



APPLES OF GOLD

VOLUME 25, NO. 4

APRIL 2021

“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver” (Proverbs 25:11).

Published monthly for all those who request a printed copy by mail or one sent by e-mail attachment, as well as hard copies which are available at our church. It goes to readers in 18 states and 5 foreign countries.

All articles are critiqued and approved by one of our church deacons.

EASTER IS SUNDAY, APRIL 4

CELEBRATE EASTER

EASTER BEGAN WITH THE CROSS ON GOLGOTHA’S HILL. NO OTHER CROSS IN HISTORY HAS EVER PLAYED SUCH A PART IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND AND WILL HAVE EVERYTHING TO DO WITH OUR FUTURE AND ETERNITY, EITHER IN HEAVEN OR HELL.

On that CROSS hung our dear Saviour who went willingly to suffer an agonizing death for the sins of those who reach out to Him as the only Saviour for sin. He arose from the tomb as our triumphant Saviour and soon coming King.

NOT ONLY DO WE HAVE CAUSE TO CELEBRATE BUT, AS HIS CHILDREN, THE CROSS IS OUR IDENTIFICATION WITH CHRIST ONCE WE HAVE REPENTED AND ACCEPTED HIM AS OUR SAVIOUR. THEN WE ARE TO TAKE UP OUR CROSS DAILY AND FOLLOW HIM.

A CROSS is a “Providential affliction” which can come in the form of persecution which points to Christ and ultimately brings Him glory. righteousness’ sake and is directly related to our stand for Christ while denying self. It is not due to neglect and/or living in a sinful world full of crime, war, disease, weather related catastrophes, accidents or self-inflicted suffering. Neither is it an affliction due to worry, foolish decisions or an unhealthy lifestyle (poor diet, lack of exercise, addictions). It is any trouble directly related to our being a Christian, BECAUSE we are a Christian. It is suffering

WE WILL GLADLY BEAR THAT CROSS BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A REWARD FOR US IN HEAVEN. WE ARE TO TAKE UP THAT CROSS DAILY AND BEAR IT FOR CHRIST’S SAKE, HIS HONOR, AND HIS GLORY.

We can bear our CROSS in victory because He was victorious over the CROSS and we are IN Christ. We can bear the CROSS in joy because we know we are not alone. Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us. We can rejoice in our affliction because we put Christ first. Then we have the assurance that, if the CROSS is the center of our life, we have the kind of stability and strength that the world doesn’t know anything about.

IN THIS ISSUE

CHRIST’S RESURRECTION AND THE PROOF

Pastor Rob’s Gems

PHUNNIES

Hidden Treasures

FOR AND ABOUT SENIORS

Elephant Stew

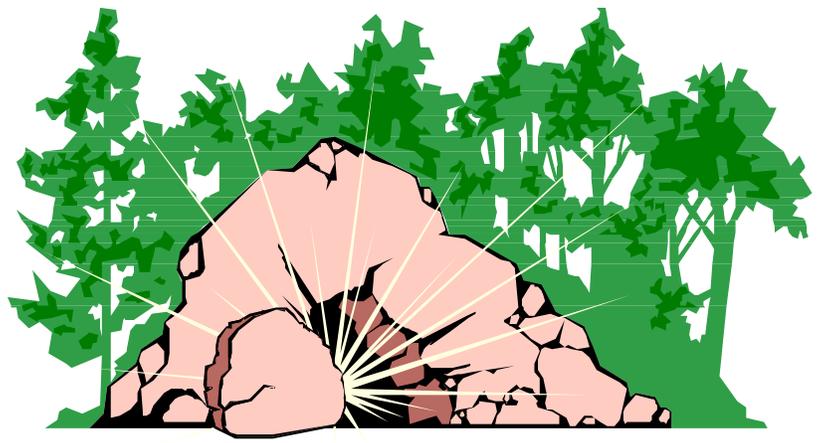
maggiemorrison2@gmail.com

One of the greatest forms of pride is to think we can live without God.

Worry looks at God through circumstances; prayer looks at circumstances through God.

An atheist cannot find God for the same reason a thief cannot find a policeman. (Alex Mcfarland)

Sorrow looks back, worry looks around, and faith looks up.



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

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

1. He was seen by more than 500 people on 12 different occasions. The appearances were long enough to be sure of His identity.
2. 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.
3. Why didn’t His enemies steal the body and produce it as evidence?
4. If His disciples had stolen His body it would have been found eventually; it never was!
5. 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.
6. Jesus claimed to be God.
 - a. He predicted His own death and resurrection.
 - b. He lived a sinless and miraculous life.
 - c. He rose from the dead.

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. 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)

The city was Jerusalem,
The time was long ago,
The people called Him Jesus,
The crime was the love He showed.
And I’m the one to blame,
I caused all the pain.
He gave Himself
the day
He wore my crown.

He brought me love
that only He could give;
I brought Him cause to cry.
And though He taught me how to live,
I stood and watched Him die.
He could have called
His holy Father and said “Take Me
away, please take Me away.”
He could have said, “I’m not guilty,
and I’m not gonna stay, I’m not gonna
pay.”

But He walked right through the gate,
and then on up that hill.
He walked up Calvary’s hill.
And as He fell beneath the weight,
He cried, “Father not My will.”
And I’m the one to blame,
I caused all the pain.
He gave Himself
the day He wore my crown;
*(words/music by Gordon Jensen -
choir program 2012)*



GEMS FROM PASTOR ROB

The Only Man-Made Things in Heaven
John 20:19, 20, 24-29

Jesus' scars will remain in His glorified body.

Zechariah 13:6 "And one shall say unto Him, what are these wounds in thine hands? Then He shall answer, those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends." Those wounds tell us...

1. **Our God is a God who suffers.** Thomas heard, but didn't believe until he saw the scars. We serve a God with scars. He suffered then and He suffers now.
 - a. The Prodigal son's father hurt. As Christians we're in the body and God is the head. When the body hurts, the head hurts. He is the bridegroom. If His wife is unfaithful, it grieves her husband.
 - b. During the Tribulation God will cry (groan) like a woman in labor when giving birth (Isaiah 42:14).
 - c. When we hurt, He hurts (Isaiah 63:9).
2. **Our God is a God who overcomes.**
 - a. His scars will remind us that we're saved (Isaiah 53). A scar is a wound that has healed.
 - b. He takes away our bad memories, and our tears. We won't remember the sinful things we did or others did, but we'll always remember Jesus' pain for us.
 - c. If we follow Jesus we'll have wounds, but He'll heal them and use the scars in the lives of others. We will then know the fellowship of His suffering (Galatians 6:17).

Show others the healing we've experienced. Our scars may be our greatest testimony. He comforts us so we can comfort others. "Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God" (II Cor. 1:4).

3. **Our God is a God who sympathizes.** "He is touched with the feelings of our infirmities..." He understands. He's been there. He was often moved with compassion.
 - a. Pain drives us to see our sin caused pain. It gets our attention. Instead, people don't go to a Saviour, but to a sedative, drugs, alcohol, or some sinful activity.
 - b. Pain unites His people. We suffer with one another. It proves to be a health bond – like hitting our thumb – the whole body suffers. Reach out to the elderly, shut-ins, and those who are battered women.
 - c. Pain draws out God's deepest longing. He took our pain on the cross.
 - * "Casting all our care upon Him, for He careth for you" (I Peter 5:7).
 - * Thomas saw and believed. We haven't seen, but we believe.
 - * The first Person we'll see in eternity will be Jesus. We'll say "AT LAST!"

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 shown 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! mrm
---	---	---	--	--

HIDDEN TREASURES



Next Month's Question: What Scripture was quoted in the Constitutional Convention to emphasize that, in the founding of the American Republic, God's help was imperative?

Last Month's Question: What famous American statesman gave the counsel and warning in the following words? "If we abide by the principles in the Bible, our country will go on prospering, but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury our glory in profound obscurity." **ANSWER:** Daniel Webster



FOR AND ABOUT SENIORS

(Not all of you can identify with most of these. I know I can't, but they're still funny.)

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is an old folk's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of old folks?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't old folks mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Why do old folks count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for a senior who still works and refuses to retire?

Answer: Nuts

Question: Why are old folks so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there. Or move back in there.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as an oldie?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

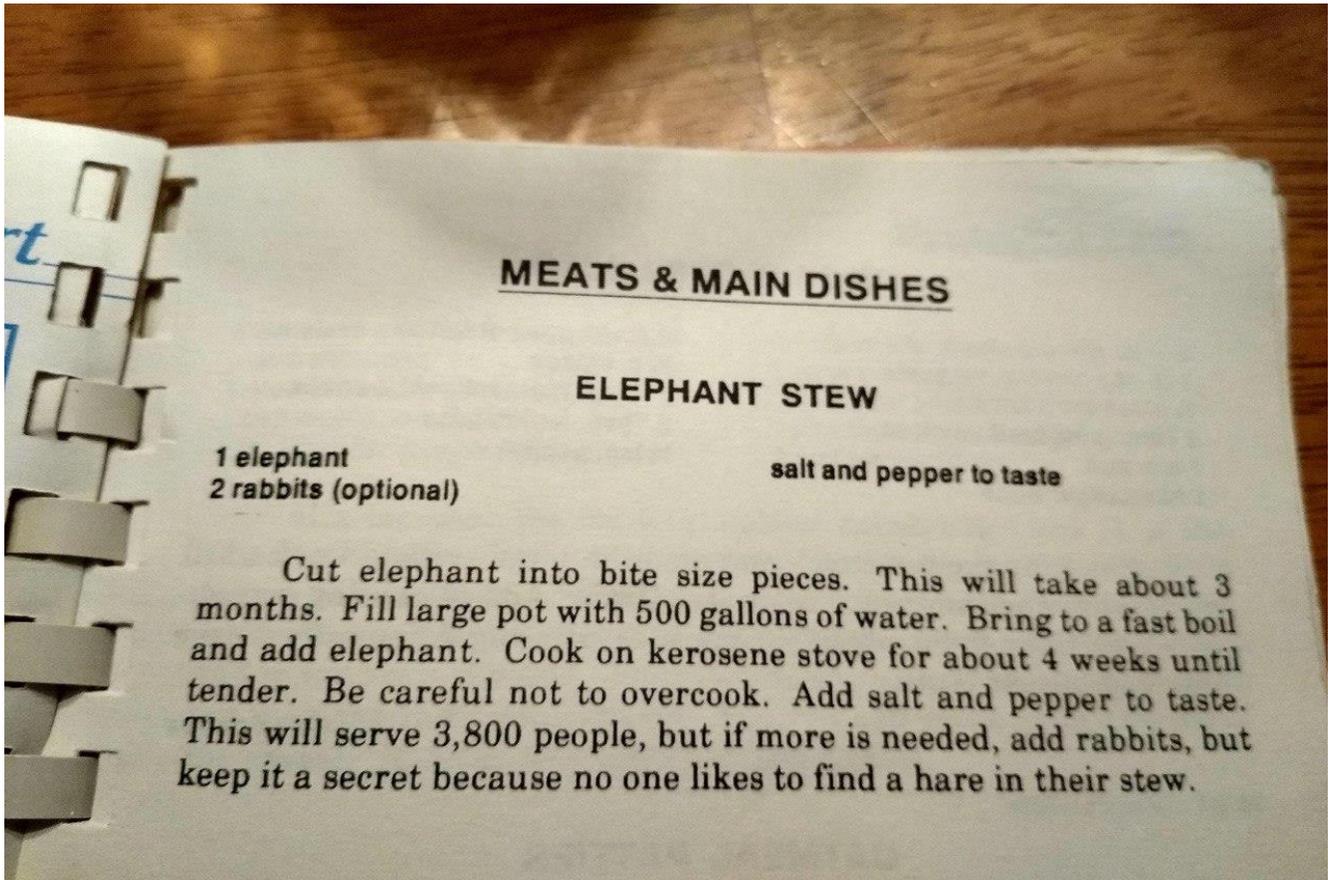
FEAR - - - FALSE EVIDENCE APPEARING REAL.

ONE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH IS THAT WE ARE NOW IN THE LAND OF THE DYING WHEREAS IN HEAVEN WE WILL BE IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.

RE: Political changes, loss of freedoms, possible persecution & personal changes: **Sometimes we're helpless, but in Christ we're never hopeless. To expand on the matter of hopelessness, we can test this at the time of our death or the death of one we love. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13). Bottom line: Christians have hope in this life and when death comes knocking at the door. The world and the unsaved do not have what we have. We have hope! We can share and should spread the word to the lost all around us.**

<p>I know a man who has a wooden leg.</p> <p>That's nothing. I know a lady who has a cedar chest.</p>	<p>Why does a tiger have stripes? So he won't be spotted.</p> <p>I told my boss, "Sorry I'm late. I was having computer issues."</p> <p>"Hard drive?" he asked.</p> <p>"No, the commute was fine. It's my laptop."</p>
<p>On the other hand, you have different fingers. Right?</p> <p>We know the speed of light, so what's the speed of dark?</p> <p>When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.</p> <p>Hard work pays off in the <i>future</i>. Laziness pays off now.</p>	<p>Did you know that America will some day be in Jerusalem? How well do you know your prophecy? I'll bet you thought that would never happen. Our beloved country, the USA, will be right smack in the middle of Jerusalem some day. Just take a careful look right now and spell Jerusalem. Don't you see it? Look again! It's there now and we don't have to wait for the future. Here it is: JerUSAlem.</p>

Now before we leave you this time, we need to have a recipe. It's fun and exciting to try a new dish once in a while, but when you have several in your family living with you, or wise to even one, it's always make it for them first and let them try it out before you serve it for a special evening when you've invited company over. Maybe you could try this one.



Quickie update on my accident Dec. 12 and crushed spine. Thank YOU for praying and keeping in touch. God has brought me through with ongoing healing. As He continues to work and I watch livestreaming from our church a little longer, I plan to return to church very soon. What a great prospect. 😊

Marjorie R. Morrison (Mrs. C.E.)
703 Oakhurst
Kernersville, NC 27284

