

## The Laughter of God

We often think of laughter as a good thing, something we do when we are happy. For years, Reader's Digest has had a popular feature called "Laughter: The Best Medicine." And the Bible agrees with that. In Proverbs 17:22, we read, "A merry spirit does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones."

But when God laughs, it is definitely not a good thing! Laughter can also be a sign of disdain and contempt and so it is with God's laughter. It is an expression of His wrath against impenitent sinners who have broken His holy laws. Every time the Bible mentions God laughing, someone is in trouble! For example, in Psalm 37:12-13, King David wrote, "The wicked plots against the just, and gnashes at him with his teeth. The Lord laughs at him, for He sees that his day is coming."

The day of which David spoke was any day in which God in His providence brings judgment upon the wicked. Of course, the ultimate day of reckoning will be the Judgment Day. When that day comes, will God laugh at you for your folly in not obeying His word? Or will He say, "Well done, good and faithful servant...Enter into the joy of your lord" (Matt. 25:21)?

*Travis L. Quertermous, Dexter Church of Christ, Dexter, MO.*



# The Worker

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## Baptism Comes Before Salvation

I have been accused of over emphasizing the part baptism plays in the salvation of sinners. In view of what the Bible teaches, I do not see how this could be possible.

There are five passages in the New Testament which mention both baptism and salvation in the same verse (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21). In all of these passages, water baptism precedes the remission of sins. Do you know of a passage where the order is reversed?

Mark 16:16 contains two conditions for salvation: faith and baptism. It also contains the conditions for damnation: a lack of faith. If you want to know what you must do to be lost, it will tell you -- all that is necessary is a lack of faith. If you want to know what to do to be saved from your past sins -- it commands you to believe and be baptized.

In Acts 2:38 Peter told a group of believers to "repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Our Baptist friends often focus on the word "for" in this passage and insist it means "because of," even though it is never translated that way in any reputable translation of the Bible. We have to remind them that if baptism is "because of" the remission of sins, then so is repentance. Baptism and repentance are joined by the little word "and." Whatever one is "for" the other is "for."

After we are buried with Christ in baptism, we are raised to walk in a newness of life (Romans 6:1-4). This new life comes after baptism in water. Many preachers want to "bury" the "new man," since they claim the newness of life comes before our "burial."

Three days after the Lord appeared to Saul of Tarsus, Ananias told Saul to "arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins" (Acts 22:16). Many preachers today claim Saul was saved three days before Ananias met him. Ananias must not have known it, for he told Saul how to "wash away" his sins. If Saul had been saved on the road as some preachers claim, he must have been the most miserable saved man in the Bible. Saul was blind and spent three days praying and fasting until Ananias arrived.

1 Peter 3:21 states "baptism doth also now save us." However, baptism is not the only condition for the salvation of the alien sinner. Other requirements must be met, like faith, repentance and love. I do not know of anything "alone" that will save a sinner, not even faith (James 2:24).

David Padfield

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey  
**Deacons** Clint Smith Jr, Robby Stocksdale  
 Joe Sweeney  
**Pulpit Minister** David Wright  
**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Panama Missions

Evans Campbell Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org) Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
 First Prayer Irvin Williams  
 Second Prayer Rick Martin  
 Scripture Ron Iverson  
 Sermon Irvin Williams  
 Lord's Supper  
 Message Clint Smith Jr  
 Attendant Jeremy Montgomery  
 Attendant Haydn Blanton  
 Closing Prayer Greg Blanton

#### PM Service

Song Leader Robby Stocksdale  
 Bible Reading Harold Tincher  
 Selection 64  
 Prayer Matt Johnson  
 Sermon Irvin Williams  
 Closing Prayer David Blackwell  
*If unable to serve please call:  
 Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or  
 Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Joe Sweeney  
 Lord's Supper Grover Blanton  
 Offering Jerry Casey  
 Usher Marc Owens  
 Count Offering Art Patrick  
 Assist Count Robby Stocksdale

*Do not be slothful in zeal,  
 be fervent in spirit, serve  
 the Lord. Rom 12:11*

## **“GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU”**

A Chinese farmer had one horse and one son. One day the horse broke out of the corral and fled to the hills. The neighbors said to him “Your horse got out. That’s bad.” The old Chinese gentleman asked, “How do you know it’s bad?” The next night the horse returned to his familiar corral for his usual feeding and watering, leading 12 wild horses. The farmer’s son saw the thirteen horses in the corral, slipped outside and shut the gate.

The neighbors said, “Oh, you have 13 horses. That’s good.” The wise Chinese farmer responded, “How do you know it’s good?” A few days later, his young son was thrown by one of the wild horses and broke his leg.

The neighbors’ take on it was, “Your Son broke his leg. That’s bad?” Again the Chinese father replied, “How do you know it’s bad?” Not too long after that, a Chinese warlord came through town and took every able-bodied young man off to war, never to return again. The farmer’s son was left behind because of his broken leg.

The Bible teaches that God works providentially in the lives of Christians. The evidence for the Lord’s providential care over His children comes from passages like Romans 8:28: “And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose.” Like the Chinese farmer told his neighbors, we can’t always see how things that appear to be bad can be used for good purposes. But the Lord’s promise is that He will bring good out of the bad experiences of life if we will trust Him to do so.

Some have the mistaken idea that when God stopped working miracles, as He did in the Bible times, that He stopped working. How does God work in His providential way through the natural laws He has put in place? I don’t know. My responsibility is to take the Lord at His word and leave the “how” to Him. As Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.”

The fact is that we don’t have to understand the mechanics of how the Lord works to know it’s true. I don’t understand how electricity is generated and transported, or how TV pictures can be transmitted through the air, or the amazing technology of computers and the internet. But, I’m not going to sit in the dark, stop watching TV and not use my computer and internet until I do. As Christians, we don’t live by explanations, we live by promises. If you are a Christian who loves and trusts God, you can take it to the bank - He will take care of you!

*Mike Mays, Northside Church of Christ, Cordell, OK.*

### **Sermon**

"A Christian Heart" (a.m.)

Deut. 5:23-29

"Our Greatest Fear" (p.m.)

1 Peter 1:13-17

**Prayer List:** Chandra Akers (Marla), MARTIN BONNEY, JAYNE CRAVENS, Jerry Crick (Ann), Todd Cunningham (Hank), Esther Davis (Marian), JANICE DIMMITT, MYRNA DIMMITT, PATTY DIMMITT, MILDRED ELLIOTT, Zachary Ferguson, Elma Fielder (Marian), Lillian Foster, Diana Fulks (Norma), FRANK & MARY HARRIS, DOUG & JUDY HAWKINS, Pricilla Hudkins, ALLENE HUSTON, RON IVERSON, Bernie Jackson (Harold), Elise Jackson (Christine), Alice Jenkins (Ann), Charles & Marlyn Jenkins (Ann), Arletha Kenty (Nathan), Josephine King (Polly), MERLE & JOYCE KNUCKLES, FRANCES LAWTON, SUE LINNE & Rhea, Shelly Marshall, POLLY MCCLINTOCK, JERRY & SONJA MONTGOMERY, CAROL MOUSTY, Gary Peyton (Jean), Jerrie Phillips, CHRISTINE RHOTON, Cindy Roeder (Christine), Wendell & Betty Smith (Polly), Lynn Sullivan (Ann), THERESA TEMPLE, FERN TINCHER, Fulton Wilson (Ann)

**Military Service:** Matt Bartram, Stephen Blanton, Scott Viers, Zach West, Jeremy Whitlow

### **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

Men and Young Men, you are encouraged by the elders to volunteer as a Wednesday evening devotional speaker during the fall quarter. Please sign the volunteer list posted on the bulletin board. Lessons should be well prepared and only 3 – 5 minutes duration.

Our youth will have a time of fellowship and a devotional after the evening service on Sunday September 29. Matt Johnson will be the speaker. Moms are encouraged to bring finger foods. And the young people are encouraged to bring their friends.

Please update your church directory:

Brittany Welsh 413 E Maple St Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Phone 301-401-8171

Maurice Proctor 153 Greenwood Apt Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Phone 812-207-1808

The elders request that any announcements please be submitted in writing either to the elders or to the designated announcer. The cooperation of everyone will be appreciated.

### **Building Project Update**

- We have signed the construction contract with Ott Construction for the Phase 1 New Addition Project at a cost of \$627,740.
- Major items included in Phase 1: Multi-purpose room, classrooms, restrooms, new entrance, foyer remodel, south side parking lot, food prep area and landscaping.
- All required approvals from the City and State governments have been obtained.
- The Building Committee is scheduled to meet with Ott Construction on Thursday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm to discuss the construction plans and timeline.

This new addition will provide the congregation the much needed space to conduct many good works in God’s service.

Please continue to pray for this project including our building committee and Ott Const.

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