

APPLES OF GOLD

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(All Scripture references and passages are from the KJV unless otherwise noted. All articles are critiqued and approved by one of our church deacons.)

IN THIS ISSUE

HE IS RISEN

VALLEYS & MOUNTAINS

HIDDEN TREASURES

REASONS FOR GOING TO CHURCH

GEMS FROM PASTOR ROB

SERVING & REWARDS

SENIORS GROWING OLDER



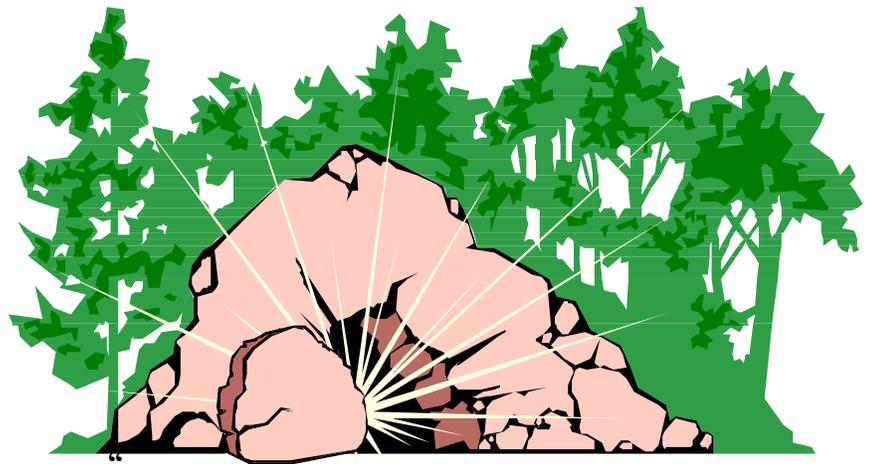
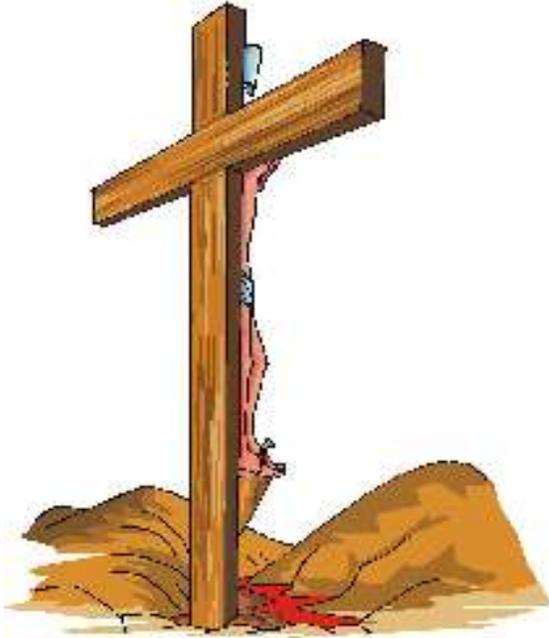
Fancy bonnets, flowers rare
Do not my Easter make,
Not brand new shoes, or
brighter hues
Or Easter eggs and cake.
Not bunnies hopping
through the grass

Or fashions marching by.
Instead our Easter day
brings joy
Because He came to die,
But not to die and stay
within the grave's dark
chamber there.

He rose again that Sunday morn
A crown of life to wear.
He conquered death, and so
may we,
His pow'r displayed that day
Is ours to claim in Jesus' Name.
For He has showed the way.

Come quickly Lord and take
us home
In shining clouds of light.
We'll soar the heights to
Heav'n above.
Forever gone – our night!

(mm)



“He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay” (Matt. 28:6).

HERE IS OUTSTANDING PROOF THAT JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND LEFT AN EMPTY TOMB BEHIND.

“He was seen by more than 500 people on 12 different occasions. The appearances were long enough to be sure of His identity.

1. His resurrection body was not a ‘spiritual body’ but He had flesh and bones, and after His resurrection He ate fish, and could be touched. Why didn’t His enemies steal the body and produce it as evidence?
2. If His disciples had stolen His body it would have been found eventually; it never was!
3. The New Testament documents are totally reliable historical documents. They originate from the first-century eyewitnesses and are confirmed by other historical data of the time.
4. Jesus claimed to be God.
5. He predicted His own death and resurrection.
6. He lived a sinless and miraculous life.
7. He rose from the dead.
8. No other founder or teacher of any earthly religion claimed to be God as did Jesus. None offered salvation by faith apart from works. None ever displayed the love for people that Jesus did in dying for the sins of the world, and none ever rose from the dead.
9. Only the resurrection transformed the apostles into convinced followers of Christ. They knew about false Messiahs and so they were skeptical about Christ. However, no false Messiahs had ever risen from the dead. If the Christ of the N.T. had not existed, no one would have invented Him.

“Because He lives I can face tomorrow, because He lives all fear is gone, because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living, just because He lives.”

(Words and music, Bill and Gloria Gaither)

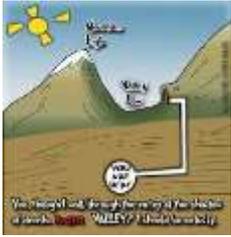
Wife: How much do you love me?
Husband: I would do anything for you.
Wife: Would you die for me?
Husband: No... mine is an undying love.



How can a man go eight days without sleeping? Easily; he sleeps at night.

What do you call someone who can’t stick with a diet? A deserter.

The teacher noticed that Little Johnny had arrived at school wearing only one glove. The teacher noticed that and asked “Why have you only got one glove?” “Well, Miss,” explained Little Johnny, “I was watching the weather forecast on TV last night, and it said it was going to be quite sunny, but on the other hand it could get quite cold.”



IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH

In Psalm 23, David speaks of walking through the valley. But there can be no valley without mountains, true? Psalm 23 is the “Valley Psalm” flanked by two great “Mountain Psalms” on both sides, Psalm 22 and 24. Psalm 22 tells of the crucifixion of the Messiah. Psalm 24 presents the coronation of the Messiah and His glorious Second Coming. So in the valley of Psalm 23, on one side we have the blood-drenched slopes of Mount Calvary. On the other are the sunlit peaks of Mount Zion where God reigns forever.



In the valley of the shadow of death, Jesus was raised from the dead. We need to learn there can be no valley without mountains. Are you down in the valley? Are you one of God’s children, saved through His death on the cross and His resurrection? Accept Him today if He’s not your Savior.

Then look to the mountains. Praise Him for dying for you and rejoice in the hope of His coming again! Thank God we can say with David, “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills” ([Psalm 121:1](#)). Adrian Rogers

HIDDEN TREASURES



This Month’s Question: What Scripture commands us to pray for the leaders of our nation? ANSWER: “I exhort therefore, that prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (**I Tim 2:1, 2**).

Next Month’s Question: (honoring Mother’s Day) What woman, in answer to prayer, was given a son who became a great prophet?

REASONS TO GO TO CHURCH – THE GOAL IS ALSO TO FOLLOW THE BIBLE’S TEACHING

- There is joy in corporate worship. Yes, I can fellowship with God alone, but the Bible says “**forgetting not the assembling of ourselves together ...**” (Heb. 10:25). If I can’t come some Sundays, I come Wednesday nights and other times. I need the **refreshing during the week**. The longest days of the week are between Sunday and Wednesday, and between Wednesday and Sunday. (That’s what my husband always said.)
- I need words of rebuke, encouragement, and knowledge. **I need to learn**. Unlike meals for the body, it is like food for my soul. Can I skip the nourishing meals?
- I want to keep in touch with fellow believers because “**iron sharpens iron**” (Prov. 27:17).
- **Sharing and praying** brings closeness. I can have a part in answered prayer. I work together with others.
- I place a very high priority on **encouraging** others. To attend church only to receive more than to give puts too much focus on self; not a godly trait. I can invite the lost, the unchurched and discouraged.
- **To invest gifts** God has given us. If I don’t use my gifts, I lose them. They were not given to us to selfishly enjoy, but as a means of ministry which ultimately gives glory to God.
- I want to be an **example and obey** the command to teach those younger than ourselves. If I came only once on Sunday, the chances of my getting **involved enough to serve** would be much less.
- I want to be **consistent and committed**. God is consistently faithful to us. It’s the least I can do.
- Refusing to make a non-negotiable commitment means wrestling with the same decision every week.
- I make commitments to everything and everyone else of importance, but **God deserves my greatest commitment**.
- I want to be **dependable**. “Dependability is the greatest ability.” I want people to trust me.
- I often have **responsibilities**. If I don’t carry my share of the load, I am placing burdens on others.
- I have been the recipient as well as partaker in my church’s **benevolence**. Phil. 4:19 promises that God will supply my needs, but the context of the verse is related to giving first to God’s ministry. (continued next page)

- I have a **wonderful sense of family**; dozens of sons and daughters, an enormous number of brothers and sisters, hundreds in our church family whom I know and care about, love and need and they care about me.
- **Fellowship** within God's family is the finest anywhere. We share the same Father, the same values, the same goals and a mutual bond in Christ through His blood.
- I **don't want to miss anything**. It's like skipping a chapter in a book, nibbling instead of enjoying a big meal, driving a car without all the cylinders if I were spasmodic in my attendance.
- **It's nice to be missed**. Since I'm usually there, my necessary and serious absences are noticed.
- Our church **social life** provides wholesome fun and interaction connected with the friends I make.
- Who is going to know about the **needs** of anyone, ourselves included, if I am not a regular attendee?
- Special **family touches of love & kindness** come as a result of being an integral part of a church family.
- I am sending up materials for our Heavenly home because **works will be rewarded**. I am not saved by works, but I am "His workmanship created in Christ Jesus unto good works." God doesn't love us more because of our good works, but He expects us to bear good fruit that will last throughout eternity. (SEE P. 5)
- The world usually doesn't care if I don't show up, but **God's people in the church family care**.
- When times of trouble, sickness, and death come to us and our family, **our church family will support us** in ways that our own family may not or are unable to do so. I need a church family.
- I go to church because I want **my priorities to be right**; I should be putting God first, and at the same time I should be setting the right example before our children and the rest of my friends and family.
- I want to **do more, not less**. I owe an overwhelming debt to our Savior. He gives us 168 hours each week, 9000 hours each year. God forbid that I give Him only a token, an hour a week or less.
- The pastor is the Under Shepherd and I am one of the sheep. The **sheep gather in the fold** for fellowship and learning.
- I **fear apathy**, Satan's greatest weapon. When my commitment is half-hearted, I must beware.
- I simply **want to go** to church, but not out of guilt or legalism, unless it's the Holy Spirit's convicting a cold heart.
- What I **sow I will reap**.

	<p><i>Gems from Pastor Rob</i></p>	<p><i>"What if there had been no Easter?" II Cor. 15:12-19</i></p>
<p>1. Then preaching would be worthless. It's a waste of time to go to church. No unbelievers would be accountable to God. There would be no Gospel.</p>		<p>4. Sin is incredibly powerful and we are still in our sins.</p>
<p>2. Faith is in vain. We cannot trust in someone who is dead. The resurrection is God's stamp of approval.</p>		<p>5. Death has conquered all. We'll never see our loved ones again after death. We would have no hope.</p>
<p>3. The Disciples were deceivers. Then we are their false witnesses. They deliberately lied. They were hypocrites & these are different from being martyrs.</p>		<p>6. The future is futile. The only prospect we have is to get old, live in pain, and spend life in misery. We're like a colony of ants living on a burning log.</p>
<p>BECAUSE JESUS AROSE AND IS ALIVE, WE CAN GIVE HIM OUR LIFE, AND OUR FUTURE WILL BE GLORIOUS INCLUDING HEAVEN.</p>		

Do not wait for the hearse to take you to church.
This is a ch__ch. What is missing?
 In the dark? Follow the Son.
 If you can't sleep, don't count sheep. Talk to the Shepherd.

Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible.
It's hard to stumble when you're down on your knees.
A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.
 The wages of sin is death. Repent before Payday.



WE, WHO ARE GOD'S CHILDREN, **SERVE HIM AND OTHERS** BECAUSE OUR HEARTS ARE FULL OF **LOVE FOR HIM AND THEM.**
 GOD OUR FATHER WANTS TO PROVIDE **HEAVENLY REWARDS** AS HE HAS SHOWN US IN HIS WORD.

Most of the following are not in Scripture as stated, but are there in principle. However, five crowns are listed: **Incorruptible** – I Cor 9:25; **Rejoicing** – I Thess 2:19; – **Life/Love** – James 1:12; – **Glory** – I Peter 5:4; – **Righteousness** – II Tim 4:8

ALL OF THESE PASSAGES SPEAK OF REWARDS

- 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
- 1 Corinthians 3:8
- 1 Corinthians 9:24-25
- 1 Peter 5:4
- 2 Corinthians 5:10
- 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- Colossians 3:23-24.
- Daniel 12:3
- Ephesians 6:8
- Hebrews 11:26
- Isaiah 40:10
- Jeremiah 17:10
- Luke 12:33-34
- Luke 18:22
- Luke 6:22-23
- Luke 6:35
- Matthew 10:41-42
- Matthew 16:27
- Matthew 19:21
- Matthew 5:11-12
- Matthew 6:1-34
- Psalms 18:20
- Revelation 20:12-13
- Revelation 22:12

11 AREAS OF SERVICE WITH SOME QUALIFICATIONS (depending on God-given skills, training, talent, opportunities):

1. Giving gifts of food and clothing
2. Giving to others who have a definite financial need and live frugally
3. Mentoring others on a regular basis
4. Opening our home for Bible studies and/or small groups
5. Serving as a greeter, usher, or helper for meetings and special occasions
6. Singing for God's glory (solos, groups, ensembles, choir)
7. Supporting missionaries & other ministries financially regularly
8. Teaching a S.S. class and/or Bible class
9. Working in the church nursery
10. Working in Awana, VBS, and other children's and youth ministries
11. Writing tracts, newsletters, books, other literature

WE ARE TO SURRENDER OUR WILLS TO JESUS IN ORDER TO GROW MORE LIKE HIM AS WE SERVE

12. Reading my Bible and applying it
13. Watching for Christ's soon return while investing in eternity
14. Witnessing to the lost with Gospel tracts
15. Being faithful in church
16. Expressing thanks to others for what they've given and done; being an encourager
17. Faithful in my prayer life
18. Faithfully tithing and giving above my income
19. Forgiving and loving others
20. Inviting others to church
21. Leading lost ones to the Savior
22. Memorizing Scripture verses



SENIORS GROWING OLDER

Dear Lord, you know I'm 90. There's much I haven't done. I hope, dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm **91**.

But, if I haven't finished all the things I want to do, Would you please let me stay awhile until I'm **92?**

Our days are numbered by our Lord, in grace we know we're free, Another goal toward which we move, the age of **93**.

We think of Heavens' beauties there, of those who've gone before. Will we be here or there before we reach our **94?**

So far we're here enjoying life because we are alive. Surprise, surprise, we're reaching for the number **95**.

The candle's dimming, it may need trimming, especially do the wicks, because we want our light to shine as we turn **96**.

We focus now upon our home as we leave earth for Heaven. But maybe by God's grace alone, we'll still turn **97**.

By faith we walk and serve the Lord and stand before the gate. By God's decree we may enter there before we're **98**.

We're getting close, we are amazed to know we're feeling fine. Would you believe we'll celebrate a nifty **99?**

Our goal requires a special word that rhymes - in case you've wondered, because this poem can go no further than the age **100**.
(Revised & abbreviated - mm)

16 powerfully spiritual things for which we as Christians can give God thanks. (see page 6)

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16 POWERFULLY SPIRITUAL THINGS FOR WHICH WE AS CHRISTIANS GIVE THANKS:

Forgiveness, The Gospel, The Cross, Victory over Sin, The Bible, God the Father, God the Holy Spirit, God the Son, Christ's Resurrection, Prayer, Grace, Mercy, Salvation, Love, Freedom and Free Will, Heaven to Come