

Kihei Baptist Chapel
"Good News Messenger"

1655 S. Kihei Rd.
or
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Kihei, Maui, Hawaii 96753

We're on the web!
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WEEKLY LINE-UP

Sunday:
8:00 Worship Service
9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service

Wednesday:
6:00 Hula Practice
7:00 Worship Practice

Thursday:
6:30 Bible Study

Friday:
5:30 Feed the Homeless
(1st Friday / monthly)

The **Good News Messenger** is published monthly by Kihei Baptist Chapel. All articles must be received by the **20th** of the month. No submissions will be accepted after this deadline.

Copies are sent bulk mail. You may request an e-mail version at newsletter@kiheibaptist.org, or you may view the newsletter monthly on our website:

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ADDRESS LABEL HERE

**We are a growing church in a growing community.
Come grow with us as we share the Son on Maui!**

FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

We are making progress on the new worship center.

- The footprint of the building has been completed with three feet of compacted stone, and it has been inspected.
- We are working on the construction rods that are part of the footings for the building. When they are in place and inspected, we can pour the footings.
- Rough-in plumbing and electrical that go in the floor will be installed.
- Additional fill will be added and compacted, then the floors can be poured and walls can begin being built.
- We are ordering structural materials—trusses, decking, and roofing.
- We are working on the sound system, windows, colored windows, carpeting, paint colors, office layout, etc., for the inside of the building.

Please keep praying for the building program and for an additional \$500,000 to be given to this program as we build during this calendar year. Thank you for praying and supporting this major work for our Lord. God has both a local and global ministry for our church!

~ Glenn

Kihei Baptist Chapel

**March
2008**

GOOD NEWS MESSENGER

"Go into all the world, and give the Good News to everyone." (Mark 16:15)

FROM DEATH TO LIFE

March

- 2 Communion 8:00 & 10:00
Council Meeting 11:00
- 7 Feed the Homeless 5:30
- 9 Worship 8:00 & 10:00
Whale Watch 1:00
- 16 Worship 8:00 & 10:00
Potluck 11:00
- 23 EASTER 8:00 & 10:00
- 30 Worship 8:00 & 10:00

Happy Birthday!!

- 3-11 Clara Likes
- 3-20 Nancy Garrett
- 3-28 Karen Flabetich
- 3-28 Pete Yaksic

Happy Anniversary!!

- 3-4 Charles & Barbara Bower
- 3-20 Tony & Gianna Ventura
- 3-23 Glenn & Betty Benner

A Look Inside

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Rev. Glenn Armstrong, D.D.
February 20, 2008

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST IN THE LIVES OF HIS FOLLOWERS
Romans 6:1-13

I. INTRODUCTION

I recently found the copy of my mother's baptismal certificate. This may not sound like much of a find, but my mother died when I was seven and I really don't know much about her. The baptismal certificate was accompanied by a book of lessons about the Biblical teaching connected with the baptism of believers. Actually, a full course of study on baptism and the believer's life was expected back then before one was baptized.

One generation has been all that it takes to fast track the truth and meaning of the resurrection of Jesus Christ into a religious ritual. The result is that little or no understanding of what God expects is to be connected to the baptism of believers. This would not be so important if it were not that baptism of believers is inseparably connected to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is equally connected to daily practical Christian living. Going from death to life is God's de-

termination both for His Son, Jesus, as well as His sons, believers. The power that produced the first is needed for the second, but it is the precise purpose of the first. It is only because of the desire of God to offer a new life (regeneration) to sinful people that the death and resurrection of Christ (redemption) is a documented historical certainty.

Confusion about the resurrection and its relationship to a new life is nothing new. Actually, the two items have been satanically challenged since the very earliest day of Christianity. The Apostle Paul wrote to the believers at Rome in such clear language that the confusion should have ended in the first generation – but it didn't. It has gotten worse as religion replaced redemption.

II. THE PROBLEM BEHIND THE PASSAGE: ANTINOMIANISM, Romans 5:20; 6:1

"Where sin did abound, grace did more abound."

Some objected to Paul's teaching of the gospel through the grace of God and assumed believers would take advantage of this grace and in doing so, live morally irresponsible lives. Others taught that since grace is greater than sin, the more one

(continued on page 2)

FROM DEATH TO LIFE...continued

would sin, the more God's grace would be displayed. This perversion of God's grace has been named, "antinomianism", meaning, "against the law". This early teaching implies that a believer does not need to be governed by laws and is thus free to live uninhibited lives. The assumption is that God graciously forgives and a believer should not worry about his conduct.

III. THE PREMISE OF THE PASSAGE: A BELIEVER IS DEAD TO SIN, Roman 6:2

"God forbid! How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?"

A sinful life is never pleasing to God nor does it truly display God's grace. In fact, it "frustrates the grace of God", something we are forbidden to do, Galatians 2:21. Frustrating, in the Galatians text is, "to take advantage of" or "to set aside." Freedom from Old Testament redemptive regulation is not to be considered license to sin. Paul confronted the early error by teaching liberty in Christ without teaching license to sin. The factor that makes freedom of conscience work is not a human factor at all; it is rather the love of God that is placed in a sincere believer, causing him to want to reflect the character of Christ. If Paul had a problem in his day, he would be mortified by the message of today; namely, God hates nothing and loves everyone and everything in an unconditional love!

The believer is taught in the text to die to sinful activities. He is not taught to become stronger, learn to live with, or eventually get victory over sin, habits and lifestyles which dominate him. It is to die! Victory comes through dying. Dying does not need grace. If this sounds strange, then "strange" is evidence that Christian accommodation to the world is the mood and the message of the moment in the Christian church.

IV. THE PICTURE OF THE PASSAGE: BAPTISM OF A BELIEVER, Romans 6:3, 5

"So many of us as were baptized unto Jesus were baptized into His death"

"We are buried with Him by baptism into death."

"We shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection."

The power of God is Christianized in the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb. In forthright contradiction to the liberal and often new evangelical teaching about the resurrection of our Lord, the scriptures teach He was taken off the cross in a dead physical condition, placed in a sealed, secured and guarded tomb from which He physically rose again on the first day of the week in the same biological body in which He was interred. It is this power that is both pictured in believer's baptism as well as needed daily in the practical lives of believers in their victory over sin. The power of the resurrection is immeasurably great. Yet, that same power is available daily to all believers. It is the power to give a new life to Christians as they die to sinful habits. Notice the context of the passage is not to struggle against sin, but to die to it. This is not metaphysical thinking; it is not questioning the Christian teachings. It is God's way for believers to grow and develop in their lives. Baptism is identifying ourselves with the death of Jesus, with our sins as nailed to the cross with Christ and identifying with His resurrected life into a new life for ourselves.

It is very clear in the scripture that one is a believer who trusts solely in the substitutionary payment of Christ for their sins. Yet, it is equally true that in practical Christian living, some self-discipline, self-denial and self-determination is needed. Christian living calls for us to "reckon" something to be true, Romans 6:11. Reckon means to consider true what actually is true. A believer is to be dead to sin and alive to the Savior. While much is taught about Christ's

"J" FOR JESUS

Bonjour, a merci buco pour reggarde moi! (Hello, and thank you so very much for being interested in me!) My heart has been for missions, particularly work in Europe; and I am thankful for your prayers and financial assistance in helping me serve our Lord in Sicily, Poland, Belize, and Honduras. It looks like I have been blessed with an opportunity to go to France with Teen Missions this summer. God has really blessed me with a commoner's perspective when I travel—watching the world through God's eyes and getting to work alongside the locals on a day-to-day basis. It is really rewarding to be able to help people, showing them God's love, and watch your hardest efforts grow in God and begin a local revival.

On June 21 my new teen team will fly into Lyon, France. From the airport it is a two-hour ride through the scenic countryside and past historic chateaux, abbeys and rivers to Chalon sur Saone, situated in the Burgundy region of east-central France. We will pitch our tents next to the Saone River and walk to La Porte Ouverte ("The Open Door"), a missionary training and retreat center just outside the city. Our team will begin renovating a 3-story, 100 year-old building by wallpapering, painting, and doing other jobs as necessary to make it of better use to missionaries and students. Once again I will serve as a Teen Leader Assistant, working with 13 – 18 year olds.

We will have the opportunity to converse and encourage those on holiday there, practicing our French and applying it to our evangelism weekends. With music,

puppets, tracts, and drama, we will be able to share our faith in the local town, also. Please pray for a large turnout at these events and willing hearts to follow Jesus.

A sight-seeing day is planned in Paris, where we hope to see the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and Notre Dame before we head to Switzerland for a few days of debriefing before returning to Teen Missions' headquarters in Florida. Debriefing is a time (4 – 5 days) when we can meet with other teams for fellowship and renewing of friendships that were made at Boot Camp. The focus is to assist teens to get involved with their local churches when they return home, how to share their summer ministry, and to "wind down" from the spiritual high they have experienced while serving our Lord in a foreign country. Our team is scheduled to return to Florida on August 9.

When all this is finished, I will have graduated from Bible Missionary Worker School (BMW) and have three weeks of vacation before preparing for my internship and possibility of full-time mission work. At this time I would like to serve in Canada, where I would be able to learn how to better present to crowds, properly schedule and attend missions conferences, and send out necessary information to our brothers in Canada.

Your prayers for God's guidance and my wisdom are appreciated. I could never do this without your prayers and encouragement. God bless you all!

~ Joy Flabetich

A REASON FOR HOPE

God will never leave you hopeless. Do you believe this? Many people acknowledge they do; however, deep inside, they think the opposite. Their lives are overshadowed by feelings of doubt, worry, and most of all, fear over what the future may hold.

On several occasions, Jesus made a point of telling His disciples what they could expect following His death. While He did not give all the specifics, He laid the groundwork for their faith to hold fast. Yet this is not what happened—at least not in the beginning. In fact, their faith waned.

After the Savior's death, the disciples immediately went into hiding. They were certain they would meet the same fate as the Lord (John 20:19). Fear gripped their hearts as their minds raced to make sense of all that had occurred.

They had forgotten Christ's words: "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you'...I have told you before it happens, so that

when it happens, you may believe" (John 14:27-29).

Some events in life are more sorrowful than our hearts can handle. The crucifixion was one of these. Instead of believing Jesus would never leave them, the disciples were convinced He was gone, and with Him went their hopes for the future. However, they were wrong! Three days later the risen Savior stepped into their presence and said, "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19)

He always is at work—engineering the circumstances of your life to bring good from even the deepest, darkest loss. Whatever your situation, the Savior is aware of it. And He has a plan in mind for you, just as He had a plan for the resurrection.

We rejoice that, just as the Son ascended to the Father's side, we can enjoy fellowship with Jesus now while looking forward to eternity in His physical presence.

Dr. Charles F. Stanley
In Touch—April 2007

FROM DEATH TO LIFE...continued

death as payment for the penalty of our sin, little is taught that connects the believer with the cross in a fashion that breaks the power of sin in our lives. Calvary not only deals with the penalty, payment, and pardon of sin, but it equally provides the power to break the principle of sin that dwells in our lives and tends to enslave us. What we know to be true with our heads we are to reckon to be true in our hearts. What we believe theologically we are instructed to demonstrate daily.

V. THE PURPOSE OF THE PASSAGE: BELIEVERS LIVING NEW LIVES, Romans 6:4, 6-10

No one should want to minimize the details of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb. Certainly I don't. In fact, I am upset that new-evangelicals as well as liberal get away with denying the bodily resurrection by spiritualizing it. However, this article is more about the reason for the resurrection than the resurrection itself. I think it is overwhelming to realize that at the resurrection, "the glory of the living God broke through the darkness of the tomb and the love of the Father came and filled every corner of the room." Nothing, in my mind, can ever fully share the resurrected body of Jesus as He stepped out of the tomb. Whatever happened and how it took place was far more than sixty war hardened Roman soldiers could handle. They could not control their own bodies which went into convulsions as they fell to the ground in fear, Matthew 28:4. However, the purpose of the resurrection was to establish a righteousness relationship between a sinful person and an infinitely holy God, Romans 4:25. Only the resurrected Savior can establish a righteousness equal to God's demand.

The Apostle Paul's argument in the Roman 6 text is that a new spiritual life for believers capable of pleasing God is only possible through the power demonstrated at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Baptism identifies a believer as

dying to an old sinful life with Christ in His death, but also connects a believer to a new resurrected life as Christ was resurrected.

VI. THE PRACTICE OF THE PASSAGE: A YIELDED LIFE TO THE LORD, Romans 6:13

There are two conditional words in this Roman passage. One is "reckon" and the other is "yield". The teaching of the text is that a believer is to "reckon" themselves dead to sin, but alive from the dead into a spiritual life of holiness. The Greek concept of reckon is to, "calculate", "count", "take into account", "credit", "evaluate", "estimate", "look upon", "consider." The second, "yield" is what we are to do when we are spiritually born again to a new life. We are to not yield our bodies to unrighteous habits and conduct, but rather we are to positively plan to "yield" our bodies to righteousness as unto God.

VII. THE PAYMENT OF THE PASSAGE: BELIEVE THE GOSPEL

God has made the gospel very, very simple. It only asks for a person to repent of sinning against a holy God and trust the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ at Calvary as the sole and sufficient payment for sin. With this faith relationship with God He gives a new life, restoring the original fellowship that has been lost by sin. However, what God has made simple and free, religion has ritualized and made complicated and often costly. Our celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ at every Easter season is more than historical; it is personally practical.

Christ died for our sins so we can live spiritually. He rose from the grave to demonstrate His victory over sin. We identify with His death by reasoning ourselves to be dead to sin, Romans 6:11, and now alive because He arose. Because He lives, we can live also. Jesus' death and resurrection not only removed the penalty of sin, they also broke the power of sin. The truth of the text is that believers should die to sin and live for the Savior.

TRAIN YOURSELF TO BE GODLY

But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.

1 Timothy 4:7

Godliness was central to Paul's advice to Timothy. Go ahead, try asking your friends what they think "godliness" means. They see a monk removed from the world, praying, meditating and humming hymns behind monastery walls. Others see squeaky-clean, Bible-toting do-gooders, naïve, moralistic, annoyingly innocent. Wrong!

One scholar defines godliness this way: "Not just outward worship, nor a mere concept of God, nor a virtue, nor an ideal over against a Gnostic philosophy of self-deprivation that regards creation as bad. True godliness that's born of faith covers everyday conduct in honoring God as Creator and Redeemer."

Some well-meaning people seem to think that becoming like Christ means that we should strive to be perfect. For them, spiritual disciplines are like push-ups and

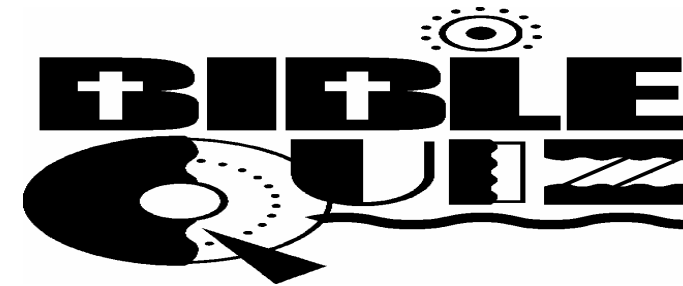
sit-ups, religious exercises to beat their bodies and minds into submission. This is more Gnostic than Christian.

If you just want to have control over your lusts or become more serene, any meditative religion will do. What sets Christianity apart from other religions is knowing and becoming like Christ is our goal: not moral perfection (although you will grow in character), not tranquility (although your life will become remarkably more peaceful). Because of the grace we have in Christ, the disciplines will do nothing to make us more accepted by the Father, since Jesus has already done it all for us.

No, a "godly" person is one who ceases to be self-centered in order to become Christ-centered. Christ became a man, and as a result of His earthly ministry we see how God intended for us to live. Jesus is our unblemished example of godliness. Therefore, being "godly," simply means becoming more Christ-like.

The Word for You Today
September – October – November 2006

QUIZZES FOR YOUNG & OLD



Many of the detailed events surrounding the Easter story were prophesied centuries earlier in the Old Testament. Can you make the Old and New Testament connections?

1. When Zechariah wrote, "Rejoice greatly...see, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey..." what was he describing?
2. When the Pharisees asked Jesus for a miraculous sign, he said none would be given except the sign of which prophet?
3. Zechariah 11:12 was fulfilled when Judas was paid how much silver?
4. "They have pierced my hands and feet...people stare and gloat over me." This prophetic description of the crucifixion can be found in which book of the Bible?
5. When Jesus' side was pierced with a spear, John saw a prophecy fulfilled since the soldiers did not break any of these.
6. The Messiah's sacrificial death for sin was described by which prophet with these words: "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities"?
7. Which Old Testament person hinted at the Resurrection when he wrote, "You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay"?

Just for Kids
For everyone

Every day we should be thankful for God's love and for the gift of his Son, Jesus. Complete the maze below to help people from all directions hear about this good news. Then, starting at the N (north) and going clockwise, read the words to John 3:16, NIV.

perish but have eternal life." N "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not

John 3:16, NIV

he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not

ANSWERS: 1. Palm Sunday (John 12:12-16). 2. Jonah (Matthew 12:38-40). 3. 30 pieces (Matthew 27:3-10). 4. Psalm 22:1. 5. Jesus' bones (John 19:36-37). 6. Isaiah 53:5. 7. David (Psalm 16:10).