



Pastor David's Weekly Devotional

The underground caves, under Caiaphas' house, were rediscovered in 1889 and – because they fit the description and location of the fourth century Jewish tradition – some scholars believe it was the “prison” (pit or dungeon) where Jesus was kept while awaiting His sentencing. The “sacred pit” consisted of a small area, hewn out of bedrock, about 15 by 15 square feet and about 20 feet deep. No windows. No doors. No light. The only way in or out was to be lowered by rope, tied around their shoulders and chest, lowering them in through a small hole in the ceiling of the pit.

It is believed that Jesus may have spent the hours before His Roman trials, and eventual crucifixion, in this lonely, dark, damp, and undoubtedly cold dungeon. Remember, Jesus was arrested around midnight – He had not slept or eaten. By this point Jesus had already been betrayed, arrested, denied, interrogated, tortured, mocked, slandered, spat upon, lied about, punched, bound and beaten. Before Him was even more slander, interrogation, accusations and persecution – scourging, crown of thorns, purple robe, and crucifixion. While He awaited His final sentencing, and eventually crucifixion, He may have been lowered into a pit where He would have remained for hours.

Some scholars believe that Psalm 88, a song written by Ethan the Ezrachite, is a Messianic Psalm – that is, a Psalm prophesying about or relating to the work and person of Christ – alluding to the anguish Jesus suffered while in the pit. Andrew Bonar titled this Psalm, “The Sorrowful days and nights of the Man of Sorrows.” Luther stated that this Psalm “is a prayer, as in the person of Christ and of all the saints.” Bishop Horne said, “We have in this Psalm the voice of our suffering Redeemer.” Augustine said, “the Passion of our Lord is here prophesied...Let us therefore now hear the voice of Christ singing before us in prophecy.”

“O Lord, God of my salvation; I cry out day and night before you. ²Let my prayer come before you; incline your ear to my cry! ³For my soul is full of troubles, and my life draws near to Sheol. ⁴I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am a man who has no strength, ⁵like one set loose among the dead, like the slain that lie in the grave, like those whom you remember no more, for they are cut off from your hand. ⁶You have put me in the depths of the pit, in the regions dark and deep. ⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and you overwhelm me with all your waves. ⁸You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape; ⁹my eye grows dim through sorrow. Every day I call upon you, O Lord; I spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? ¹¹Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? ¹²Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness? ¹³But I, O Lord, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴O Lord, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me? ¹⁵Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless. ¹⁶Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me. ¹⁷They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. ¹⁸You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.” (Psalm 88)

Whether this Psalm is Messianic or not, one thing is for sure: Jesus suffered unspeakable emotional, spiritual, mental and physical torment for us – in our place (see Isaiah 53:3-6; 2Cor.5:21; Gal.3:13). Another sobering, yet glorious, reminder of what Jesus endured as our Suffering Savior.

Together in and for Christ,
Pastor David

Scripture Readings for the Week (Monday – Sunday ~ Week #13):

Genesis 48-50; 1 Samuel 11-15; Psalm 36-38; Job 25-26; Jeremiah 1-6; Mark 5-6; 1 Corinthians 9-10

Recommended Reading:

“Christ Crucified” by Stephen Charnock

Please join us for prayer on Sunday mornings at 8:00am in Pastor David's office

Calendar of
Events:

March 30
Good Friday
Service
April 1
Easter
April 4
The Sanctuary Play
Group
April 8
VBS Planning Mtg
April 14
Men's Breakfast

Looking Ahead....

Men's Retreat
May 4-6
Youth Garage Sale
May 26
Family Camp
June 28-July 1st

For prayer requests,
email Amy Woodruff
at prayer@sbcnb.org
or call 541-404-0547

We're on the Web!
See us at:
sbcnb.org

Growth & Study.....

Men's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God" by D.A. Carson
***Begins April 2nd**
w/Jeff Etzel

Wednesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Jesus Among Secular Gods"
***Begins April 18th**
w/Pastor David
8:15-9:30pm "Zechariah"
w/Pastor Josh

Thursdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Galatians ~ No Other Gospel"
w/Pastor Tim

Fridays ~

6:30-7:30am "The Christian Walk"
***Begins April 6th**
w/Pastor David

Adult Group Studies

Sundays ~

6:30-7:30pm "The Lord's Prayer"
At the Woodruff's Home (541-756-3311)

Young Adults

Thursdays ~

7:00-9:00pm At Skyline
w/Pastor Tim 541-756-3311

Women's Group Studies

Mondays ~

6:30pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Renee Middleton (541-297-2500)

Tuesdays ~

6:30-7:30am "Not By Sight"
w/Loy Huntzinger (360-607-0022)
8:30am "Isaiah, the Lord Saves"
w/Beth Wallstrom (541-404-0112)
9:00am "Live Out His Love"
w/Lois-Elaine Rencehausen (541-267-3106)
1:00-2:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)
7:00-8:15pm "Romans"
w/Barb Young (541-404-6242)

Wednesdays ~

9:00-10:30am "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)
10:00am "A Woman of Wisdom, Proverbs"
w/Jeanette Murphy (541-266-7575)
6:30-8:00pm "Ephesians, Philippians and Colossians"
w/Amy Woodruff (541-404-0547)

Connect & Encourage.....

Good Friday Service & Communion ~ March 30th, 7:00pm

Join us for this special service and communion as we remember the sacrifice of our Savior.

Easter Breakfast & Services ~ April 1st, 7:00am

Join family & friends for breakfast and to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

VBS Planning Meeting ~ April 8th, Noon

For those participating in VBS or anyone who wants to help us get ready for this exciting week! Light refreshments provided. Call or text Loy at 360-607-0022 if you have any questions. You may also email Loy @ loy@sbcnb.org.

Men's Retreat ~ May 4th to 6th

Register now for a great weekend of growth and fellowship at our Men's Retreat from May 4th to 6th. Our speaker is Doug Hazen from WorldVenture. Register online at www.sbcnb.org, or grab a brochure off the News & Events bulletin board in the church foyer.

Youth Garage Sale ~ May 26th

We will start accepting clean, reusable donation items on April 2nd for our May 26th fundraiser garage sale. Students are raising funds to attend Worldview Academy in July.

Children's Ministries.....

Save the date:

June 25 – 28 9am to Noon

Vacation Bible School

Open to children 3 years old (potty-trained) through 5th Grade

July 30 - August 3

Big G Summer Camp

Open to students entering 4th through 9th grade.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers (this is our greatest area of need)
- 2nd Service Nursery Helpers (once a month)
- 1st & 2nd grade Sunday School Teacher (twice a month during second service)
- Awana helpers (Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8 pm – Summers off)
- Vacation Bible School Pre-School Director and Co-Director and leaders and helpers for other areas of VBS.

See Loy for more information. Training available.

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Youth Ministries.....

Youth Group ~

High School youth group ~ Sunday nights 6 to 8pm.

Junior High youth group ~ Wednesday nights 6:30 to 8pm.