

The Paden City

Messenger

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“Where is Mine Honor?”

“A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master: if then I am a father, where is mine honor?” (Malachi 1:6)

Have you ever witnessed a moment that could only be described as rude and disrespectful? OK, I suppose that all of us have been present for such a moment. (None of us have ever been rude though ... right?) Worse yet have you been present when God is the target of the disrespectful behavior. When God is being rooted out of our core societal values, when he is demoted as irrelevant, when His Word is disregarded, he cries from his throne, “where is mine honor?” Though I may not be able to change the world’s view of God I can control my conduct. Today I will do nothing to shame my Lord. Today every word and every action will show honor and respect toward my Creator. For this is the day the Lord has made, and I will use it to honor my God.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

Mark 16:15

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of “The Paden City Messenger.” This publication is brought to you by the members of the Paden City Church of Christ in an effort to share the great news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The message of the Gospel has the ability to impact our lives in ways that no other message can. We hope that this publication will help in your study of God’s Word.

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“Not this Man but Barrabas”



It has always been amazing to me how that the multitude in John 18:40 could cry for the release of Barrabas and later demand the crucifixion of Jesus. Why did Jesus suffer such rejection? Isaiah foretold of such rejection in the 53rd chapter of the book that bears his name. So what was it about Jesus to cause such rejection then and now? One fundamental and basic reason for this rejection was that Jesus simply did not meet the expectations of the people.

We find in Isaiah 53:1-3 that there was nothing physically attractive about Jesus to draw men to him. We can relate to the fact that even in our society that the most physically beautiful people are often raised to a higher level of acceptance. Jesus did not draw attention through any physical trait. Nor did Jesus draw attention to himself because of his earthly home. John 1:43-51 relates to us that some wondered how "any good thing could come from Nazareth."

Jesus' method of teaching did not meet the expectations of the people. He did not come with some elaborate plan for the salvation of man but rather brought with him a simple message. In Matthew 16:21-26 he taught men to deny themselves and take up their cross and follow him. He didn't allow them to determine within themselves how they would return to the Father but rather in John 14:6 he says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me."

There are many reasons that man has and will continue to give for his rejection of Jesus. In I Corinthians the 1st chapter we note that for the Jews the message of Jesus Christ and him crucified was a stumbling block and to the Greek foolishness. The question remains, what will I do with Jesus? Each of us must determine for ourselves whether we are willing to "deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow him."

Psalm 53 is a poetic depiction of God as he "looks down from heaven" on the "children of man" to see "if there are any who understand, who seek after God." It's been 3,000 years since David was inspired to write those words, but how little has changed! As our Creator looks down from heaven, what (or who) does he see, even today?

- The fool who says in his heart, "There is no God"
- The corrupt who do abominable iniquity
- Those who work evil
- Those who encamp against and devour others

- Those who do not call upon God
- Those who will ultimately be punished

It doesn't take long to reflect on that David laments in [Psalm 53:3](#), "They have become corrupt; there is none who

But before you walk away in complete faith in Psalm 53, be sure to meditate on the last verse

"Oh, that salvation for Israel! When God restores the fortunes of his people, let them be glad." ([Psalm 53:6](#))



“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani”

Our title comes from Mark’s record of the crucifixion of Jesus. He records the phrase and it’s interpretation in Mark 15:34. Left alone to understand “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani” would have been challenging. The description that follows also raises some questions. How or why is it that Jesus would say, “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me”? I admit that this statement, among the 7 Jesus uses while on the cross, has caused me great pause in understanding it’s meaning. Did God the Father really leave His Son? If so, in what way?

I can appreciate that Jesus brings our sins into His body as he dies upon the cross. (1 Peter 2:24) Paul taught in Romans 5 that sin caused us to become the enemy of God. In many senses sin is what separates man from our Creator. Jesus willingly bore in His body the very thing that separates man from God. I’m willing to acknowledge that Jesus may have experienced that separation causing Him to make the statement that he felt forsaken.

As I worked to understand the potential reasons behind Jesus’ statement a more important thought came to mind. Whatever the cause...whatever the meaning, I am humbled by the fact that Jesus was willing to experience it for our benefit. Among the multitude of sadness surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus we can add this moment to that list. A moment so desperate and devastating that our Savior cries out that he has been forsaken. Regardless of what Jesus meant we caused it. Our sins sent Him to the cross. Our transgressions caused Him to bare our sins in His body. Our actions left Him alone upon the cross. Let us honor a Savior who was willing to be forsaken for our benefit. Let us show our love to a Savior who was willing to be alone so that we will never have to be alone.

While so many of the children of man are choosing to walk in ways that callously ignore and blatantly dishonor the Creator, some men and women can still be described as "God's people." In the midst of this perverse storm, God's people still have reason and ability to rejoice and be glad. Why? Because they know *who* they are and *whose* they are.

It's a simple question for the day: as God looks down from heaven on the children of man, what will he see? When push comes to shove, **the only person you can control today is you.** So let's make the simple question for the day even more personal and practical: as God looks down on *you* today, will he see someone who understands? Someone who seeks after him?

(Jason Hardin via ingodsimage.com)



“Wherein Hast Thou Loved Us?”

We'd love to have you join us at any of our services. You can see our service times listed below. If you are hindered in some way from visiting us you can join us “live” via our website. We broadcast our Bible studies and sermons through our website and YouTube channel. You can also view past sermons and studies. You'll find us at padencitychurchofchrist.com or scan the barcode below with your phone.



PADEN CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Schedule of Services:

Sunday Bible Study @ 9:30am

Sunday Worship @ 10:15am

Sunday Worship @ 6:30pm

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:00pm

questions@padencitychurchofchrist.com

This publication is brought to you by the Paden City Church of Christ. All articles are written by the editor, Brian K Price, unless otherwise noted.

“The burden of the word of Jehovah to Israel by Malachi. ²I have loved you, saith Jehovah. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?”

(Malachi 1:1-2)

Can you imagine that? Those who were privileged to be considered the children of God had grown so distant from him that they even questioned his love for them. It wouldn't take us long to examine their history and see countless moments of God's love. The feelings of abandonment came at their own doing. God was where he had always been. They made the decision to move away from Him. Today, if you feel unloved or empty in your spiritual life, ask yourself a simple question, who moved? God is still where he has always been and has made himself accessible unto all of us. If you have a moment of doubt as to whether God loves you, look no further than the nail scarred hands of the only begotten of the Father (John 3:16). Don't let doubt linger to where it leads you to believe that God has left you alone. Reestablish yourself in the faith by rededicating yourself to his word (Romans 10:17). Know with certainty that God loves YOU.

“So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.”

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