

How Did You Do This Week?

Did you assemble with your Brethren?

Lord's Day Morning _____

Lord's Day Evening _____

Thursday Prayer Meeting _____

Did you begin each day with Devotions?

Mon _____

Tue _____

Wed _____

Thu _____

Fri _____

Sat _____

Did you practice Daily Christianity?

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Rejoicing _____

Confessing _____

Forgiving _____

Denying _____

Committing _____

Studying _____

Praying _____

Listening _____

Obeying _____

Exhorting _____

Did you serve the Lord your God?

In Giving _____

In Helping _____

In Witnessing _____

In Participating _____

In Fellowship _____

THE KOBC MISSION

The Knotty Oak Baptist Church is an Independent Baptist Church incorporated under the laws of the state of Rhode Island for the purpose of fulfilling the plan of God for the local church as it is revealed in the New Testament. We not only believe the Bible, but also seek to properly make a deep and thorough application of each of its precepts.

As such, the Knotty Oak Baptist Church seeks to glorify God in all that it does. This includes the governing By-Laws, the corporate worship, the various ministries, the social activities, the teaching program, the church ordinances, and the property maintenance. We believe that everything we do should be done to the glory of God, with a view toward evangelism and discipleship.

Because of this, the Knotty Oak Baptist Church seeks to be informal, yet reverent in its approach to worship; thorough, yet practical in its preaching and teaching; Biblical, yet patient in its expectations for the believers. We believe that inward submission leads to outward obedience, and thus, the greater emphasis should be placed on the development of the inner man, through the Word of God.

In view of the preceding principles, the Knotty Oak Baptist Church expects every member to be participating in the plan of God for the church, to do so with the proper motive, and to grow in Christian virtue, the knowledge of the Scriptures, the grace of God, the fruit of the Spirit, and in the likeness of our Lord Jesus Christ, of, by, and through Whom are all things.

May God Be Glorified!
Pastor Chris

Word Search

The Resurrection

S N Y C F I Z U W J H T I A F
 D O S C W E E I T F D D P I G
 W I T N E S S E S E E O D A V
 N T A W H L M G V T S O E S B
 Y C W K W R R E U T J Z H L E
 T E D E C A I C L M O H S E A
 S R D T C L E E A A U Y I E M
 A R M E E S S H F J F F R P I
 E U N B R S D E W O T S E B S
 L S C E S U T J H J A F P E E
 R E P H S I O I P R E A C H R
 L R C J R I N B F D I B T N A
 D E A D C I R S A I H W I R B
 S T Q Y K J S E M L E A R I L
 L R G E G M L T X E V D M Q E

APOSTLES	GRACE	RESURRECTION
ASLEEP	LABOURED	RISEN
BELIEVED	LEAST	SINS
BESTOWED	MISERABLE	TESTIFIED
CHRIST	PERISHED	VAIN
DEAD	PERSECUTED	WITNESSES
FAITH	PREACH	IN

Personal Prayer List For The Week

Personal Requests

"Let your requests
 be made known unto God"

Salvation Requests

"My prayer to God ...
 is that they might be saved"

Leadership Requests

"I exhort therefore, that, prayers ...
 be made for all that are in authority"

Oswald Chambers

Don't Slack Off

Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do.

Am I fulfilling this ministry of the interior? There is no snare, or any danger of infatuation or pride in intercession, it is a hidden ministry that brings forth fruit whereby the Father is glorified. Am I allowing my spiritual life to be frittered away, or am I bringing it all to one centre—the Atonement of my Lord?

Is Jesus Christ more and more dominating every interest in my life? If the one central point, the great exerting influence in my life, is the Atonement of the Lord, then every phase of My life will bear fruit for Him. I must take time to realise what is the central point of power.

Do I give one minute out of sixty to concentrate upon it? “If ye abide in Me”—“ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” Am I abiding? Am I taking time to abide? What is the greatest factor of power in my life? Is it work, service, sacrifice for others, or trying to work for God?

The thing that ought to exert the greatest power in my life is the Atonement of the Lord. It is not the thing we spend the most time on that moulds us most; the greatest element is the thing that exerts most power. We must determine to be limited and concentrate our affinities.

“Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name, that will I do.” The disciple who abides in Jesus *is in* the will of God, and his apparently free choices are God's fore-ordained decrees. Does this sound mysterious? Does it sound logically contradictory and absurd? Yes, but a glorious truth to a saint.

Oswald Chambers – My Utmost For His Highest

Prayer Requests For Revival

For the Filling of the Holy Spirit

For Preaching and Teaching
that Exalts the Lord Jesus Christ
and Edifies the Believers

For the Salvation of Souls

For Protection and Provision
for the Shepherds and their Families
Serving in Rhode Island

For the Sending of Labourers

For Love and Kindness
to be Demonstrated by the
Pastors of RI toward one another

For the Training of Faithful Men

For Courage and Strength
needed to Stand for our Saviour
and Obey Him in these Difficult Times

For the Planting of Churches

For Commitment and Contentment
that is Demonstrated by a Real Willingness
to Deny Our selves and Exalt the Saviour

WATCHMAN NEE

Carefulness In Speech

In Abraham's offering up of Isaac we get a picture of a man who had been saved from himself. If Abraham had consulted his own experience when God asked him to offer up Isaac, he could never have obeyed. He would probably have reasoned after this fashion: I had no son, and the possibility of having one never occurred to me. It was God Who took the initiative in the impossible situation; and it was he who saw it through. How can He nullify His own purpose by asking me to offer up Isaac?

If anyone in a subjective state had been met with that challenge, what reasons he could have produced for not complying with God's command! But Abraham's life with God had become so simple that even such a challenge presented no problem to him. He believed God could take care of His own purpose by raising Isaac from the dead, so in simplicity of faith he placed his son on the altar and raised the knife to slay him. And at that point God told Abraham to stay his hand.

Now if Abraham had been subjective, this would have presented a new problem to him; he would doubtless have been bewildered and wondered how he could ever discern God's will if one moment He told him to do one thing and the next moment the very reverse. For Abraham all was perfectly simple and straightforward. When God gave the word to offer his son, he instantly accepted it and prepared to offer him; when God gave the word to stay his hand, he unquestionably did so.

When God asks some Christians to sacrifice this or that for His sake, they immediately think all sorts of problems relating to His word; and if in the process of time they manage to solve their problems and offer the required sacrifice, if god asks them to cease, new problems arise in their minds as to how they can consistently do so. The simplicity of God's revealed will is subjected to the complexities of their own thinking, with the result that if there is obedience at all it is tardy and laborious.

Watchman Nee – The Normal Christian Worker

Our Worship

Psalm 100:3

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalm 96:9

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth.

John 4:23

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

I Peter 2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

James 1:21

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Matthew 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Galatians 6:9

And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Charles Spurgeon

*"Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies."
Psalm 5:8*

Very bitter is the enmity of the world against the people of Christ. Men will forgive a thousand faults in others, but they will magnify the most trivial offence in the followers of Jesus. Instead of vainly regretting this, let us turn it to account, and since so many are watching for our halting, let this be a special motive for walking very carefully before God.

If we live carelessly, the world will soon see it, and with its hundred tongues, it will spread the story, exaggerated by the zeal of slander. They will shout triumphantly. "Aha! So would we have it! See how these Christians act! They are hypocrites to a man." Thus will much damage be done to the cause of Christ, and much insult offered to his name.

The cross of Christ is in itself an offence to the world; let us take heed that we add no offence of our own. It is "to the Jews a stumbling block": let us mind that we put no stumbling blocks where there are enough already. "To the Greeks it is foolishness": let us not add our folly to give point to the scorn with which the worldly wise deride the gospel.

How jealous should we be of ourselves! How rigid with our consciences! In the presence of adversaries who will misrepresent our best deeds, and impugn our motives where they cannot censure our actions, how circumspect should we be! Not only are we under surveillance, but there are more spies than we could possibly know of.

The espionage is everywhere, at home and abroad. If we fall into the enemies' hands we may sooner expect generosity from a wolf, or mercy from a fiend, than anything like patience with our infirmities from men who spice their infidelity towards God with scandals against his people. O Lord, lead us ever, lest our enemies trip us up!

Charles Spurgeon – Morning And Evening Devotions

The Believer And Money

Hebrews 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

I Timothy 6:9

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Luke 16:10

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Acts 20:35

How that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Matthew 22:21

Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

I Corinthians 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Matthew 10:7-8

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

II Corinthians 8:5

And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

Mark 8:36-37

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Principles of Prayer

Praying With Character

We pray feebly because we live feebly. The stream of prayer cannot rise higher than the fountain of living. The force of the inner chamber is made up of the energy that flows from the confluent streams of living. And the weakness of living grows out of the shallowness and shoddiness of character.

Feebleness of living reflects its debility and languor in the praying hours. We simply cannot talk to God, strongly, intimately, and confidently unless we are living for Him, faithfully and truly. The prayer-closet cannot become sanctified unto God, when the life is alien to His precepts and purpose.

We must learn this lesson well — that righteous character and Christlike conduct give us a peculiar and preferential standing in prayer before God. His holy Word gives special emphasis to the part conduct has in imparting value to our praying when it declares: *“Then shalt thou call and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am; if thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth the finger, and speaking vanity.”*

The wickedness of Israel and their heinous practices were definitely cited by Isaiah, as the reason why God would turn His ears away from their prayers: “And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.”

The same sad truth was declared by the Lord through the mouth of Jeremiah: *“Therefore, pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto Me for their trouble.”* Here, it is plainly stated, that unholy conduct is a bar to successful praying, just as it is clearly intimated that, in order to have full access to God in prayer, there must be a total abandonment of conscious and premeditated sin.

Edward McKendree Bounds - The Necessity Of Prayer

April 7 through April 13

1 Corinthians 15:9-19

9. For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10. But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 11. Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

12. Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? 13. But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: 14. And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

15. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: 17. And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. 18. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The Resurrection An Established Fact

The only reason that one would deny the *possibility* of the Resurrection is on the philosophical grounds of what is called Naturalism. Naturalism asserts that the universe is all there is; everything operates by natural law. One of the most influential Naturalists was a man by the name of David Hume. Hume taught that “a miracle by definition is a violation of the laws of nature; therefore, the wise man should never believe in miracles.” There does not appear to be anything one can do to convince the Naturalist of the historical factuality of the Resurrection, since the naturalist already has his mind made up. However, for those that believe in the existence of a Supernatural God (*Theism*), establishing the actuality of the Resurrection is an accomplishable task; in fact, Christians have been doing it for centuries. There are many lines of evidence to be offered to the rational person willing to be convinced with reasonable proofs.

First, there is the reliability of the Gospel accounts with regard to their verifiable literary content. Many scholars have subjected the Gospels to the same standards applied to other ancient documents, and in virtually every standard, the Gospels more than meet the test of trustworthiness. The very purpose of the Gospels is to educate the reader concerning the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. **Second**, there is the dramatic (an understatement!) change in the followers of Christ immediately following the Resurrection. There can be no accounting for this unless one accepts that the appearance of the Risen Christ gave assurance and confidence to the disciples as to the reality of Christ's claims. **Third**, there is the undeniable love, joy, and peace that becomes a wonderful characteristic of those whose lives are indwelt and influenced by the Risen Christ himself. As someone said, “the radiant, loving, dynamic lifestyle of the followers of Christ may be the most powerful proof of the empty tomb.”

Pastor Chris

Daily Application Monday

1. Summarize I Corinthians 15:9-11 (*Read I Corinthians 1:23*)

2. **a.** What great sin did the Apostle Paul commit before He got saved? **b.** Who changed Paul from hater of Christ to lover of Christ? **c.** What did Paul preach to others in order that they too might be changed? **d.** What are the two basic elements of the Gospel Message? (see I Corinthians 15:3, 4) **e.** Did Paul and others sincerely believe this message and faithfully preach it?

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Romans 10:9-11

Philippians 3:8-10

I Peter 1:3

4. Jesus Christ died for our sins and rose from the dead, and all that believe this and call upon Him will be saved, experiencing the power of His resurrection in their lives, and knowing that His Resurrection validates His promise of eternal life. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Memory Verses From Philippians

1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

1:23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

4:7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

4:13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Daily Application

Tuesday

1. Summarize I Corinthians 15:12-14

2. **a.** Do some people deny the possibility of a resurrection from the dead? **b.** If there is no such thing as a resurrection, where must Jesus Christ still be? **c.** If Jesus Christ is still dead, what must we say about the Gospel message? **d.** If the Gospel message is not true, what must we say about those who believe that message? **e.** What about those that preach that message?

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
John 4:23, 24

John 8:32, 33

John 14:5, 6

4. If Christ is not Risen from the dead, then our faith is not based on the truth but on a lie and therefore we are not true worshippers of God, we are not free from the bondage of Satan, and we have not truly come to know God the Father. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Our Witness

The Expanded Romans Road To Salvation

Romans 3:19

Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 4:25

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Romans 14:9

For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Romans 6:4

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Daily Application Wednesday

1. Summarize I Corinthians 15:15

2. **a.** If Christ *is not* Risen, what does make the One Who promised to raise Himself from the dead? **b.** What does that make those who said they saw the Risen Christ? **c.** What does that make those who preach the Gospel? **d.** What does it make those who say that Jesus has changed their lives? **e.** If the life-changing Gospel is false, who created the lie that changes lives?

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses: Deuteronomy 18:20-22

John 2:19-21/Matthew 12:38-40

I Corinthians 15:4-8

4. Since God said that the sign of the Prophet is the making of a fulfilled prediction, if Jesus did not raise Himself from the dead, then He is indeed a false prophet, the Apostles were liars, and there is no Gospel message of salvation. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Our Walk Ten Things We Should Do Every Day

I. Rejoice In The Lord Daily – Psalm 118:24

“This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

II. Confess Your Sins Daily – Lamentations 3:22-23

It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

III. Forgive Others Daily – Matthew 6:11-12

“Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.”

IV. Die To Self Daily – I Corinthians 15:31

“I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

V. Take Up Your Cross Daily – Luke 9:23

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

VI. Study God's Word Daily – Acts 17:11

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

VII. Pray To The Lord Daily – Psalm 55:17

Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

VIII. Be Sensitive To God Daily – Hebrews 3:7

“Wherefore, as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness.”

IX. Obey The Lord Daily – Psalm 61:8

“So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever, that I may daily perform my vows.”

X. Exhort Others Daily – Hebrews 3:13

“But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Daily Application Thursday

1. Summarize I Corinthians 15:16-18

2. **a.** If there is no Resurrection from the Dead, where must Jesus Christ still be? **b.** If Jesus is still dead, what about His promise of Resurrecting Himself from the dead? **c.** If Jesus broke this promise, would He still be sinless? **d.** If Jesus is not sinless, could He still be the Saviour? **e.** If Jesus cannot be the Saviour, can we still be saved, and are there people in Heaven?

- a. _____
b. _____
c. _____
d. _____
e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Matthew 12:38-40

John 2:19-21

Romans 1:4

4. In order to prove that He was indeed the promised Prophet, Saviour, and Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ prophesied that He would be buried for three days and three nights, and that He Himself would raise Himself from the Dead. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

Salvation of Loved Ones

Alberto Urionaberrenechea

Debbie Monroe	Angela St. Pierre	Mary Lou Ricci
Joyce Plante	Beth Friedman	Dave Fredette
Allan Gladding	Neil Corse	Jeff Corse
Joe Maynard	Bill Arnold	Allyson Bentley
Joseph McDuff	Deidre Plante	Brad Inman
Sharyn Stoff	Alyssa Capuano	Andrew Vickers
Linda Simmons	Stan Lewandowski	Danielle Alves
John Vota	Ruth Arellana	Carolyn Lowe
Helen Anthony	Leslie Hayes	Chris Saroka
April Stovarros	Dave Stovarros	Tracy Testa
Sadie Vasterling	Cesar Alvarez	Christian Bell
Brandon Silva	Cheryl Gagnon	Anne Capalbo
Andy Gallant	Sheila Demoura	Jordan Raymond
Dennis Cellemme	Steve Young	Louie Testa
Pauline Hill	Christine Lill	Cory Barter
Aaron Vitiello	Ardella Toolin	Heather Wills
Barbara Parker	Sara Toolin	Scott Duncan
Chris Hamson	Tracy Parker	Ron Wexler
Derek Coderre	Austin Geremia	Chris Schreffler
Allen Thimas	Amanii Thimas	Erica Poxon
Helen Andrews	Robert Oliveira	Cheryl Saroka
Saito Austin	Charles Poxon	Marissa Peck
Vinny Thompson	Nicholas McKaffey	Liz Poirier
	Melissa LaFramboise	

Jeff	Jewel	Less	Matthew
Arlene	Janice	Daniel	Kanoko
Jeff	Jeremiah	Mike	Karen
Wayne	Martha	Jay	Becky
Sherry	David	Nathan	Danny
Doris	Harold	Albert	Sue
Regina	Albert E.	Renee G.	
Hannah	Gloria		

Daily Application Friday

1. Summarize I Corinthians 15:19

2. **a.** If Christ did not keep His promise of Resurrecting Himself, can He still be our Savior? **b.** If Christ is not the Saviour, then are we saved? **c.** If we are not saved, what will happen to us in the future when we die? **d.** What will we receive for our efforts to live holy lives and tell others about Christ? **e.** What must we say about those that made fun of us for serving Him?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3. Look up and paraphrase the following verses:
Psalm 23:6

John 14:1-3

I Peter 1:3, 4

4. If Jesus did not Resurrect Himself, then He most certainly lied to us, and our hope of dwelling with the Lord forever, living in Heavenly mansions that He has prepared for us, and enjoying our saved loved ones for all eternity is vain. **T or F?**

5. How may you apply this principle to your life?

**The Divine Symbols That Set Forth
The Sacred Beauty Of The Church**

1) The church is the Building of Christ. Its Builder is Jesus “the Rock” and each believer is a “living stone.” As with all buildings, the church has a purpose in the community. Scripture reveals three purposes: to serve as the “conscience of God in the community” (I Timothy 3:15); to live as the “consecrated of God in the community” (I Peter 2:4,5); and to gather as the “convocation of God in the community” (Ephesians 2:19-22).

2) The church is the Brotherhood of Christ. Its Father is God and each believer is a member of His family. As with all families, there should exist a love between members. The Bible defines this love in the following way: a demonstration of a “friendly spirit of love” (II Corinthians 13:11,12); a demonstration of a “fervent spirit of love” (I Peter 1:22); and a demonstration of a “forgiving spirit of love” (Luke 17:3).

3) The church is the Bride of Christ. Jesus is the waiting Husband and the believers are espoused to Him. As with all marriages, a wife should respond to the love of her husband. The Word of God teaches that the believer’s response to Christ, in this context, should be as the following: a “loyalty to Christ” (II Corinthians 11:2); a submissive “love to Christ” (Ephesians 5:32-33); and a “longing for Christ” (Revelation 22:17).

4) The church is the Body of Christ. Jesus is the Head and the believers are the various members. As with any functioning, healthy body, there are certain principles that help maintain functionality. The Lord describes these principles as: “the diversity of its members” (I Corinthians 12:14-24); “the discipline of its members” (Colossians 1:17-18); and “the duty of its members” (Ephesians 4:11-16).

5) The church is the Branches of Christ. Jesus is the Vine and the believers are the branches. As with any fruit-bearing plant, there are certain expectations of the husbandman. The Scriptures teach us that the Lord Jesus expects His branches: to bring forth “plentiful fruit” (John 15:2); to bring forth “pleasant fruit” (Song of Solomon 7:6-13); and to bring forth “pure fruit” (Luke 6:43).

6) The Church is the Beacon of Christ. Jesus is the light of the world, and believers are individual light-bearers. As with any instrument of light, there are certain qualities that enhance the usefulness of the light. The Word of God describes these qualities as: “the shining of the light” (Matthew 5:14-16); “the situation of the light” (Philippians 2:14-16); and “the separation of the light” (Ephesians 5:8-13).

**Daily Application
Saturday**

1. Summarize I Corinthians 15:9-19

2. Are you letting the fact of the Resurrection of Christ provide the foundation for your faith, the assurance of your salvation, and the vibrancy to your hope of Heaven?

3. If you have forgotten what Christ’s Resurrection means to the reality of your walk with God, will you repent and confess this?

4. Write out a sample prayer asking God to help you become more Christlike in this area of your life.

5. Let’s Review

If Christ is not risen, our belief is empty.

If Christ is not risen, our message is false.

If Christ is not risen, our salvation is vanished.

If Christ is not risen, our condition is miserable.
