

New Prayer Concerns:

Kim Martin's dad has cancer and is preparing for treatment.

George Joiner's broken arm is not recovering, and he may need a bone graft.

Pam Seale Connelly, sister-in-law of Robby Dittmann's aunt, passed away unexpectedly. Please pray for the Connelly and Seale families.

Please pray as Robby Dittmann continues to seek work in Bainbridge.

Jack and Frances Zorn (Jack is the founder of "The Lads to Leaders" program) were in an auto accident with multiple vehicles and an 18 wheeler carrying fuel. Frances' injuries are life threatening. She has received in excess of 40 units of blood and has a broken back. She was not expected to make it but because of the multitude of prayers God has had mercy and spared her life. Frances had the back surgery this week and they believe it was successful, but she is still in critical condition and having problems with her lungs and in much pain. Jack has four broken ribs.

Others in our Prayers:

Pat Russell, C.E. Comerford, J.T. Aiken, Earlene Rentz, Charles Whittington, Justin Thomas, Jesse Brown, Jerry Davis, Sherry West, Robby Dittmann, Frank Faircloth, Pearson Martin, Gynell Chambliss, Missy Williams, Dale Newberry, Gertrude West, Hilda Barnett, Royce & Nada Whittington, The Hall family, Lester & Dora Gatlin.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Our church family, Our Elders and their families, Our Deacons and their families, Our Minister and his family, Our Troops, Our local Law Enforcement, Our Youth & Youth Leaders, Our children & grandchildren

March Celebrations:

7th - Don Rabon's Birthday

10th - Nora Day's Birthday

13th - Mitchell Comerford's Birthday

13th - Amy Waddell's Birthday

15th - Joe Talley's Birthday

16th - Royce Whittington's Birthday

21st - Robby Dittmann's Birthday

22nd - Benny and Ruth Hatton's Anniversary

23rd - Sherolyn West's Birthday

24th - Lindsay Waddell's Birthday

31st - Erin Mahler's Birthday

Upcoming Events:

March 4th - Wednesday Fellowship

March 15th - Sunday Fellowship

March 21st - Ladies Day

Contribution:

2/22 - \$796.00

Contacts:

Elder Royce Whittington 246-3924
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Elder Lester Gatlin 850-627-6598

Tim Mahler, Minister 850-893-0416
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Website:

bainbridgechurchofchrist.home.mchsi.com

Welcome to the Bainbridge Church of Christ

1001 Culbreth Street
Bainbridge, Ga. 39819

March 1st, 2009



Elders

Lester Gatlin
Royce Whittington

Deacons

Mitchell Comerford
Don Rabon
Chad Waddell

Minister

Tim Mahler

Services:

Sunday: 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Worship
6:00pm Worship/Youth Program
Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

If it Walks Like a Goat © 2009 Daryl Wingerd

A recent news report told about two robbery suspects who were being pursued by the police in a third-world country. When the officers rounded a corner, seconds behind the fleeing suspects, all they saw was a goat. The robbers had vanished. What the officers did next can only be explained as a product of their superstitious culture: They arrested the goat, believing it to be one of their suspects, demonically transformed in order to avoid being captured. When the article was printed, the goat was still being detained.

The only thing that would have made this story more bizarre is if the animal arrested had been a sheep! Goats, after all, are known for unrighteous behavior, but sheep are known for doing what is good.

You probably know the biblical account I am alluding to. It is found in Matthew 25:31-46, and it describes the final judgment of all people. The Lord Jesus will be seated on His glorious throne with all His angels around Him, and He will separate the sheep from the goats. The sheep will enter into eternal life, while the goats will be consigned to eternal punishment.

The most sobering aspect of this judgment is the way the Lord will separate one group from the other. He will separate them on the basis of their works.

When you stand before the Lord Jesus Christ on the day of judgment (and you will be there, along with all people), the decisive factor in determining your eternal destiny will not be a sinner's prayer you once prayed, a baptism you experienced, your membership in a local church, or even your sincere profession of faith in Jesus Christ. On that day, the Lord will place you in one category or the other—sheep or goat, bound for heaven or hell—on the basis of the way you lived your life. This aspect of the final judgment is not only explained in Matthew 25. It permeates Scripture.

Jesus once said that "an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28-29). The same truth is taught in Matthew 12:37, where a person's words are said to be the criteria. It is also found in Matthew 16:27, 2 Corinthians 5:10, Revelation 20:12-13, and Romans 2:5-11.

Are these passages teaching that salvation is by works rather than by faith? Not at all! The final judgment will not involve a cosmic scale on which good deeds are weighed against bad in order to see who scored enough points to get into heaven. Passages that speak of judgment according to deeds simply reveal the fact that on the Day of Judgment, the evidence of faith will be what the Lord examines, not merely the claim of faith.

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Raintree Village Children's Home Items

Today, please bring **body wash**.

Next Sunday, please bring **dish detergent**.

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Faith alone saves, but the proof of saving faith is its performance. What you do validates your claim to believe.

If you are having difficulty harmonizing "judgment according to works" with "salvation by grace through faith," consider the following illustration:

Let's say you have a large box containing a mix of red apples and coconuts. If you wanted to separate them into two smaller boxes, each containing only one kind of fruit, what criteria could you use? You could separate the red fruit from the brown fruit. You could separate the fruit with edible skin from the fruit with inedible skin. You could separate the fruit containing seeds from the fruit which is a seed. You could separate the smooth fruit from the fuzzy fruit. Or you could separate them by name—apples from coconuts. The point is, you could apply any one of these contrasts and still end up putting all the coconuts in one box and all the apples in the other.

The same is true with respect to the final separation of mankind. On that day the Lord will separate . . .

- * all believers from all unbelievers
- * all the justified from all the unjustified
- * all with the Holy Spirit from all without the Holy Spirit
- * all the children of God from all the children of the devil
- * all the elect from all the non-elect
- * all who were born again from all who were not born again
- * all whose names are written in the book of life from all whose names are not written in the book of life
- * all Christians from all non-Christians
- * all who practiced righteousness from all who practiced sin.

Regardless of which of the above contrasts the Lord chose to illuminate on that final day, the division of mankind would be the same. The same people would end up on His right (the "sheep") and the same on His left (the "goats"). The Bible tells us, however, that the Lord has chosen to divide mankind by examining the last contrast in the list: the contrast of behavior. Again, this is not because good behavior merits eternal life, but because the grace that saves people also changes them, making them noticeably different than everyone else—like sheep are noticeably different than goats.

So, you claim to be a sheep. That's fine, but are you walking like a sheep? Are you living in righteousness, holiness, faithfulness, and love? If not, then I hope the old saying (usually applied to ducks but also fitting for goats) will serve as a warning: If it walks like a goat . . . I'm sure you know the rest.