

THE



# HARVESTER

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." [Luke 10:2]

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## A SON TAKES CARE OF HIS MOTHER

Three crosses stand upon Calvary's hill. Jesus, the son of God, hangs upon the central cross. In front of the cross many people have gathered. Many of these people are mocking Him. The soldiers who nailed Him to the cross are gambling for His garment. The religious leaders who demanded His blood are rejoicing. Jesus has looked down from the cross at these people and prayed for them, saying, *"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."*

*"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, 'Woman, behold thy*

THE HARVESTER  
1120 Sun Hill Road  
Birmingham, AL 35215 -4106

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son!" In other words from now on John would be her son. *"Then saith he to the disciple, 'Behold thy mother!'"* From now on Mary would be John's mother. *"And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home"* (John 19:26,27).

When it came time for Mary to have her son she could not find a place for the birth. So she delivered Him in a stable, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger. Before long Herod sought to kill Mary's son. Joseph, Mary and Jesus were forced to flee into another land, returning later to Nazareth. As Jesus grew up and began His ministry, His mother saw Him despised, rejected, hated, and persecuted. Today she sees Him hanging upon a cross, dying, and certainly her heart breaks with sorrow.

When Jesus was a young boy His parents carried Him to the temple. An old man of God was there, Simeon by name. When he saw the child, he began to prophesy concerning Him. Then to Mary he said, *"A sword shall pierce through thy own soul, also"* Now, the prophecy is fulfilled, the sword is piercing her soul. She had changed His diapers as a baby. She had held His hands when He first began to walk. But now those hands are nailed to a cross. She had guided His feet in the right way. But now those feet are nailed to a cross. Surely Mary wept bitterly and her heart was broken as she watched her son bleed to death.

But amidst all the sorrow and tears we see the consistency of a mother's love. Her son's disciples had deserted Him in His darkest hour. His friends forsook Him, His nation rejected Him, His enemies cried out for His blood, the soldiers are gambling for His garment, but His mother stood there at the foot of the cross by her son. The crowds are mocking Him, the

religious leaders are rejoicing, her son is bleeding to death, but there is Jesus' mother, beholding it all. She did not faint, she did not run away, she was bound to her son by love, and so she stood loyally by the cross. What courage! What love!

This reminds me of when I was a young boy. I, like most young boys, felt like my mother was always on my case about something. I sometimes thought that she looked for things to "nag" about. But my daddy told me that although I might feel the way I did, not to have any doubts about where my mother would be when times got hard -- "at the foot of the cross." And as I have grown and experienced many hard times, I must say that he was right. Certainly Jesus must have rejoiced inside to see that His mother had not forsaken Him in His darkest hour, but stood "at the foot of the cross."

Mary was a good woman and God used her as an instrument to bring his son into the world. But now his son was about to leave the world. He was about to leave Mary and as a faithful son, He made provision for her to stay with John and he would now take care of her. Jesus lived a complete life. He was not willing to die and leave anything undone that He ought to do. So He arranged for His mother's future.

Here we see Jesus setting a wonderful example. The Old Law read, *"Honor thy father and mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee"* (Exo. 20:12). In the New Testament, Paul wrote, *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right. Honor thy father and mother which is the first commandment with promise"* (Eph. 6:1,2).

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Ray McManus  
 3265 Fowlers Ferry Rd.  
 Gadsden, AL 35901-9130  
 Phone: (205) 442-4181

Now if we honor our parents, we give them more than mere obedience. We give them our love and affection, our gratitude and respect. When we are children we are to obey our parents. When we grow up, although they no longer command us, we are still to honor them. And now, as Jesus dies upon the cross, He shows a sweet and tender solicitation for His mother. He gives her a new home and a new son to take care of her. Are you taking the example of Jesus in the matter of caring for your parents? Are you truly honoring your parents? We can never fully discharge all our obligations to them.

At the cross we also learn another lesson. When serving God, we must not ignore family ties and responsibilities. Here is Jesus doing the greatest thing that was ever done upon the earth -- dying for sinful humanity. Yet, He doesn't overlook His responsibilities. He takes care of His mother. If any man is too busy, even in the Lord's work, to discharge his obligation to family, let him look to Jesus and the cross, and remember the example He set.

Of course, there are too many people who go too far in the other direction. They give all of their time to their home and family and leave God and the church out. That is wrong! But there is a happy medium. Let Christ and His church and your family have your love and service. Surely all these put together make an ideal combination.

Before long, all is over. The figure on the central cross is still. The suffering is over, death has come, death which makes men free forever. We then see John taking Mary to his own home, as Jesus requested.

Yes, not only did Jesus take care of our needs while He hung upon that cross, but He also made sure His mother would be taken care of. In the darkest hour of His life, as He performed the greatest work of mankind, He remembered His mother. He would not die until He made sure His mother would be cared for.

What a wonderful example our Lord set that day. We are always interested in what men do and say in the hours before death. May each of us look to Jesus, in the hours before His death and notice what He did and said before He died. He made provision for His mother.

MARTY LIVINGSTON  
235 Oakland Drive  
Oxford, AL 36203

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Who was the king of the Media-Persian empire during the time of Esther?
2. In the Parable of the Lost Coin, how many coins were involved?
3. What is the reason stated in Romans for salvation coming to the Gentiles?
4. What is the shortest book in the Old Testament?
5. Why did Abraham tell Abimelech that Sarah was his sister?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH . . .

and remember last month's questions?

1. Where did Moses put the new tables of stone, after God had written on them? IN THE ARK HE HAD MADE (Deut. 10:5)
2. Who had Jesus scourged the day of His crucifixion? PILATE (Mark 15:15)
3. What should a good husband give his wife, according to I Peter? HONOR (1 Pet. 3:7)
4. Why did Isaiah think he was unworthy to look upon the Lord of Hosts? HE WAS A MAN OF UNCLEAN LIPS (Isa. 6:5)
5. What did Samson kill as he was on the way to see his future wife? A LION (Judg. 14:6)

## CHRIST IN THE BIBLE

The book of PHILIPPIANS is a thank-you note to the believers at Philippi for their help in Paul's hour of need. But the central theme is unity in Christ. Only in the Messiah can real happiness be found. Paul shows that "to live is Christ" and that Christ Jesus is the model of true humility. It is He who will change our body in the resurrection and through Christ, Paul can "do all things." This epistle is truly a joy and an encouragement to read!

Whereas Ephesians centered on the Body, COLOSSIANS focuses on the Head. Clearly the Anointed One of God is preeminent -- first and foremost in everything! He is the Lord of creation, the Author of reconciliation, the basis for the believer's hope and power for a new life, the Redeemer and Reconciler, the Creator and Sustainer, the Head of the Church, the resurrected God-Man, and the all-sufficient Saviour. There is no question that Christ, as Head, has the supreme priority in the believer's life.

The church at Thessalonica wavered due to false doctrines concerning the coming day of the Lord. Paul corrects these errors in **FIRST THESSALONIANS** by describing the return of Jesus Christ. At that time He will deliver, reward, perfect, resurrect, and sanctify all those who have trusted Him. In the book of **SECOND THESSALONIANS** the apostle continues that same theme with an explanation that the Redeemer's return will be a joyous and reassuring occasion for all believers. It will also be an awesome and terrifying event for those who have not trusted in the Son of God.

To Timothy, his "son in the faith", Paul wrote two letters admonishing this young evangelist. Timothy's conduct as a minister in the congregation had to be righteous. His example would come from none other than Christ Himself. **FIRST TIMOTHY** presents the Messiah as the "one mediator between God and men", a source of spiritual strength, faith and love. These were the traits necessary in the young minister. **SECOND TIMOTHY** warns of the future testings that would come to Timothy and the importance of perseverance. As a "good soldier of Jesus Christ", Timothy was greatly encouraged to continue in the doctrine of the Lord. The reward would be a crown of righteousness!

Another young evangelist to whom Paul wrote was **TITUS**. His duties were to appoint elders and to set things in order. In particular, Paul beautifully states the deity and redemptive work of the Saviour, who purified unto Himself a "peculiar people." Thus, Titus is told speak sound doctrine and maintain good works in obedience to Christ.

RAY

WHITEWASHING THE PUMP WILL NOT PURIFY THE WATER.

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Place &amp; Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>
October 2-6	Marrowbone, KY	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
October 4-6	Rainsville, AL 7:00 pm	Sam Dick (Cave City, KY)
October 4-6	Claud, AL 7:00 pm	V. W. Boland (Gadsden, AL)
October 4-6	Cold Springs Church Bogue Chitto, MS	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
October 11-13	Napolean Church Woodland, AL	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
October 11-13	West Gadsden Church Gadsden, AL	Ray McManus (Gadsden, AL)
November 8-10 (F - Su)	Pleasant Grove Church near Alex City, AL 7:00pm/ 10:30am & 6:00pm	Curtis Smith (Cullman, AL)



## WHY PEOPLE GO TO CHURCH

Some go to church to take a walk;  
 Some go to church to laugh and talk;  
 Some go there to meet a friend;  
 Some go there their time to spend;  
 Some go there to meet a lover;  
 Some go there a fault to cover;  
 Some go there for speculation;  
 Some go there for observation;  
 Some go there to doze and nod;  
 The wise go there to worship God.

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