



CHURCH OF GOD BANNER



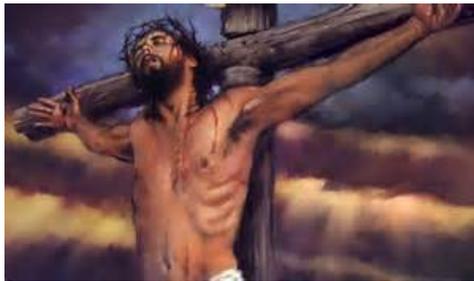
www.onalaskachurchofgod.com

AUGUST, 2015

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD: 3RD. AVE. & HWY. 508 ONALASKA, WASHINGTON 98570

THE COMPLETE MESSAGE

It was June 18, 1815, the Battle of Waterloo. The French under the command of Napoleon were fighting the Allies (British, Dutch, and Germans) under the command of Wellington. The people of England depended on a system of semaphore signals to find out how the battle was going. One of these signal stations was on the tower of Winchester Cathedral.



Late in the day it flashed the signal: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N---D-E-F-E-A-T-E-D- -." Just at that moment one of those sudden English fog clouds made it impossible to read the message. The news of defeat quickly spread throughout the city. The whole countryside was sad and gloomy when they heard the news that their country had lost the war. Suddenly the fog lifted, and the remainder of the message could be read. The message had four words, not two. The complete message was: "W-E-L-L-I-N-G-T-O-N- - -DE-F-E-A- T-E-D- - -T-H-E- - -E-N-E-M-Y!" It took only a few minutes for the good news to spread. Sorrow was turned into

joy, defeat was turned into victory!



So it was when Jesus went to the cross. It looked like **JESUS... D E F E A T E D**. Satan had seemed to have won, but then three days later we read the complete message, **JESUS...DE FEATED...THE...ENEMY**.

On the outside we may look like we are doing very well, but on the inside every one of us has a major issue. Seneca, the ancient Roman philosopher, put it bluntly when he said, "We have all sinned. Some more. Some less." God's Word, the Bible emphasizes the importance of this truth. It reads, "We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard." **Romans 3:23** Sin, however, is not only doing harmful acts. It is anything that falls short of the standard of perfection that God envisioned for us. This includes nursing grudges and

other negative emotions, pride, jealousy, mixed motives, etc. Most of us, too, are guilty of sins of omission; that is, not doing what we know we should and could do. **James 4:17**

Another misconception about God is that he is out to get us or to punish us for our sins. We bring sin's punishment on ourselves because sin has its own natural consequences. If we try to break the universal law of gravity, for instance, we can't. It will break us. Neither can we break God's universal moral law. When we do, it breaks us, and besides its painful effects in this life—suffering, sorrow, sickness and spiritual death—its ultimate and tragic consequence is eternal death or separation from God. **Romans 6:23**

We are like a burned out or "dead" electric light bulb that cannot respond to its power source. And because we are spiritually dead, we cannot respond to God's love and power either, without his first "fixing" us. Furthermore, because of our spiritual deadness, it is impossible for anyone to save him or herself. Only God can do this. This is why all the "good works" in the world cannot make us alive to God. Only when we see and admit this, is God able to "fix" us!

One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young. Ah, being Young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

THE GROCERY LIST

Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children and they needed food.

John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store at once.

Visualizing the family needs, she said: 'Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can.'

John told her he could not give her credit, since she did not have a charge account at his store.

Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, 'Do you have a grocery list?'



Louise replied, 'Yes sir.'

'O.K.' he said, 'put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries.'

Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed.

The eyes of the grocer and the

customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down.

The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, 'I can't believe it.'



The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more.

The grocer stood there in utter disbelief. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement.

It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer, which said: 'Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands.'

The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence.

Louise thanked him and left the store. The other customer handed a hundred-dollar bill to the grocer and said; 'It was worth every penny of it. Only God Knows how much a prayer weighs.'

Received from Suzi Bergfalk

WHERE IS THE WELCOME?

I heard a story about an old missionary couple who had been serving in Africa for years and were returning home to retire. Their health was broken down, and they had no pension. As it turned out, the same

steamer ship they were traveling on had a very well-known passenger, President Teddy Roosevelt, who was returning home from a hunting expedition. As the passengers disembarked, there was a crowd of admirers. They were all there to greet the President of the United States. A band was playing, and the cheers of the crowd were deafening.

But when the missionary couple came ashore, there was no band playing for them. There was no applause. There was no one to welcome them home—not a single soul to meet them. Discouraged, the husband buried his face in his hands and moaned,



"God, I didn't expect a band or a parade, but someone could have seen to it to welcome us home."

Hearing this, his wife looked at him and said, "Now Honey, we are not home yet."

That is what we need to remember. We are not home yet, but one day we will be. Our job, until that day, is to be faithful with the opportunities and resources God has given to us. There are some people who simply go for it as Christians. They take risks for God. They want to do great things for God. They give it everything they have. Then there are others who want to serve the Lord, but they are more cautious, more careful. Some people are setting the world on fire while others are still looking for a match.

Here is what we need to focus on: being faithful to the Lord and using the gifts, opportunities, and resources He has given us.

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ALASKA'S HAPPENINGS

MORNING WORSHIP 8:15 AM
& 11:00 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 AM

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WEDNESDAYS

SALAD & SANDWICHES
5:45 PM

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BIBLE STUDY
6:15 PM

HELD AT 221 LEONARD ROAD

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th

MEN'S BREAKFAST
AT LISA'S DINER
8:00 AM

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CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
9:30 AM

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LADIES LUNCHEON
12:00 NOON

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 30th

POT LUCK SUNDAY

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19th

SENIORS ON THE GO:
12:00 NOON

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th

AMERICAN LEGION:
6:00 PM
AT ETHEL GRANGE
HWY 12 & LEONARD ROAD

death or separation from God. **Romans 6:23**

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I received the following two articles as part of the article of last week "I Hate Religion". I received this over the internet and I do not know who wrote it. If I find out I will let you know. If you send me articles like this, please let me know the source so I can seek permission to put it in the Newsletter.

MAN'S PROBLEM

On the outside we may look like we are doing very well, but on the inside every one of us has a major issue. Seneca, the ancient Roman philosopher, put it bluntly when he said, "We have all sinned. Some more. Some less." God's Word, the Bible emphasizes the importance of this truth. It reads, "We have all sinned and fallen short of God's standard." **Romans 3:23** Sin, however, is not only doing harmful acts. It is anything that falls short of the standard of perfection that God envisioned for us. This includes nursing grudges and other negative emotions, pride, jealousy, mixed motives, etc. Most of us, too, are guilty of sins of omission; that is, not doing what we know we should and could do. **James 4:17**

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CHRIST'S ANSWER

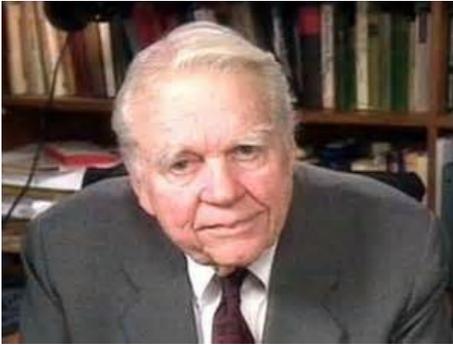
Because our sin has separated or disconnected us from God, we have been left with a *God-shaped vacuum*, or spiritual emptiness, within. As Augustine put it, "You have made us for yourself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you." The world's many religions are all evidence of man's endless search to find God and fill this vacuum. However, because God loved us so much, he sent his own sinless Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our predicament. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Christ did this by dying on the cross in our place to pay the consequence of and ransom price for our sins—death. Thus, Jesus Christ is God's only provision for our sin, and he is the only way back to God and the only door into eternal life. **John 14:6**

God's Word, the Bible, says, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men." **I Timothy 2:5-6** Had there been any other way to save mankind, Christ wouldn't have had to die for us. Because he was without sin, he was the only one qualified to die for our sins.

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ANDY ROONEY



I'VE LEARNED.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I'VE LEARNED.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I'VE LEARNED.... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I'VE LEARNED.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I'VE LEARNED.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I'VE LEARNED.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I'VE LEARNED.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I'VE LEARNED.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I'VE LEARNED.... That money doesn't buy class.

I'VE LEARNED.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I'VE LEARNED.... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I'VE LEARNED.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I'VE LEARNED.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I'VE LEARNED.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I'VE LEARNED.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I'VE LEARNED.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I'VE LEARNED.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I'VE LEARNED.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I'VE LEARNED.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I'VE LEARNED.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I'VE LEARNED.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I'VE LEARNED.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I'VE LEARNED.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I'VE LEARNED.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

EXPRESSION OF LOVE

Jack Tilley, a Sergeant Major of the Army, was with a group of people who recently were visiting wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, DC.

He saw a Special Forces soldier who had lost his right hand and suffered severe wounds of his face and side of his body. Sgt. Tilley wanted to honor him and show him respect without of-

fending, but what can you say or do in such a situation that will encourage and uplift?

How do you shake the right hand of a soldier who has none?

He decided to act as though the hand was not missing and gripped the soldier's wrist while speaking words of comfort and encouragement to him.

However, there was another man in the group who knew exactly what to do.

This man reverently took the soldier's stump of a hand in both of his hands, bowed at the bedside, and prayed for him. When he finished the prayer he stood up, bent over the soldier, kissed him on the head, and told him that he loved him.

Sgt. Tilley was awed by the powerful expression of love for one of our wounded heroes he was witnessing! "What a beautiful Christ-like example!" he thought, moved to tears.

What kind of a man would do such a thing?



It was the wounded man's Commander-in-Chief, George W. Bush, former President of The United States.

This eyewitness account was told by Sergeant Major Jack Tilley at a Soldiers Breakfast at Red Stone Arsenal, AL, and recorded by Chaplain James Henderson, who was stationed there.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, AGAIN.

Q
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Z



The answer to last month quiz was Paul, Silas and the Philippian jailer. There story is found in the 16 chapter of Acts, beginning with verse 25.

My sister, Katie Jackson and Mert Horrocks were able to come up with the correct answer.

Here is this months quiz.

*When I returned from where I had gone,
I saw that what he had done was so wrong.
He might have been a man of God,
But what he did couldn't be allowed.*

*He had removed what should have stayed,
And given him room for many days.
There was no room for sacred things,
Others went without for this man's gain.*

*When I returned and saw what he had done,
I threw it all out and that was fun.
I restored everything that should have been there,
And asked God to remember me in my prayer.*

*Now tell me my name if you think you can
And you're one third closer to a candy bar in your hand.
Tell me the name of the one who allowed him to stay,
And the one whose stuff I threw away.*

SHY VISIT TO THE DENTIST

A shy little 4-year-old came in to the dentist for his first cleaning and check-up.

The hygienist tried to strike up a conversation but no response.



After the cleaning, the dentist was called in to do the final check.

The dentist tried to strike up a conversation as well.

"How old are you?" No response.

The dentist then asked, "Don't you know how old you are?"

Immediately four tiny fingers went up.

"Oh," replied the dentist, "and do you know how old that is?"

Four little fingers went up once again.

Continuing the effort to get a response, the dentist asked, "Can you talk?"

The solemn little patient looked at him and asked, "Can you count?"

HENRY

A road crew supervisor in Minnesota hired Henry to paint the yellow line down the middle of route 32 heading up toward Bemidji. The supervisor was skeptical about hiring him since Henry didn't have any painting background, but he appeared enthusiastic and he told the supervisor that he really needed the job.

He explained to Henry that his work on the day would be to complete 2 miles of center



line on the road. He was set up with brushes and paint and his boss got him started. After the first day, the supervisor was pleased to find that he'd painted 4 miles of road in his 8 hour shift, instead of the two expected of him. He told Henry that he did an excellent job and said how pleased he was with his progress.

On the second day, Henry completed painting just 2 miles of road that was asked of him. His supervisor was surprised, because on the first day, he had completed twice as much work. But he didn't say anything, since 2 miles of road was the amount that the job required anyway. He decided to just accept it, and to look forward to the next day when he was sure that Henry would pick up the pace again.

On day 3, the supervisor was disappointed to learn that in his 8 hour shift, Henry completed painting only 1 mile of road. Henry was called to the supervisor's office and asked what the problem was. "On your first day, you completed 4 miles of road, on your second day, 2 miles of road, and now on day 3, you were only able to complete 1 mile of road. What's the problem, Henry?"



"Well," Henry replied, "I'll tell you what is problem, but I thought a smart man like you would figure it out for yourself. Every day I get farther and farther away from the paint can.

Lord, Keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand Over my mouth . . . AMEN!

~

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words 'The' and 'IRS' Together it spells 'Theirs...'