

Southeast Sower

September 2017

Volume 32, Number 9

The Southeast Church Of Christ Meets At:

- 35 Walnut Ct.
Mogadore OH 44260
- Phone: 330.628.7432

Services:

SUNDAY:

- 10AM Bible Study
- 10:50AM Worship
- 6PM Worship

WEDNESDAY

- 7:30PM Worship

God's Plan of Salvation

- Hear Rom. 10:17
- Believe Heb. 11:6
- Repent Acts 2:38
- Confess Matt. 10:32
- Be Baptized Mark 16:16
- Stay Faithful Rev.2: 10

"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (Matt. 6:24).

I SURRENDER ALL (Jordon Smith)

Greed. Envy. Selfishness. When you study any war, these are the real motives that drive nations against nations and individuals against individuals. When two parties war against one another, neither will stop until they've been defeated or are the victors. For one party, during the war or battle, it will become inevitable they will be defeated. At this point the individual or nation must decide to either continue to fight until their last breath or to surrender.

Webster defines surrender as "the act of yielding, giving up under pressure, submission to superior force, to relinquish possession of." When fighting in a physical war, some view surrendering as an act of cowardice and weakness. However, we, as Christians, do not fight a physical war so we must look at the act of surrendering differently.

We fight a spiritual war and as long as we live in opposition to God's law we are an enemy of God and our defeat is certain. James 4:4 says that those who are friends with the world make themselves enemies of God. Romans 3:23 says "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." By continuing to live in sin and being an enemy of God, you are then obviously not fighting on the Lord's side rather you are fighting on the side of the devil.

Those who have not yet obeyed the Gospel and those who have obeyed must make a decision each and every day, to either fight against the Lord and give into temptations, or surrender your self to the Lord wholly and completely. To surrender to the Lord, each and everyday, it requires courage to fight against temptations and persecutions, obedience to follow your Creator's commands, humility to show you are not stronger than the Lord and are not worthy of His mercy, and it takes wisdom, wisdom to understand the Lord is stronger, mightier than you, you will not win and although you are not deserving of His grace and mercy you know that He will grant it to you.

If you decide to surrender to the Lord, you need to know that you cannot keep anything with you. When one nation or group or individual surrenders they do not get to keep their freedom, weapons or their plans. Instead they are now completely under the rule of the one whom they surrendered to. When you surrender to the Lord, you must lay down your life, you cannot live as you once lived. Every word and deed must be done to spread His kingdom. Paul wrote to the church in Galatia, in Galatians 2:20 "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me."

What about you? Can you stand and confidently proclaim, as Paul proclaimed, that Christ lives in you, meaning you are no longer serving the lusts of the flesh, you no longer live to do your own will but now only do as the Lord wills? You have a choice to make today and everyday, will you surrender all to the Lord?

It is imperative that you to understand that your choice will have a consequence, which will last for an eternity.

THE SAYINGS OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS (Jordan Smith)

Luke 2:49

"And He said unto them, Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?"

Mark 14:36

"Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will but what You will."

1ST Corinthians 15:58

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."

Matthew 5:44-45

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven..."

In the New Testament we have seven statements recorded for us that were made by Jesus as He was on the cross. Each of the statements He made demonstrated His love for mankind and His desire to carry out the will of God the Father.

Luke records in **Luke 23:34** that Jesus said, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." During one of the most painful experiences any man can endure, Jesus showed us how we ought to treat our enemies. Remember those men and women who were mocking Him likely were part of the crowd that had previously praised Him as He journeyed into Jerusalem. Yet, as He was on the cross, it was not the feeling of betrayal or feelings of pain that were in the forefront of His mind. No, it was His love for man that prevailed. In the beginning of His ministry, on the sermon on the mount, Jesus said we are to "pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" (Matt. 5:44).

Later in chapter **23:43**, Luke recorded Jesus saying to the thief on the cross, "Today you will be with Me in Paradise." It is important to note the thief was saved before the New Law was put into place, so he would not have been required to be baptized, and Jesus, being Deity, has the power to save. Again, notice the love and forgiveness Jesus demonstrated. In Matthew's account in Matthew 27:44 it says, "even the robbers were mocking..." This is plural meaning both robbers were mocking Jesus, yet one had a change of heart. Jesus did not focus on what this robber had previously done but looked at where the robber was at the current time and saw the robber had changed and were merciful and forgiving towards him.

John 19:26-27 Jesus said, "Woman this is your son" and then speaking to the apostle John, Jesus said, "behold your mother." Jesus continued to put others before Himself. First by praying for all men, then forgiving the thief and now He focused on two of the closest people in His life while on earth. It is worth noting that when Jesus called Mary "woman" this removed any parental authority from her. Unlike our mothers, Mary did not have authority over Christ for He is Deity and she was not.

Matthew 27:46 and **Mark 15:34** it is recorded that Jesus said, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me. As Jesus' time here on earth came to a close we see a clear shift in his mentality. He is no longer focusing on mankind, but now is focused on fulfilling the final prophecies of the Old Testament.

John 19:28 Jesus said, "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, I thirst." Where would your mind be if you were hanging on the cross? Jesus demonstrated that in every moment of our lives we should be focusing on God and fulfilling His will, as Jesus was doing here again fulfilling the prophecy.

John 19:30 Jesus said, "It is finished." This statement shows us Jesus obeyed the Father's will completely and without fault. All that He came down to this earth to accomplish, He accomplished. He gave us the words that have the power to save us, if we obey, and demonstrated by through His life how we too can live a life in accordance to God's law.

Luke 23:46, Jesus' final words while on the cross, "Father into Your hands I commit My spirit." Jesus was the perfect example and perfect sacrifice for all mankind. Are you living a life that is completely devoted to the Lord? Jesus followed the Father's will in every moment of His life here on earth, and always put others before Himself.

