

CHURCH OF CHRIST
 1310 National Road
 Wheeling, WV 26003
 (304) 242-2321
 E-Mail: natlroadcoc@gmail.com

STAMP



National Road Church of Christ

"Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry"

VOL. LXXVI

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NO. 1

1310 National Road
 Wheeling, WV 26003
 Phone: 304-242-2321
 email:

natlroadcoc@gmail.com
 CHURCH WEBSITE
 www.nationalroadchurchofchrist.org

SHEPHERDS

Pat Cronin.....304-242-8785
 Jerry Joseph.....740-695-3025
 Jamie McCoy... ..304-242-0503
 Keith Wright.....304-242-8821

DEACONS

Seth Cole.....304-905-8892
 Sean Cronin.....304-615-4460
 Curt Hippensteel...501-548-4230
 John McCabe.....304-232-7556
 Matt Walker.....304-312-9583
 Russ Whinnery.....740-635-9930

PREACHER

Ryan Parsons.....281-813-2753
 Ron Stullenbarger...304-280-5017

MISSIONARIES

Slava Seytchelelov.....Ukraine
 Gladwyn Kiddoe.....Jamaica

SECRETARY

Wanda Adamson...304-242-2321

SERVICES TIMES

SUNDAY
 Bible Study.....9:30
 AM Worship.....10:30
 PM Worship.....6:00

WEDNESDAY
 PM Bible Study.....7:00

WELCOME VISITOR

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our visitors and invite you to come back and join us again for worship. We ask that you fill out a visitor card in the pew in front of you so that we may have a record of your visit. After our service we would like to give you a gift bag.

NEW MERCIES

-Ryan Parsons-

First held on December 31, 1907 to welcome 1908, the Times Square Ball drop has been held annually since. One of the most well known celebrations worldwide takes place in Times Square and is attended by more than 1 million people. At the same time across the globe, people are celebrating the moment while watching the live broadcast with their own confetti, fireworks, firearms, or simply by banging pots with wooden spoons. People kiss and shout, "Happy New Year!"

But, what's the big deal about a new year? Hope.

As the ball drops and the calendar changes, everyone, at least for a moment, hopes for something. Some hope for prosperity; while others only hope for less suffering. Hopes of better health, healthier relationships, and tolerable work environments fill the crowds. Still others dream and hope of new beginnings rather than be overcome with lament of the past year's woes.

However, it is interesting to me that so many find themselves once again back at December 31st with so many disappointments. Could it be that their hopes are misplaced?

What if God's Word told you that you could celebrate every day? What if each day was worthy of confetti, fireworks, kisses, and shouts of joy? Could it be that when you open your eyes, even before you brush your teeth and your feet hit the floor, there is reason for inexpressible HOPE?

In 586 B.C., Jerusalem was utterly destroyed by the Babylonians, and many of God's people were drug off into captivity. Unthinkable things occurred in those days and the following years. As they were confronted with those horrific events and their own sin that served as the root cause, they mourned. It was their December 31st. I find it amazing that in the midst of that pain, hope emerged.

Lamentations 3:22-24, 22 *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."*

Good morning! Today is a new day, a new week, and new start. Why? Because the STEADFAST LOVE (τὸν) of God is still going. You may have gone to bed last night a wreck, but you can rejoice today because God's mercy is still here going strong. It is here for you when you wake up. Take hold of it and put your hope only in Him!

CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS

The World Bible School is collecting cancelled postage stamps. If you would like to save these, please cut out postage stamps and cancelled postmark only, 1/8 to 1/4 inch away from stamp and include postmark. If you have any questions, ask Joyce Faber. You can give cancelled stamps to Joyce or Wanda.

NURSERY ATTENDANT SCHEDULE

Week of January 13
 Bruce and Sue Mills

IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY

Week of January 13

"WHY PARDON YOU?"

God once asked the Israelites in Jeremiah 5:7, "Why should I pardon you?" Many think God is obligated to forgive us for any reason and never consider God is in control of whom He forgives. Why should God pardon you? You can watch *In Search of the Lord's Way* every Sunday morning at 7:30 am on WTRF-TV7.

SERVE THE CONGREGATION

JANUARY 13, 2019

LEADER - CURT HIPPENSTEEL
SUNDAY MORNING

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....JERRY JOSEPH
 SONG LEADER.....KEITH WRIGHT
 PRAYER.....JIM HYEST
 PRESIDE AT TABLE.....RICHARD STEPHENSON
 DISMISS.....MAX HIPPENSTEEL

SERVE AND COUNT CONTRIBUTION

RUSS WHINNERY.....JIM CONNER
 DERRICK COLEMAN.....BILLY WOLFE
 KEVIN COOK.....JACOB PARSONS

P.A. CONTROLS.....BRIAN BECKETT
 POWERPOINT.....BRIAN HARTO
 USHERS.....GARY BECKETT
 JIM FREGIATO.....MATT WALKER

SUNDAY EVENING

SONG LEADER.....KEITH WRIGHT
 READING.....CHRIS KRANSKE
 PRAYER.....STEPHEN BOND
 PRESIDE AT TABLE.....DAVE WRIGHT
 DISMISS.....CURT HIPPENSTEEL

RECORD FOR PREVIOUS WEEK

BIBLE CLASS.....73
 SUNDAY A.M.....148
 SUNDAY P.M.....81
 CONTRIBUTION.....\$4246

Family Matters

THANK YOU

Dear Family, Thank you for the phone calls, visits and especially the prayers I received during my hospital confinement. You are very much appreciated. In Christian Love, Bonnie Ruth

BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY

Group 2 will be hosting our Birthday/Anniversary get together this evening after services. We invite you to stay and help honor anyone having a birthday or anniversary in January.

REACHING OUT MINISTRY

A program called "Reaching Out Ministry" has been started to help our shut-ins. A meal is being prepared and delivered to them every other Thursday. If you would like to help out with this ministry, please inform Jim Poole, Donna Parsons, or Carol Thomas and give any donations for food purchases to Wanda Adamson. Volunteers are also needed to help deliver the meals. We will not have meals in January and February due to weather conditions.

SYMPATHY

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Larry & David Peck**, cousins of Becky Robson on the passing of their father.

WELTY DEVO

Next Sunday afternoon at 2:00, we will have the devo at the Welty Home. Please plan to join us.

STEPPING STONES SOUP LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER

The Stepping Stones ladies are having a soup luncheon after morning services on Sunday, January 20 in the fellowship hall. Variety of soups, cornbread, and dessert. Takeout is available. Cost of lunch-adults, \$5.00, children (4-12) \$2.50 and children (0-3) are free.

WinGS

Ladies, It's that time of the year to consider serving on or leading one of the WinGS (Women in God's Service) committees in 2019. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer for the next few weeks and then a combined list will be printed and distributed. Thank you. If you have any questions, please reach out to: **WinGS Steering Committee**-Andrea Baldwin, Trisha Cronin, Diana Harto, Amanda Parsons, or Cathy West.

COMMUNION BREAD

Thank you to all the ladies who faithfully prepare communion bread each month. The schedule for 2019 is posted. If you would like to volunteer to make bread, please sign up on the sheet by the water cooler.

TABITHA'S STOREHOUSE NEWS

Closed for holiday

NEEDED ITEMS

Toothpaste, toothbrushes, and bar soap.

Remember to bring in your paper bags, especially those with handles.

Want to give cash or check? Now you can make your check out to "Tabitha's Storehouse" and give it to Pat or Becky Cronin or Molly Williams.

THE NATIONAL ROAD ADVISOR

*A bulletin supplement for
Christian Living in the 21st Century*

Is the Bible Full of Contradictions? Part 3

-Jim Hyeast-

From Bart Ehrman's book, *Jesus, Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible (And Why We Don't Know About Them)*.

At about the time I started to doubt that God had inspired the words of the Bible, I began to be influenced by Bible courses taught from a historical-critical perspective. I started seeing discrepancies in the text. I saw that some of the books of the Bible were at odds with one another. I became convinced by the arguments that some of the books were not written by the authors from whom they were named. And I began to see that many of the traditional Christian doctrines that I long held to be beyond question... had moved away from the original teachings of Jesus and his apostles.

The critics' most serious accusation concern Jesus' divinity. They claim the Bible contradicts itself when Mark records the centurion declaring at Jesus' death, "Truly, this Man was the Son of God (Mk. 15:39)," whereas Luke records him as saying, "Truly this was a righteous Man (Lk. 23:47)." Is this, indeed, a contradiction? Is there a difference between righteous and God? In human perception we might call a man righteous who only approximates righteousness or excels in it when compared to other men. But, truly, there is only one righteous, and that One is God. This idea is found in all the synoptic gospels, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God (Mt. 19:17; Mk. 10:18; Lk. 18:19)." Only God is good; only God is righteous. If Jesus is truly righteous, He is God.

Critics generally recognize that a man called Jesus did live in the area of Palestine at the time in question. Most acknowledge that He taught and lived a noble ethic. Many acknowledge that such a man was crucified. But, they deny that He was anything more than a good man. C. S. Lewis dismissed this point of view. If Jesus claimed to be God, but was not, He was not a good man. He would be a liar or lunatic. We cannot have it both ways, says Lewis. If Jesus was good while claiming to be God, He is Lord.

Consequently, the critics dismiss that Jesus ever laid claim to being God. They point to the fact that Jesus simply referred to Himself as the Son of Man, which He did frequently. Perhaps Jesus used the expression "Son of Man" to identify with the "Son of Man" in Daniel 7:13. Perhaps Jesus used the expression "Son of Man" instead of "Son of God" to stall off His accusers whom He knew would rise up against him before He could complete His mission. Furthermore, even from Jesus' own words He connects "Son of Man" with divinity where He says, "Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven (Mt.26:64)." Clearly He is alluding to Daniel's prophecy. Clearly He declares that He will sit down at the right hand of the Father. What else could Jesus be saying except that He is God?

Jesus claimed to be God many times and in several ways. The earliest claim was by demonstration. This is found in Mark 2:1-12. In this passage a paralytic is brought to Jesus for healing. Jesus said to the man, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." The scribes were aghast, murmuring among themselves, "Who can forgive sins but God alone." Jesus, perceiving their thoughts continued, "Which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk?'" Then He proceeded to heal the paralytic. The argument was clear. Only God can forgive sins and only God can heal a paralytic instantly. Jesus healed a paralytic instantly. Jesus is God.

In each of the so-called "I am" passages, Jesus is making a bold claim to being God. It may not have been immediately evident to His hearers, but when you consider the meaning of each metaphor and the language He used, ultimately it totals up to Jesus boldly declaring that He is God. Consider:

Jn. 6:35 – And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life."

Jn. 8:12 – Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world."

Jn. 10:9 – "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved,"

Jn. 10:11 – "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."

Jn. 11:25-26 – Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live..."

Jn. 14:6 – Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Jn. 15:1 – I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

When closely considered, each metaphor describes a characteristic that can only be attributed to God. The bread of life; the light of the world; the door; the good shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep; the way, the truth, and the life, and so forth. Who else can fulfill all these declarations except God? Furthermore, notice His use of the opening phrase, "I am," which in the Greek is, (ego eimi). Probably without His hearers making the connection, Jesus is referring to Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush in Exodus 3. In this occasion Moses asks God what he shall say if the people ask what His name is. God replied, "I AM WHO I AM." "You shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM' has sent me to you (Ex. 3:14).'" I AM in Hebrew is *Ehyeh*. The Septuagint, the Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek in the third century B.C. translates *ehyeh* as εγω ειμι (ego eimi), which, in turn, translates into English as "I am." Εγο ειμι is a common expression. Jesus could have used it if he were to say, "I am (εγο ειμι) going to lie down." In this case "I am" would not have any profound or theological meaning. But, when He used it with the "I am" passages and the metaphors which they contained, He was saying every time not "I am," but "I AM!" He was declaring that He was God.

If the Jews did not pick up on the metaphors, they certainly did when Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM (Jn. 8:58)." The Jews knew clearly what He was saying as they "took up stones to throw at Him (Jn. 8:59)."

Finally, when the high priest put Jesus under oath, "Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God," Jesus replied, "It is as you said (Mt. 27:63-64)." Declaring His divinity by demonstration, implication, and direct testimony, Jesus left no doubt.