

River of Love



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Pastor Ray Gurney

ALL MY HOPE IS IN JESUS! by Pastor Ray

Easter! Another opportunity to worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. How will we approach Easter this year? Will it be just another Easter to attend church, show off new clothes and go through the motions; glad when it's passed? Or, will this Easter bring change in our hearts? What if this Easter was our last? I asked myself that question this morning and it generated some down deep convictions. First of all was my attitude toward Easter. This is the day we focus on Jesus, the man who paid my debt for sin. This man took the sin of the world upon Himself and from the cross proclaimed; "It is finished!" That gives me reason to celebrate the risen Lord. It gets my eyes off material things and on Him. What else would change? What would I do differently now than in previous years? I'd like to prepare a sermon for Easter that would be the most compelling message I've ever preached. I'd probably try to make sure the church house was full on Easter Sunday so that unsaved people might hear the gospel word and trust Jesus as their Savior. I'd celebrate Good Friday the whole day, preparing for Easter morning. What would you do if this was your last Easter? The disciples observed the Passover with Jesus and made a day of it. They had no idea what was about to happen to Jesus, but they stayed with Him until they scattered from the garden. The followers of Jesus experienced shock for a long time. Just think how it would be to have your Master, Brother, Son, Lord, Savior, nailed to a cross, beaten to the point of unrecognition, with thorns shoved into His scalp and His side pierced by a soldier's spear. I doubt many of us could witness that abuse and go home unchanged. Even battle-hardened Roman soldiers proclaimed, Truly this Man was the Son of God!" In our culture we criticize the Lord's disciples because they hid behind locked doors in despair. There was much to fear. We are not experiencing those fears yet, but it can change quickly, so be prepared. Back to the question. What if this was your last Easter? Would you skip church that day and go to lunch with family and friends to celebrate Easter? I doubt that you would. You'd more than likely be in the house of God praising Jesus for the things He's brought you through and saved you from. I envision the altar at Cross Creek crowded with people in true worship, hands lifted up to the risen Savior, singing songs like Amazing Grace, The Old Rugged Cross, He Lives, I Stand in Awe, 10,000 Reasons, All My Hope is in Jesus...

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Special points of interest:

- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
- GIRLS YOUTH WEEKEND
- CORONAVIRUS

Men's Breakfast

Men; you will have your monthly **Breakfast Saturday, April 18th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at Perkins on 39th St., Independence.**

Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us.

It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

We will be observing the Lord's Supper April 10th at 6:00 PM.

PLEASE NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT BY EMAIL OR ONE CALL.

April 16, 2020 will be our **Ladies' Night Out** at 6 pm in the church fellowship hall. Our theme - a few days late - will be Easter Bonnet! Create an Easter bonnet and wear it that night! Or, just put a lace handkerchief on your head!

We will have treats, devotion, games and visiting time. Come and bring a friend! Love to see you there!

Dixie

ALL MY HOPE IS IN JESUS...continued from page #1

I'd like to end with these words. If we can imagine this kind of service happening at Cross Creek, why don't we just experience it this year? Let's come together Easter Sunday, bring unchurched people as guests and have a great worship experience together for Jesus. Who knows, this could be our last Easter Sunday together. Let's go all out, fill the church with people and worship Jesus like never before. Let's have a day of celebration! And don't forget to celebrate Good Friday. We'll be at church to observe the Lord's Supper.

The Book of Daniel; as we study the book of Daniel I've enjoyed seeing the life Daniel lived. That man experienced just about every emotional thing the world and Heaven has to offer. He was snatched from his parents, taken captive by the most powerful man on earth, nearly lost his head, he was brilliant, became a Prime Minister, promoted to third in command of the largest kingdom, gave unbelievable interpretations of dreams and hand writing on a plaster wall just before turning 90 years old and then the fun really began. My point is this; what if God decided to have our life story written in a book to be read by those living in the thousand year reign? Do you ever wonder about stuff like that or is it just me? I don't think I'd make a very interesting book for His collection but I suppose He could tell the world what it looked like for a sinner to come to Jesus. Daniel gives us a real life testimony of trusting God in every situation he faced and what the outcome is for those who trust Him to the end. Perhaps the most challenging book I've preached through is Daniel.

I just returned from a pastor's meeting at the BRKC office trying to figure out the Coronavirus and the church. The changes are happening so fast that whatever I write today will be obsolete the day we print. We will continue to have worship on Sundays and Bible Study and dinner on Wednesdays as usual. Again, who knows what changes will come this afternoon or tomorrow? Don't forget that God is in control and none of this has taken Him by surprise. There is a chance that this will grow our church before it's over. The worse things become the more we'll have ministry opportunities. This will be a costly attack on the world but it will be over and we'll get back to business. I do feel it's important to be smart with hand washing and sanitizer and paying attention to what's going on around us. We'll continue to livestream the services so that we can stay connected. Cross Creek will serve till the day we die.

Ladies Day Trip April 30th. Fort Scott National Historic Site protects 20 historic structures, a parade ground, and five acres of restored tallgrass prairie, inside the city of Fort Scott. We will leave at 9:30 AM from the church and car pool home.



FORGIVEN PEOPLE by Chrissy Kirkman

A lot of people think God carries grudges. They picture God up in heaven, waiting to strike them down for anything they do wrong.

That's not who He is at all! Here's what God is really like: "*I am the God who forgives your sins, and I do this because of who I am. I will not hold your sins against you*" (Isaiah 43:25 GNT). God wants to forgive, and He has done everything necessary to forgive our sins in Christ.

Even before the world was made, God was already planning in Christ to forgive your sins. He knows every wrong thing you're going to do. None of it surprises Him! All the guilt you carry in your life; God made a plan to offer you forgiveness for it even before you were born.

That's why God can say this: "*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus*" (Romans 8:1 NIV). Condemnation is gone because of what Jesus Christ did for us—that means unconditional, complete, consistent, eternal, by-grace forgiveness in all of our lives. What a relief! You don't have to suffer or pay for your sins now or in eternity. It's paid for by Jesus Christ. You are forgiven if you accept that gift of salvation from Jesus.

Once you recognize that you're forgiven, you are then enabled and strengthened to forgive other people.

How do you do that? "*Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others*" (Colossians 3:13 NLT).

When you take a good look at yourself, you may see ugliness, selfishness, and sin. But the important thing is how God sees you. You are His creation, a masterpiece designed to live for Him and bless others!

When you take a good look through God's eyes, you see the forgiveness that only He can give. By accepting His forgiveness in your life, you'll be able to offer it to others. Cross Creeker, you can do that right here and now, where you are, or you can do it Sunday morning at the altar with a brother or sister in Christ praying alongside you and supporting you. Whatever time you choose, just know there is freedom on the other side of God's forgiveness! Jesus paid it ALL!

The **Ladies Out to Lunch** is **April 2**. We will go to **Olive Garden** in Blue Springs. Those who want to car pool please meet at the church @11:15 am. Invite a friend! Please sign up so we can reserve a table.

Thanks, Dana

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.

The cost is \$5.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$3.00. The menu for the month is listed on the right.

Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week. If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

- **Apr. 1, Roast Beef,** mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, corn, salad & dessert
- **Apr. 8, Ham,** Mashed Potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese, rolls, salad & dessert.
- **Apr. 15, Beef Stroganoff,** mashed potatoes, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.
- **Apr. 22, Hamburgers & Hot dogs,** Chips, Baked beans, Potato Salad & dessert
- **Apr. 29, Sloppy Joes,** Mac' & cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert

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YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH. PSALM 119:105

DEFINED: Who God Says You Are

I am who God says I am.

I can do what God says I can do.

I can become exactly what God says I can become.

You are a miracle. And that's exactly what this study is about; your true identity.

Who you really are. The culture will try to define you, your past may try to label you, the enemy will seek to deceive you, but no one has the authority to give you your name-your identity-except your Father. And He says that your uniqueness is an expression of His creative genius and is designed to reflect His glory.

The youth girls will have their first of two weekends, **April 17-19**, which explores who God says you are. We will talk about: Uniquely Created, Struggles and Solutions, Vital Signs, and Who You Are. These weekends are designed to help them discover who God says they are and the spiritual inheritance that they have, so that they can start walking in their true identity as a daughter of the most high King. If you know of any youth girls that would like to attend, please see me.

Annie