



Church of Christ at Beech Grove

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

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

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

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Giving an Account - by Tim Archer

Numbers and dollars are not my areas of expertise. Yet when the end of the month arrives, I go through the routine of gathering receipts and expenditure logs. If I'm late with the task, I receive friendly but firm reminders to get it done.

I don't like this simple exercise in accounting, but I do like having a credit card for expenses I encounter. Because this resource has been given to me, I'm expected to give an account of how I have used it.

The same is happening on a larger scale in our nation. For too long, some financial institutions have engaged in risky lending practices. Loans have been made without sufficient backing and the dominoes are now falling. Criminal investigations are under way to learn who is accountable for the most troubling monetary crisis of the present generation.

Accountability is a prominent theme in God's word. Jesus based a parable on the idea:

"There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods. So he called him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward'" (Luke 16:1,2, NKJV).

Those are chilling words: "Give an account of your stewardship!" When such words are heard in a work place, we suspect the ax is ready to fall. Is it possible God might use those words toward us?

The scenario is not just possible, but predictable. A fact we must never forget is that God regards us as stewards. Here's how Peter described it: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God" (1 Peter 4:10).

"Each one" of us have been given resources by God. They're not ours to abuse or to waste, but to use for best effect in God's kingdom. Have we been treating these gifts as resources on loan? How will we account for our use of God's gifts?

Every good resource we hold in our hands has been given to us by God. One day there will be a reckoning, and we'll be required to step forward, one by one. "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

The money in my possession, the words my tongue is able to form, the smile my face can show, the time that is mine to use as I choose - all of these are resources God has bestowed. It's my choice how I will use them. But may I never forget that one day I will give an account.

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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

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of Oct. 3 - (People)

1. What dead men were seen talking with Jesus?
2. What two named men was Jesus thought (by some) to be?
3. What did Jesus say on the cross that was interpreted wrongly as a cry for Elijah?
4. Fill in the blank: Elijah was sent to only one of many _____ when a famine was in his land.
5. What father was due great respect, but asked questions which indicated that he felt disrespected?
6. Elisha was sent to heal one _____, when there were many of them in his land.
7. What father could not find the idols which his daughter had taken from him?

Answers for week of September 28 (Places)

1. At what location were the followers of Christ first called Christians?

Answer: Antioch of Syria (not Pisidia)

Acts 11:26: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.

Shortly after the conversion of Cornelius and other Gentiles, the preaching of the gospel was also offered to Greeks in Antioch. The preaching had good effect in converting many to Christ. This is the first primarily Gentile church, and thus many believe that the name Christian was not given in derision (as some have claimed) but was acknowledgment that the followers of Jesus [disciples] were not children of Judaism, but truly a body of believers that extended beyond the narrow bands of Jewish religion. The prophet Isaiah had said: (Isa 62:1-2) "For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until

the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. 2 And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: and thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the LORD shall name."

Is it more than coincidence that the disciples were first called Christians right after the Gentiles began to realize the righteousness of God? I believe so.

2. In what city did Paul lodge with Justus?

Answer: Corinth (see especially Acts 18:1,7,11) (Acts 18:1-11) After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; 2 And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. 3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. 4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. 5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. 6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. 7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. 8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. 9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

This is an interesting passage, because while living and working with the Jewish tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla, Paul had exercised great influence, teaching both Jews and Greeks in the synagogue each sabbath. As Paul intensified his message that Jesus was truly the Christ (the Messiah of Old Testament prophecy), the Jews hardened

themselves against the message and blasphemed. It seems that having been so soundly rejected, Paul is announcing that he is turning away from teaching the Jews. He states his intentions to "go to the Gentiles". But he doesn't seem to have gone very far! He goes into Justus' house, right next to the synagogue! After turning from the Jews, he converts the ruler of the synagogue and many others in Corinth. And the Lord reassures him that he knows that many will obey Paul's teaching, and that Paul should not fear his opposition. When Paul wrote 1st Corinthians he names Crispus as one of the few people he personally baptized (1 Corinthians 1:14), although many others were baptized because of his influence.

(Did anyone notice that by verse 17 there is another "ruler of the synagogue", Sosthenes? I wonder if Crispus lost his position after his conversion.)

3. What was the hometown of Crispus, and what was his position at the time he heard and obeyed the gospel?

Answer: Corinth; chief ruler of the synagogue.

Paul, the human who penned the letters to the church at Corinth after the events of Acts 18 occurred, reminded the church there that while many heard, believed, and were baptized, he was personally thankful that his hands had baptized few of them (including Crispus and Gaius), because by this time the Christians had fallen prey to divisiveness, and were separating on the basis of their favorite preacher! Cephas (Peter), Apollos, and Paul were not to be the focus of their loyalty. It was Christ who died for them, and whose name they had been baptized. (Paul was NOT demeaning the significance of baptism, as some have taught. On the contrary he was emphasizing that it was too important to be used to exalt men who baptized over the Christ in whose name they were baptized.

Some do not relate baptism to obeying the gospel. My reference to obedience to the gospel comes from 2 Thess. 1:8. When we study the cross references we learn that the gospel consists of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:1-4), and in Romans 6 a direct link is made to our "death" to sin, our burial in baptism,

and the "resurrection" to a new life. According to verse 17 they were made free from sin at the time they obeyed the "form of doctrine" which was delivered to them.

Acts 18:8 - And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."

1 Corinthians 1:1-15 1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: . . . 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; 15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

4. Where had Paul cried regularly as he preached for three years, and when he left them the elders were in tears?

Answer: Ephesus - Paul was near Ephesus, at Miletus, and he asked the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet him. He reviews his experience working and faithfully teaching among them in the past. He had shed tears during his sincere work of teaching publicly and in homes, and now he tells them of coming trials in his own life, experiences that will prevent his ever seeing them again. With prayers, tears, and genuine display of affection, his time with them ends, and they go with him to his ship.

Acts 20:16 For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost. 17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. . . . 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. . . . 36 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. 37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him

One participant wrote: "As an elder, this is especially meaningful in that it reminds me of the serious duty to watch over the souls of our

congregation (Heb 13:17). For those who take this to heart, we fully understand the tears Paul shed for his brethren as he worked with them.

5. At one place the people of the place (and the writer of the account) tearfully begged Paul not to go to the Jerusalem. Where was this, and with whom was Paul staying? (2 parts)

Answer: Place - Caesarea. The host - Philip the evangelist. The "we" passages show that the human writer, Luke, includes himself as one who begged Paul not to go.

(Acts 21:8-14) "And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. 9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy. 10 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus. 11 And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles. 12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. 14 And when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done."

6. In what city did a man see Jesus in heaven as he was executed by an angry mob?

Answer: Jerusalem- Acts 7:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. . . . 54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. 55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, 56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

7. Christian friends planned for Paul to stay with a mature Christian in Jerusalem after they could not persuade him not to go there. Who was the host and where was he from?

Answer: Mnason of Cyprus (Acts 21:16)

Acts 21:15 And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to Jerusalem. 16 There went with us also certain of the disciples of Caesarea, and brought with them one Mnason of Cyprus, an old disciple, with whom we should lodge.

Comment: The KJV uses the word "old" to describe the disciple, "Mnason". The ESV calls him an "early" disciple, which indicates not his age, but how long he had followed the Lord. The hint word, "mature", could refer to age or experience, so the hint is valid.

Beech Grove News, Prayer Requests

Laura Singleton is now at home. William Miller is at NHC. Florence Cartright, Nancy Harvey's mother, is in Boulevard Terrace in Murfreesboro. Nancy has upper respiratory problems is some better. Ann Conner has been really sick this week. James and Doris Mason had a car accident this week, but fortunately they were not hurt as bad as their car was.

Bible Bowl is today at Mt. Leo, McMinnville

Welcome, visitors

Last week: BS 21 MW 28 EW 26 Wed 19 Cont. \$732

Assignments	October 5	October 12
Song leader (SS)	Tim Waldron	Wayne Gannon
Announcements	Junior Conner	Ken Thomas
Songleader-Worship	Wayne Gannon	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	T J Waldron	Daniel Green
Opening prayer	James Mason	Wayne Gannon
Table service (center)	Steve Miller	Joe Green
(center)	Cole Gordon	Ken Thomas
(outside)	Joe Green	Daniel Green
(outside)	T J Waldron	Junior Conner
Closing Prayer	Lee Rose	James Mason