

# THE FOREST HILL NEWS

Published weekly by the Forest Hill church of Christ

*Visit our Website at [www.foresthillchurch.org](http://www.foresthillchurch.org)*

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Matthew L. Martin, Associate  
Douglas Alvarenga, Hispanic

## **VISIT US SOON!**

### **Sunday:**

Bible Study..... 9:30 A.M.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 A.M.  
Evening Worship..... 6:00 P.M.

### **Wednesday:**

Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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In Search of the Lord's Way  
Kakinada, India  
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Truth for the World

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## **THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD (Part Two)**

Barry M. Grider

### **Why Man Needs A Savior?**

Why is it so important that man have a savior? If he does not understand the nature of sin, he will not see his need for a savior. A man cannot be saved until he first realizes he is lost. Sin causes an individual to be lost, because sin separates man from God.

Behold, the Lord'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, that he will not hear (Isa. 59:1,2).

What is sin? "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Since God "formeth the spirit of man within him" (Zech. 12:1), a child is born pure and innocent in the sight of God. However, all responsible humanity has sinned (Rom. 3:23). The penalty for sin is always the same – death (Ezek. 18:20; Rom. 6:23).

When God made man in the beginning of time, man was perfect in every way. The first couple enjoyed a marvelous companionship with each other and with their maker. At that time man had no need for a savior. However, when Satan entered the scene in Genesis 3, he tempted Eve through the three avenues he always uses to tempt mankind – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (I John 2:16). Adam and Eve were free moral agents who chose the lie of the Devil over the truth of God (Gen. 3:6). Now God had stated concerning the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). Did God mean what he said? One reads Genesis 5, and though some individuals lived beyond 900 years of age, the text still reveals they all died. While one is not born in sin, all suffer the consequences of sin, which is death (Rom. 5:12).

After man sinned in the garden, there was nothing he could do, in and of himself, whereby he could be saved. He needed a Savior. Though physical death must be faced by all (Heb. 9:27), God did provide a way whereby man's soul can be spared. Speaking to Satan, God said, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15). This is a messianic promise found very early in the Genesis account. While God would have been just in condemning man's soul, his mercy overwhelmed his justice (James 2:13) and he sent his son, which is a reflection of his marvelous grace. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound" (Rom. 5:20).

### **Why is Jesus Qualified To Be Man's Savior?**

Man needs a savior, but why Jesus? Since God never set aside his justice, it

was imperative that a perfect sacrifice be offered as atonement for man's sins. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins (Heb. 10:4). The blood of Christ could do so. How?

First, Jesus is qualified to be man's Savior, because of who he is. He is the God-man.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8).

Unlike the heathen who go seeking after their imagined gods, the true God of heaven came seeking for us.

For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:6-8).

On the cross, God is pictured dying for man. What man could not do for himself, Jesus did it for him.

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said, I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me) to do thy will, O God (Heb. 10:5-7).

Why did Jesus have a body? In order to accomplish man's salvation, he had to suffer as a man, endure temptation as a man, and die as a man.

(continued next week)

## FROM OUR FRIENDS AT APOLOGETICS PRESS

We would like to bring to your attention a new book published by Apologetics Press. It is titled, *Truth Be Told*, and is written by Kyle Butt and Eric Lyons. These two authors have sifted through several popular, secular science textbooks and identified the most often used alleged proofs of evolution. *Truth Be Told* is a refutation of these evolutionary ideas. It is written on a middle school level (5th—8th grades). For more information log on to the AP Website at [www.ApologeticsPress.org](http://www.ApologeticsPress.org) or call them at 1-800-234-8558.



**“IT WAS COLD, AND IT WAS SHORT,  
BUT IT WAS FUN.”**

Matthew Martin

That seemed to be the general consensus among the Forest Hill Fall retreaters: cold and short but fun. We headed out on Friday, October 21. We were scheduled to meet at the church building at 5:00, eat, leave by 6:00, arrive by 7:30, unpack, have a devotional at 8:30 and have free time at 9:00. Of course, if you follow youth activities at Forest Hill, you know that scheduling is not one of our strong points. We ended up leaving at 7:30, arriving at 9:30, delaying our 8:30 devo to the next afternoon, and getting to bed at around 2:00 am. All with nary a complaint to be heard.

Keith and I worked together on creating a theme that was a little more general than in years past, but no less relevant. The idea “Challenges to Overcome” came to our minds, as it allowed our speakers to tackle issues that were very distinct: peer pressure, morality, respect, encouragement, and heaven.

Due to conflicts, Ryan Manning was not able to come and speak on morality, but since we arrived later than planned, the Friday night sermon was moved to fill his spot on Saturday afternoon. Coty Pate, one of our young people, spoke on “Overcoming Peer Pressure.” It took great courage for him to step up and speak in front of his friends, but he did a very good job.

Earlier, on Saturday morning, Bud Morefield, a second-year student at MSOP, spoke on “Overcoming a Lack of Respect.” It was a great sermon that used every letter in the word r-e-s-p-e-c-t.

Saturday night ended with the traditional “camp-fire devo” and another preaching student giving the sermon. “Overcoming a Lack of Encouragement” was the topic discussed. There was no one more qualified to speak on the subject than everyone's favorite optimist, Art Wilson.

On Sunday, the young people had morning worship before heading back to Memphis. The final sermon was presented by John Manning, one of our youth, as well as the son of a second year MSOP student, the brother of a first year student, and the brother of a recent graduate. John more than lived up to the family reputation as he preached on “Heaven: The Place for Those Who Overcome.”

According to the sign at the campsite, checkout was supposed to be at 11:00. But, you know us, we loaded up and left at about 1:30. All in all, I would say we had a good weekend retreat. We look forward to next year, and a trip to Chickasaw State Park in Tennessee!

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