

## *“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”*

Acts 16:30

### **Learn The Gospel**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17;

### **Believe On GOD In CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

### **Confess CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

### **Repent Of Sin**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

### **Be Baptized Into CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

### **Remain Steadfast**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

## *“Let The Word... Dwell In You Richly”*

Colossians 3:16

The new memory assignment is: *“Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...’”* (Matthew 25:34).

Commit this passage to memory. Read it, write it, hear it, and say it.

## *“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”*

Hebrews 10:24-25

### **Sunday**

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

### **Tuesday**

7:00 pm.....Ladies’ Study

Winstead residence

### **Wednesday**

7:00 pm.....Study & Worship

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

**Visitors Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

## *“Give Attention To Reading”*

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:13

**Sunday**...Psalm 72:1-11; Ruth 2;17-4:22; Luke 15:11-32

**Monday**...Psalm 72:12-20; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1:1-2:26; Luke 16:1-18

**Tuesday**...Proverbs 18; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:27-4:18; Luke 16:19-17:10

**Wednesday**...Psalm 73:1-14; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 4:19-7:4; Luke 17:11-37

**Thursday**...Psalm 73:15-28; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 7:5-9:21; Luke 18:1-17

**Friday**...Proverbs 19; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 9:22-11:15; Luke 18:18-43

**Saturday**...Psalm 74:1-11; 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 12:1-14:5; Luke 19:1-27

# *“Sound Doctrine”*

Titus 2:1

## **“TO A HUNGRY SOUL EVERY BITTER THING IS SWEET”**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

*“A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet”* (Proverbs 27:7).

Starving people do desperate things to satisfy their hunger. God warned the nation of Israel what would befall them if they forsook His ways. Among the curses with which they would be punished, the Lord said, *“You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the Lord your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you... The tender and delicate woman among you, who would not venture to set the sole of her foot on the ground because of her delicateness and sensitivity, will refuse to the husband of her bosom, and to her son and her daughter, her placenta which comes out from between her feet and her children whom she bears; for she will eat them secretly for lack of everything in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you at all your gates”* (Deuteronomy 28:53, 56-57).

On another occasion, Rabshakeh taunted the people of Judah, predicting that if they did not submit to Assyrian rule they would be so destitute as to *“eat their own dung, and drink their own piss”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 18:27; Isaiah 36:12 KJV).

Both the Donner party in 1846 and the Uruguayan rugby team in 1972 resorted to cannibalism for survival. In 2003, hiker Aron Ralston practiced urophagia while pinned beneath -- Continued on page 3 --

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# WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO TO EVERY SINNER

Allen Webster, adapted

God has no desire to punish a single person. *“As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?”* (Ezekiel 33:11). He is *“longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:9). So if God does not want to punish sinners, what does He want to do to them?

**He wants to hug them.** The first thing the loving father did to the prodigal boy was to hug him; he *“fell on his neck, and kissed him”* (Luke 15:20). That father represents God and that boy represents a sinner returning from the devil’s far country, so a fair deduction is that God longs to, spiritually speaking, wrap His omnipotent arms around each sinner who turns to Him.

**He wants to take them home with Him.** The second thing the loving Father did was to restore the boy to his former position as a son in the family (Luke 15:22-24). Sleep in the servant’s quarters? The father wouldn’t hear of it. His son would get back his old room at the big house. When God forgives, He restores the offender to his former position of love and grace. Ultimately, He wants all of us to live with Him in the big house, the *“many mansions”* of heaven (John 14:1-2).

**He wants to adopt them** (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5-7). The devil is the father of sinners (John 8:44), but God longs to adopt each person into His eternal family. One concept tied to forgiveness is reconciliation, which is a social concept. With sin, we are estranged – separated – from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). In forgiveness, Jesus’ blood satisfies God’s justice and allows us to draw near to Him as he draws near to us (Romans 3:23-26; Ephesians 2:13; James 4:8). He wants to give us a new name (Isaiah 62:2; Acts 11:26), new standing, new brothers and sisters (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15), and an inheritance (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:4).

**He wants to heal them.** Sin renders our souls sick, cut, and diseased (Isaiah 1:5-6); Matthew 9:12; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 11:30), but the Great Physician longs to bind every wound, pouring in oil and wine brothers

-- Continued on page 3 --

-- Continued from page 2 --

and sisters (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15), and an inheritance (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:4).

**He wants to pay their bills.** Most of us dread the monthly debits and bills that have become a part of most Americans’ lives. But there are debts that we incur for which there are no monthly reminders. Our sins have racked up quite a debt in God’s court. Just as violations of civil laws – speeding, fishing out of season, failure to pay taxes – have fines assigned to them, so violations of God’s laws get us fines with God (Matthew 6:12). These debts will come due on judgment day. When God forgives, however, He removes the notation of the offense from His record (Acts 3:19), and He grants remission of the sin debt (Matthew 26:28; Acts 2:38). When God forgives, He remembers the sin no more forever (Hebrews 8:12). God blots out the knowledge and history of sin (Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34).

-- Continued from page 1 --

a boulder before he amputated his own arm. Truly, starving people do desperate things to satisfy their hunger and thirst.

Is the same not also true spiritually? The Almighty wants to nourish us with *“the pure milk of the word”* (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:2), *“the bread of life”* (John 6:35), *“living water”* (John 4:10), and *“words... sweeter than honey”* (Psalm 119:103). Yet, where spiritual food is scarce, famished souls will feast on the most disgusting things imaginable. They will devour what is set before them for lack of a healthy alternative.

Gross doctrinal error, the traditions of men, selfish immorality, and all manner of perversions to the gospel are not only tolerated, but fed on hungrily because such bitter things as these seem sweet in the apparent absence of real nutrition. Jesus appeals to those starving souls wasting away on tainted substitutes: don’t accept that filth; instead, look to Him for your food. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”* (Matthew 5:6).

To those dishing out the foul stuff on which most starving souls feed, God warns: *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil... who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”* (Isaiah 5:20).