

Whithersoever He Goeth

Three great gift in **Revelation 14:4** there is a sentence which reads: "These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth." This verse speaks of souls who were redeemed, without guile and without fault. We are impressed with the fact that these had not followed the Lamb with reservation or in just those areas where they were pleased to go. No, these went whithersoever the Lamb went. This total commitment to Jesus reminds us of Enoch, Noah, Moses, Abraham and others who walked with, before and after the Lord.

As we further consider this matter of following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, we would do well to consider well the clearly defined pathway that our Saviour trod.

If we determine to follow the Lamb withersoever He goeth, we will:

- 1) **Endeavor To Fulfill All Righteousness:** In **Matthew 3:15** Jesus explained to John the Baptist that, even he, had the responsibility to obey all the commandments of God. Likewise, we should strive to know and carry out all things that God, through His word, declares to be right.
- 2) **Be Baptized:** Even though John the Baptist baptized for the remission of sins (**Lk. 3:3**), and Jesus had no

By Raymond Harris

sin, it was needful for Jesus to be baptized so it could be said that He obeyed the commandments of God (**Heb. 5:8-9**). Today everyone who reaches the age of accountability is a sinner and needs to be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:37-38**). If we wish to follow Jesus we will be baptized.

3) **Go To The House Of Worship:** A careful study of God's word will indicate that Jesus carefully fulfilled all the commandments regarding worship to God (**Lk. 4:16-21; Lk. 22:7-15**). Hence, those who are determined to follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth, will put forth every effort to sing, pray, give and commune with the saints. Such is not a matter of choice but a matter of loving obedience.

4) **Go Into Fields Of Service:** Just as Jesus came not to be ministered unto but to minister (Matt. 20:27-28), so the conscientious follower of Jesus will also be about the Father's business. Our motto should be "I have been saved - to save!" and daddy that love each other, like each other, and are committed to each other). 12 months of working to improve your marriage is a gift they will be thankful for for life.



Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Jesse Godwin (Troy's father and Mac's grandfather)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Louise Pack (Anna and Christopher's grandmother)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Wanda Price (Ada Owen's sister)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Audrey Barnett (Joanetta's sister-in-law)	Betty Bradford	Hazel Gilliland and Sherry Carroll (Toni's relatives)
Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)	Joy Powell (Tori Luther's grandmother)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	William Smith (Ken Sullivan's brother)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	William Herd	Rebecca Davis (Chuck Hahn's Niece)	Ray Humphrey (Seth's dad)
John M. Rhodes and Bonnie Rhodes Kirkley (Toni Herd's family)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephew)	Esther Biddle

December Birthdays

- 2-Katelyn Sullivanne
- 5-Rusty Weldon
- 5-Charlie Johnson
- 5-Allie Hosey
- 8-Macy Johnson
- 9-Anna Acuff
- 11-Alex Nguyen
- 13-Dave Hosey
- 13-Will Bruce Harris
- 14-Beth Lingerfelt
- 17-Joseph Miller
- 18-Tin-Yau Tam
- 19-Matt Loggins
- 20-Chris Zeanah
- 20-Brandon Walker
- 20-Meredith Reid
- 20-Micah Waters
- 21-Holly Johnson
- 21-Andrew Dunaway
- 22-William Herd
- 22-Carter Burns
- 24-Jessica Yates
- 27-Jacob Neeley
- 28-Turner Stephens
- 28-Gabby Borden
- 29-Christian McGee

News and Notes

- Please remember the Tam's in your prayers as they are away in china until mid-January.
- Sympathy is extended to the family of Chris Zeanah who lost his grandfather recently.
- Daphene Whatley, mother of Lisa Lanier, had successful back surgery in B'ham on Wed.
- Pray for Betty Bradford as she suffers from a wound in her foot.
- Cards for the upcoming student study and weekend meeting with Doy Moyer are in the foyer.
- Please pray for Lisa Carter (Luke's mom) as (colon) cancer has spread to her lungs. She has been accepted to go to M D Anderson and will be admitted on Jan 13th.
- Charles herd, William's father, remains in serious condition in CA.
- We will have a singing tonight!
- Gerald White continues to recover at home.
- Teachers and hosts are needed for the upcoming monthly kids class.

The Auburn Beacon



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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I Know My Redeemer Lives

By Wayne Jackson

Centuries before the birth of Christ, Job, the suffering patriarch of Uz, exclaimed, "I know that my redeemer lives..." (**19:25**).

Job could not possibly have appreciated the magnitude of his statement, nor how his confident hope would be fulfilled. He was suffering terribly — both physically and emotionally. But he sincerely believed that his pain and anguish were out of proportion to any evil he unintentionally might have done. Though he spoke of God irreverently at times (like a pet that bites when its master is attempting to treat a wound), underneath it all he maintained a confidence that eventually "justice" would issue from his righteous Maker (**cf. Job 13:15 KJV; ESV**).

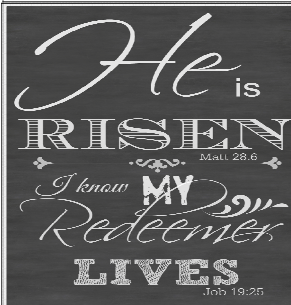
There is a wonderful song with the lyrics, "I know that

We do not "know" that Christ lives, just because this idea makes us feel good. Here is how we really know, and know that we know.

my Redeemer lives...." We should sing it with zest. Another song, however, asks this question, with answer supplied: "You ask me how I know he lives? He lives within my heart."

I am not so sure this phraseology, as commonly interpreted, is prudent. If a person has these thoughts in his mind, "He lives in my heart [mind] because of the credible, histor-

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Thoughts to Ponder

It seemed good to me ... to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. (**Luke 1:3-4**)

Elders

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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ical facts I have learned,” that is one thing. But to use the term “heart,” as such frequently is employed by the religious community at large, is quite another thing.

For example, a sincere Roman Catholic may claim, “I know that Mary hears my prayers, and conveys them to her Son. How do I know? I know it in my heart.”

How many times have we heard the statement: “I know I am saved; my heart tells me so, and I trust it. I would not feel this way if I were not truly saved.” But such statements are in conflict with the truth as revealed in numerous biblical passages (cf. **Proverbs 14:12; Acts 23:1; 26:9; 1 Timothy 1:13b**).

We do not “know” that Christ lives, just because this idea makes us feel good. Here is how we really know, and know that we know.

We have the testimony of the scriptures. (1) David prophesied that though Christ would be murdered, he would rise from the grave (**Psalms 16:10; cf. Acts 2:25ff**). (2) Isaiah foretold that while Jehovah’s suffering Servant would be put to death, nonetheless he would “see his seed” (i.e., numerous spiritual offspring, cf. **Isaiah 11:1; Romans 7:4; Hebrews 2:13**), and his days would be prolonged (Isaiah 53:10b). (3) Jesus himself promised he would be raised from the dead (**Matthew 16:21; John 2:19, 21**). (4) Many witnesses testified to the fact that

Christ was raised to die no more (**Romans 6:9; Revelation 1:18**). For a consideration of some of those witnesses, see **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**.

The second issue is this: how does one know that the biblical record, asserting these prophecies and affirmations of fulfillment, is true? That is an excellent question, but the answer is not, “because I feel it.” Rather, the solution is in evidence.

Is there a sufficient body of evidence that demonstrates the Bible documents could not be of human origin, and therefore, by default, must be divine? Indeed there is. (1) There is the astounding unity of the volume — 66 books, written over sixteen centuries, yet speaking as one voice. (2) There is the matter of prophecy — history written in advance. Thousands of prophetic details that no human could possibly have predicted are fulfilled with precision. (3) The flawless accuracy of the Bible, in history, science, geography, etc., absolutely defies any “natural” explanation. (4) The lofty ethical tone of the scriptures testifies to the fact that mere man would not have written this volume if he could have. (5) The things the Bible does not contain, which it surely would have — if left to the imaginative minds of men — are conspicuously absent, e.g., a flamboyant, absurd explanation for God’s “origin” (common in pagan literature), his appearance, etc.

These areas of evidence, and many others, buttress our faith. True faith is not a blind leap into the dark. It is grounded in solid history. Upon this basis we “know.”



The Tragedy of Gossip

By Brent Lewis

Any fool ends up hurting himself. So it is with the gossiping fool. Though he may do an untold amount of harm to other people, the fruit of his activity is perhaps best observed in his life.

You never treat your brother worse than when you gossip about him. Though it was many years ago that God instructed Israel, “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people,” it is nevertheless still good advice. More than that the New Testament teaches Christians to refrain from this practice (**Romans 1:29-30; 1 Timothy 5:13**). Yet, in far too many places today brethren are estranged and distant from one another because of “wraths, factions, backbitings, whisperings” (**2 Cor. 12:20**). My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

At the root of gossip there is always pride or jealousy or hatred. Some people gossip to gain attention; it makes them feel important. Others are just plain mean and they do it to intentionally hurt others. David said, “All that hate me whisper together against me; against me do they devise my hurt” (**Psalms 41:7**). The wise man said, “He that hideth hatred is of lying lips; and he that uttereth slander is a fool” (**Proverbs 10:18**).

Any fool ends up hurting himself. So it is with the gossiping fool. Though he may do an untold amount of harm to other people, the fruit of his activity is perhaps best observed in his life. **First, He makes himself miserable.** “The north wind bringeth forth rain; so doth a backbiting tongue an angry countenance” (**Proverbs 25:23**). The gossip has a bitter, sour disposition. And why shouldn’t he? He is spewing out venom all the time. It is hard to be joyful and at peace with oneself when one is sullen, resentful and rabidly spreading lies. **Secondly, He cuts himself off from others.** God says, “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; therefore company not with him that openeth wide his lips” (**Proverbs 20:19**). And who would want to? Have you ever been around

a person who had nothing good to say about others and you wondered what they say about you when you weren’t around? Would you like to tell that person something in confidence? No, “A perverse man scattereth abroad strife; and a whisperer separateth chief friends” (**Proverbs 16:28**). Thirdly, He separates himself from God. **THIRDLY, HE SEPARATES HIMSELF FROM GOD.** “Jehovah, who shall sojourn in thy tabernacle?

Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh truth in his heart; he that slandereth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his friend, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor” **Psalms 15:1-3**.

To her shame the church has often neglected to discipline the gossip. When gossip is heard by church leaders it should be traced to its source, and if the gossip does not repent and stop, he should be severed from the fellowship of the saints. God says, “For lack of wood the fire goeth out; and where there is no whisperer, contention ceaseth. As coals are to hot embers, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to inflame strife. The words of a whisperer are as dainty morsels, and they go down into the innermost parts” (**Proverbs 26:20-22**).

Let each disciple determine that he will not only refuse to gossip, but he will refuse to listen to one who does. Great good will come to the Lord’s cause by such determination on the part of every saint. Our actions as disciples either build up or tear down the kingdom. Which is it with you?

