

In his typical fashion, Jesus told a story. When the end comes, he would sit on his heavenly throne separating people one from another. Those people who provided food, drink, lodging, clothing, cared for the sick and visited prisoners would be welcomed into their heavenly inheritance (Matthew 25:31-46).

His words cause us to experience that ubiquitous vinyl record scratching we hear in movies indicating something is dreadfully wrong. Paul's instruction immediately jumps to mind. "God saved us not by works of righteousness that we have done but on the basis of his mercy" (Titus 3:5). Did Jesus contradict this? We discover clarity when we examine the greater context of Jesus' teachings.

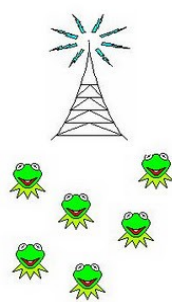
Jesus' words, "No one comes to the Father but by me" (John 14:6) and his assertion he "came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10), indicate Jesus understood our salvation depends upon him. So, why then did he associate salvation with acts of love? Perhaps an analogy can help.

Imagine an orchard where the owner is cutting down the dead trees. Whenever the owner sees fruit and leaves growing on a tree in his orchard, the tree is spared. The fruit and leaves do not make the tree alive, but they are evidence from the tree that it is alive.

In a similar way, demonstrations of love and good deeds do not cause us to be spiritually alive or belong to God, but they can be evidence of whether God's person is living for God or if he or she has fallen away.

In writing to Christians about those claiming to be members of the Lord's community, John noted, "everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God" (1 John 4:7). Or in Peter's words to God's chosen people, "if you do these things you will never fall, and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:10,11).

The end is coming. Jesus has shown the way. We can be prepared. To those who are already his disciples, Jesus' instructions are to be the loving people God desires. To the rest, he calls them to become his disciples.



Tiny Frogs By Andy Warren

There once was a bunch of tiny frogs, who arranged a running competition. The goal was to reach the top of a very high tower. A big crowd had gathered around the tower to see the race and cheer on the contestants. The race began.

Honestly, no one in the crowd really believed that the tiny frogs would reach the top of the tower. You heard statements such as: "Oh, WAY too difficult!" "They will NEVER make it to the top!" Or: "Not a chance that they will succeed. The tower is too high!"

The tiny frogs began collapsing. One by one, except for those, who in a fresh tempo, were climbing higher and higher. The crowd continued to yell, "It is too difficult!!! No one will make

it!!" More tiny frogs got tired and gave up. Only ONE continued higher and higher and higher. He wouldn't give up!

At the end he was the only one who reached the top! All of the other tiny frogs naturally wanted to know how this one frog managed to do it? A contestant asked the tiny frog how he had found the strength to succeed and reach the goal? It turned out that the winner was DEAF!

The story has an obvious point. God's word tells us very plainly: Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Our successes or failures are dependent on the one we hear! Who do you hear? When it comes to temptation, do you hear God, "I can help you through this?" Or do you hear Satan, "You can't overcome it, why even try?" When it comes to listening, most of us are deaf by choice and we hear by choice!

That's why Jesus said so often, "He who has ears to hear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" Listen to the results!

Revelation 2:7 "...To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

v. 11 "... He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."

v. 17 "...To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and

on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives it."



Just wanted to remind everyone that on December 11, 2011 our Sunday evening services will start at 5:pm instead of 6:pm. In the future, our evening service time will change on the first Sunday that we set our clocks forward or backwards for an hour. In the Fall we will start our services at 5:pm and in the Spring we will start our services at 6:pm.



*Amber Durham
12/05*

*Blake Morris
12/09*

*Dominick Collins
12/15*

*Hannah Gates
12/15*

Sue Anderson 12/22

Kara Hicks 12/22

Geramii Woodrum 12/22



happy anniversary

*Billy & Ruby
Biter
12/05*



At the present time we will be making 25 baskets. On December 9, 2011 at 4:30 pm everyone is invited to meet at the church building to put the baskets together. All home baked goods, Little Debbie cakes and other items will be needed at this time. All cookies and home baked items need to be put in individual bags (2 per bag). On December 10, 2011 we will deliver the baskets to the individuals (everyone is invited to help) and sing some Christmas songs for them.



We will have our Christmas pot luck dinner after services this morning downstairs. Everyone is invited to join us. After the activities we will then come back upstairs for the evening services.



The men have decided on Christmas Day to have services at the regular time on Sunday morning (weather permitting). Bible study at 9:30am and Worship at 10:30am. There will be no evening services at 5:pm.

Prayer List: **Cancer:** Kenneth Dunn; Rhonda Bogus; Rick Campbell; Debbie Boggs; Lowell Crumfield; Barbara Hill; Tammy Hodges; Barbara Francis; Jeff Wiley. **Health problems:** Virgil Steele; Donald Rife; Eugene Holdren; Steve and Pam Poorman's-daughter; Glenna Dempsey; Marlin Harles; Hazel Farr & JR Farr; Jean Walden; Kara Christian; Rex "Jimmy" Backus; Dosie Branscome & Katie Hensley. Arnold Dempsey; Ken McWilliams; Gene Booth; Wanda Rowe; Diane Haleston; Billy Myers; Zack Holland; **Strokes:** Richard Clement; Amanda Lance. **Other:** Shelby Lindsey-fibromyalgia; Kyle Hockenberry-recovering from military injuries; Betty Bailey-not eating; Brooke Family, Ken McWilliams friend Wolf - eye problems; David Carrico-Leukemia; Lura Durham-dizziness; Sean Smither-bad car accident; Robin Hodges; Betty Scott- tests; Hazel Anderson-fluid around her heart; Debbra Lagos-issue with her pregnancy; Justin Begil's nephew Payton -meningitis; Whitney Lockman-health problems; Edna Roberts-tumor on thyroid; Kimberly Redden - Spots on lungs; Christine Asbury-home recovering from back surgery; David Allen-surgery on his neck; Britney & Caleb Hill -foot and mouth disease; Travis Durham-back problem; Jean Myers-breathing problem; Ethan Oliver-Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. Konner Lively-Mass; Kim Lively-spots on liver; Dominick Collins-blood in his urine; Kara Hicks-MRI; Krista Stowers-tests; Caleb Hill-swollen airway and asthma; Debbie Jones-car accident; Gary Durham; Ken McWilliams-eye and health problems; Johnny Blankenship-health problems; Scot Boyd III- surgery on tumor; Bridget Harrisburg-health problems; Linda Harrison-health/job problems; Mildred Lilly-cancer & needs liver transplant; Cody Sells-health problems. **Alzheimer's:** Zella England; Mary Lou Thomas, & Leo Hamby. **Nursing home:** Peggy Barie is in the Loving Hands Adult Care; Ethel Pitzer- Country View Assisted Living; **Military:** Zachary McConnell.

Mailing Address:
211 Church Street
Rich Creek, VA 24147
wwjd@exhorter.com

Preacher:
Roger Hazelwood:
Cell: 304-324-7799
rlh90@comcast.net

Services:
Sunday:
Bible Study: 9:30 AM
Worship: 10:30 AM
Evening: 5:PM
Wednesday: 6:PM

Serving Communion:
Don Davis
James Asbury
Gary Jones

Attendance:
November 27, 2011
A.M. Worship -
P.M. Worship -
November 30, 2011
Wednesday:

Contribution: \$ 345.00

TV Programs on Sunday
In Search of the Lord's
Way 7:30 am
INSP Channel

The Gospel of Christ
10:am CW Channel
www.wvavocofc.com

Free Private Home :
Bible Studies & Lessons!
Video Lessons & Tracts!
www.exhorter.com



Church of Christ



Exhorter December 4, 2011



Ensuring Our Heavenly Welcome By Barry Newton

Human fascination with the end of the world remains strong.

One day as Jesus walked with his disciples through Jerusalem, he spilled the beans about the end. Not only did he describe the final day, but he gave his disciples the inside scoop on how to be ready.

The trigger for divulging all of this information was a disciple's seemingly innocuous comment about the temple. Jesus' response shocked them. Everything they beheld would be destroyed.

After describing the dark and dreadful nature of Jerusalem's destruction and the events leading up to it, Jesus looked toward the end of all things.

He depicted that last day arriving unannounced, like a thief (Matthew 24:36-44). Inevitably love for his disciples led him to reveal how they could be prepared.