

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

28 January 2007
VOLUME 7; ISSUE 04

**Floral Heights
Church of Christ
1814 Buchanan
Wichita Falls, Texas
76309
(940) 322 - 1650**

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Our Elders:

**Mike Chancellor
(322 – 6374)**
**Tom Witherspoon
(766 – 5368)**

Our Deacons:

Joe Cronin
Jim Hall
David Witherspoon

Our Evangelist:

John C. Robertson

Are they few that are Saved?

Jesus was once asked, “*Lord, are they few that are saved?*” (Luke 13:23). When one looks to the entirety of the Bible, he soon discovers that much of it is a historical record of a multitude of people’s failures. During the days of Noah, “*Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually... and Jehovah said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the ground; both man, and beast, and creeping things, and birds of the heavens; for it repents me that I have made them. But Noah found favor in the eyes of Jehovah*” (Gen. 6:5-8). God brought a worldwide flood upon the earth that “*The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth*” (Gen. 6:13). The apostle Peter tells us that during the days of Noah, God was longsuffering with the wicked people while Noah built the ark, yet they would not repent. Thereby only “*a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water*” (I Pet. 3:20). A “*few*” is not many in relation to the population of the whole earth.

Again, we find ourselves studying through the days of the kings in the books of I and II Kings and I and II Chronicles. The same scenario was repeated again and again. Wicked men and women refused God’s gracious offer to repent and turn back to Him (Jer. 8:6). The people of Israel (Hos. 5:3) and Judah (Jer. 2:23; 19:13) were “*defiled*” to the core of their being. The common people, priests, kings, and princes were defiled (Isa. 1:6). When God’s patience ran out, He sent the Assyrians as His rod of correction to destroy Israel (cf. Isa. 10:5; Hos. 11:5) and Babylon as His battleaxe to crush Judah (Jer. 51:20). Babylon and the other heathen

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors. We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please come back at your every opportunity.

Be sure to peruse our **web page** from time to time. **New post include class notes over the book of Obadiah.** There are articles, sermon outlines, books of the Bible studies, audio sermons, archives of past gospel meetings, and a private members only page. The URL is: www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

nations would not escape the judgment of God either (Jer. 25:12; 50:14). All of society was sin sick, and so the Lord destroyed them with “*grievous deaths*” (Jer. 16:3-4). Were there but a few saved from this horrid ordeal? There was indeed a “*remnant*” saved that would eventually return to Jerusalem from the captivity (Jer. 23:2-4). The word “*remnant*” is defined as “a small, remaining group of people” (AHD 1046). The small group of survivors was further filtered through the fires of purity in that they found themselves defiled upon returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the city, walls, and spirituality. Many had married foreign women and thereby sinned (Ez. 9:1ff).

By the time we get to the New Testament, Israel and Judah were occupied by foreigners; i.e., the Roman Empire. The longed-for Messiah came into the world to offer them the forgiveness of sins, yet many rejected him. Jesus taught the people saying, “*Enter ye in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it*” (Matt. 7:13-14). Man has generally hardened his heart against the commandments of God, and thereby stands condemned in sin (Matt. 13:14ff).

Where will you and I be on the other side of eternity? Will we have an entrance supplied to us into heaven? Will we be showed the bottomless pit of hell? Let us all understand that God demands the same from His followers today as He did in the OT days. The Lord demands that we seek Him with our whole being because it is the right thing to do (Hos. 6:6; Matt. 22:37), acknowledge our faults (Jer. 3:13; Hos. 5:15; I Jn. 1:9) and turn away from them (Jer. 18:8; Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30). Lastly, God desires our obedience to His laws (Hos. 8:12; Acts 2:38). How many shall have the mind to do these things? The Lord alone knows all things; however, it is apparent that a prototype has been established throughout history and that is a pattern of sin. Let us depart from the norm of history and put sin out of our lives, serving the Lord with all of our hearts. My prayer is that you and I would be recipients of the blessings of salvation.

John C. Robertson

<p>What is Sin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sin (<i>hamartia</i>) = “a failure, fault, sin... fault of judgment” (LS 41). • Sin = “to miss a mark; to be in error... to be guilty of wrong... offence, sin” (Moulton 17). • Sin = “an offense, violation, fault, or error... to violate religious or moral law” (AHD 1142). • The Bible tells us that sin is “lawlessness” (I Jn. 3:4), “unrighteousness” (I Jn. 5:17), doing those things that God has commanded us not to do (Lev. 5:17; 22:9), lust (Rom. 6:12), and exists where there is no forgiveness of sins (Rom. 6:14). 	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Sin</p> <p style="font-style: italic; margin: 10px 0 0 0;">“Behold, Jehovah’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, so that he will not hear”</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">Isaiah 59:1-2</p>	<p>What have all sinned against?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All humanity has missed the mark set by God in His laws (Rom. 3:23). We have all failed in our error and are guilty of sin. • God’s laws are precepts that he desires people to know and follow (Eccl. 12:13; Hos. 8:12). • God’s laws identify right from wrong (Rom. 4:15; 5:13; 7:7; Gal. 3:24). • God’s laws are standards or landmarks that cannot be moved by man (Hos. 5:10; Matt. 7:24ff; II Tim. 1:13).
<p>What happens when I Sin?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am drawn away from God by lust (James 1:13-15). Man is like a rubber-band being pulled in two directions. While the gospel’s draw is salvation through righteousness (cf. Jn. 6:44-45) sin to has its draw of lust and pleasure (Heb. 11:24-25). • I have erred, faltered, and violated the law of God. • I am separated from my fellowship with God and brethren (Ex. 19:21-25; 33:1-6; Lev. 18:29-30; 19:1-2; Isa. 50:1; 59:1-2; Ezek. 14:5; 18:25-28; Jn. 8:21; I Cor. 6:15; Rom. 5:21; 9:3; I Jn. 1:5-7; II Jn. 9ff). • I am subject to judgment (Jn. 5:44ff eternal ruin (Rom. 6:23). 	<p>What should my attitude toward sin be?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I ought to be ashamed of my lawless actions (Ex. 32:19-20; Isa. 3:9; Jer. 6:15; Ezek. 36:29-33; Rom. 6:20-21). • I ought to hate sin (Rom. 12:9; Eph. 4:26; Jude 1:23). • Regret (Acts 2:37-38; 8:18ff) • Sorrow (II Cor. 7:9-10). • Knowing that I have failed God through error I ought to be humbled by my sin (Ps. 51:17; Isa. 57:15; 66:2; Lk. 8:15; I Pet. 2:2). • Know that it is “against God” (Gen. 39:7-12). 	
<p>Though we sin there is hope of forgiveness through Jesus Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The apostle Paul was thankful that Jesus Christ offers a remedy to our sinful situation (Rom. 7:24-25). • Jesus came into this world to set us free from the bondage of sin and death (Jn. 8:31-32). • Man has the opportunity of being reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:20). • Justification of sins committed against God’s laws is a reality (Rom. 5:1ff). 		
<p>What should I do to be forgiven of my sins?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bible tells me that I can be initially forgiven of my sins when I obey God’s command to be baptized (cf. Rom. Acts 2:37-37; 22:16; 6:1-6; 16; I Pet. 3:20-21). • I must acknowledge that I have sinned (Jer. 3:13; Hos. 5:15; I Jn. 1:9). • Confess my sins unto the Lord and at times to other brethren (Lev. 5:5; 26:40; James 5:16; I Jn. 1:9). • Repent (Lk. 13:3; Acts 8:22; 17:30). 		