Remembered

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

I had three occasions at the NYS Fair to watch parents force their child to say “Thank you.” God knows our nature to be unthankful and forgetful ingrates. When God redeemed his Hebrew people from their bondage in Egypt he commanded them to establish two memorials, the annual feast of unleavened bread and the perpetual dedication of all their firstborn to the LORD God. (Exodus 13). The unleavened bread was a reminder of the great haste with which they left out of Egypt: not even time for bread to rise. The dedication of all the first born was a reminder of the great cost that was paid for their redemption and the great hand of God that was shown in their behalf. Israel's redemption from bondage of Egypt was real and an undeniable historic event, but it is also a portrayal of the believers redemption from the bondage of this world. We too are to remember the haste with which we were snatched from sin; it is likened to a new-birth; with instantaneous change. Likewise, remember the great price and the great hand of God that caused our conversion, justification, indwelling, quickening, and baptism into Christ. We are to never forget that “So great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him” (Heb 2:3). Incidentally God gave the local Church two ordinances as memorials of the redemption purchased through our Lord Jesus Christ; believers baptism, whereby we show Christ's death, burial and resurrection, and the Lord's Table, whereby we display our communion and recall his broken body and shed blood till he comes. Are you saved? Then don't be an ingrate, rejoice that your name is written in heaven (Luke 10:20). Praise His Holy Name.

An Essay for week #36 Sep 3, 2017

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Msg #1737 The Baptist Canon

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The two things that Baptists rely upon to authenticate that the sixty-six books called the Holy Bible are the Holy Scriptures are the “Word” and the “Word.” These are the straight edge and measuring rods used to make sure the books of the Bible measure up to a canon. The Greek word *kanon* derives from “a straight reed” and means “rule.” The “Word” that was made flesh said, I am the way, I am the truth, and I am the life. Our Lord Jesus Christ accepted the Hebrew Scriptures with this qualification, “For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Matthew 5:18) We should accept no less,... and no other. The second “Word” is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of God. The Holy Bible itself has distinct qualifiers of what is, and what is not, Holy Scripture. The Holy Bible is inspired because it says it is inspired and profitable that way. Likewise the Holy Scripture is Holy because it self-authenticates. The thirty-nine books of the Old Testament are genuine because our Lord Jesus Christ said so. The twenty-seven books of the New Testament are genuine because our Lord Jesus Christ ordained twelve apostles to write them, and the books can be traced to one of those apostle's hands or their authority. The Holy Bible itself gives witness to its genuineness. Baptists accepted the Holy Bible as their sole source of all faith and practice. No Roman Church, Papal decree, Romish Church Father, Church Council, or Church tradition is an acceptable source for that faith and practice... or canon. There is only one “Church Father,” and he determined what books should be, and should not be, considered Holy Scripture.

An Essay for week #37 Sep 10, 2017

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Msg #1738 Yom Kippur Portrays Christ

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

“In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation. ... Also on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement” (Leviticus 23:24). Leviticus 16 details this atonement; it is a portrayal of what our Lord Jesus Christ did for us. There is an emphasis on Aaron's role, what he must do “that he die not” (vr.2,13), the linen he must wear (vr.4), the sin offering he must provide, being a mere human, (vr.3,6,11), and the incense he must burn within the veil (vr.12-13). Our priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the perfect High Priest, needing none of these. There are two rams consecrated for a burnt offering (vr.3,5,24), but this day of atonement is all about two goats, the LORD's goat, killed as a sin offering (vr.8,9,15), and the scapegoat let go bearing “all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat” (vr.10,21-22). The Only Begotten Son of God bore the sins of the world; there is no other sacrifice accepted by the Father. The sin-offering-goat portrays his death, the scapegoat portrays what he, even as our Living Lord is left carrying. The tabernacle, the brazen altar, even the most holy place needed the atoning of the sin offering (vr.16,17,18), i.e. the very symbols that portray what God did cannot attain to his holiness. Romans 5:8 reveals what is contained in Leviticus 16, but Leviticus 16 reveals what all is contained in Romans 5:8, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” This Yom Kippur pay attention to the portrayals of Christ.

An Essay for week #38 Sep 17, 2017

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Msg #1739 Worthy is the Lamb

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Revelation of Jesus Christ asks “Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?” There is no mere human, no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth worthy to open or look upon God's bookkeeping. But behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David. In the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. The Lamb was worthy. The Lamb was prophesied as The Prophet, The Priest, and The King. Prophesied by Pentateuch, Poet, and Prophet. The Lamb was Personified in our New Testament, manifested as God in flesh. The Lamb of God was Spotless. The Lamb of God was Sacrificial. In Revelation 5 he was Wept for, Worshiped, and Worked for, but more than anything else the Lamb was Worthy. The four beasts, representative of all heavenly hosts, and four and twenty elders, twelve representative of the all Israel, twelve representative of all Christendom, fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. The number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand saying Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. Every syllable of your Holy Bible is about this Lamb. God said, The seed of woman, it will bruise Satan's head; Abraham said, God would provide himself a lamb, Moses said, When I see the blood, I will pass over you, and Jesus said, I, if I be lifted up... Worship the Lamb.

An Essay for week #39 Sep 24, 2017

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Msg #1740 The Two Trumpets Will Sound

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Israel's autumn Feast of Trumpets marks a remembrance of the two trumpets that gathered the whole assembly for their journey, their holy convocation, or their battle. Christians are also instructed to listen for the trumpet that will call us to our journey, to the clouds, our holy convocation, as a bride gathered to the Bridegroom, and our battle, to return with the King of kings and Lord of lords to a battle called, in the Hebrew tongue, *Armageddon*. True Bible believers have always understood that Christ's 2nd advent will be in two phases; when he comes FOR his saints (John 11:26, 14:3, Acts 1:11, 1 Cor 15:51-58, 1 Thes 4:13-18, Rev 4:1) and when he comes WITH his saints (1 Thes 3:13, Jude 1:14, Zech 14:5, Luke 12:32, 36). This has always been the teaching of Baptists and never been the teaching of the Roman mother of harlots nor her offspring denominations. Preterism holds that Ancient Israel finds its continuation or fulfillment in the Christian catholic church. From the Latin "*praeter*" denoting that something is past, Preterists suppose that God is all done with Israel, Hebrews, and Jews and had them annihilated at the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70. They developed and practice their allegorical interpretations to transfer all the promises made to Israel to the catholic church. The Roman Catholic Church embraced this teaching, denying the literal return of Christ to the literal throne of David. All Protestant denominations carried this teaching of Rome and scoff at the Biblical teaching of rapture, holding instead to replacement theology. Since 1948, when their errant theology became embarrassingly obvious, they quit teaching it. But they still hold to it, and ignore or oppose the teachings of dispensationalism. Keep your ear tuned to the trumpet, your eye on the cloud, and your heart on the harvest, we will soon be going home.

An Essay for week #40 Oct 1, 2017

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Msg #1741 Tribulation – Judgment – Repentance

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

There is coming a judgment of the nations, a “great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time.” Jeremiah 30:7 speaks of it, “Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.” Daniel was given special insight to it, “When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.” (Matt 24). The Revelation of Jesus Christ gives specific narrative to this great tribulation. The book of judgment is not open until the Lion of the tribe of Judah opens the seven seals of the book, in preparation, sounds seven trumpets, in warning, and then pours out seven vials of the Wrath of God upon the whole earth. For all this, men “blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory” (Rev 16:9,11) America could repent to solve her bedlam in our streets, her bedlam in our capitals, and her bedlam in our climate. Repentance: 1) Turn wholeheartedly from evolution and acknowledge and worship the holy omnipotent LORD God and his Only Begotten Son as our Creator and Lord. 2) Turn wholeheartedly from socialism of every form, most pointedly our socialized health insurance, and embrace once more the aged US Government motto “In God We Trust.” And 3) Turn wholeheartedly from our immorality, most pointedly from the embrace of sodomy and other sexual perversions, and acknowledge the LORD God's Holy Bible as the supreme rule of all moral right and wrong. Nineveh did it; they repented and God repented.

An Essay for week #41 Oct 8, 2017

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America is headed for More Tribulation and Final Judgment

What Biblical Steps Could America Take?

America could repent to solve her bedlam in our streets, her bedlam in our capitals, and her bedlam in our climate (Global Warnings).

- 1) Turn wholeheartedly from evolution and acknowledge and worship the holy omnipotent LORD God and his Only Begotten Son as our Creator and our Lord.
- 2) Turn wholeheartedly from socialism of every form, most pointedly our socialized health insurance, and embrace our constitution, capitalism, and the aged US Government motto “In God We Trust.”
And...
- 3) Turn wholeheartedly from our immorality, most pointedly from the embrace of sodomy and other sexual perversions, and acknowledge the LORD God's Holy Bible as the supreme rule of all moral right and wrong.

Nineveh did it; they wholeheartedly repented and God repented of the judgment he had purposed for them.

“The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker” (Psalm 95:5-6 Holy Bible).

Msg #1742 Armageddon

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Armageddon, the whole world knows the name. The number six-six-six, they know of its implication. In the Revelation of Jesus Christ, God closes out his whole written revelation to man. Therein is the one mention of Armageddon, in Rev 16:16, and therein is the one mention of that number, in 13:18. Both speak to the climactic end of the world as we know it. Both speak to the rebellious hatred of depraved humanity. And both speak to the coming judgment of this world, which comes when the Only Begotten Son of God, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, the Lamb-as it had been slain, the Lamb having seven horns and seven eyes, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes with his saints as described in Revelation 19 & 20 et. al.. Jesus said, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Unrighteous men hold the truth, that which may be known of God is manifest in them. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom 1:20). President Obama called Islam "a great religion," and it is muscling-in, but today America's god is Evolution. "Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, ... Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." (vr 22, 23, 25). Armageddon, don't go there, be saved instead. (Rom 10:13).

An Essay for week #42 Oct 15, 2017

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Msg #1743 The Millennial Reign of Christ

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The kings (presidents and prime ministers) of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD (Jehovah God), and against his anointed (*Messiah, Christ*)... the Lord (Hbr-*Anonay*, Grk-*Kurios*- owner, possessor, creator... master) shall have them in derision... Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion, I will declare the decree: the LORD (Jehovah God) hath said unto me (*Messiah, Christ*) Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee” (Psalm 2:2,4,6,7). The seventh and final dispensation (Grk-*oikonomia* – period of human management or stewardship) is the Millennial Reign of Christ. While previous dispensations were supervised by 1) man's innocence, 2) man's conscious, 3) man's governance, 4) the promises of God, 5) the laws of God, and 6) the Holy Spirit of God, the upcoming dispensation will be supervised by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, from his seat on David's throne in God's holy city of Jerusalem, in God's holy hill of Zion. The Roman amillennialism of the Protestants and Reformed has done three things for American Churches: 1) it has kept them embedded in replacement theology wherein they learned a hatred for God's real chosen and elect people Israel, 2) it kept them from a literal-grammatical-historical interpretation of the Holy Bible, wherein the amoral feminist movement has invaded, and taken over, and 3) it has kept them apostate to the point of no return. The end of the 19th century found Fundamentalists with this realization. The resurgence of Christian Fundamentalism in America is over. Apostasy rules in American religion and reprobates rule in our government. What is a Bible believer to do? That is easy, get into a Bible believing church and “Preach the Gospel to every creature.” It is our commission.

An Essay for week #43 Oct 22, 2017

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Msg #1744 A New Heaven and New Earth

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

When the redeemed step into the presence of our eternal God we will gain a proper and holy perspective of all things. In the mean time we are to study to shew ourselves approved unto God, and to rightly divide the Word of truth. That Word of truth unfolds the most intimate plans of God. Biblical prophecy is ennobling; it is written for our comfort, not our curiosity. The rapture, the Bema Seat Judgment of the bride, the marriage supper and our eternal union with Christ are a consolation. Even the described seven year tribulation, the battle of Armageddon and the salvation of Israel culminating in the thousand year reign of Christ from the throne of David are to bring us solace. There is coming a second resurrection wherein all unregenerate souls stand before our Holy God on his Great White Throne (Rev20:11) before they partake of their second death. And then, finally, there is a new heaven and a new earth. This present heaven and earth “shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat” (2Pet3:10). Peter gives pause to ponder these prophecies, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in holy conversation and godliness?” (vr.11). It is ennobling that God has shared his hopes and plans for the future; it is a great act of intimacy when friends do that. Only the believing eye can see these portrayals in Scripture. The old adage is reversed for Revelation, here, “Believing is seeing.” Bible revelation is thus meant to change our attitude as our world plunges toward his prophesied end. As our country leans reprobate, what manner of persons ought we to be? Ministers of reconciliation (2Cor 5:17-21). Another adage, “Let's get cracking.”

An Essay for week #44 Oct 29, 2017

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Msg #1745 So-Great-Salvation and its Villains

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The account of Naaman being healed of his leprosy is a superb portrait of what Hebrews 2:3 calls “so great salvation,” but 2Kings 5 also reveals salvation's villain. In 5:3-12 one first has to admire the persistent 3rd person testimony of a child, the blundering kings who know nothing about how God works, and the man-of-God who only sends a messenger, and confounds all of Naaman's preconceived notions. After Naaman's cleansing don't miss the seven results of authentic salvation recorded in 5:15-19: 1) He returned with his whole company to the man-of-God, 2) A “Now I know” salvation, 3) Overwhelming gratitude, 4) Silver and gold are nothing more than “burden of earth,” 5) A “No other God” mentality, 6) A consciousness of sin, and a need of pardon, and 7) A “Go in peace” joy of salvation. But notice, oh man of God, the seven traits of the villain of this account. In 5:20-25 for Gehazi 1) Gold is not as dirt, 2) long time service is obscured by greed, 3) he pursues after new-converts, 4) he lies about the man-of-God, what he did, what he said, and what he wants, 5) Gehazi is trusted by the new convert, 6) he sneaks around and hides things, and 7) he lies to the man-of-God. Wow, what a portrait. It reminds us that the faithful man of God will indeed be challenged in this old world. Don't miss Elisha's compassion on the villain as he confronts him, rebukes him, and leaves all punishment to the hand of God. Seven years later chapter 8 reveals that the villain struck pay-dirt for a new job, is still talking about the man-of-God, still bumping into people changed by the man-of-God, and is, coincidentally, providentially used to bring God's blessing on them. God is good.

An Essay for week #45 Nov 5, 2017

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Msg #1746 Called to be Faithful Till Death

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

It is striking how the signs assuring Saul's anointing are so very specific; so much so that they tell a story in themselves. Two men meeting Saul near Rachel's sepulcher highlights the importance of those who went before us, at the border of Benjamin, the importance of stepping out of a comfort zone. The father caring for Saul has evident significance, and one cannot miss the irony that Saul chasing after stubborn asses was now called to lead stiffnecked Israel. The next sign took place at the plain of Tabor, where Deborah had to take Barak by the hand and lead him into battle. Much could be said about God's demand for male leadership here, but let it suffice that three men going up to God to Bethel was Saul's sign. There are the kids, the bread, and the wine showing that God won't buy you the farm, but will provide your daily bread. The third sign involved the hill of God and the garrison of Philistines. We are in a battle, and the enemy has us outnumbered, and outgunned. The company of prophets with psaltery, tabret, pipe and harp tells something about our music and the new song he puts in our heart. It is not just the old song with new lyrics crammed in, note the difference. God gave Saul another heart and all these signs came to pass that day. Is Saul among the prophets? Turns out not. We know Saul's obedience was short lived. The signs were so sure, God's call and anointing so certain, yet Saul's terrible fall was such a tragic failure. He became an opposer of God. This accounting is meant to be sobering. So many great starts for God end like Saul. Lord, may I be faithful till death.

An Essay for week #46 Nov 12, 2017

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Msg #1747 Thanksgiving

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The Bible reveals a couple interesting things about our thanksgiving. For the Bible believer thanksgiving is not a mere suggestion. Philippians four connects it to a peace that passes all understandings. The Psalmist reveals its spontaneity in a quickened soul, “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4). But the Bible makes mentions of the *sacrifice* of thanksgiving, “And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoicing. ... I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the LORD. ... By him (Christ) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name” (Psalm 107:22, 116:7, Hebrews 13:15). Recall that King David said he would not offer a sacrifice “which doth cost me nothing” (2Samuel 24:24). Thanksgiving is commanded, has great promise attached, and is often spontaneous, but sometimes it might be a sacrifice that costs you something. Note also that its lack is one of the steps that spirals us down and away from our God. Romans chapter one describes that spiraling stairway, but note that first God shows man as being without excuse. God does not believe in atheists. Every man knows internally about the Godhead and the wrath he is deserving of (Rom 1:18-20). So the staircase has a top step, “When they knew God,” a first step down, “they glorified him not as God,” and the next step down, which holds our attention here, “neither were thankful.” This stairway spirals down to a pretty disturbing depth of depravity, but this week just focus on this one step, and don't even go there. Happy Thanksgiving.

An Essay for week #47 Nov 19, 2017

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Msg #1748 Saul's Type-A Personality

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

There were three signs in King Saul's calling and three sins in King Saul's falling. In 1Samuel 13 God staged Israel's great victory over the Philistines. The new king and his Type-A personality was nervous, but he was in his place,... until he stepped out of his place. Saul's first sin was well thought out and very practical. He rationalized it superbly, it was pragmatic. At first glance it seems that God completely overreacted.... Barred from the kingdom for one burnt offering? "Thou hast done foolishly; thou has not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee" (1Sam 13:13). God wanted "a man after his own heart;" Saul was not that man; he could get things done, alright, but didn't do them God's way. God places utmost importance on HOW things get done, Type-As on THAT things get done. Israel won the victory over the Philistines, but not via Saul, it was Johnathan who slew the Garrison of Philistines (Chap. 14).

In 1Samuel 15 God staged the annihilation of the Amalekites. Saul's Type-A personality stepped in to do the job and his second sin was well thought out, very practical, rationalized superbly, pragmatic,... and disobedience. The next victory over the Philistines was secured, not by Saul, but by a shepherd boy, a man after God's own heart, who slew a giant. Saul's third sin was opposing God's man. The Type-A personality is competitive, aggressive, organized, fast talking, ambitious, impatient, and a good time manager. Type-B is more relaxed, non-competitive, non-aggressive. I re-wrote the song "Learning to Lean" with lyrics "Learning to "B", Learning to "B", I'm learning to "B" like Jesus. Finding more power than I ever knew, I'm learning to "B" like Jesus. God makes us new creatures, conformed to Christ, some are slow learners.

An Essay for week #48 Nov 26, 2017

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Msg #1749 There is Much in a Name

What The Bible Says

Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

Christology must be the Bible believer's favorite “ology,” and my favorite part is learning how God uses various titles for his Only Begotten Son. It is important to pay close attention. First note that all modernist bibles have stripped the name “Jesus” from 47 verses, “Christ” from 37 verses, and “Lord” from 40 verses. Twice they had the audacity to strip “Lord Jesus Christ” out of their copyright bibles (Col 1:2, 1Thes 1:1). For this study you must use an Authorized KJB. *Jesus* is his name before his death and resurrection, before salvation was made complete; it is his earthly name; it speaks of his humiliation, his humanness, his finiteness; it means saviour. Consequently the Gospels use *Jesus* 612 times, Epistles 71 times, while *Christ* is used only 56 times in the Gospels, 256 times in the Epistles. Before his crucifixion he was never called *Jesus* to his face, they called him *Master* or *Rabbi*, believers called him *Lord*, thus a Christian is not one who believes in *Jesus*- the world believes there was a *Jesus* – but a Christian is one who believes in “The Lord Jesus Christ.” The word *Christ* (Hebrew *Messiah*) means the Anointed One, and is the *official* title of the Son of God. He is the anointed *Prophet*, *Priest*, and *King*. When the compound name *Jesus Christ* is used, the emphasis is on what he *was* over what he *is*, when *Christ Jesus* is used it emphasizes him exalted who was once humiliated. He is *Lord* when he owns you. His fullest title is *the Lord Jesus Christ*. Differentiate between the Son of God and the Son of Man, the Son of Abraham and the Son of David. Discover the seven “I AM” titles in John... be a student of his names, in a KJB.

An Essay for week #49 Dec 3, 2017

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Msg #1750
What The Bible Says
Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The

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Msg #1751
What The Bible Says
Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The

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Msg #1752
What The Bible Says
Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The

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Msg #1753
What The Bible Says
Good Samaritan's Penny Pulpit by Pastor Ed Rice

The

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Personal Testimony of Pastor Edward Rice. I was saved in 1960 at the age of eight. My father and mother were saved and founding members of Fellowship Baptist Church in Gang Mills New York. In 1958 my dad, Levi O. Rice, an agnostic, was invited by Cecil Palm to be a founding member of that church; both of my parents were born-again-saved two weeks later. My mother, Doris was converted from Roman Catholicism, and became a Christian. She stopped her Roman penance and practiced Bible repentance, stopped praying to Mary and called upon the Lord Jesus Christ to save her. She was thus converted from Roman Catholicism to the Lord Jesus Christ. Everyone needs converted from something. Mom and Dad were now born again, and two years later I was saved in revival services with Evangelist Dale and Opel Linbaugh. Opel cut the flannel graph burden of sin off little Christian's back in her Pilgrim's Progress presentation, and I was born-again-saved before it hit the basement floor. In 1995 I retired from the USAF as a systems engineer and became an ordained Baptist Preacher of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matt 18:3).

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