

Vision for Eternity

Many people refuse to discuss intimate matters of life and death with anyone and decide rather to keep them private all their lives. There is a discomfort about discussing openly the subjects such as sin, death, life after death, etc. And there is in most people an understandable apprehension about manipulation from self-appointed guides (howbeit ever so sincere) who want to commandeer our lives and tell us how we should live. There are a million voices telling us what to do and how to do it, and it is certainly understandable that a person would be on his guard against this onslaught. Even among professing followers of Jesus Christ you get mixed messages. So what is a person to do in all this confusion?

I have felt the weight of this confusion on my own heart. As a young man I felt there must be an answer to life. It seemed absolutely unreasonable and unacceptable to me that my existence did not have an ultimate purpose and meaning. But when I looked out at the world of religion and the world of philosophy to find that answer to life, it all looked like a tangled knot that was impossible to unravel. I studied about various world religions; I dabbled in philosophy; I observed the world around me; and at last found myself no closer to an answer than when I first began. My situation did not improve by searching but rather grew more desperate, more lonely and more painful.

However, two things became increasingly evident to me at that time. The first thing was the fallen state of my existence. There was something wrong with it. There was something wrong with me. Deep in my heart of hearts I knew there was something that was not right about me. I was not the way I wanted to be, and my world was not the way I wanted it to be. Of this fact I was sure. Even though almost everyone around me seemed to be satisfied with the way things were, I knew they were not right. And for me to just stay busy and go on living and acting like everything was fine would be wrong. To accept things as they were would be to destroy that which was purest and best in my soul. The best part of me rebelled against the evil and sorrow that so plainly characterized my existence and the world in which I lived.

The second thing that became increasingly evident to me was my need for a personal Savior. The reason I qualify this as “a personal Savior” is because I realized my deepest need was not for “something” but for “someone.” I became convinced that an impersonal force or power could never meet the need I had for love and acceptance and fellowship. I had discovered that in all of God’s creation nothing was as fascinating and fulfilling and intriguing to me as people. My friends and my family meant more to me than anything else in the created order. And in some sense I had tried to find ultimate satisfaction in these people. But these people all had their own problems. They could not meet my deepest need. They could not even meet their own deepest needs. Even romantic love could not resolve the problem. To be sure such a relationship served as a great diversion, but it did not meet the deepest need of my soul. What I needed was a person bigger than my problem. I needed a person who was great enough and who loved me enough to fix my problem. What I needed was a “personal Savior.”

In July of 1975, I met that personal Savior. I had heard about Him all my life. I had talked about Him. I had sung about Him. I had admired Him, but on that summer day in 1975, I met Him. I met the One Person in the universe Who was bigger than my problem and Who was willing to deal with my problem. And when by faith I prayed to receive Jesus Christ into my life, I knew that the deepest longing of my life had been satisfied. I knew I was forgiven and infused with hope that was greater than even death. I knew I was connected with the very purpose for my existence.

Strangely enough, I think the biggest hindrance to my meeting Christ was all those other relationships that were so important to me. I had tried so hard to find ultimate satisfaction in them. It was not an easy matter to turn from them and to put my trust in Christ alone to meet the needs of my heart. In some sense, I felt I was betraying them but I knew I could not save them and they could not save me. The only possible hope was for me to go to the One Who could save both me and them. And when I came to Christ I found the One Who was truly greater than my sin; the One Who was able to love me to forgiveness and holiness.

Today my desire is to point others to Jesus Christ as the only One Who is able to save them from sin and the only One Who can truly give meaning and purpose to life. If anyone has a need, I welcome the chance to open the Scriptures with them to show them more of what I have learned from the Word of God. ~ Pastor Glen Johnson

Church Celebration and Picnic on Sunday, June 3

11:00 a.m. ~ 3:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome!!!!!!

11:00 A.M. Morning Worship Service Includes:

Updates & Praise From Sunday School Ministries

1300 Club Awards & Pictures

Perfect Attendance Awards

Visit From Missionary Jonathon Snow

Children's Bell Choir Presentation

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### **1:00 P.M. Baptisms in Educational Sanctuary**

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1:15 P.M. Cookout With Music on the Lawn

Door Prizes

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### **2:00 P.M. Sunday School Competitions**

Volleyball & Horseshoe

Hayrides & Activities for the Kids

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3:00 P.M. Clean Up & Dismissal



Events for Teens:

***Teen bus visitation is every Saturday at 9:30 AM unless otherwise noted.**

June 2, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Teen Bus Visitation/Lunch (Bring money for fast food lunch)

June 9, 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Teen Tract-O-Thon Fundraiser (Bring money for fast food lunch)

June 16, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Teen Bus Visitation/Lunch (Bring money for fast food lunch)

June 18 – June 23 Teens at The Wilds summer camp

June 24, 7:00 PM Camper Testimonies

June 29, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Family Bowling Tournament (Cost is approximately \$46 per family)
King Pin Bowling Lanes

June 30, 9:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Teen Bus Visitation/Lunch (Bring money for fast food lunch)

Birthday Blessings To:

Christy Johnson 6/1, Paula Frame 6/3, Adrienne Lehman 6/4, Chuck Thomas 6/4, Olivia Doyle 6/4, Andrea Prieto 6/5, Sean Taylor 6/5

Mary Trueman 6/5, Brian Pollard 6/8, Brianna Spencer 6/9, D. J. Warren 6/11, Heather Johnson 6/12, Mary Lynn Corbett 6/15

Mike Driver 6/19, Joshua Prentice 6/20, Penny Warren 6/21, Thomas Dean 6/22, Bobby Jackson 6/22, John Avery 6/26, Samuel Johnson 6/28

Anniversary Greetings To:

Paul & Sharon Trout 6/1

Tim & Brooke Lloyd 6/2

Dale & Pat Thomas 6/5

Joe & Amanda Harvey 6/5

Keith & Julie Houser 6/7

Bill & Janice Prentice 6/17

Johnnie & Mary Wallin 6/20

Rick & Rachael Brady 6/30

Congratulations on Your Graduation:

Max Alvarado