

Reflections

Volume 1 Issue 3

A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

April 13, 2008

Pine Street
CHURCH OF CHRIST
429 Pine Street
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ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"
8:45-9:00 AM
MAGIC 99.5 FM
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE

www.pinestreetcoc.com

Reflections is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

Do You Really Know God?

By Jeremy D. Joy

And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life in in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name

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of the Son of God" (1 John 5:11-13).

John wanted His readers to know that possessing spiritual life and, ultimately, eternal life, depend upon a relationship with the Son. There is no basis for confidence otherwise, but it is personal, not merely intellectual. Nevertheless, how do I know that I know? There are many answers in religion, but the Bible establishes some principles that will help us examine ourselves. Do you really know God?

First, we must admit our need. Do you realize your faults, failures, and conflicts with others? We need to come clean because "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). It is proof positive that we need God.



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and
contemplate Your ways.
— Psalm 119:18**

Second, we must acknowledge His solution. We do not have to rely upon our ingenuity, which created the mess in the first place. He has worked out a solution to the problem of sin through the sacrifice of His one and only Son (John 3:16).

Third, we must accept His provision. We cannot have salvation, much less a superior quality of life, unless we submit to Him. Then and only then can we become His sons (John 1:12).

Fourth, we must act upon the truth. We are active, not passive, in our salvation meaning that we must act upon the objective standard of truth, not our subjective feelings (1 John 4:6).

They Have Taken Away My Lord

By Jeremy D. Joy

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Before daybreak on the first day of the week following the crucifixion of Jesus, Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb outside of Jerusalem and immediately reported it to Peter and John. They quickly ran to the tomb to see firsthand and then returned to their homes confused and conflicted. Mary remained outside the tomb weeping when two angels appeared and said: "Woman, why are you weeping" (John 20:13a). She responded in her deep sorrow: "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him" (v 13b). She was convinced that someone had stolen the body of Jesus, perhaps the Jewish or Roman authorities. However, she was about to learn something new that would change the entire course of human history—Jesus is living!

Living in a postmodern world that denies the miraculous and supernatural, we can relate to the sentiment expressed by Mary:

"They have taken away my Lord." The true identity of Jesus is contested in religious and philosophical circles today. There are some who believe in a stripped-down version of Jesus. "They" claim that He was merely a Jewish rabbi whose followers believed that He was Deity and that the Gospels are simply legends and myths formed in the second and third centuries following His death. "They" say that he was married and fathered children and that His bloodline can be traced to people living in Europe today. "They" have taken "my" Lord!

"They" can make preposterous claims and unfounded charges about Jesus and the Gospels, but the Biblical and extra-Biblical evidence points to a resurrected Lord, not a liar or a lunatic. The apostles and other followers of Jesus welcomed close scrutiny and careful examination (Luke 1:1-4; John 20:30-31). Our faith is blind unless it is built upon a solid intellectual foundation. "They"

Pine Street News And Notes

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Terry Tallman** is being treated for a blood clot in his leg.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Crystal Shockley's** grandmother is improving.

Our Spring Gospel Meeting starts one week from today with **Vernon Teagarden**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

It is not too late to invite someone to the Gospel Meeting. There are advertisements

and letters on the stand in the foyer that you can mail to family and friends.

There will be no Training Class in the month of April. The next one will be Sunday, May 18. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:17-24.

The sermons today are: "Salvation From The Waterless Pit" (AM) and "If God Has Spoken"(PM).