



HUEYTOWN

— CHURCH OF CHRIST —

January 1st, 2023

"Keeping the Faith and a Good Conscience" (1 Tim. 1:19)

Issue 1

Exciting 2023 at Hueytown Church!

"In the Beginning **GOD 'ELHOIM'** Created"

Twelve months have passed, and now we come to the House of the Lord on the first day of the week and the first day of the year 2023! Glory be to the one and only True God. ([Isaiah 45:5-12](#)). We have just completed a vigorous class curriculum where the church studied the books of Exodus and Acts.

The exodus began in pain and ended in liberation. At the time of the Exodus, an estimated 3-4 million people left Egypt, and only 2 of the original made it to the Promised Land. While it took God one night to get the people out of Egypt, it took 40 years to get Egypt out of Israel. And, as Paul would later say, these things happened to them for our instruction and example so that we would avoid making the same mistakes they did. ([1 Corinthians 10:6-13](#))

Acts picked up where Jesus left off or up, literally. As the Lord ascended to heaven, the apostles waited for the Holy Spirit to descend, and the church was established in Acts 2. It was a glorious day as the prophecies of **Moses**, the **prophets**, and the **Psalms** had been fulfilled - Jesus was born of a virgin, rejected by Israel, crucified on the cross, resurrected from the dead on the third day, and sat at the right hand of God. ([Acts 26:12-23](#)). Finally, Paul was sent to prison in Rome, where he wrote his **prison epistles**.

This year we will pick up where Exodus and Acts left off - Selected Psalms, Prison Epistles, and Apologetics.

In Exodus, God demanded that His children and the rest of the world

recognize and respect Him as the true God. This required faith and obedience from the heart and not simply going through some ritualistic motion of religiosity but true worship. The Selected Psalms dovetail perfectly because of the hymnbook:

- **Brings us Joy** - the Psalms are joyous, triumphant songs of praise.
- **Asking the critical questions - The Why of Wisdom In the Psalms, we find answers** to questions like Who am I? Why am I here? ([Psalm 8](#)) Is my life valuable? ([Psalm 139](#)) Why do good things happen to bad people? ([Psalm 73](#)) How can I be happy? ([Psalm 1](#))
- **It shows us how to worship**
- **Shows God's magnitude and power**
- **Meets us where we are** - The Psalms put into words our pain, disappointment, and depression.
- **Psalms Show Every Season of Life**

While in prison, Paul wrote a series of letters: **Ephesians**, **Philippians**, **Colossians**, and **Philemon**. We were somehow introduced to these churches and cities in the book of Acts. These letters encapsulate Paul's emotions, love, and passion for Christ, the church, and the lost world. It seems that one can conclude that Paul figured out that the greatest sacrifice was not dying for Christ but living for Him - dying for Christ

-continued on the next page

WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Worship:

9:30 AM - Sermon
10:30 AM - Bible Class
11:30 AM - Lord's Supper

Wednesday Worship:

7:00 PM - All ages

Bible Class Topics:

Selected Psalms
Prison Epistles
Apologetics
Children: Sacred Hearts

Check with deacons for workbooks

Shepherds

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Feel free to stop by the preachers' offices for Bible studies, prayers, talks, or meetings.

Reminded to Remember

It seems incredible. The greatest coming event in the history of the world, and the last great promise by Almighty God, and we have to be reminded to remember it and prepare for it! But the sad fact is that we often forget *Jesus is coming again*. Every sin I commit and every good deed about which I procrastinate is only a reminder that I have temporarily slumbered from my watchfulness.

When the disciples were troubled about the future of Jerusalem, the Lord gave them sure signs to watch for to know when the destruction was coming. Using this catastrophic judgment as His introduction, Jesus then spoke of a far greater judgment concerning all of mankind. This final judgment would have no telltale signs of its happening, for it would be swift and sudden. (Matthew 25:42-44). This illustration must have left a deep impression on Peter, John, and Paul because they emphasized it with force in their writings to their brethren (2 Peter 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:2; Revelation 3:3; 16:15).

God has given us His Word and His Plan so that we can plan for the eternal future. Failure to plan will be our fault. Many are living as if there is no eternity either in hell or heaven.

Plan Purposefully: I hereby propose to myself and God to plan my life around one goal: heaven! This plan is clearly focused in the following Scriptures, which I will read daily: Philippians 3:7-11, 20-21; Colossians 3:1-4; Titus 3:11-13; 2 Peter 3:1-14.

Prepare Prayerfully: The best-laid plans will soon become lifeless without Jesus' warning to "watch and pray." Therefore, while watching and working, I will fervently pray. These Scriptures, read daily, will remind me to "watch and pray": Mark 13:32-37; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-12; 1 Peter 4:7.

Proceed Positively: No plan can succeed without confidence in its success. I will therefore develop a positive attitude as I proceed in my quest for heaven. These Scriptures will train my conscience to think in this way: 2 Corinthians 5:1-9; Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:12; 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:28.

Pursue Persistently: "On the plains of hesitation lie the blackened bones of countless millions, who, at the dawn of victory, sat down to rest, and resting—died!" Therefore, I am determined to pursue my goal with steadfast persistence until victory is won when my Lord comes to take me home. These Scriptures will give faith and courage to press on - 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Philippians 3:12-14; 1 Timothy 6:12, 14; James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13.

My burning desire for us all is to rise triumphantly together into the air forever to be with our Father, our Savior, the Spirit, the angelic host, and all the redeemed. Watch and Pray!

would mean going to heaven and living for Him would mean continued scarves of not being in heaven.

- Colossians: Resurrection: The New Way of Life 3-4
- Philippians: The Messiah Poem - Incarnation, Life, Death, Resurrection, and Exaltation 2:6-11
- Philippians: Living for Jesus - Dying for Jesus is not the true sacrifice, but living for Jesus 1:12-26
- Philippians: Follow Jesus' Example: Do not Desire to Be Equal to God 1:27-2:30
- Ephesians: The Gospel Story (history of the Gospel) 1-3
- Ephesians: "THEREFORE - How the Gospel should affect how we live on earth: in our homes, neighborhoods, church, etc. 4-6

- Philemon: Forgiveness and Embrace (Koinonia) - The Heart of the Gospel Message

Peter's and Paul's sermons in Acts were all apologetic in nature. They set out to defend the hope in them: God is faithful, His Word is inspired, and Jesus is the risen Messiah - God in the flesh who now sits at the right hand of God. In our apologetics studies, we will focus mainly on what Jesus and the apostles focused on when they gave a defense of their hope.

The elders have a charge to ensure sound teaching and a balanced diet for the flock. Therefore, in addition to the curriculum, the preachers will adhere to preaching sermons relevant to the congregation's needs and within the scope of the elders' directions and instructions.

You must do your part in ensuring your lessons are completed at home and that your children are doing their lessons before coming to class. Help all of us to make 2023 a success!



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News and Prayer Requests

2023 Bible Classes

Workbooks for new classes are available in the auditorium. One binder will hold all class material for the year. The only class material missing is apologetics, it is still being written. Please make sure to sign up for your class.

Information/Website Line

If you are looking for a place to serve we are needing some volunteers to help with the news and information section of the website. You will receive training and it is fairly easy to do. The sign-up sheet is in the media station. Please see Ginger Sullivan for training questions.

Men Who Serve

If you are on the duty roster and are not able to cover your duty, please reach out to someone to cover for you. This will be of great help to our deacons.

Wayne Rogers

Brother Rogers continues to convalesce and suffers a great deal from his cancer. His attitude and spirits are to be admired. He is scheduled to have a scan on the 3rd of January. Please continue to pray for his health and his family.

Roger James

Roger has shown improvement to his treatments and is feeling better. He is following his doctor's orders and resting. He says he feels better and appreciates our prayers.

Wesley Quick

Mr. Quick is home from Houston, Texas and is doing better. His white blood cells are increasing. Please continue to pray for him.

Don and Carol Horne

The Horne's continue to be challenged with health issues. Please pray for Carol and Don.

Traveling

There are many of our number traveling today. **Please see where you can fill in and help serve.** Also, keep all of our church family in your prayers.

Happy New Year!

BROUGHT SAFELY TO LAND

WRITE THREE THINGS YOU LEARNED
FROM THIS LESSON

There
were
several

characters

in this chapter.
Can you draw
the scene?

NEW WORDS & VOCAB