

The Gospel Beat

Volume III

September 2015

BEHOLD I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK



“If Anyone Hears My Voice And Opens The Door, I Will Come In To Him And Dine With Him, And He With Me.”

Rev. 3:20

INSIDE THE GOSPEL BEAT

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(What is the meaning of Life?)



What is the meaning of life? How can purpose, fulfillment, and satisfaction in life be found? How can something of lasting importance be achieved?

So many people have never stopped to think about these important questions. They look back over the years and wonder why their relationships have fallen apart, and why they feel so empty, even though they may have done what they set out to do.

I once watched a documentary about an athlete who had reached the top of his sport and was asked what he wished someone had told him when he first started to play his sport. He said, “I wished that someone would have told me that when you reach the top, there’s nothing there.” Many goals reveal their emptiness only after years have been wasted in their pursuit.

In our human culture, people pursue many things, thinking that in them they will find meaning. Some of these pursuits include business success, wealth, good relationships, sex, entertainment, and doing good to others. People have testified that while they achieved their goals of wealth, relationships, and pleasure, there is still a deep void inside, a feeling of emptiness that nothing seemed to fill.

The author of the biblical book Ecclesiastes describes this feeling when he says, “Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless” (**Ecclesiastes 1:2**). King Solomon, the writer of Ecclesiastes, had wealth beyond measure, wisdom beyond any man of his time or ours, hundreds of women, palaces and gardens that were the envy of kingdoms, the best food and wine, and every form of entertainment available.

He said at one point that anything that his heart wanted, he pursued. And yet he summed up “life under the sun”- as life lived as though all there is to life is what we can with our eyes and experience with our senses is meaningless.

Why is there such a void? Because **God** created us for something beyond what we can experience in the here and now. Solomon said of **God**, “**He** has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what **God** has done from beginning to end” (**Ecclesiastes 3:11**). In our hearts we are aware of the “here and now” is not all there is.

In Genesis, the first book of the **Bible**, it tells us that **God** created mankind in **His** image (**Genesis 1:26**). This means we are more like **God** than we are like any thing else. It also tells us that before mankind fell into sin and the curse of sin came upon the earth, the following things were true:

1) **God** made man a social creature (**Genesis 2:18-25**); 2) **God** gave man work (**Genesis 2:15**); 3) **God** had fellowship with man (**Genesis 3:8**); and 4) **God** gave man control over the earth (**Genesis 1:26**). What is the importance of these things? **God** intended for each of these to add to our fulfillment in life, but all of these (especially man's fellowship with **God**) were harmfully affected by man's fall into sin which resulted in a curse upon the earth (**Genesis 3**).

In Revelation, the last book of the **Bible**, **God** reveals that **He** will destroy this present and heavens and announce the eternal state by creating a new heaven and a new earth. At that time, **He** will restore full fellowship with redeemed mankind, while the unredeemed will have been judged unworthy and cast into a lake of fire (**Revelation 20:11-15**).

The curse of sin will be done away with; there will be no more sin, sorrow, sickness, death, or pain (**Revelation 21:7**). We will have come full circle: **God** created us to have fellowship with **Him**, man sinned, breaking that fellowship, **God** restores that fellowship fully in the eternal (always existing) state. To go through life achieving everything only to die separated from **God** is useless.

The real meaning in life, both now and eternity, is found in the restoring of our relationship with **God** that was lost with Adam and eve's fall into sin. That relationship with **God** is only possible through **His Son Jesus Christ** (**Acts 4:12; John 1:12; 14:6**). Eternal life is gained when we no longer want to continue in sin and **Christ** changes us, making us new creations, and we rely on **Jesus Christ** as Savior.

The real meaning in life is found not only in accepting **Jesus Christ** as savior, as wonderful as that is, it begins when a person start to follow **Christ** as his disciple, learning of **Him**, spending time with **Him** in **His Word**, talking with **Him** in prayer, and walking with **Him** in obedience to **His** commands.

If you are not a Christian (or perhaps a new believer), you might be saying to yourself, "That doesn't sound very exciting or fulfilling to me!" But **Jesus** made the following statements: "**Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light**" (**Matthew 11:28-30**). "**I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full**" (**John 10:10**). "**If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up the cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his for me will find it**" (**Matthew 16:24-25**).

What all these verses are saying is that we have a choice. We can continue to seek our own way into emptiness, or we can follow **God** and **His** will for our lives.

The Deacon

(Grateful)

A grateful heart sees each day as a gift. Thankful people focus less on what they lack and more on the privileges they have. A grateful heart is like a magnet sweeping over the day, collecting reasons for gratitude.

Gratitude gets us through the hard stuff. To reflect on our blessings is to rehearse **God's** accomplishments. To rehearse **God's** accomplishments is to discover **His** heart. To discover **His** heart is to discover not just good gifts but the **Good Giver**. Gratitude always leaves us looking at **God** and away from dread. It does to anxiety what morning sun does to valley mist, it burns it up.

Holding on to feelings of thankfulness boosts our immune system and increases blood supply to our heart. Daily guided exercises or the habit of keeping a weekly gratitude journal can increase our alertness, enthusiasm, and energy, and improve our sleep. People who describes themselves as feeling grateful tend to suffer less stress and depression than the rest of the population.

If you were asked the question, "What are you most thankful for?" what would your answer be? It didn't take me long to think about my answer. I am most thankful for **God's** love. **He** loved me so much that **He** gave **His Son** to die for me.

I was lost with no way to merit **God's** favor. I had nothing to offer **God**, for all things are **His**. I had no righteousness in myself, "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away" (**Isaiah 64:6**)

God in **His** great love, reached down to where I was and gave **His Son**, the precious **Lamb** of **God**, to be my sacrifice. So today, first and foremost, I am thankful for the love of **God**. But **God**, who is rich in mercy, for **His** great love wherewith **He** loved us, even when we were dead in sins have quickened us together with **Christ**, and have raised us together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in **Christ Jesus**: That in the ages to come **He** might show the exceeding riches of **His** grace in **His** kindness towards us through **Christ Jesus**. For it is by grace you are saved through faith; and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of **God** (**Ephesians 2:4-8**).

Take a moment today to stop and enjoy life. We are all moving on the fast track. Schedules are filled to the max with appointments and activities. We are so busy doing our list that we do not even realize if we actually like what we are doing, when was the last time you stopped to notice which bird in your yard was chirping so beautiful? Do you even listen to them for any length of time? What about the stars at night, or the flowers blooming, or a butterfly passing by?

When was the last time you really looked at your children? Noticed their eyes? Time stops for no one, and it is moving quickly. “Then my soul will rejoice in the **Lord** and delight in **His** salvation (**Psalm 35:9**).

It’s easy to spend our lives worrying and obsessing over the problems of life. It’s also easy to overlook a blessing in times of need, or forget to be thankful when troubled times have been put to rest. Be sure you don’t become one of the nine lepers, who were so happy to be cured they forgot who cured them. I encourage you to spend time remembering what **God** has done in your life.

I believe **God Loves** to hear praises of a thankful heart! As a mother, when I have done things for my children I like to hear them be thankful. I like to know that they appreciate what I have worked hard to give them or teach them. It makes me feel good inside when I see them being thankful that I have sacrificed my time, effort, and desires to make sure they are growing up healthy and happy.

On the other hand, if they act spoiled, ungrateful, or just “take for granted” the things I have strived so hard to do for them, that makes me frustrated, disappointed, and sometimes even a little angry.

I believe that **God** is no different. *God* is our spiritual parent. **He** is our creator. **He** is our **Father**. **He** sacrificed **His** most prized possession, **His** only begotten **Son, Jesus Christ**, so that we (the world) might be able to make heaven our home. **He** gave us the gift of salvation. **He** gave us hope. **He** gave us love. **He** provides our every need, both physically and spiritually. **God** gives us everything we need and **He LOVES** to hear us be **THANKFUL** for what **He** has given! Let us enter into **His** gates with “**THANKSGIVING**”!

SAY THIS WITH ME: I give thanks to the Lord for He is good, and His mercy endures forever. I will be thankful for all God does for me.

Submitted by Angie Thomas

(The Feast in Jerusalem)

Summer was over, and the cooler days of autumn had come. On the hillsides around Jerusalem stood groups of booths or huts made from branches. During the Feast of Tabernacles, the Jews lived out of doors. These booths were their only shelter. Visitors came from every part of the land for the feast.

On the first day as people talked together, they wondered if **Jesus** would come to the feast to teach them. Some told of things they had heard **Him** say. Others talked about **His** miracles.

As the people talked and asked about **Jesus**, they expressed different opinions. Some said, "**He** is a good man." others replied, "No, **He** deceives the people. Only in their small groups did the people talk about **Jesus**. No one dared to speak of **Him** publicly. They were afraid of the Jewish rulers.

The people looked for **Jesus** but **He** was nowhere to be found. "Where is **He**?" they asked.

About the middle of the week, **Jesus** came to the temple and taught. **His** enemies thought this would be a good time to catch **Him**. They sent men to listen to **His** teaching. These men would find fault with what **Jesus** said and accuse **Him** before the rulers.

And the men did as they had been ordered. Yet as they listened to the **Master**, they marveled, "How does this man know so much without having been trained?" they wondered.

Jesus answered, "*My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.*"

Day after day **Jesus** sat in the temple, teaching all who came to **Him**. No one tried to send **Him** away, and no one tried to arrest **Him**.

Many Jews who lived in Jerusalem knew how much their leaders hated **Jesus**. They wondered why the leaders had not seized the **Master** and thrown **Him** into prison. They said of **Jesus**, "Is not this the man they are after?" Here **he** is speaking boldly, and they say nothing to **him**. Do the rulers believe **he** is the **Christ**?"

The rulers of the Jews, the chief priest, the scribes, the Pharisees and Sadducees, did not believe **Jesus** was the **Christ**. They were jealous because **He** was the

center of attention at the feast. They hated **His** teaching because **He** accused them of only pretending to be righteous. Finally they sent officers to take **Him**.

As the officers listened to **Jesus**, they heard **Him** say, ***“I will be with you yet a little while. Then I shall go to Him who sent me. You will look for me, but you will not be able to find me. Where I am, you will not be able to come.”***

When the officers heard this, they asked one another, “Where could **He** go that we would not be able to find **Him**? Would **He** go to the Jews who live abroad? Would **He** go to teach the Gentiles?”

The officers noticed how eagerly the people listened to **Jesus**. They heard some say, “Truly this is the Prophet,” or “This is the **Christ**.” They heard others question, “Will **Christ** come from Galilee? According to the Scriptures **He** will come from Bethlehem and be of the family of David.”

Even though the people differed in what they thought of **Jesus**, the officers were so impressed that they could not arrest **Him**. They listened carefully to **His** words and wondered why **He** should be punished. So they returned to the rulers without **Jesus**.

The chief priests and Pharisees were angry that the officers had not obeyed orders. “Why have you not brought **Him**?” they asked. The officers replied, “No man ever spoke like this man,” and they refused to harm **him**.

Then the rulers were all the more angry and excited. They asked, “Are you letting this man deceive you as **He** deceives the people?” Have any of our rulers believed in **him**? Only the people who do not understand the Law believe **him**.”

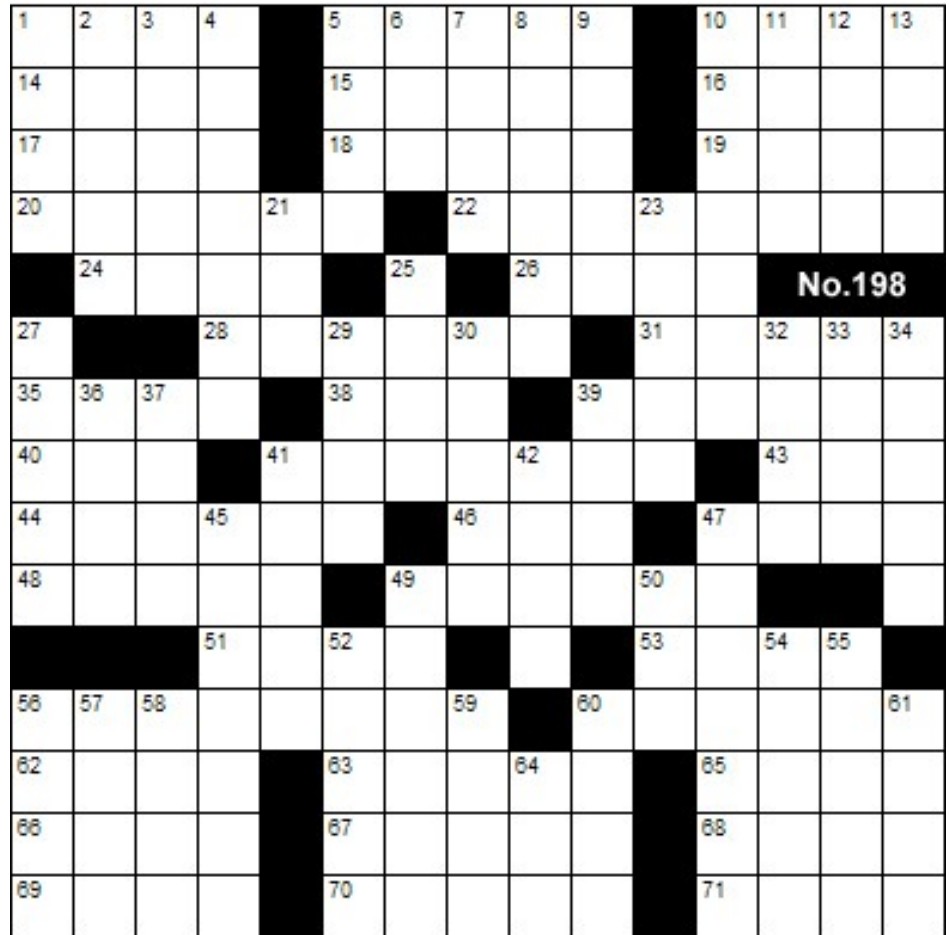
Among the angry rulers sat Nicodemus, the Pharisee who had come to **Jesus** one night. He loved **Jesus** and believed in **him**. In hope of protecting **Jesus**, he asked, “Does our law condemn any man before he is given a hearing?”

The angry rulers turned on Nicodemus and replied scornfully, “Are you from Galilee? Don’t you know that no prophet comes from that country?” After saying that, they dismissed the meeting and went to their homes.

Biblical Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. consigning them to labor with ____ and with iron picks (2 Sam 12:31)
5. the lizard, and the ____, and the mole (Lev 11:30)
10. by him we cry, "____, Father (Rom 8:15)
14. send him away by the hand of ____ man (1,3) (Lev 16:21) KJV
15. You are under a ____, the whole nation of you (Mal 3:9)
16. walking in the garden in the ____ of the day (Gen 3:8)
17. wash yourself with ____ and use an abundance of soap (Jer 2:22)
18. Absalom had appointed ____ over the army in place of Joab (2 Sam 17:25)
19. first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at ____ in Galilee (John 2:11)
20. He ordered the furnace heated seven times ____ than usual (Dan 3:19)
22. the people ____ against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? (Ex 15:24) KJV
24. the wisdom of ____ world is foolishness in God's sight (1 Cor 3:19)
26. son of Seth (Gen 4:26) KJV
28. you, then, who teach ____, do you not teach yourself? (Rom 2:21)
31. had always been on friendly ____ with David (1 Kings 5:1)
35. A furnace for drying bricks (Nah 3:14) NKJV



39. Do not run until your feet are bare and your ____ is dry (Jer 2:25)
40. ____ not forget your precepts (1,2) (Ps 119:141)
41. a basin resting on four supports, cast with ____ on each side (1 Kings 7:30)
43. Why make ye this ____, and weep? (Mark 5:39) KJV
44. war against Israel and to ____ the kingdom for Rehoboam (2 Chron 1:1)
46. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will ____ God (Matt 5:8)
47. to seek an ____: He will cast lots with arrows (Ezek 21:21)
48. which shall not ____ of death, till they see (Matt 16:28)
49. neither shall it exalt ____ any more above the nations (Ezek 29:15)
51. Take heed that ye do not your ____ before men (Matt 6:1) KJV
53. Bring my sons from ____ and my daughters (Isa 43:6)
56. each man under his ____ with the banners of his family (Num 2:2)
60. I would give you ____ wine to drink (Song 8:2)
62. to settle down and ____ the bread they eat (II Th 3:12)
63. hath eternal life; and I will ____ him up at the last day (John 6:54)

65. each with ____ in hand because of his age (Zech 8:4)
 66. Adam and Eve both ate from the ____ of good and evil (Gen 3:12-13)
 67. ____, Mahalaleel, Jered (1 Chr 1:2)
 68. miracles to deceive ____ the elect if that were possible (Matt 24:24)
 69. My soul will boast in the LORD; let the afflicted ____ and rejoice (Ps 34:2)
 70. And he ____ and dreamed the second time (Gen 41:5)
 71. patch from a new garment and ____ it on an old one (Luke 5:36)

DOWN

1. a robe, a woven tunic, a turban and a ____ (Ex 28:4)
 2. like a broken tooth, and ____ out of joint (1,4) (Prov 25:19)
 3. its total length will be 25,000 cubits and its ____ 10,000 cubits (Ezek 48:13)
 4. The Levites are to ____ themselves around the king (2 Chron 23:7)
 5. it is only a ____ from the boil (Lev 13:23)
 6. abbr. for the fourth book of the Old Testament
 7. Bring me a heifer, a goat and ____ (1,3) (Gen 15:9)
 8. no decree or edict that the king ____ can be changed (Dan 6:15)

9. Now ____ this lesson from the fig tree (Matt 24:32)
 10. Who is my ____? Let him confront me (Isa 50:8)
 11. The ____ out of the wood doth waste it, and the wild beast (Ps 80:13)
 12. A ____ of him shall not be broken (John 19:36)
 13. I will send ____, saying, Go, find out the arrows (1,3) (1 Sam 20:21) (KJV)
 21. abbr. for the 17th book of the Old Testament
 23. something rotten, like a garment eaten by ____ (Job 13:28)
 25. They left ____ Jaakan and camped at Hor Haggidgad. (Num 33:32)
 27. David arose, and cut off the ____ of Saul's robe privily (1 Sam 24:4) KJV
 29. Only when the ram's ____ sounds a long blast may they go up (Exod 19:13)
 30. The lazy man does not ____ his game (Prov 12:27)
 32. Distressed and hungry, they will ____ through the land (Isa 8:21)
 33. When the LORD God ____ the earth and the heavens (Gen 2:4)
 34. I will take the ____ heart out of their flesh (Ezek 11:19) KJV
 36. "Is that your own ____," Jesus asked (John 18:34)
 37. supplied with all the cedar and pine ____ he wanted (1 Kings 5:10)

39. Also unto ____, O Lord, belongeth mercy (Ps 62:12) KJV
 41. As if a rod were to ____ him who lifts it up (Isa 10:15)
 42. I will ____ them and see whether they will follow (Exodus 16:4)
 45. Peter stayed in Joppa for some time with ____ named Simon (1,6) (Acts 9:43)
 47. Jehoiada appointed the ____ of the house of the LORD (2 Chron 23:18) KJV
 49. the new name given to Jacob (Gen 32:28)
 50. gathered thereof wild gourds his ____ full (2 King 4:39)
 52. Unless I see the nail ____ in his hands (John 20:25)
 54. and stayed in ____ in the rock (1,4) (Judg 15:8)
 55. they will ____ the ruined cities that have been devastated (Isa 61:4)
 56. Third son of Adam (Gen 4:25)
 57. weed (Matt 13:40) (KJV)
 58. Which ____ shadow of things to come; but the body is (3,1) (Col 2:17)
 59. a certain Pharisee besought him to ____ with him (Luke 11:37)
 60. Then Annas ____ him, still bound, to Caiaphas (John 18:24)
 61. Then the beasts go into ____, and remain (Job 37:8)
 64. The trees of the LORD are full of ____ (Ps 104:16)

Open Door Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship

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Gail Roberts - House, Pastor

Sunday Worship Service 9:30AM

Monday II Samuel 6:14 Liturgical Dance Ministry 6:00pm

1st & 3rd Tuesday Leadership Council Meeting 7:00pm

Wednesday	Intercessory Prayer	6:00pm
	Hour of Power Word Study	6:30pm
	Music Ministry Rehearsal	7:30pm

Thursday	TGIF Prayer	5:45am
	Call 712-432-3066 Access Code 665579	

2nd Saturday Food Ministry Meeting 12:30pm

2nd & 4th Saturday Food Distribution 11:00am

3rd Saturday Men Ministry 9:00am

3rd Saturday Women Ministry 10:00am

3rd Sunday Men Ministry Meeting 11:30am

1st Saturday Shepherd's Care Ministry 12:00pm

4th Thursday Youth and Adult Ministry 7:00pm

4th Saturday Ushers Ministry Meeting 12:30pm

Office Admin.	Crystal Lyons	757-727-0205
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Deacon Ministry	Deacon Anne Hawk	757-723-3739
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Trustee Ministry	Trustee Phyllis Davis	757-766-1041
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