

Good News and Bad News

by Glen Elliot Greenbrier church of Christ Greenbrier, AR

When someone says, "I've got good news and bad news", which do we want to hear first? Perhaps, there is some insight gained by observing a person's preference in this regard, but there are likely good arguments for either point of view. However, we know that good news becomes better news in the context of bad news.

The gospel is good news. It is the "power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). Salvation from what? From the power and penalty of sin. In the first few chapters of Romans, Paul builds the case that all have sinned – both Jew and Gentile (Rom. 3:23). Therefore, none are exempt from sin's penalty. Paul clearly tells us that "the wages of death is sin..." (Rom. 6:23). With this backdrop clearly established, the second half of the verse shines like a beacon of good news. While the wages of sin is death, "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Apart from understanding the human condition without Christ (Eph. 2:1-3), the promise of eternal life in Christ would have very little impact.

Everyone prefers to be the bearer of good news. However, in our effort to emphasize the positive, "good news" nature of the gospel, we must not dilute its call for faithful obedience. Citing the example of the unfaithful, disobedient Israelites who fell in the wilderness, the writer of Hebrews reminds us that we, too, "have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard" (4:2). The good news was the promised rest – the land of Canaan. But, the good news did not benefit them because they did not have the faith to go up and take the land as God instructed.

When a sermon hits hard on our need to obey God's word in a particularly challenging aspect of our life, we must not cast doubt on God's word by saying, "I thought the gospel was supposed to be good news!" The gospel is good news. It is God's message of grace. But, it is a message which must be accepted in obedient faith if it is to be of any benefit to the one who hears it (Acts 20:32; Eph. 2:8; Heb. 4:2).

Good news answers the question of what we should do about the bad news. The bad news preached on the day of Pentecost was that they had crucified the Lord and Christ (Acts 2:23, 36). The good news is that God raised up His Son, exalting Him to His own right hand where He reigns as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:24, 32, 36). In answering their "what shall we do?" question, Peter tells them to "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). The bad news is that they had rejected the Messiah. Forgiveness could be theirs if they united the good news with faith – that is, if they repented and were baptized in the name of Jesus.

NEWSLETTER

May 22, 2022

Mark Dailey, evangelist
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Schedule of Services

Our current schedule is:

Sunday Bible Class 10:00 AM

Sunday AM Worship 11:00 AM

La Salle
church of Christ

We Meet At

1121 N. Military Rd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14304
(716) 283-1214

Website: lasallechurchofchrist.org



We welcome all who are here today.

If you are a visitor we are honored to have you with us. Please fill out a *Visitor Card* (on the back of the pew in front of you). We would like for you to place the *Visitor Card* in one of the receptacles provided at the front and rear of the auditorium. There will be an opportunity to give but as a visitor it is not expected of you. Thanks.



There is a nursery at the rear of the auditorium up the stairs if you need to care for your infant.



Read God's Word

We offer a **free** Bible Correspondence Course

Please keep cell phones and other noise making devices silent. Thank you.

***Friendly Reminder* - BLUE LIGHT**

When the “blue light” is lit at the front of the auditorium before service begins it means “Quiet Please”

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Prayers *In our prayers, let's praise God, recognize His greatness, thank Him for His Son and His blessings.*

Please pray as we continue our search for a gospel preacher.

Let's pray for the situation in the Ukraine and surrounding areas.

Let's pray for Christians in both the Ukraine and Russia.

Pray for the victim's families of the mass shooting at TOPS in Buffalo on Saturday May 14.

Let's pray for Bill & Kris Kinney and all our families struggling with our shut-ins.

Frank Marsden was in the ER Sat. May 14 with a heart issue.

Butts Sumner is scheduled for back surgery in June.

Anna Brink is dealing with the effects of chemotherapy.

Diane Mellott is dealing with severe arthritis in her right hip causing her difficulty walking. She is facing surgery in the near future.

Samantha Mellott is struggling with diabetes.

Linda Stine and family are dealing with Covid and are quarantined.

Darlene Reed is recuperating from surgery she had in March.

Lamont, Louella Hopkin's brother, has two heart aneurysms.

Glen Mueller Let's continue to pray for him and his family. Let's also pray for the Sardinia church of Christ.

Sharon Alcorn, Jessica Alcorn's sister-in-law, has terminal brain cancer.

Marietta McArthur (Ray McArthur's mother) is dealing with health issues.

Janine Galuppo, Ray McArthur's sister near Syracuse, is dealing with multiple health issues.

Sharron Gantt is still waiting to get started on immunotherapy for bladder cancer.

Jack Curnew is dealing with eye issues.

Bruce Brink's aunt is having vision problems after having cataract surgery.

Wilma Patterson Let's pray for her for health reasons.

Goldie Crow had eye surgery recently.

Upcoming Events *(Lord willing)*

May 30 Memorial Day

Jun. 12 Men's Business Meeting

Jun. 14 Flag Day

Jun 19 Father's Day also Juneteenth Day

Weekly Budget Amount \$1,843.00

Contribution Last Sunday \$963.00

Attendance Last Sunday 47

Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes are posted in the back.

Mission Update

Ukraine Relief:

John Kachelman, Jr. Cell (901) 626-4538 john@kachelman.com <https://kachelman.com>

For updated reports go to John's website and click on the tab for Mission Work.

Philippines: We support Caleb & Vanessa Callari doing mission work in the Philippines.

Congratulations to them on the birth of a son on April 13 - Raden Michael Callari.

Please check the latest mission report posted on the *Mission Board* in the back.

Caleb Callari's Radio Program - "Everyday Follower"

Do a search on YouTube for

Everyday Follower, School of National Evangelism - Philippines

At Ease

by John Wright Woodbine church of Christ Nashville, TN

I love the account of Job. This great man is known for his godliness and patience. But it was not always so. Job was like many of us in this generation; caught up in our daily lives and our possessions. Job was one of the richest men of his day, having apparently been blessed abundantly by God. All was going well with him, so why should he worry about anything?

What Job didn't know was that a conversation was going on between God and Satan concerning him. God was about to allow Satan to afflict Job very strenuously. Chapter one describes how, in one day, everything was taken away from this man. Chapter two relates how Satan afflicted his body with sores from head to foot. In chapter 16, Job defines his suffering thus: "I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces..." He was at ease enjoying his wealth and position in life, not thinking that God could take it all away in a day. Amos 6:1 says "Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria..." Let us not take God's wonderful blessings for granted, but give Him thanks and praise for all He has let us have.

REMINDER

If you are the last one out of the building please make sure to close the door between the auditorium and the foyer and also make sure all entrance/exit doors are secure.