

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

*"Surrendering to Jesus Christ"*

By Pastor Ronald T. Scheimo, CrossRoads Church

In 1725, a little boy was born to a home of a godly mother and an ungodly seaman father.

The little boy was taught scriptures and the story of Jesus by his mother, but when he was only seven years of age she died. At the age of 11 this young boy went to sea with his father. His life as a sailor was full of exciting adventures and also much wickedness. After a number of years, he eventually became the captain of his own ship and soon engaged in hauling slaves from Africa to England. One terrible night when he was 23 years of age, the vessel he commanded was caught in a terrible storm and became so waterlogged that it was almost impossible to steer. As he faced death through the long night, he remembered the scriptures his mother had taught him as a small child. He then surrendered his life to Jesus Christ and immediately turned away from his wicked life. Shortly thereafter he met George Whitefield, the great evangelist and

fiery preacher, and also John and Charles Wesley. Through their influence he entered college and studied for the ministry. He became a preacher of the gospel who preached even when he was so old and his

eyes so poor that he could no longer read his text. He never lost the wonder of what God had done in his life. Remembering his sinful past, he was moved to pen these words: Amazing grace, how

sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind, but now I see. This hymn, which has become a classic in all the world, was written by John Newton. Until his last days, he would often refer to himself as the old African blasphemer. Now a great example of the saving grace of Christ, he ministered widely and effectively and tirelessly in the service of the Savior. At 82 years of age, he laid down his mortal body and went to be with his Lord he so dearly loved.

When we think of John Newton, we are made also to think of Paul's declaration to Timothy. "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came to save sinners, of whom I am chief". (I Timothy 1:15). Isn't it comforting to know that no matter how bad we have been God's grace is greater than all our sins. Let us come to him and find His forgiveness and cleansing.



### Listen & Learn

In our fast-paced world it may be that we listen less, but perhaps we listen in different ways: tele-conferences instead of visits, text-messages instead of phone conversations, MP3 players instead of concerts. In any case, we can always listen more, especially to age-old wisdom, to worthwhile social mores, and to solid spiritual principles. Proverbs 4:13 instructs, "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." We must choose carefully those to whom we listen and not assume that we ourselves always have the answers. We can find instruction in numerous ways. One sure place to find it is in your local church or synagogue. Listen and learn about your Heavenly Father as you worship this week. He has the wisest advice.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday<br>Luke<br>19.1-10 | Monday<br>Acts<br>9.1-25 | Tuesday<br>Acts<br>9.26-43 | Wednesday<br>Acts<br>10.1-33 | Thursday<br>Acts<br>10.34-48 | Friday<br>Acts<br>11.1-18 | Saturday<br>Acts<br>11.19-30 |
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