

GOLDEN STATE BIBLE BAPTIST PRISON MINISTRY “ON THE FRONT LINE”

EDITION IX - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WOODBURY, CT APRIL 2025



(Dr. Peter P. Ventura)

TWO TIMES A YEAR

TEXT: Mt. 28:1-9

Two times each year, the people of this world in general will come together. They'll put on their nice Easter Sunday suits and Christmas dresses. Two times a year, the world in general will become pious – twice each year the people of the world in general will think about Jesus Christ, unless they are using His Holy Precious name to curse at someone. And I have news for the world, God's last name is not “Damn”!

After the holiday season, the world in general will go about their unholy business – even today in the now and nasty 2025! They will go about their business. They will forget about God. They will put away their holiday clothes, only to remember them for the next party or funeral! They will forget about Church. They will forget about the Preacher, and they will forget about their neighbor, whom Jesus said they are to love as themselves. Yes, the world in general will forget about God until the next holiday, or the next tragedy comes into their life. Then they will want to remember God and His Precious Son Jesus the Christ. Amen

But I've got news for the world. And I've got news for you – A Christian remembers the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, every day. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, not just twice a year, because a Christian knows Jesus Christ was born to die. Jesus Christ our Savior said: “...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world...” (Jn. 18:37). Jesus Christ is not Jesus Christ twice a year! Jesus Christ is Jesus Christ – every day! Amen!

My Brethren, Friends, it is in the death of Jesus Christ wherein we find the blessed hope. If there is no resurrection, there is no hope! Quoting the Apostle Paul who wrote:

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, We are of all men most miserable" (1 Cor. 15:19).

You don't go to Church to celebrate Pagan Holidays! Jesus Christ wasn't crucified on a Friday. It wasn't a "Good Friday", it was a "Bad Wednesday"! Easter is a Pagan Holiday! I did not say Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead. We are not coming to Church to celebrate Easter, because Easter is a pagan festival celebrated to the goddess of Fertility. In Ephesus she was called Diana. In Babylon Semiramis. In Phoenicia – Ashtoreth, and in Greece – Astarte! Easter has nothing to do with Christians, and nothing to do with Jesus Christ. And if you are here today and you are saved by the Blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus the Christ, Easter has nothing to do with you. Amen. And, don't be fooled by so called Christian Book Stores selling "Resurrection Eggs"! Wake up, will you!

People in and of the world who refuse to believe/accept the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ – so called intelligent people – in the face of the facts have devised many evil ways to allegedly disprove Christ's death and resurrection. Oh, they will argue the "Fraud Theory" – either Jesus, His Disciples, or both, simply made up the story. Or, they will argue the "Swoon Theory" – Jesus merely fainted on the cross, but later, in the cool of the tomb, Jesus came to, He revived! They'll argue the "Vision Theory" – Those who saw Jesus after His resurrection, did not really see Jesus, but were deceived by a vision of what they only thought was Jesus. Some will argue the "Spirit Theory" – only Jesus body rose not His Spirit. And let us not forget about the "Heart Theory" – Jesus only resurrected in the hearts of the Disciples!

In the Book of Acts, Luke wrote: "The former treatises have I made, O Theophilus, of

all that Jesus began to do and teach. Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (Acts 1:1-3).

Now folks, there wasn't any "Sun Rise Service" at the tomb of the Lord. Somebody made that up! Mt. 28:1 tells us they went to the tomb to see Jesus before "DAWN" – it was dark. The Lord was already gone before the Sun started to come up!

The Apostle Paul when addressing the Church of Corinth made this profound statement: "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable" (1 Cor. 15:19).

The beloved Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 15:12-19 of **SEVEN CONSEQUENCES** if Jesus Christ did not Resurrect: **1) Christ is not risen** – vs. 13; **2) Our preaching is in vain** – vs. 14; **3) Our faith is in vain** – vs. 14; **4) Paul and the other Apostles were false witnesses** – vs. 15; **5) We are still in our sins** – vs. 16; **6) The dead are in Hell** – vs. 18; **7) Christians are most miserable** – vs. 19.

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor.15:33)

END

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Motivational	-	Ro. 12:3-8
Ministerial	-	Eph. 4:11-13
Manifestation	-	1 Cor. 12

END

THE LANGUAGE OF HEAVEN

What language will we be speaking when we get to Heaven?

An interesting verse appears in the Minor Prophet Zephaniah (Zeph. 3:9). The Prophet wrote: **“For then will I turn the people a pure language, that they all may call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.”**

In the Book of Acts we find Paul addressing King Agrippa, describing how Paul met the Lord on the Road to Damascus: **“And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks”** (Acts. 26:14). The Lord spoke to Paul in Hebrew. You might be thinking, well that is because Paul spoke Hebrew. Interesting point! OK, why don't you and I move to eternity future. Open your Bible to the Book of Revelation, Chapter 19. Don't be lazy, open your Bible!!!

Chapter 19 begins: “And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, **Alleluia**; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God” (vs.1). Notice the word **“Alleluia”** appears in vss. 1, 3, 4, and 6. Not “Hallelujah” which is Greek origin, but **“Alleluia”** which is Hebrew!

The language of Heaven is Hebrew.

END

WHY GOD USED ANANIAS

TEXT: Acts 9:10-22

I. Ananias had a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

1) Ananias had a personal conversation with the Lord – vss. 10-16.

a) People who are “religious” say their religion is personal (Jesus gave the Great Commission – Mk. 16:15).

II. Ananias was a friend of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1) Jesus told Ananias what Jesus was going to do with Saul of Tarsus, before doing it – vss. 15-16.

a) The difference between a friend and a servant is knowledge (Jn. 15:15)

III. Ananias was a faithful Disciple.

1) Jesus knew He could count on Ananias to do whatever Jesus told Ananias to do – vss. 10-12 (“to obey is better than sacrifice – 1 Sam. 12:22).

a) The proof is in Paul's vision – vs 12 – “hath seen”.

b) Ananias did what the Lord told him to do – vss. 17-18 (“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” – Jn. 10:27).

IV. Ananias was a faithful Brother in Christ Jesus.

a) Ananias treated Saul with Christian love – vs. 17. “Brother Saul”.

b) Ananias did not bring up Saul's past (2 Cor. 5:17; Jn. 13:34-35).

V. Because Ananias had a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and was a friend and faithful Disciple, and a faithful Brother, Ananias produced fruit unto the Lord.

1) Saul fellowshiped with the Disciples he came to do harm to, and preached the Gospel message – vss. 19-22.

a. Saul got stronger by preaching and went on to produce a whole lot of fruit – and this was credited to Ananias, too!

END

**“A Spirit-filled church cannot operate apart
from the authority of the Holy Spirit”**

(A. W. Tozer)

OCCUPY TILL I COME!!!

(Lk. 19:13)

TEXT: Luke 19:11-28

1) Till I come, give attendance to reading –
1 Tim. 4:13 (so you can live and disciple – teach
the Scriptures).

2) Study to shew thyself approved unto God
– 2 Tim. 2:15.

a. That ye study to be quiet – 1 Thess. 4:1.

3) Exercise thyself rather unto godliness –
1 Tim. 4:7.

a. Bodily Exercise profiteth little – 1 Tim.
4:8.

b. Senses exercised to discern both good
and evil – Heb. 5:15.

4) Continue to Pray – Col. 4:2.

a. Pray without ceasing – 1 Thess. 5:17.
Church, Brethren, Your Needs, Country,
Missions, Family, Homeless, Poor,
Government, Sick, Backslidden,
Unsaved, Preacher, Deacon, You do not
Fall into Temptation, Bible Study,
Christians in Prison, Jerusalem where
The Lord’s Name is!

5) With Fasting – Lk. 2:37.

a. The Disciples of John fast often, and
make prayers, and likewise the Disciples of the
Pharisees – Lk. 5:33.

b. In fasting often – 2 Cor. 11:27.

c. Turn to me with all your heart, and
with fasting – Joel 2:12.

d. But as for me, when they were
sick...I humbled my soul with fasting – Ps. 35:13

6) Not forsaking the assembling of
ourselves together – Heb. 10:25.

a. To the general assembly – Heb. 12:23.

7) Witnessing both to small and great – Acts
26:22.

a. Go ye into all the world, and preach the
gospel to every creature – Mk. 16:15.

b. About with so great a witness – Heb.
12:1-4.

c. Pilate with a good confession – 1 Tim.
6:13; Mt. 27:11

d. What a good witness is:

1. Testifies what he has seen.

2. Testifies what he has heard.

3. Testifies what he has experienced.

4. Testifies what he knows to be the truth.

END

JESUS CHRIST – SHEPHERD

The Good Shepherd – Jn. 10:11, 14

The Great Shepherd – Heb. 13:20

The Chief Shepherd – 1 Pet. 5:4

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

From time to time, I meet people with
some interesting takes on the Bible. We all
know the story of Israel’s crossing of the Red
Sea. Someone tried to convince me Israel did
not cross the Red Sea, but the “Red Sea of
Reeds”! My response was, “If so, the real
miracle would be how God drowned the whole
army of Pharaoh in a swamp!!!!

CHRIST’S ACCUSATION UNLOCKS

THE BABLE OF TONGUES

(Mt. 23:38; Gen. 11)

1) Latin – Opens Spanish and French.

2) Greek – Opens Russian, Slavic, German,
then English.

3) Hebrew – Opens Arabic, Hindu, hence
Chinese and Japanese

END

IN DEFENSE OF THE KJB (A.V.)

QUESTION: [Is there] a mistake in the King James Bible where Lev. 12:8 is quoted in Lk. 2:24 but says “turtledoves” instead of “turtles”?

ANSWER: It isn’t a mistake.

EXPLANATION: It is sad men who claim to love the Bible are quick to embrace **anything** they can call an error in the King James Bible. (It’s like watching the Democrats seeking **any** excuse to justify impeaching President Trump.) **Luke 2:24** And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of **turtledoves**, or two young pigeons. **Lev. 12:8** And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two **turtles**, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make and atonement for her, and she shall be clean.

I’ll be the first to admit that there’s a difference between a turtle and a turtledove. But, in the two verses quoted there is **no difference**. Even though turtle is a cold-blooded amphibian enclosed in a shell, the word “turtle” can also be used as an abbreviation for “turtledove.” There are two trustworthy witnesses to this. Almost any dictionary or encyclopedia will testify to this. But there is a “God-breathed. Inspired” witness as well.

In **Lev. 15:14** the sacrifice for a newborn child is given as: And on the eighth day he shall take him two **turtledoves**, or two young pigeons, and come before the Lord unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and give them unto the priest:

Just fifteen verses later these instructions are repeated with the abbreviated form of

“turtledove” used. And on the eighth day she shall take unto her two **turtles**, or two young pigeons, and bring them unto the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation (Lev. 15:29).

It is sad that someone who claims to “love” the Bible couldn’t simply **read** and have the question answered Scripturally.

(The Article above is quoted by permission: Question #109, pg. 79, 80. The Third Answer Book, Dr. Samuel C. Gipp, Th.D. Ph.D., Day Star Publishing, P.O. Box 464 Miamitown, OH 45041 (2021)).

END

WORTHY IS THE LAMB TO RECEIVE:

1. **Power** – Mt. 28:18
2. **Riches** – Phil. 4:19; Eph. 3:8, 16
3. **Wisdom** – Col. 2:2-3
4. **Strength** – Rev. 1:16
5. **Honor** – Phil. 2:9-17
6. **Glory** – 2 Pet. 1:17
7. **Blessing** – Heb. 2:7; 1 Tim. 6:15

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What happened to Pharoah at the Red Sea?

HE DIED!!!

(Ps. 136:15)

ABOUT THAT DOVE!

Gen. 8:8-12

Three times the Dove went out. Three is the number of the Trinity/Godhead. The second time out, the Dove finds life! **Father, Son, Holy Spirit!**

ALPHA AND OMEGA

God has declared the end from the beginning. It is only fitting this work begins in eternity past, prior to Gen. 1:1.

Accordingly, Larkin writes, “that outside of “time” the Scriptures mention “Two Ages”. Before “Time” the “Alpha”. . . and after “Time” the “Omega” (Larkin, Clarence, Rightly Dividing The Word. PA: Larkin Est. 1920)

The Apostle John recorded Jesus Christ saying, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty” (Rev. 1:8)

Jesus the Christ is “the Word of God” “made flesh” (Jn. 1:1, 14). Jesus Christ is the Alpha, the first letter of the Greek Alphabet. He is also the Omega, the last letter of the Greek Alphabet. Thus, Jesus Christ is everything in and between.

Prior to Gen 1:1, the Almighty God divided Himself into three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. While it is true the word “trinity” does not appear in the Bible, the word “Godhead” does. Godhead appears in Scripture three times: Acts 17:29; Ro. 1:20; and, Col. 2:9.

Moreover, the Godhead is not to be understood as an equation of $1+1+1=3$. The Godhead is best understood by the transitive property of equality, $A=B$, $B=C$, thus, $A=B \& C$. Separate in personality, yet co-equal.

When man was created, the Godhead in three persons can also be seen. Gen. 1:26 reads: “And God [God the Father], said, Let us [God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit] make man in our own image, in the image of God created he him” (Gen. 1:27).

As seen from Gen. 1:26-27, man was created in the image of God – a trichotomy

being. The Apostle Paul clearly states that man who is created in the image of God is a trichotomy/tripartite being. Paul prayed, “I pray your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Thess. 5:23).

However, it must be noted here, when man sinned he lost God’s image and likeness (Gen. 5:1-3). After man’s sin, Adam begat a son in Adam’s own sinful image. Thus, in order for a man to regain God’s image again, the man must be born again (Eph. 4:23; Col. 3:10; Jn. 3:3).

Turning now to the Omega, Eternity Future. Understanding the divine concept of Alpha is tantamount to understanding the Omega. God has laid out His divine plan from the beginning, whereat, He declared the end. This is nowhere more clear than in the Alpha, and Omega. As it was in the beginning – Alpha, Eternity Past, God as a singular being, so in Omega, Eternity Future, God returns to being a singular again. The all in all God of eternity Past, Alpha. The Apostle Paul said: “And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all” (1 Cor. 15:28).

Biblical prophecy is not an afterthought of Almighty God. The Alpha and Omega are outside physical time. Thus, the very history of mankind, past, present, future, has already been determined by God Almighty. That is not to say God has not given man freewill, for indeed He has. Do not the words of Moses ring out? “. . . **which are revealed belong unto us and our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law**” (Deu. 29:29).

END

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM DR. VENTURA

First and far most, I want to thank all of the Brethren who have, and continue to support the GSBBI Prison Ministry. Your support and prayers have allowed this ministry to reach many lost sinners, and saved Brethren who are incarcerated. Again, thank you!

I want to personally encourage all the Christian Brethren who are walking according to the Scriptures, in light of the many obstacles and temptations that prison life presents, to continue being an ensample to the saved and the lost.

To those of you who are saved and are walking disorderly (as it is from time to time brought to my attention), i.e., using prophane language, uploading ungodly music and movies, gambling and playing Dungeons and Dragons, not respecting authority, etc., etc.; Please let me remind you that “if”, if you are a saved, sealed, and a sanctified Christian (Eph. 2:8-9), those behaviors belong to the “Old Man”. You are a “New Man” in Christ Jesus. “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (1 Cor. 5:17).

One thing I have personally learned is that once a person is saved, the Christian life is just a matter of surrendering all things to the Lord Jesus Christ. That means, all things – our hearts, mouths, behavior, etc. There is no such thing as a little sin/small sin! Sin is Sin! God’s opinion about sin has not changed since Eternity Past. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Heb. 13:8). It only took one sin to get put out of the Garden in Eden – One Sin!!! You may tolerate sin, but God does not! I want to share this passage of Scripture to all the Brethren whether walking godly, or ungodly,

who are naming the name of Jesus Christ. I want you to think about the words of this passage of Scripture: “And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do his commandments...” (Rev. 22:10-14).

The two most important events in a person’s life are the day they were saved, and the day they will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ! (1 Cor. 3:11-16). Christians will be judged at the Judgement Seat of Christ (Bema) for what they have done after they were saved – that is what kind of works/fruit. There they will receive eternal reward(s), or lose their rewards: “Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward” (1 Jn. 8).

One of the scariest passages for me, personally is: “Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15: 51-52). Scary because, that is talking about the Rapture! It will happen when I have no control of where I will be at the time – and by the way, neither will you! I certainly would not want to be caught doing something sinful.

“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”

(Luke 6:46)

HOW TO BE SAVED

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved” (Ro. 10:9).

1. Admit you are a sinner.
2. Be willing to turn from your sin (repent).
3. Believe that Jesus died for you, was buried, and resurrected on the third day.
4. Tell Jesus you are putting your trust in Him.

RESOURCES FOR YOU

The following Christian resources are available in so much as funding is available to provide them, and they remain in stock:

COURSES

Discipleship Course #1

This is a foundational Sound Doctrine 21 lesson course. Those who complete the course successfully are awarded a Certificate of Completion worthy of framing!

Advanced Discipleship Certificate Courses:

Romans, Hebrews, I Corinthians, The Church, and, How to Study the Bible, General Epistles, Minor Prophets, Paul’s Prison Epistles, Isaiah.

Golden State Bible Baptist Institute

Associate Degree of Theology

BOOKS

The Next Step (Jack Chick)

The Evolution Handbook (Vance Ferrel)

Books By Mark Cahill

One Heartbeat Away

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