

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"The Greatest Love of All", By Terry Laughlin, Living Word Baptist Church

For this reason I kneel before the Father... that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power... to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.— Ephesians 3: 14, 17-19

Every one of us who is now born-again in Christ Jesus was at one time an enemy of God. We loved ourselves more than God, and we esteemed our sin more highly than we esteemed His salvation. We were fit only for hell and the judgment of God. Scripture says that, "we were by nature objects of wrath." If you have not yet accepted Jesus as your Savior and Lord, you are, unfortunately, still in this position with God. But, we were changed, and so can you be changed!

Because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—It is by grace you have been saved.— Eph. 2: 4,5

Because of His great love! This is the sole reason that any one of us may be reconciled back to God. There simply is no other rationale for us to have been given the opportunity to live in His presence forever. It is because

of His great love!

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.— John 3: 16

God's love for you is perfect, complete and everlasting. Our human love for one another is fickle and changeable. The dearest of friends may find offense and part ways. A vow of love at the altar may fail only months or years later. Even a parent may let their love for their own child grow cold, or a child for his parent. But the love of the Lord our God, Creator of heaven and earth does not fail. His love does not grow cold. He says...

I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. — Jeremiah 31: 3

There is no person, no thing seen or unseen, no trial or hardship that can separate you from the love of God. The apostle Paul, a man acquainted with many trials and much suffering, wrote these words:

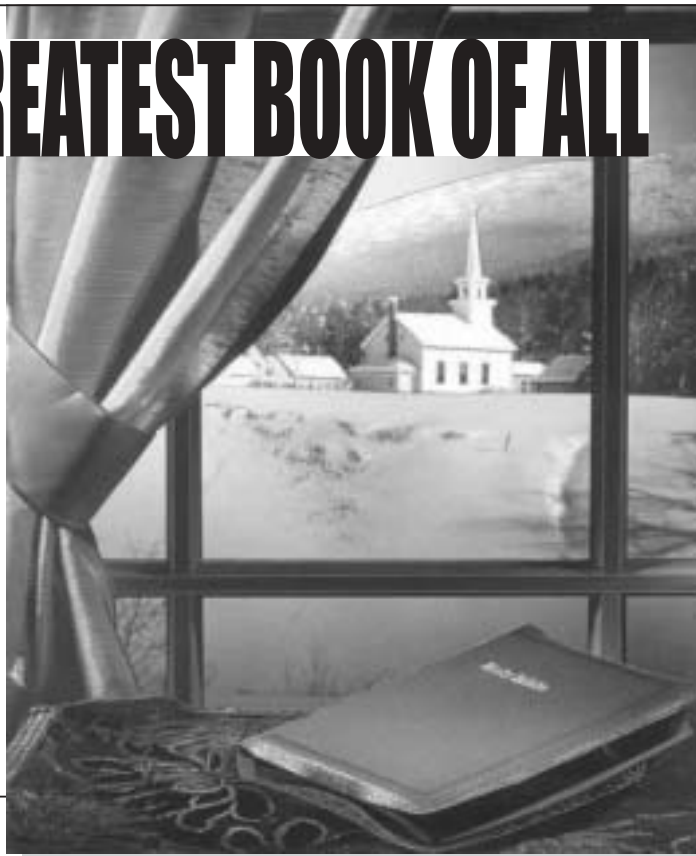
For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. — Romans 8: 38,39

Who of you can refuse such a love as this?

Why would you want to?

THE GREATEST BOOK OF ALL

- SUNDAY**
Matthew 24:29-44
- MONDAY**
Isaiah 11:1-9
- TUESDAY**
Isaiah 12:1-6
- WEDNESDAY**
Matthew 25:1-13
- THURSDAY**
Matthew 25:31-46
- FRIDAY**
Revelation 1:1-20
- SATURDAY**
Romans 1:1-17



Gone are the days when the only bookstores are small ones with narrow aisles and dusty tomes on worn shelves. Today, we can walk into mega-bookstores smelling of gourmet coffee, enjoy their reading material and listen to relaxing music. Latté in hand, we can sink into chairs so plush we might want to spend the night.

Yet, one fact remains unchanged. Of the all-time bestsellers, the Holy Bible remains number one. Why? Perhaps it is because the Bible contains such a variety of subjects. Among other topics, we find adventure, genealogy, romance, birth, death, poetry, family dynamics, miracles, and reassurance. However, and most importantly, the Bible is our guide for living our lives successfully, peacefully, joyfully, and more abundantly.

We read in 1 Peter 1:23-25... "You have been born anew...through the living and abiding Word of God; for 'all flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls, but the Word of the Lord abides forever.'"

The Bible remains the greatest book of all because so many devote time to studying God's Word. Wouldn't your local House of worship be an appropriate place to start this week? The Bible is timeless.

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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PITCH TOURNAMENT

By JAKE DURHAM

It was a festive mood as the faithful gathered for the November Pitch Tournament, the fall-out from celebrating the All Saints Day still prevailed as there were some questionable faces in the crowd, they might have been wearing masks and then again, maybe they weren't. It was understood the Northern Tier Gang was still tricking and the Grandmothers were center stage sharing left over treats. A noticeable group wearing red, white, and blue were celebrating the recent election results and chanting four more years while off in the corner a smaller group was chanting four more tears. The Knock group was getting larger with each hand and things were really warming up when someone noticed the little hand on the clock was on seven and the big hand was on twelve, but there was one team short when a man and a card playing dog entered through the south door. They were immediately given the last even number and the Brown Eyed Girl shouted, "Begin to Commence", and forty and four sprang to their assigned tables.

There were some veteran teams that were reunited and rumor had it there were those present who were determined to set new scoring records before the evening was done and by the sound of the bidding and the results that followed that seemed a high probability. As the scores were posted for round one, CK and Doctor Bones, a formidable pair of the past, cashed in the first round honors with what could be a record setting pace.

Not to be outdone, the Oil Baron and the Secretary, never short for expressions, captured second round honors but CK and Bones clung to the lead by the narrowest of margins. Lighting struck twice as the Baron and the Secretary made it back to back for the first double of the evening and waltzed into the lead as well. Everyone took a hard look at the scoreboard as the first break of the evening was declared. CK and Bones were in a close second, the Queen of Hearts and the Farmers Wife were in third and, a Pair of the Ladies From Lyle were in fourth and rounding out the top five was the team of Sir Lancelot and Guinevere. From there on down it was as tight as skins on drums on a rainy day.

A small amount of heckling was going on at the back of the room as round four got underway as the Blue Dogs and the Hound Dags, always the intimidators, were seeking side bets. The K.U. boosters took the honors on round four but the Baron and the Secretary, playing hardball with some good scoring of their own continued with the lead.

The fifth round spells the half-way mark and there was some concerted efforts being made by low scorers to regroup, as going into the second half with a favorable score definitely has its advantages. It was the Oil Baron and the Secretary who captured the honors on round five for a triple for the evening and to everyone's demise, boosted their lead considerably.

The gong sounded to signal the break after round six and as the scores were posted, Lady A and her Escort had taken the honors but the Oil Baron and the Secretary held the lead. The Ladies from Lyle were tied for second with Lady A and her Escort, and the Dawgs were in fourth and from there on down there were multiple placers. There were more huddles during the break than at most football games as high level strategy was being planned out and with the crucial seventh and eighth rounds coming up, every extra point would be crucial.

The Brown Eyed Girl sounded the gong to start round seven and the Ladies from Lyle did a dual on

the score board to monopolize on the round, but they couldn't shake the Baron and the Secretary who were still in the lead since round three. Needless to say, a hard act to follow, and as round eight got underway, those low on the score board were beginning to show signs of stress as it was more or less now or never and the bidding once again was unusually high and before the round was over there were the usual sounds of despair which were also reflected on the score board.

The K.U. Boosters and the Muddy River Boys tied for honors on round eight but the Boosters won it on the skins play-off for a double for the evening but the leaders never wavered and were now enjoying a somewhat favorable lead. The gong sounded once again for a catch-up break after round nine and as the scores were posted, the Hat Man and the Quiet One had taken the honors, the Oil Baron and the Secretary had taken a hit but not bad enough to change the lead as they now sported a seventeen point spread, which spelled out, "if you don't mess up, you should win".

For perhaps the only time in fourteen years, it appeared as though the tenth and final round would not decide the outcome of the games. With that revealed, the tenth round got underway and as the final scores were posted, the Hat Man and The Quiet One had made it back to back honors for another doubles of the evening. The Baron and the Secretary cruised in for the championship and received their accolades with dignity and honor, they had been there, done that, etc. before, and were shining examples of what champions are made of.

Top ten teams in order were: 1. Dee and Thelma Bushnell, 2. Kathryn VanMeter and Juanita Eckhart; 3. Ed and Cynthia Glennemeier; 4. Jeanette Groothoff and Alice Chance; 5. Dave Sheley and Jack Mechsner; 6. Staci Breiner and Jim Railsback; 7. Dick Hemphill and Myron Veh; 8. Jason Breiner and Rusty Goss; 9. Ron and Sondra Hester; 9. Julia Roeder and Kay Harman. Winning score by Dee and Thelma Bushnell was 139 points which moved them into the second all time high score of the games.

High round honors went to the teams of Carl Neff and Doctor Peterson, Dee and Thelma Bushnell, Elden Vincent and Weldon Brooks, Jeanette Groothoff and Alice Chance, Kathryn VanMeter and Juanita Eckhart, Dave Sheley and Jack Mechsner. Triple high round honors went to Dee and Thelma Bushnell, Double high round honors went to Dave and Jack Sheley, and Elden Vincent and Weldon Brooks. Single high round score was 20 points by Neff and Peterson.

Other teams not previously mentioned were: Duane McEwen and J.D. Daffer; Fig Millan and Dan Hazlett; Donna Millan and Barbara McKee; Margaret Magers and June Jolly; Joyce Sumner and Eleanor Jensen; Larry Harman and Tony Hildebrand; John Hildebrand and Coy Christy; Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; Dan Lauer and Randy Clydesdale; Todd and Doyle Brooks.

As the charm of the evening began to fade, the crowd grew smaller and the sounds of Willie Nelson's, "My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys," could be heard in the distance and the winners were still talking about their winning score, which was the second highest in 15 years. The attention soon turned to the next tournament and the calendar on the wall showed the first Sunday in Dec. to be on the 5th, so come early and sign in to guarantee a spot on the roster.

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