



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

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

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

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Upstaging the Boss

by Stan Mitchell

Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan, for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only'" (Matthew 4:10).

George Bush (the senior), who was always known for his dry wit, said this of his relationship with President Ronald Reagan. "It's important for a Vice president not to upstage his boss, and you don't know how hard it has been to keep my charisma in check."

Sometimes I worry that as humans we try to "upstage" God in worship. Who, after all, have we come to honor? Are we presenting ourselves to the community as the church with the "best" worship service? Are we trying to enliven the singing in order to keep our young people interested? Should this enterprise be considered successful if we all leave with a woosy feeling in our tummies?

"Sometimes these days it is hard to distinguish praise from 'schmooze,'" notes one writer. "Real praise happens when God becomes God again for us. 'Be God for us,' we will cry, 'Speak your word so strongly that we can't hear anything else.'" (Marva Dawn, Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down, page 89).

Of course God has always been God. He has always been great beyond our imagination. He has always been near to us. It's just that we sometimes miss him because we are so busy trying to upstage the one who should be the focus and center of our worship.

Worship is conducted on his terms alone, or it is not worship. A service designed to honor anyone or anything less than God is not worship. It is flattery at best, and idolatry at worst, for nothing less than the God of all the earth warrants our worship. (Continued, back page)

Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM

Wednesday: Bible Classes **7 PM**

Mission Works and Evangelism:

House to House/ Heart to Heart
 Restoration Radio
 Jim Waldron
 Manuelito Children's Home



Bible Search

(Wording is based on KJV)
by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of April 20

1. Upon what is the hypocrite said to trust, and what will happen to his hope? (TWO-PART question!)
2. What are those who are rebels advised not to do, considering the powerful rule of God and His ability to view the nations?
3. In Isaiah's day, what was the moral level of the rebellious rulers in regard to their judicial system?
4. What four verses in the New Testament contain the expression "of the cross", and what words precede the word "of" in those passages?
5. What passage in the New Testament speaks of God being worshiped by all nationalities? Also, if possible find two passages in Psalms with the same idea.
6. Who had been forgotten after their burial? These particular ones frequented the holy place.
7. What church in New Testament times was told that they were being prayed for, with ceaseless thankfulness being expressed for them?

Answers for week of April 13

1. If a person is prideful and ignorant, what will they do?

Answer: They will dote about questions and strifes of words which lead to envy, strife, railings, and evil surmising. To sum it up, a proud but ignorant person will stir up a lot of trouble with their love of controversial discussions of trivial matters.

1 Tim 6:4: He is **proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmising,**

cf. Rom 10:3, Eph 4:18-19, and Prov 16:18

Dote = to bestow or express excessive love or

fondness habitually. **Rail**=to utter bitter complaint or vehement denunciation. **Surmising**=An idea or opinion based on insufficiently conclusive evidence; a conjecture

2. Where does the Bible refer to borrowing as slavery?

Answer: Prov 22:7. The rich ruleth over the poor, and **the borrower is servant to the lender** Many Christians are burdened with this self-imposed slavery. Try to avoid it!

Matthew Henry's commentary on Proverbs 22:7: "He had said (v. 2.), *Rich and poor meet together*; but here he finds, here he shows, that, as to the things of this life, there is a great difference; for,

1. Those that have little will be in subjection to those that have much, because they have dependence upon them, they have received, and expect to receive, support from them: *The rich rule over the poor*, and too often more than becomes them, with pride and rigour, unlike to God, who, though he be great, yet despises not any. It is part of the affliction of the poor that they must expect to be trampled upon, and part of their duty to be serviceable, as far as they can, to those that are kind to them, and study to be grateful. 2. Those that are but going behindhand find themselves to lie much at the mercy of those that are before hand: *The borrower is servant to the lender*, is obliged to him, and must sometimes beg, *Have patience with me*. Therefore it is part of Israel's promised happiness that they should lend and borrow, Deut. xxviii. 12. And it should be our endeavour to keep as much as may be out of debt. Some sell their liberty to gratify their luxury."

3. What is the faithful Christian's dilemma as he weighs the benefits of both life and death? Give a quote from Paul to justify your answer.

Answer: Jennie Romine wrote: "When a faithful Christian dies, his labours, heart aches, pains, sorrows, grief have all ended. He is going home to be with his Heavenly Father where there will be no more tears or trials. This would be far better than anything we might have on this earth. But the human side of us doesn't want to break the ties we have with our families and friends here. No matter how insignificant we think we are, there is always

someone that is watching us, looking to us as an example. And if we live, we may be able to reach them, to sow the seed of the gospel to them. . . . Maybe the only one that can. So for the ones we might teach it might be better if we live awhile longer."

This question reminded of a song I heard years ago. 'Wait a little longer please Jesus. There are so many still wandering out in sin. Just wait a little longer, please Jesus, a few more days to get our loved ones in.' "

(Phil 1:20-25) "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. {21} For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. {22} But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. {23} For **I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: {24} Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.** {25} And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;"

4. What Old Testament prophet speaks of two-handed evil, done with earnestness?

Answer: Micah.

(Micah 7:1-4) "Woe is me! for I am as when they have gathered the summer fruits, as the grape gleanings of the vintage: there is no cluster to eat: my soul desired the firstripe fruit. {2} The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net. {3} **That they may do evil with both hands earnestly,** the prince asketh, and the judge asketh for a reward; and the great man, he uttereth his mischievous desire: so they wrap it up. {4} The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity."

5. What is the connection between foolishness and darkness (two passages)

Answer: Those who are **fools are said to walk in**

"darkness". Also those who claim to be wise in rejecting God and following their own imaginations are said to have a **foolish heart that becomes "darkened"**. Darkness in scripture represents the environment of those who are lost and need the light of God.

(Ecc1 2:13-14) "Then I saw that **wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.** {14} The wise man's eyes are in his head; but **the fool walketh in darkness:** and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all."

(Rom 1:21-22) "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their **foolish heart was darkened.** {22} Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,"

6. What extraordinary action did some men take for the kingdom of "heaven's sake"?

Answer: They made themselves eunuchs. It seems that some were born impotent, and others were disabled for sexual function (surgically) by men. Those referred to by the question had voluntarily become "eunuchs" as if they had no sexual ability. Jesus indicated that they did so for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

(Mat 19:9-12) "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. {10} His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with his wife, it is not good to marry. {11} But he said unto them, All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given. {12} For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from their mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and **there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake.** He that is able to receive it, let him receive it."

Comment by Ken . . . After persecution began against the church, the apostle Paul referred to a particularly difficult time in which it was much better for a man to be single. Due to the dangers to the persecuted Christians, the single man would

be less encumbered if he did not have to deal with the duties of "pleasing his wife". But there is nothing in either passage that would demand singleness for ministers of God. The following passages show how difficult it would be to become a eunuch for the cause of Christ.

(1 Cor 7:2) "Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband."

(1 Cor 7:25-33) "Now concerning virgins I have no commandment of the Lord: yet I give my judgment, as one that hath obtained mercy of the Lord to be faithful. {26} I suppose therefore that this is good for the present distress, I say, that it is good for a man so to be. {27} Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. {28} But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you. {29} But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none; {30} And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice, as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not; {31} And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away. {32} But I would have you without carefulness. He that is unmarried careth for the things that belong to the Lord, how he may please the Lord: {33} But he that is married careth for the things that are of the world, how he may please his wife."

7. Who spoke of God's ability to uproot mountains, turning them over?

Answer: Job (Job 9:1-5) "Then **Job answered** and said, {2} I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with **God**? {3} If he will contend with him, he cannot answer him one of a thousand. {4} He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? {5} Which **removeth the mountains, and they know not: which overturneth them in his anger.**"

Job 27:1 identifies Job as the speaker and Job 28:9 is the statement . . . "He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he **overturneth the mountains by the roots**"

Prayer Needs and Requests

Jackie Hafer is still in the Manchester hospital, and is progressing. Arlin Mesick and Jerry Mesick, Jessie Pearl Green's brothers, and Robert Gannon, Wayne's brother, continue to need prayer due to their cancer. Remember William Miller at NHC and Laura Singleton at home.

Drew Thomas' visit back to the US has been delayed to the reduced airline flights.

Continue to pray for those who are in mission fields. Also pray for peace in the world and wisdom for those in authority. Pray for the poor and suffering

(Upstaging . . Continued from front)

After all, we came to honor God, not the church. This Sunday morning, don't upstage the Boss. Allow his warmth and righteousness, his will and word be the lasting impression that is left on your heart.

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For the record:	03/23	03/30	04/07	04/13
Bible Study	14	10	19	22
AM Worship	35	21	27	27
PM Worship	25	27	24	19
Wed. Bible Study	9	23	15	18
Contribution	\$760	\$615	\$526	\$595

Assignments	April 20	April 27
Song leader (SS)	Tim Waldron	Ken Thomas
Announcements	Joe Green	Junior Conner
Songleader-Worship	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Andy Miller
Opening prayer	Tim Waldron	Joe Green
Table service (center)	Joe Green	Wayne Gannon
(center)	Steve Miller	Ken Thomas
(outside)	Daniel Green	Andy Miller
(outside)	Junior Conner	Steve Miller
Closing Prayer	Lee Rose	James Mason
<i>If you cannot serve, please contact Junior Conner</i>		

