

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:**

Bernice Beeson,	Euin Barrier,
Terry Cantrell,	Carl Brand,
Dickie & Joann Crouch,	Ora Cash,
Richard Faulkner,	Emily Devereaux,
Eva Lee,	Jimmy Hall,
Melvin & Ruth Messer,	Ken & Mabel Lock,
Sophia Sears,	Bobby Mills,
Linda Smith,	Earline Smith,
Joann White	Barbara Staten,
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,	Lisa Williams,
Darlene Wilson,	Geneva Wortham,

and those engaged in teaching the lost.

**If you notice someone's absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help.**

*The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat (Proverbs 13:4).*

**MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:**  
[www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com)

**PRAYER LIST UPDATES:**

**Earline Smith** had to go to the emergency room Wednesday night with food poisoning. She has felt extremely sick.

**Deanna Farr** has been sick all week with a virus.

**Bill and Mary Weston** have been sick all week with a virus.

**Paul Powers** has regained his ability to speak, but is not yet able to eat.

**OTHER NEWS:**

**YOUTH RALLY:** The Nettleton church is hosting a youth rally March 6. Details are on the bulletin board.

**2010 CHILDREN'S HOMES ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

enjoy a meal with Christians and fellow supporters and hear representatives share the successes, challenges, plans and goals of Children's Homes – and field questions about the organization. Meetings in our area are:

**Monday, March 8,** 6:30 PM at Grecian Steak House in Paragould

**Tuesday, March 9,** 6:30 PM at Ed's Country Catfish in Jonesboro

**SIX-STATE GOSPEL SINGING:** The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Southwind church singing assembly is Friday April 16 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Details are on the bulletin board and at [www.southwindcoc.com](http://www.southwindcoc.com).

**CAN YOU HELP?** The church of Christ in Woodstock, GA is trying to find a bone marrow transplant for Margaret Mason. Please go to [woodstockchurchofchrist.org](http://woodstockchurchofchrist.org) for information on how to help her.



**BE A DAILY BIBLE READER**

**Welcome**  
to the Assemblies of  
**Harrisburg**  
**Church of Christ**

P. O. Box 266  
(504 N. Brooks St)  
Harrisburg, AR 72432  
(870) 578-2965

**Sunday:**

Bible Classes 9:00  
Worship 9:45; 6:00

**Wednesday:**

Bible Classes 7:00

**Elders:**

Ray Blanchard 578-2559  
Bill Mears 578-9650  
Mark Weston 931-2790

**Evangelist:**

Al Parr 578-9154  
(Cell) 903-721-0332

**World Evangelism:**

- ◆Cape Town, S.A.
- ◆Int'l Bible Academe

**Benevolence:**

- ◆Children's Homes, Inc.;
- ◆Southern Christian Home

**★REMEMBER★**

Elders-Deacons Meeting  
rescheduled to tonight

Be a  
Daily Bible Reader



visit [www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com](http://www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com)

February 21, 2010

**A GREAT DIFFERENCE**

An English writer has said, "The early Christians did not go around saying, 'Look what the world is come to.' Rather they went out with great joy and said to all men, 'Look what has come to the world!'"

There is a great difference between these two attitudes. Yes, the world *is* in bad shape – but read the second chapter of Romans and you will find that the world was in an awful condition in Paul's time. Nearly all thoughtful men agree that man is in a terrible predicament, but the unique Gospel of Jesus Christ offers the solution to man's problems.

Look! See what has come into the world – God's revelation of Himself in all His power, wisdom, and love through Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. This is indeed glorious news! This is a message which we cannot keep to ourselves, but we must tell everybody about it. No wonder Christians are radiant with joy. They have found the treasure all men are seeking. They have seen what has come into the world in the advent of Jesus Christ, and they are working for the advancement of His kingdom until He comes again.

Author Unknown

a sad and lonely  
night ... the dawn of  
our salvation

## WORDS IN SONGS NIGHT WITH EBON PINION

The L. H. Jameson song, “Night, With Ebon Pinion” (#165 in *Songs of the Church, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Edition*), is a song that many Christians don’t sing very often. The words and imagery of the lyrics might be one reason for this omission. It needn’t be, for the song is a heart-warming reflection of the center of our faith, and the images are understandable with a little help from the dictionary.

In scanning the book for a song to sing, many will not look further through this song than the first clause of the first stanza. Four of the eight words are unfamiliar, or are used in an unfamiliar way, compared to the average person’s common vocabulary. You can’t worship God by singing words and sentences you don’t understand (I Corinthians 14:15). When this first clause is understood, however, the attention of the faithful Christian is drawn to the remainder of the song for a closer look, and that look reveals an encouraging message of faith.

A “**vale**” is simply a “valley,” and to “**brood**” over a thing is, “to hover over or protect (offspring, *etc.*) with, or as with, wings” (Webster). The image is of night hovering over the valley in an attempt to provide as much protection and comfort as possible to the One threatened there. The night hovers “**with ebon** (poetic form of the word *ebony*: black) **pinion** (wing, part of a wing or wing feather).” The poet suggests that night watches over the valley as a hen watches over her chicks. “**Christ, the man of sorrows**” is so named in Isaiah 53:3. In prayer, Jesus, “**prostrate in the garden, raised His voice to God**” with “**sweat as blood,**” according to Matthew 26:36 and Luke 22:44.

Jesus was “**smitten for offenses which were not his own**” (Isa. 53:5). It was “**for our transgressions**” that Jesus suffered that night, and that Sinless One, “**the Meek and Lowly**” (Matthew 11:29), suffered it “**alone; no friend with words to comfort, nor hand to help was there.**” All the apostles (less Judas) had accompanied their Master to the garden, and He had taken His closest companions deeper into the quiet of that peaceful place to “watch with” Him while He prayed – but they slept while He agonized over the consequences He was about to pay for our sins (Matthew 26:36-40).

The third stanza of the song is the prayer of Jesus as written in Matthew 26:39, Mark 14:36 and Luke 22:42, slightly paraphrased from a compilation of all three verses in the King James Version. Jesus would have preferred not to suffer the pain of the cross, but it was God’s will that

the price be paid for man’s salvation, and Jesus was committed to honoring and obeying the will of God.

Four statements in the song are not specifically made in the scriptures. Two may be fairly inferred from the inspired descriptions of the words and actions of Jesus, and the other two may be supposed from experience and the description of the time and place. These are the references to silence and solitude.

In the third line of the first stanza it is said that “**in tears**” Jesus “**raised His voice to God.**” In the second line of the second stanza is the observation that Jesus “**had to weep alone.**” There is no mention in the Bible that Jesus wept, or shed tears, on this occasion, but Jesus (Mark 14:34) and Matthew (Matthew 26:37) did speak of His intense sorrow. Luke (22:44) adds that He was “in an agony.” In such agony and sorrow, and in such straits as Jesus knew were upon Him, it is difficult to think of such words as He spoke in prayer being uttered without tears. Additionally, Isaiah says that He was “acquainted with grief,” and that He “hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:3-4).

The second line of the first stanza tells us that the night around Jesus was “**silent**” but for “**the night-wind’s wail.**” The Scripture speaks of neither silence nor noise, and says nothing of wind. On the other hand, Jesus “was wont” (Luke 22:39) to repair to the Mount of Olives (*cp.* Matthew 24:3; Luke 21:37; John 8:1), and the context of the reports of such suggest that He did so seeking the solace of a quiet place alone. At least compared to the bustle of the city across the Kidron Valley, the garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives was a “silent” place. In mountainous areas, where ridges and peaks are separated by frequent valleys of differing depths and running at differing angles, winds are commonly almost constant. Passing over rock formations, between the ridges and peaks, and over and between trees, the wind would result in a noise which at night might be termed a wail. Such sounds also generally drown (or at least muffle) most other sounds in the surrounding area, thus adding to the relative silence of the place. We can’t *know* that the wind was blowing on that night, but people who have spent any appreciable time in similar mountains can readily suppose that it might have been.

The “**Night, With Ebon Pinion**” was a sad and lonely night, but it brought the world to the dawn of our salvation in Him Who prayed, “**Thy will be done.**” *-Al Parr*

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*My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word*

(Psalm 119:81):

**B** **E** **A** **D** **A** **I** **L** **I** **L** **I** **B** **I** **B** **L** **E** **R** **E** **A** **D** **E** **R**

**The Stay and the Staff**  
(Isaiah 3:1)

**INTRODUCTION:**

- I. In ch. 2 Isaiah pronounced God’s doom on \_\_\_\_\_
- II. Ch. 3 is an explanation – and a warning also for the church.

**DISCUSSION:**

- I. (6-7) People want somebody else to be \_\_\_\_\_ for their trouble.
  - A. (6) One group tries to thrust the responsibility on another - “Let George do it”
  - B. (7) “George” refuses to accept the responsibility - “It’s not my \_\_\_\_\_”
    - 1. II Cor. 5:10 - YOU are responsible for your \_\_\_\_\_.
- II. The effect of sin doesn’t always wait for judgment day.
  - A. (8) Even God’s chosen people are punished for the sin of their \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 1. Many even in the church will \_\_\_\_\_ to reach heaven - Mat. 13:41-42; 49-50
    - 2. Jesus provided for earthly discipline of the disobedient - I Cor. \_\_\_\_:13
  - B. (9) Proud of their sin, they do not hide it from their faces.
  - C. (12-13) The people get the \_\_\_\_\_ they deserve.
    - 1. (14-15) because the old leaders who knew better didn’t DO

- better.
- 2. (16) women become \_\_\_\_\_
- D. (17-24) corruption brings destruction
  - 1. (25) the warriors fall
  - 2. (26) the city is conquered
- III. The principle applies to us today.
  - A. Those who know the truth must \_\_\_\_\_ it
    - 1. Jude 3; Eph. 6:4
    - 2. \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth are the stay and the staff of righteousness in this city.
  - B. If those who know the truth don’t defend it, \_\_\_\_\_ are lost.
    - 1. I Tim. 1:19
    - 2. II Thess. 3:6
    - 3. Defenders of the truth are the stay and staff of the \_\_\_\_\_ today.
  - C. A church that doesn’t demand sound doctrine from it’s pulpit and classrooms will starve to death on a spiritual diet that cannot nurture them.
    - 1. Heb. 5:12 - they didn’t \_\_\_\_\_, and now they can’t \_\_\_\_\_ others
    - 2. II Tim. 4:1-4
    - 3. Defense of the truth is the stay and the staff of your \_\_\_\_\_.

**CONCLUSION:** The destruction of Jerusalem was a terrible tragedy - yet such destruction will come upon all who don’t know and follow the word of God.

**THE RECORD SPEAKS** (week of 2-14):

Sunday Bible Class .....	77
Sunday AM Worship .....	91
Sunday PM Worship .....	nc
Contribution .....	\$2,214
Wednesday PM Bible Class .....	54

**WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?**

**Next Week’s Lessons:**

**AM:** Drawing Circles

**PM:** “Taking the Precious From the Vile”

**STARVING TO DEATH**

Bill Dillon

Some birds can go nine days without food; some dogs twenty days, and some turtles five hundred days! For man, about four weeks is the limit. Sooner or later nourishment is necessary for all God’s creatures.

If physical food is an essential to sustaining physical life, so is spiritual food to maintaining spiritual life. The Bible is the food we need for the soul but how often do we eat of it?! How can we grow without eating spiritual food? Many Christians are starving to death, not because food isn’t available but simply because they are neglecting to eat it. A Bible on the shelf gathering dust is of no more value than food in the refrigerator that’s not consumed. So, don’t be a bird-Christian or a dog-Christian and go for days and days without eating. Feed on the Word everyday! Take advantage of every occasion to learn of God’s wonderful truth. ☞

**THE CHURCH IS NOT**

Andrew Connally

The church is not made up of people who believe they are better than others – but rather of those who believe they ought to be better than they are.

The church is not made up of perfect people – but of people who follow a perfect Lord and realize they ought to do the best they can.

The church is not made up of people who never make mistakes – but of those who acknowledge their mistakes and try not to make the same ones again.

The church is not trying to withdraw from everyone – but rather to bring everyone into its fellowship and love.

The church is not trying to set up arbitrary rules to hinder anyone – but to show how following the rule of Christ helps us all

The church is not trying to take the joy out of life – but to put real joy into life.

The church is not trying to make you feel ugly – but trying to instill the beauty of holiness in your life.

The church is not trying to separate you from your money – but trying to keep your money from separating you from God. ☞

*I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

- Jesus  
(Matthew 16:18, 24)