

KANSAS CLASSIFIEDS AD NETWORK

Make Church a Part of Your Life

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"The God of the Hopeless"

By Kirk Kasson, Pastor, Congregational Church, Alma

Ezekiel 37:1-14
A desert valley littered with the last vestiges of human remains: bleached, cracking, withered bones. Some ribs, a thighbone, an anonymous skull. Thousands upon thousands are visible, or partially so, causing Ezekiel to wonder if they are the remnants of some terrible battle or a brutal plague. It must have been something so savage that any survivors felt too overwhelmed to bury the dead, or too horrific for them to stay in such a macabre setting.

"Son of Man, can these bones live?"
"Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

"Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.'"

John 11
It's about time. No, it's past time. If he'd have shown up a week ago, four days ago. Jesus could have healed our brother, Lazarus. He probably could

have even brought him back from the dead. But you don't heal a decaying corpse. Flies, maggots, and the smell, . . . It's too much to stomach.

"Open the tomb."
"But Jesus, it's been four days. There is going to be a smell."

"Lazarus, come forth!"
Easter Sunday, John 20
Friend, rabbi, savior. They killed him two days ago. Mary went to the tomb, not to see if he was there, but to finish burying him, with herbs and spices as tradition held.
"Woman," he said, "why are

you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

As I read these three stories, knowing their endings, I must ask myself, "What is the definition of hopeless?" God does not see things as man sees.

A GOD FRAME OF MIND




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Serene and assured, the elevated feeling of living in God's love, settled on God's Word...this is a God frame of mind. With a God frame of mind we may not experience stress as often because we are less likely to worry and judge and more likely to love. We require less of the people around us, and more of God. To gain a God frame of mind begin by coming to know the Creator. Meet others who live in God's love, read His Word, and come to Him in prayer and meditation. All these things are waiting for you at your house of worship.

Weekly Scripture Reading						
Psalm 30	Psalm 31	Psalm 33	Psalm 34	Psalm 40	Psalm 41	Psalm 42

Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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Sudoku Puzzle #3226-M

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	9		4				6			
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	5				7		8			
	2	9			5	6				
5			3			4			9	
	3	6		1				5		

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