

“Back To The Bible”



APRIL 2026

FROM THE DESK OF:

GERALD B. COLLINGSWORTH, PASTOR



**Pastor and
Mrs. C**

Choices Before The Cross

Matthew 27:1-34

INTRODUCTION: There were actually 2 mock trials conducted in order to condemn Jesus. The first occurred at night and followed His arrest in The Garden of Gethsemane. However, it was illegal according to Jewish law to conduct a trial at night. In order to make everything appear legal, the Jews reconvened the following morning for the sake of going through another trial just to make everything "official." As we enter this final day in the life of Christ, we find a whirlwind of decisions being made by a variety of people who were brought into the presence of Christ.

FIRST: THE RELIGIOUS BUT LOST CHOSE MURDER.

MATTHEW 27:1-2

God has allowed these wicked men to have their way throughout the night and yet, in His grace, has given them yet another opportunity to change their minds. Perhaps some would feel disgusted and sickened from having to witness such a shameful spectacle as the mock trial. And yet when the next morning's trial began, they again made one final decision to have Him executed!

SECOND: THE BETRAYER CHOSE SUICIDE.

MATTHEW 27:3-5

Some believe from the wording ("*he saw*") in *verse 3* that Judas was present during a portion of the mock trial. He may have been leaving with money in hand when he met Jesus in the hallway, as is indicated in verse 3 where it is mentioned that he saw that he was condemned! When Judas SAW at least a portion of what was being done to Jesus, he became sickened and disgusted with what he had done and tried to return the money, hoping to soothe his conscience.

THIRD: THE SAVIOUR CHOSE TO SAY NOTHING.

MATTHEW 27:11-14

Notice the two different reactions of Christ when being questioned. When questioned by Pilate, Christ admitted that He was the King of the Jews, meaning the Messiah! When accused by the Jews, He didn't say anything! *Why not?*

Jesus answered Pilate because He was testifying as to Who He really was—and Pilate was still in a position to be saved!

When accused by the chief priest, Christ chose to remain silent because He was reverting to the Lamb of God, being led to the slaughter!

It was this paradox that caused Pilate to marvel! Christ was so compassionate with him—and so resolute and determined with His accusers.

FOURTH: THE MAJORITY CHOSE WRONG OVER RIGHT.

MATHEW 27:20-22

In their choice of Barabbas over Christ, the people of Jerusalem made an extremely bad bargain for themselves.

They chose to take part in the killing of their Messiah!

And they willingly accepted the curse that has been upon them from that day! That curse involved both the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. by Roman general, Titus as well as their present condition of spiritual blindness!

Continued



Dr. Jack Hyles

Be Soul Conscious

Psalm 126:6 says, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." I heard a wise man say that verse means, "He that goeth forth having a leaky seed basket."

He said, "In the original language, a leaky seed basket means that everywhere we go, as God's people, we ought to drop some seed."

One of my college boys said that I made a statement to him one afternoon just outside my office, one little statement. He said he never got away from it. I had just dropped a seed. He was playing football at a state university on a scholarship. He was a tremendous football player. I asked him, "Why don't you go to Bible college?" He said, "Well, I want to play football." I said, "How many folks do you intend to win to Christ playing football the rest of your life?" I said, "There are plenty of folks who play football but not many to serve God." I went on my way and forgot about it until he reminded me of it. He told me that is the reason he is at Bible college now.

Just keep dropping seed all the time. Keep your seed basket leaky everywhere you go. Now I practice it. I get in front of the mirror because I need to build up my own confidence. I get in front of the mirror and say to myself, "Are you a Christian? Are you a Christian? Are you a Christian? Are you a Christian?" I practice it so it is not so hard when I get out on the battlefield and am witnessing to folks in the world. Everywhere you go, say, "Are you a Christian?"

Now go out and ask folks who need to hear it. "Are you a Christian?" Ask them constantly, everywhere you go. "Have you been saved?"

You say, "Bro. Hyles, I get embarrassed." So do I. I spent two hours in an Atlanta hotel on Wednesday night. I got a room to get two hours of sleep so I could be a little fresher. I was in the courtesy car, and the fellow beside me said, "How do you do?"

I said, "Fine, how are you tonight?"

He said, "Well, I'm a little sleepy."

"Well, I am too."

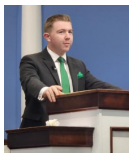
He said, "Who do you represent?" It is wonderful how Lord just opens tremendous opportunities for you!

You say, "Well, I'm sure you were happy to tell him you represent Jesus Christ."

No, I was not. I was a little timid. I wanted to say, "I'm an attorney." Really. Do you see what I mean? There is in every one of us this timidity and this fear to stand up for Christ. God helped me and I gave a quick response; if I ever stop and think, "Should I say it or not?" I won't say it. I said, "I represent Jesus Christ a preacher of the Gospel." There was a chance right there to quickly say it, and do not be ashamed. The trouble with most of us-just admit it-is that we are ashamed of Jesus Christ; but we must be soul conscious all the time.

A PASTOR WHO WAS GIVING A CHILDREN'S SERMON ON VESTMENTS ASKED, "WHY DO YOU THINK I WEAR THIS COLLAR?" A BOY CALLED OUT, "BECAUSE IT KILLS TICKS AND FLEAS UP TO 30 DAYS?"

"I STARTED JOGGING. LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE: IF YOU'RE GOING TO JOG, DON'T DO WHAT I DID. REALLY, NO, GO WITH SOMEONE WHO'S AS PATHETIC AS YOU ARE. THIS HELPS. BECAUSE MY FRIEND RUNS LIKE FIVE MILES A DAY. I SAID, 'OK, LET ME TRY. I GOT ABOUT HALF A MILE, AND I 'M DYING. AND THIS GUY, HE WON'T LET ME STOP: 'OH NO, KEEP GOING, KEEP GOING. YOU'LL GET YOUR SECOND WIND, BELIEVE ME! YOU KNOW, I FOUND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT MYSELF. I HAVE ONLY ONE WIND - AND IT'S A BREEZE.'" - RAY ROMANO



Nathan Collingsworth

Renew The Vision

Introduction: My pastor came to me not too long ago and asked me to consider having a soul-winning marathon and connect it to Friend Day. I said, "Pastor, if that's what you want, then I will get right on it."

After the marathon, Pastor asked me to give the statistics so people could see the results of much prayer, much soul winning, and much service.

Here are a few of the statistics:

7,247 tracts passed out, 342.5 hours of soul winning, 64 salvations, and 79 visitors in the church that Sunday morning. (by the way, the choir had to remain in the choir loft because there was nowhere to sit in the auditorium.)



To top it off, Pastor gave me the opportunity to preach that Sunday night.

FIFTH: THE JUDGE CHOSE POPULAR OPINION.

MATTHEW 27:24

Pilate best represents that noble, moral person who has many outstanding qualities as a human being and yet, they try to avoid making a decision about Christ!

Pilate tried time again to win the release of Christ, but each time he was denied.

He publicly stated that he found no fault in Him!

He publicly and ceremonially washed his hands of the situation, trying to remove himself from the death of an innocent man.

He even chose to risk the anger of the Jews by placing the sign "King of the Jews" over His head on the cross.

But in the end, Pontius Pilate made a decision even though he tried so hard not to make one.

And regardless of how nice a lost person is--and regardless of how many good qualities they have--every person makes a decision of either YES or anything other than yes is a decision meaning NO!

SIXTH: THE SOLDIERS CHOSE TO BE VILE WITHOUT SYMPATHY.

MATHEW 27:27-31

The cruelty of these soldiers is seen in 3 actions that they engaged in.

They mocked Him as a King! (*Matthew 27:27-31*).

They tormented Him on the cross! (*Matthew 27:33-34*).

Some think that these soldiers gave him a drink that was meant to kill the pain. And when Jesus tasted it, He refused it because He wanted to experience the full pain of the cross.

Instead of seeing the nobility in this gesture of offering vinegar, it is best to keep it in the context of what the cruel soldiers were doing. Christ wanted water--they offered Him vinegar as a trick! And when He tasted it, He refused to drink it.

They allowed themselves to be entertained by His death! (*Matthew 27:36*).

CONCLUSION: What the Bible is trying to reveal in the choices made by the various groups of people at this time is that they are various portraits of us all! There is a little bit of Judas in all of us! And within every human heart, there resides a Roman soldier who is capable of the most wicked and vile things imaginable!

Prayer of Salvation

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

If not, would you be willing to pray this prayer with me?

"Dear Jesus, I'm asking you to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I'm trusting you, Jesus, as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me. Amen." (Romans 10:9 and 10:13)



Prayer of Service

"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6)

WHEN I SEE THE NAMES OF LOVERS CARVED INTO A TREE, I DON'T FIND IT ROMANTIC. I FIND IT WEIRD HOW MANY PEOPLE TAKE KNIVES WITH THEM ON DATES.

Lest We Forget

**Special Guest Speaker
June 22-23, 2026**

Old Time Religion Conference

Monday, June 22nd—Tuesday, June 23rd, 2026

**With highly decorated marine—Don Chitty
US Marine Corps**



Sgt. Don Chitty



Don Chitty

From the Battlefield to the Mission Field

Our special speaker this year for our "Old Time Religion Conference" will be Dr. Don Chitty, missionary to the Navajo Indian Nation, the "Windtalkers."

As a young man, Don Chitty joined the United States Marine Corps. Before going to Vietnam, he trained with the Navy Seals and the Army Rangers. Promoted to Platoon Sergeant, he was sent to Vietnam and was part of the military's Black-Ops.

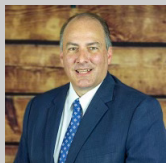
While in combat, he was wounded ten times in action. Besides ten Purple Hearts, he was awarded numerous other medals including 4 Presidential Citations and the Bronze Star.

Something to “CROW” about!

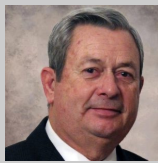
1. Heritage Baptist Church had someone saved every week for 36 years.
2. Heritage Baptist Church has not closed our Sunday School, Sunday Morning, Sunday Night, or mid-week service in 36 years—including two years of COVID.
3. Heritage Baptist Church will be hosting the 11th Annual “Old-Time Religion” Conference on June 21st, 22nd, and 23rd, 2026.



4. Scheduled Meetings in 2026.



Dr. Greg
Neal



Dr. Don
Chitty



Joseph
Collingsworth



August 2nd
Dr. Bob Gray

June 21-23, 2026

Food



Spring Program—2026
March 22nd to May 10th

HORSES



A Time For Renewal

Wow!

Games



Fun



Hayrides

Treasure Hunt

I TOOK A CHESS PLAYER ON A DATE TO AN ITALIAN RESTAURANT WITH CHECKERED TABLECLOTHS. IT TOOK HER HALF AN HOUR TO PASS THE SALT.



From our Pastor's Wife ... Mrs. Vida Collingsworth
His Love Endures ... Forever.

Luke 4:18

It does not take us long as we visit with friends and relatives, or even upon meeting perfect strangers, that behind a smiling face may be someone who is carrying a heavy, heavy heart.

Oftentimes, people look to comfort their broken hearts with alcohol and drugs. This balm may bring momentary comfort and relief, only to leave you even far more devastated.

Some may look for comfort in a relationship with a friend, family member, husband or wife. These relationships may be good and wonderful in themselves, but they are made of human, fallible flesh, and in this we can find no lasting comfort. However, there is one who never fails; one who never leaves you or forsakes you; one who understands your thoughts afar off. He is one who can bind up the broken hearted.

Do not be one who says I will lock my heart away, not to be hurt again today, but rather carry 'heart insurance', and when the heartbreaks come, go to Jesus who can and will, if you ask him, bind up our broken hearts.



John R. Rice

Why We Must Preach About Sin

Romans 3:23

The Bible doctrine of sin is a foundation teaching absolutely necessary to the understanding of other great doctrines of the Bible. "Christian Science," falsely so-called, denies the reality of the fact of sin. But that denial is neither scientific nor Christian. Sin is a scientific fact, an omnipresent, awful, damning, hellish fact, and it is the part of a fool to deny it. No wonder the Bible says, "**Fools make a mock at sin**" (*Prov. 14:9*). The gospel of Christ is simply this: "**Christ died for our SINS according to the scriptures**" and rose again (*1 Cor. 15:3*); or that "**Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners**" (*1 Tim. 1:15*). There can be no Christianity without admitting that all have sinned. So "Christian Science," so-called, is like the guinea pig which is neither pig nor guinea; or like grapes which contain neither grapes nor nuts; it is neither Christian nor scientific. Unwilling to accept the fact of sin, "Christian Science" sees no need of the atoning blood and denies it. Since it says there is no reality to sin, it thinks there is no reality to Hell and judgment. Small wonder that it places a many-times-married woman on an equal with Jesus Christ and counts her silly book the key to the Bible and really a more authoritative, later divine revelation!

Why should Jesus die if men are not sinners? Why should anyone try to save sinners if men are not sinners? And if they are only small sinners, and if they can correct and atone for their own sins, why the horrible sufferings of Jesus at Calvary?

The death of Christ was a stupid blunder, a terrible senseless crime, unless men are sinners doomed to an awful Hell just like the Bible teaches.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Heritage Baptist
Academy

Commencement

Sunday, June 14th, 7:00 PM

Precious Memories



Respect For That Which Is Holy

1 Timothy 5:17

There are some things that should be the same daily and weekly, all the time. For example, there should be a family altar in your home, always a place where the Bible is read, and prayer is offered. I mean with each member of your family. We have it at our home at night with our family. We've always had it the same way. The Bible is read and prayer is offered. One by one we pray every night. Every morning at the breakfast table we read the Bible again, read a devotional book and have prayer together.

Now, make the Bible a cornerstone of your home. Get your Bible and make it a cornerstone and keep it handy. Put it on the table where you have your meals. Pick it up and read it or have it beside your bed at night handy to read. Begin the day with God; close the day with God. Now this is routine. I'm talking about ordinary things, everyday things

that everyone should understand.

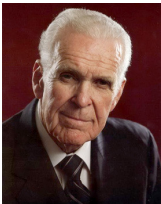
Again, we usually have prayer at the table. Now, I'm going to be honest with you. I just don't have confidence in people who walk up to a table and start eating food like hogs and never stop to thank God. Some of you are awfully quiet because you're doing that very thing. You shock me a little bit around here once in a while. I guess I deserve it. I asked the other night how many of you prayed before you went to bed, got on your knees and prayed. It was amazing to see that over half the audience wouldn't raise their hand. I tried twice and they still wouldn't raise their hands.

I couldn't believe it. I'd have a hard time believing that any one of you would dare come to the table and take of your food without first bowing your heads and thanking God for it. You see, this is routine. I'm talking about the routine things in our houses.

Again, you should have respect for the work of God. I'm not going to say all I'd like to say on this because it would take too much time. Some of you walk back home, criticize the church, the pastor, Sunday school, the choir--the whole thing, and you say, "I don't like church." Then you wonder why your children go to the Devil!

I could stand here and name not less than five families out of this church, where they have criticized and the children have gone to the Devil. They tried to blame Lee Roberson, Dr. J. R. Faulkner, Dr. Cliff Roberson. Don't blame us; blame yourself. If you want your home to stand, make up your mind that you'll never criticize God's work, nor God's men; you will never criticize the work of the church, and missions. Why? Because this is a part of it.

You see, children listen. A child twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, listens. They listen! You criticize and they lose all respect. Then you wonder why they won't come to church! You wonder why they turn away from the things of God! There must be respect for holy things.



Dr. Lee
Roberson

Some food for thought ...or...

Seed From The Silo!

PROFESSOR FIRED FOR SPEAKING AT SCHOOL BOARD

Can you imagine losing your job for speaking out against a school district's attempt to secretly push LGBTQ indoctrination on your children?

That's exactly what happened to...Professor Daniel Grossenbach. The LGBTQ army keeps trying to silence, censor and "cancel" Christians who dare speak out against LGBTQ's childhood indoctrination.

Professor Grossenbach's son attends public school in the foothills of Arizona's Santa Catalina Mountains. The school district his children attend is not affiliated with the university.

Professor Grossenbach discovered his son's school district was asking minor children to reveal their sexual preferences. Worse yet, a leaked email from the school principal revealed that the school was secretly encouraging children to "identify" as the opposite sex. The policies mandated that staff refer to students using alternative names and "gender affirming" pronouns while ordering teachers to hide this information from parents.

The school district was pushing children into irreversible chemical and surgical castration.

The school board refused to accept parents' comments on the matter, so Professor Grossenbach formed a nonprofit organization focused on educating parents about local school board policies and fundamental parental rights. He began speaking at school board meetings.

The University of Arizona then fired the professor for using his Title VII religious freedom and First Amendment free speech rights.

When Professor Grossenbach was expressing his views regarding parental rights at school board meetings, he was speaking on matters of public concern and was engaged in constitutionally protected speech, religious expression, and religious exercise regarding his faith, morality and the community.

Liberty Counsel has filed suit against the University of Arizona on behalf of Professor

What Kind Of Seed Are **You** Sowing?

Quotes by Billy Sunday to Fan Your Fire



"I believe that a long step toward public morality will have been taken when sins are called by their right names."

"The backslider likes the preaching that wouldn't hit the side of a house, while the real disciple is delighted when the truth brings him to his knees."

"The Bible will always be full of things you cannot understand, as long as you will not live according to those you can understand."

"When is a revival needed? When carelessness and unconcern keep the people asleep."

"Whenever a day comes when I can stand and preach God's Word without an agony of anxiety lest the people will not accept Christ; whenever a day comes when I can see men and women coming down the aisles without joy in my heart, I'll quit preaching."

"The church is not a dormitory for sleepers, it is an institution for workers; it is not a rest camp, it is a front line trench."

"One reason sin flourishes is that it is treated like a cream puff instead of a rattlesnake."

"Let's quit fiddling with religion and do something to bring the world to Christ."

I went to a job interview last week. I had put on my resumé that I was quick at mental arithmetic.

"What's 19 multiplied by 17?" she asked.

"Thirty-four," I said.

"That's wrong."

"But it was very quick," I replied.

MY WIFE AND I HAD AN ARGUMENT ABOUT WHOSE TURN IT WAS TO DO THE LAUNDRY. FINALLY, I THREW IN THE TOWEL.

CHILDREN HAVE A GREAT DEAL OF WILLPOWER - AND EVEN MORE WON'T POWER.

Perfect Salmon

2 to 2 1/4-lb fresh whole salmon fillet
1/2 tsp. seasoned salt (such as Lawry's)
1/2 tsp. black pepper
2 tbsp. Spiced Cranberry Sauce

1 tbsp. clementine or orange juice
2 clementines, halved and/or sliced
1/8 tsp. dried parsley
Additional Spiced Cranberry Sauce (optional)

Preheat oven to 450°. Line a shallow baking pan with foil. Place a greased wire rack in pan.

Place salmon on wire rack. Sprinkle salmon with seasoned salt and pepper. In a small bowl, whisk together 2 tablespoons cranberry sauce and the clementine juice. Brush mixture evenly over salmon.

Roast 8 minutes. (Roast 10 minutes if the salmon is thicker than 1 1/2 inches.) Preheat broiler. Add clementines to rack, cut sides up. Broil 4 to 6 inches from heat until salmon flakes easily and clementines are lightly charred, about 8 minutes. Garnish with charred clementines; serve with more Spiced Cranberry Sauce, if desired.

Our Statement of Faith

We accept the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice. **Psalm 12:6-7, 1 Peter 1:23**

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Matt. 28:19-20**
We believe in the deity of Christ— His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillennial return.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 1 Timothy 3:16, Acts 1:11

We believe that all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour. **Romans 3:23**

We believe that men are born again through faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

Acts 16:30-31, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:13, John 10:28

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world. **John 5:28-29, Luke 16:22-23, Rev. 20:11-15**

We believe that Baptist churches were the first churches of Christianity and that Jesus founded a Baptist church. **John 1:35-37, Acts 1:22**

Baptist Beliefs

Biblical Authority

Autonomy of the Local Church

Priesthood of ALL Believers

Two ordinances - Baptism & Communion

Immersed Church Membership

Soul-liberty

Two officers - Pastors and Deacons

Separation of Church and State

Baptist Heritage

- **John the Baptist**, Exalter of Christ
- **Meno Simons** (1496-1561), Dutch Anabaptist leader
- **Roger Williams** (1603-1683), Founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638.
- **John Clarke** (1609-1676) was a Baptist preacher, medical doctor, and co-founder of the colony of Rhode Island. He was a driving force to get religious freedom into the charter of Rhode Island.
- **John Bunyan** (1628-1688), Baptist preacher who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*
- **Charles Spurgeon** (1834-1892), might be the greatest Baptist pastor in England
- **John Franklyn Norris** (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship
- **Jack Frasure Hyles** (1926-2001), 10,000 baptisms per year and might be the greatest Baptist pastor

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