

Beech Grove Church of Christ

meeting at Beech Grove, TN since 1875

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html> <http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

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April 8, 2007

Outward Show, or True Religion?

Ken Thomas



Schedule This Week

Sunday:

Bible Classes 10 AM

Worship 11 AM

Worship 6 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7 PM

Mission Works

Restoration Radio

Jim Waldron

Manuelito Children's
Home

Mail: P.O. Box 85

Beech Grove, TN 37018

Visitors

Always

Welcome

For almost 50 years there have been multiple “crucifixions” in the Northern Philippines in the Spring of the year. No, these are not some cruelly devised punishments for crimes, but voluntarily endured by Catholic penitents who desire to atone for their sins. While not officially encouraged by the Catholic Church, the local religious leaders do not seek to end the practice. Nor do the barrios (villages) which gain tourist dollars from those who travel to see the spectacles.

Research into the practice reveals that the crucifixions are scheduled to give each participant 15 minutes on the cross, so as to get everyone “crucified” by the set time deadline. The nails have large heads, but small shafts, and are sterilized with alcohol to prevent infection. A footrest allows the “victim” to rest his weight without tugging on the nails. Helpers are brought in to cut narrow gashes in the back with broken glass, and the back is then hit with bamboo to splatter the blood. Despite what obvious pain would be involved, such staged crucifixions are more show than substance, and hardly compare with the suffering of Christ.

In America, many believers have created an entire week of events in their churches. The practices of Lent, from Catholic tradition, have overflowed into many Protestant groups. Many days have been identified with the season, beginning with carnival (Mardi Gras) which is the last day to indulge in excess before settling in for forty days of restraint and self-denial. Some of the better known days are Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. The ceremony and pageantry seems much more civilized than the crucifixions described above, but is it any more desirable in the sight of God?

The apostle Paul, writing by inspiration, gave the early Christians a reason not to participate in the traditional “holy days” of Judaism. He wrote: (Continued back page)

Assignments	April 8	April 15
Song leader (SS)	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Announcements	Mason Fisher	Ken Thomas
Songleader-Worship	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	Junior Conner	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	Lee Rose	Wayne Gannon
Table service (center)	Mason Fisher	Joe Green
(center)	Cole Gordon	Nick Graham
(outside)	Daniel Green	Daniel Green
(outside)	T J Waldron	Junior Conner
Closing Prayer	James Mason	James Mason

Sick, Injured, and Rehabilitating

Sister Jessie Pearl Green was able to be out with us last week, but her problem seems to be returning. Laura Singleton is still sick at home. She told us of a neighbor, Effie Brandt, the mother of two little girls, who is very sick with cancer. Please remember the Brandt family in prayer. Sister Iva Rose is still improving. Lee Rose had good news on his biopsy - no cancer. Sister Mason was sick Sunday but back with us on Wednesday. Steve Miller has been down in his back with serious pain. Cole Gordon has been very sick this week. William Miller is still in NHC, Room 124, and having dialysis three times a week. Remember the Masons, the Roses, sister Green, the Conners, sister Trail, Leon Stancliff and Dorris Davis in prayer as they deal with chronic conditions. We have also been asked to pray for Warren Harvey who has been in the hospital in Florida for two weeks and is not doing well.

Friday night singing, April 13, at Mars Hill, Christiana, TN (Just off 231 south of Murfreesboro.

William Miller was baptized on Thursday afternoon in the whirlpool at NHC. The staff at NHC are to be commended for their assistance in the process. We are glad that Wayne Gannon's visits and the Bible studies bore fruit. He indicated that he had thought in the past he had "received Christ", but he remarked after seeing the Bible films that he needed to be baptized for remission of sins.

Outward Show, or True Religion? (Continued)

Col 2:16-23 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: {17} Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. {18} Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and

worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, {19} And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God. {20} Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, {21} (Touch not; taste not; handle not; {22} Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? {23} Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh. Col 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Christians do not have any obligation to submit to traditional "ordinances" of religion, and in fact we would be better off to leave them alone. Despite that fact, there are some churches of Christ which are following the religious world, and are having re-enactments of Passover on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday events, and Easter pageants. Seemingly, we refuse to be satisfied with the simplicity of the gospel, and the memorial to Christ's death and resurrection which he ordained.

Is the Lord's Supper insufficient to bring to mind the sacrifice of our Lord? Let us observe it reverently and meaningfully, and avoid the trappings and show of the world around us.

Kenneth L. Thomas

Record of our attendance:						
Date	Classes	AM	PM	Contrib.	Wed.	
03/04	21	36	32	\$518.75	21	
03/11	11	20	15	\$495.01	15	
03/18	18	28	24	\$537.50	12	
03/25	10	32	21	\$524.50	16	
04/01	15	32	16	\$446.75	17	
Goals	35	45	36		35	



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of April 8, 2006

1. The Bible uses either the word "voice" or "noise" in over 500 verses, with voice being much more frequently used. In what single verse do you have these two words used a total of five times? (King James Version)
2. How many books of the Bible mention Noah (of ark building fame) by name? This is tricky because there is another Noah who did not build an ark!
3. What word in Titus 2:7 is used to describe the building of the tabernacle?
4. What man of old time removed a covering, and later had a covering placed on himself by two sons?
5. What should be the Christian's approach to those who are practicing "self-opposition"?
6. In which Psalm is a person commended for making a solemn promise (oath) and does what he said he would do even if he realizes the oath is to his own detriment? (In other words, he is a man of his word, and does not try to weasel out of his obligation.)
7. Who is the refuge of the poor?
8. What was God's attitude toward the prayers of those who were a laughingstock to their enemies? (The passage I want you to find indicates that His people had been given tears to eat and drink.)

Answers for week of April 1, 2007

1. What church had experienced trouble (which had been predicted by Paul)? In the context he writes of his concern that his work with them might be wasted because of Satan's use of these troubles.

Answer: Thessalonica

1 Thess. 3:1 Wherefore when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone; 2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith: 3 That no man should

be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto. 4 For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know. 5 For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain. 6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you: 7 Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith: 8 For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

2. Who was encouraged not to fear because a son was about to be borne AND who was told not to fear because a son had been born? (Two different people)

Answers: About to be borne -- Rachel;

Had been born -- Phinehas' wife

Genesis 35:1 And God said unto Jacob, Arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there: . . .16 And they journeyed from Bethel; and there was but a little way to come to Ephrath: and Rachel travailed, and she had hard labour. 17 And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, **Fear not; thou shalt have this son also.** 18 And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin.

1 Samuel 4:19 And his daughter in law, Phinehas' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father in law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her. 20 And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, **Fear not; for thou hast born a son.** But she answered not, neither did she regard it.

3. What governor was fearful because of pressure from a group, a group who hated the person whom he was trying in his jurisdiction?

Answer: Pilate

John 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.2 And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe, 3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands. 4 Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him. 5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man! 6 When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. 7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God. 8 **When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;** (Note: The Jews had laws permitting the death penalty, but they could not prove their accusations!)

4. What question did Pilate ask that Jesus did not answer?

Answer: Whether he had heard his accusers AND where he was from.

Matthew 27:13 Then said Pilate unto him, **Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? 14 And he answered him to never a word;** insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly

(John 19:9-11) "And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, **Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.** {10} Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? {11} Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."

5. Who was the father of Magormissabib, and who gave this name, Magormissabib, to him?

Answer: Immer was the father of Magormissabib (originally he had been known as Pashur).

The new name meant "fear round about", and that fits verse 4. **God gave him the new name and Jeremiah announced the change!**

Jeremiah 20:1-6 - 1 Now **Pashur the son of Immer** the priest, who was also chief governor in the house of the LORD, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. 2 Then Pashur smote Jeremiah the prophet, and put him in the stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the LORD. 3 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Pashur brought forth Jeremiah out of the stocks. Then said Jeremiah unto him, **The LORD hath not called thy name Pashur, but Magormissabib.** 4 For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will make thee a terror to thyself, and to all thy friends: and they shall fall by the sword of their enemies, and thine eyes shall behold it: and I will give all Judah into the hand of the king of Babylon, and he shall carry them captive into Babylon, and shall slay them with the sword. 5 Moreover I will deliver all the strength of this city, and all the labours thereof, and all the precious things thereof, and all the treasures of the kings of Judah will I give into the hand of their enemies, which shall spoil them, and take them, and carry them to Babylon. 6 And thou, Pashur, and all that dwell in thine house shall go into captivity: and thou shalt come to Babylon, and there thou shalt die, and shalt be buried there, thou, and all thy friends, to whom thou hast prophesied lies.

6. Many times Jerusalem was warned of her own desolation, as were other ancient cities. However, one Egyptian city was named specifically as one that would be desolated and uninhabited. Which Egyptian city?

Answer: Noph (Memphis or Moph)

Jeremiah 46:1 The word of the LORD which came to Jeremiah the prophet against the Gentiles; 2 Against Egypt, against the army of Pharaohnecho king of Egypt, which was by the river Euphrates in Carchemish, which Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon smote in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah. 3 Order ye the buckler and shield, and draw near to battle. 4 Harness the horses; and get up, ye horsemen, and stand forth with your helmets; furbish the spears, and put on the brigandines. 5 Wherefore have I seen them dismayed and turned away back? and their mighty ones are beaten down, and are fled apace, and look not back: for fear was round about, saith the LORD. 6 Let not the swift flee away, nor the mighty man escape; they shall stumble, and fall toward the north by the river Euphrates. 7 Who is this that cometh up as a flood, whose waters are moved as the rivers? 8 Egypt riseth up like a flood, and his waters are moved like the rivers; and he saith, I will go up, and will cover the earth; I will destroy the city and the inhabitants thereof. 9 Come up, ye horses; and rage, ye chariots; and let the mighty men come forth; the Ethiopians and the Libyans, that handle the shield; and the Lydians, that handle and bend the bow. 10 For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, a day of vengeance, that he may avenge him of his adversaries: and the sword shall devour, and it shall be satiate and made drunk with their blood: for the Lord GOD of hosts hath a sacrifice in the north country by the river Euphrates. 11 Go up into Gilead, and take balm, O virgin, the daughter of Egypt: in vain shalt thou use many medicines; for thou shalt not be cured. 12 The nations have heard of thy shame, and thy cry hath filled the land: for the mighty man hath stumbled against the mighty, and they are fallen both together. 13 The word that the LORD spake to Jeremiah the prophet, how Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon should come and smite the land of Egypt. 14 Declare ye in Egypt, and publish in Migdol, and publish in Noph and in Tahpanhes: say ye, Stand fast, and prepare thee; for the sword shall devour round about thee. 15 Why are thy valiant men swept away? they stood not, because the LORD did drive them. 16 He made many to fall, yea, one fell upon another: and they said, Arise, and let us go again to our own people, and to the land of our nativity, from the oppressing sword. 17 They did cry there, Pharaoh king of Egypt is but a noise; he hath passed the time appointed. 18 As I live, saith the King, whose name is the LORD of hosts, Surely as Tabor is among the mountains, and as Carmel by the sea, so shall he come. 19 O thou daughter dwelling in Egypt, furnish thyself to go into captivity: for **Noph shall be waste and desolate without an inhabitant.** 20 Egypt is like a very fair heifer, but destruction cometh; it cometh out of the north.

7. In describing the Lord's destruction of "being protected by lying", what type of weather is used ?

Answer: Hail - (Isa 28:17) "Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the **hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies**, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place."