

Anchor Of The Soul  
P.O. Box 401  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

# Anchor Of The Soul

Hebrews 6:19

June 2007

## “I Count All Things But Loss”

By Casey Head

We all know that Paul was an amazing Christian with a firm resolve to accomplish the will of God. The sacrifices he made for the kingdom of Christ and his general attitude towards hardship often inspire us to grow closer to the Lord ourselves. One passage that stands out to me as we consider Paul's example is Philippians 3:7-8, which says, “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them dung, that I may win Christ.” How can we possess this very same attitude?

Because we live in a physical world, it can be hard to focus on the spiritual things of God. When you tell someone that they have to put God before money, they laugh (Lk. 18:18-25). When you tell someone that they can no longer act on every carnal impulse, they cringe (Rom. 8:6-8). When you tell someone that they have to love God even more than their own family, they grow angry and bitter (Mt. 10:37). But these are sacrifices that Christians must make...willingly. After all, Christ left heaven to die for our sins! Not His sins, but OUR sins! Shouldn't we *want* to put Him first?

Those things that the world views as important should be willingly forsaken by those desiring to belong to Christ. I'm afraid that many Christians, although willing to call Jesus “Savior,” are unwilling to make Him “Lord” of their life. But He is both (Lk. 2:11). We cannot accept the blessings He offers without humbling ourselves under His great and perfect authority (Mt. 28:18).

What about you? Are you willing to “count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ?” It's really not too much to ask when you consider what He did for you. Make the decision to give your life *fully* to Christ before it is too late.

## Sexual Purity

By Byron Smith

Those who are morally conscientious recognize the need to be sexually pure, whereas those who are indifferent to moral propriety have little concern for such purity. Perhaps it is unlikely that I will awaken any interest in the souls of the latter, but those who have not abandoned their moral integrity will do well to remember that God calls upon His people to be pure in action as well as in thought. He accepts no less.

Sexual impurity is widespread in our society. We are constantly bombarded with sexual exploitations, whether in movies, music or raunchy tabloids. Statistics show a heightened degree of promiscuity. Among our youth there are a rising number of individuals who are engaging in acts that God has reserved for marriage. Even among our adult population immorality is rampant. Couples are living together without being lawfully married. Marriages are shattered by adulterous affairs of one or both partners. Not only are fornication and adultery prevalent, but the deplorable sin of homosexuality is becoming more accepted by modern society. If ever there was a time for preachers to be preaching against immorality, now is the time and America is the place. God's prophet Jeremiah said long ago, "For the land is full of adulterers..." (Jer. 23:10) This description rings true of our country. Obviously, immorality is nothing new but it is ever an issue that deserves our concern.

As we seek after moral purity, what should our standard be? Certainly, we cannot trust the world as our standard. The world is tolerant of most anything. While our goal is to do better than the world, we must be careful not to fall short of **God's high standard**. Such a vast gulf exists between the world's standard and God's standard that we might conveniently fall somewhere between the two and be found unacceptable to God. We must understand and accept that we can attain moral purity only by accepting the boundaries of sexual union that God has defined and regulated in His word- between a man and a woman who are lawfully married (Heb. 13:4). This is an absolute standard of moral (This article is continued on the next page...)

Is there anything that we can do for you?

Fill out the form below and mail it to:

**"Anchor Of The Soul"**

**P.O. Box 401**

**Spruce Pine, NC 28777**

**Check any of the following FREE Bible study offers that interest you.**

1. Home Bible study \_\_\_\_\_  
-Choose a day: M T W Th F S  
-Choose a time: AM PM
2. Correspondence Course \_\_\_\_\_
3. Bible Tract/Material \_\_\_\_\_  
-Subject: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Audio Bible Study \_\_\_\_\_ Calvinism \_\_\_\_\_
5. Sermon Cds \_\_\_\_\_  
-Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

**In order for you to receive the material that you have requested, please provide a way for us to contact you.  
Thanks!**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Salvation Essentials (No. 5)

By Sonny Smith

Salvation involves more than believing, repenting, confessing and being baptized. It involves a lifetime of service to the Lord (Rev. 2:10). It's not just a Sunday thing; it involves a *daily* commitment to learning God's word, living a life that is pure and clean and setting a good example for others. Paul sums it up this way in Romans 12:1, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

If somehow you've convinced yourself that you can omit these things that I have mentioned and still make it to heaven, then you better begin to study the word of God. "Once in grace, always in grace" is a doctrine of the devil and rotten to the core.

The first lie ever told and the first false doctrine ever put forth by the devil was "once in grace, always in grace." God had told Adam that "of 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) Later, the serpent told Eve "ye shall not surely die." (Gen. 3:4) The question is, who told the truth? The answer is obvious. But Adam and Eve did not die physically the day they ate of the tree, so what is the conclusion? They died spiritually! They were separated from the garden of Eden and from fellowship with God because of their sin.

Consider a few New Testament passages to further this point. Hebrews 3:12 says, "Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." Paul tells Christians in Galatians 5:4, "Whosoever of you who are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace." If you struggle with this issue, please consider the following passages- 2 Pet. 2:20-21; 1 Cor. 9:27, 10:12; Ac. 8:18-24; Rom. 11:22; Heb. 6:4-9, 10:26-39; Jam. 5:19-20; Rev. 3:5.

Who are you going to believe- God or the false teachers of our modern age? The "once in grace, always in grace" doctrine was first taught by the devil in the garden of Eden. Let us recognize its error.

Is being faithful unto death essential to salvation? Absolutely!

THE "BIBLE READING SCHEDULE" HAS BEEN  
POSTPONED UNTIL JULY DUE TO A LACK OF SPACE  
IN THIS ISSUE. UNTIL THEN, REVIEW GENESIS IN THE  
MORNING AND ACTS IN THE EVENING.

purity that is binding and relevant today as when first uttered by Bible writers. Yes, the moral lights of America have grown dim. This emphasizes the need for Christian people to keep their moral light brightly aglow.

Much more needs to be said about sexual purity. We cordially invite you to hear a two lesson series on this subject on June 10, 2007. These lessons will be forthright and plain, yet not vulgar or crude. They will be a simple presentation of what the scriptures teach about this relevant subject. You will want your spouse to hear these lessons. Come be with us.

### The Spruce Pine church of Christ

Invites you to hear a lesson on...

#### "Sexual Purity"

By Byron Smith

June 10, 2007  
11:00am & 6:30pm

Byron will discuss the following points...

- The sexual relationship was created by God
- The sin of sexual impurity
- What is our standard?
- What are the consequences of sexual impurity?
- Foolishness that intensifies our struggle with purity.
- Developing a plan of action for attaining *or* *regaining* sexual purity.

For more information, contact us...

By phone at (828)467-1463 *or*

By email at [NCbiblequestions@yahoo.com](mailto:NCbiblequestions@yahoo.com)

*We sincerely hope that you will join us for this important study of God's word!*

## Jesus' Relationship To The Scriptures

By Andy Mitchell

Many who profess Christ do not recognize the importance He placed on the scriptures. If you happen to think that the way of Christ requires less reliance on the scriptures, please reconsider! If you truly want to follow Christ, NEVER make appeals based on traditions, emotions, or religious leaders, but ALWAYS on the scriptures alone. Observe His relationship to the scriptures...

**Jesus is described as the "Word."** (Jn. 1:1, 14, 1 Jn. 1:1)

**Jesus fulfilled the scriptures.** He Himself said, "Search the scriptures...and they are they which testify of Me." (Jn. 5:39)

**He believed them.** He believed that the stories in the scriptures were historically true, because He appealed to them: creation and the first couple (Mt. 19:1-9); Noah and the flood (Mt. 24:37-38); Jonah and the fish (Mt. 12:39-41), and many others.

**He taught that salvation comes through them.** "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." (Jn. 17:17) "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (Jn. 8:32)

**He believed they were THE authority for God's people.** Read Mt. 15:1-9 and notice Jesus' attitude towards the word. Oh, how division could be solved if we followed His example. Start today by examining yourself to see if your practice is according to the word of God. Always demand a book, chapter, and verse for everything you do.

**Jesus constantly used scripture to make His appeals.** Jesus said, "It is written" at least 16 times, and "Have ye not read?" at least five times. In Jesus' day, lip service was given to the scriptures, but in actual practice, they were neglected, ignored, misused, abused, and perverted. "Not everyone that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven." (Mt. 7:21) Are you following Christ?

Perhaps you have questions about the Bible but aren't ready for a home Bible study. Maybe the thought of a live phone conversation is overwhelming at this point. If so, send us an email to...

[NCbiblequestions@yahoo.com](mailto:NCbiblequestions@yahoo.com)

It is easy to establish email correspondence. Let us help you with your questions!

## The Time Of Your Life

By Jim Holland

We Americans lead extremely busy lives. Just taking care of the basic physical necessities of life – food, clothing, shelter – takes a large portion of our time and energy. We spend many hours working to earn money to nourish our bodies, traveling here and there to buy our clothing and take care of it, and obtaining and maintaining our shelter.

However, we still have some "spare" time, and we have the freedom to decide how to use it. In fact, we have more free time than men and women have ever had in history, and we have an overwhelming number of choices of how to spend that time. We could fill this little publication with lists of all the forms of entertainment, including sports and hobbies, available to us. We can become involved in clubs, community projects, classes, volunteer work, and many other things which can be morally good, worthwhile, and rewarding. However, I would like for you to spend just a little time and give serious thought to the nourishment of your spirit:

The Bible is the "Word of God". It is the handbook that He has given us for life on this earth and life with Him throughout eternity. When we read about the life of Jesus, Luke 2:52 tells us that Jesus grew in "wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men". These are the four essential paths for human growth to maturity. In our culture, great emphasis is given to three of these areas. We are taught how to take care of our bodies, how to develop our minds, and how to behave socially in order to become successful adults. However, if you do not include striving to be in favor with God, you are neglecting a very important, in fact the most important, part of your being.

We appeal to you to take a little of your time to study the Bible, to open your mind and heart to God's amazing instructions for man. We offer many methods for you to do this; CD's, correspondence studies, personal studies with a preacher, and of course an invitation to come worship and study with us on Sunday and Wednesday. We want nothing from you except the opportunity to share God's word with you. We promise it can be the most important way you decide to use your time.

TUNE YOUR RADIO TO 1470 WTOE EVERY  
SUNDAY FROM 7:30-8:00 AM AS CASEY HEAD  
AND ANDY MITCHELL GET *BACK TO THE BIBLE*.

### Do You Want To Subscribe?

Perhaps you are reading this newsletter while sitting in the waiting room at the hospital, or maybe you found I while waiting to have your hair cut. If you would like to subscribe to "Anchor Of The Soul" for FREE, all you have to do is fill out the form below and mail this coupon to the following address...

P.O. Box 401  
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to sign up any friends or family members? If so, write down their names and addresses and send them to the address listed above. Again, this is absolutely FREE!

## Lightning Lesson

There are many different teachings when it comes to the subject of salvation. The Calvinists say that salvation is by grace alone, and that a person must be directly called out of sin by the grace of God in order to be saved. Most "contemporary Christians" say that salvation is by grace alone *through faith alone*. Catholics argue that salvation is by works alone and that a person can earn a place in heaven by engaging in various outward acts. Each of these positions is false as salvation cannot be achieved by any *one* thing. All three (grace, faith, works) are vital:

- Salvation IS by grace (Eph. 2:5)
- Salvation IS by faith (Heb. 11:6)
- Salvation IS by works of obedience (Heb. 5:9)

God has extended His grace to us all (Tit. 2:10) and we can all benefit from the death of Christ, but we must respond in order to be saved!

You Are Invited To A

## Gospel Meeting

Hosted by the

Spruce Pine church of Christ

June 24-29, 2007

With Tim Sutton

of

Lacey's Springs, Al

### Meeting Times

**Sunday** (6/24)

10:00, 11:00 & 6:30

**Monday-Friday** (6/25-6/29)

7:30 each night

### Directions

Our building is located at 36 McHone Rd just behind the Mitchell Veterinary Clinic in Spruce Pine. If you turn onto 226 South from Hwy 19, drive past Don Smith Ford/Subaru to the top of the hill. McHone Road will be on your right. Once you turn onto McHone Road, we are the second driveway on the right. You will see the sign on the top of the hill.

To request additional information about the church...

-Call us at (828)467-1463

-Send us an email to [NCbiblequestions@yahoo.com](mailto:NCbiblequestions@yahoo.com)

-or visit us online at [www.LookingToJesus.com](http://www.LookingToJesus.com)

We hope to see you then!

We WANT to help you!

Do you or anyone you know struggle in any of the following areas? Circle any that may apply.

Marital problems

Drugs or alcohol

Gambling

Troubled teen(s)

Depression

Contemplating suicide

Anger

Pornography

Other- \_\_\_\_\_

Understand that Jesus Christ is the only true answer to these problems.

Are you ready to take that first step? If so, then cut out this coupon and mail it to P.O. Box 401, Spruce Pine, NC 28777. Or call us at (828)467-1463.

## Able To Forgive Wrongs

Matthew 6:14-15

Of all English kings, Richard seems to have been the bravest. History tells us that he was a great warrior, and because of his daring and prowess upon the battlefield he was surnamed Coeur-de-Lion, or the Lion-hearted. Like many another brave man, he was also very generous, and able to forgive wrongs. It is recorded that, when his treacherous brother John, who had tried to rob him of his crown, pleaded for mercy, he said, "I forgive him, and I hope to forget his injuries as easily as he will forget my pardon." After he had reigned about ten years, one of his French vassals, Vidomar, Viscount of Limoges, rebelled against him. Richard at once marched against him, and besieged him in his castle of Chaluz. During the siege, with his usual disregard for danger, Richard approached very near the castle walls, almost wholly unattended. Seeing this, a young man, named Bertrand de Gurdun, fitted an arrow to his bow and took aim at the King. The arrow pierced Richard's left shoulder and proved to be a fatal wound. While the king lay in his tent, the castle was taken, and Bertrand made a captive; heavily ironed, he was led to the bedside of the suffering and dying monarch. Richard looked calmly into his face and said, "Youth, I forgive you my death." Then turning to his soldiers standing by he said, "Let him go free, and give him a hundred shillings."  
-Gospel Herald

## Bible Trivia

### Match the Bible character with their occupation

- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| 1. Samuel   | Herdsmen       |
| 2. Paul     | Israel's Judge |
| 3. Nehemiah | Cupbearer      |
| 4. Amos     | Fisherman      |
| 5. Peter    | Tentmaker      |
| 6. Jesus    | Young preacher |
| 7. Timothy  | Carpenter      |

### True or False

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 8. Circumcision is a condition of salvation today. | T | F |
| 9. Jesus encountered Zacchaeus in Jericho.         | T | F |

### Challenge Question:

10. What was/is the intent of the book of Revelation? To whom was it directly addressed?

### Bible Fact:

Psalm 119 is not only the longest psalm, but also the longest chapter in the Bible (176 verses). Nearly every verse says something about God's law, His precepts or the importance of obeying His commandments.

### Answers:

1. Samuel-prophet and judge (1 Sam. 7:15); 2. Paul-tentmaker (Ac. 18:3); 3. Nehemiah-cupbearer (Neh. 1:11); 4. Amos-herdsmen (Am. 1:1); 5. Peter-fisherman (Mt. 4:18); 6. Jesus-carpenter (Mk. 6:3); 7. Timothy-young preacher (1 Tim. 1, 3, 4:12); 8. False (Gal. 5:1-4); 9. True (Lk. 19:1-2)

### Challenge Question ANSWER From May 2007:

The word "pastor" is largely misunderstood in the religious world. While many today use it in reference to preachers, the Bible uses it specifically in reference to the elders of a local church (Ac. 20:28). Pastors (also called elders, bishops and overseers) shepherd the local church (1 Pet. 5:2). Their qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. There was always a plurality of pastors in a local church; they never served alone (Ac. 14:23; 20:17; Tit. 1:5).