

THE SABBATH SCOOP

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HOW MANY RESURRECTIONS ARE THERE?

The Bible mentions several different resurrections from the dead.

How many resurrections are there? How are they different? The answer may surprise you!

By Gregory Dullum

We all are going to die! We are physical beings and physical things wear out. Death is inevitable. The Bible tells us, “it is appointed for men to die once...” (Heb. 9:27).

But death is NOT the *end of the story!* This physical life is NOT *all there is!* The *best* news that the Bible gives us is that there is life after death!

We don’t continue to live as ghosts, angels or any other spirit after we die. When we die, we’re unconscious (Eccles. 9:5, 10). We cease to exist. The spirit that is in us, which records our thoughts, character, personality, memories, etc., returns to God in an inanimate form, waiting to be placed into a new body. Our physical bodies decay and return to dust (Eccles. 12:7).

In order to live again, we must be given new bodies and our spirits placed in those bodies (1 Cor. 15:35-42). This happens through a RESURRECTION. The word *resurrection* is defined as “the act of rising from the dead or returning to life” (*American Heritage Dictionary*, 1992, p. 1539).

There is MORE than ONE resurrection mentioned in the Bible. There are actually *four different types* of resurrections mentioned.

First Resurrection

The Bible calls one resurrection the “first resurrection.” We’ll look at it first.

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, after spending three days and three nights in the grave, He broke *new ground*. He was NOT the first human to rise from the dead, but He was the first human being in the history of the world to be *changed into a spirit being* as he rose from the dead.

He *opened the door* to eternal life for *others to follow*. He was the **FIRSTFRUITS** of a much greater harvest. “But now



photo by Greg Dullum

Death is not the end of the story. Everyone will rise from their graves to live again!

Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But each one in his own order; Christ the firstfruits, afterward, those who are Christ’s at His coming” (1 Cor. 15:20, 22-23).

Jesus Christ—the firstfruits of the first resurrection—rose from the dead nearly 2,000 years ago. When will others join Him? At His coming! “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord” (1 Thes. 4:16-17).

Those resurrected to eternal life at Christ’s return will reign with Christ for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4, 6). This is called the “first resurrection” (v. 5). Those in the first resurrection are “blessed and holy” and will NOT face the second death (v. 6). Once we have become spirit beings, *we can’t die* (Luke 20:36). The first resurrection is called the “better” resurrection partly for this reason (Heb. 11:35).

If there is a “first” and “better” resurrection, then it logically follows that there

must be a second resurrection which is inferior to the first.

Second Resurrection

The first resurrection occurs at Christ’s return. In this resurrection, those who have overcome Satan, the pulls of this world and their selfish natures will rule with Christ for 1,000 years, preparing this planet so it can accommodate billions of inhabitants. Why? Because billions will be brought back to life—NOT as *spirit* beings—but *in the flesh*. This will be the second resurrection, occurring after the 1,000 years (Rev. 20:5).

In their previous lives, these billions of humans never had an opportunity to live God’s way. Their carnal minds were closed to the truth (Rom. 8:7). God did not call them (John 6:44).

The people in this second resurrection will be given human life again, but this time Satan will not be around to influence them (Rev. 20:10). They will be given God’s holy spirit (Ezek. 37:14) and the books of the Bible will be opened to their understanding (Rev. 20:12). They will be judged according to their works. At the end of this second human life, they will either be changed into spirit beings, or they will die and await the third resurrection.

Third Resurrection

Some people may never accept God’s way. They knew God’s way and refused it as humans during their first life, or they will refuse to live God’s way when resurrected to human life in the second resurrection.

There is a final judgment that awaits these wicked people. Rev. 20:15 says the people whose names are not written in the Book of Life will be cast into

RESURRECTIONS

Continued on Page 3

The Plague of Porn

Pornography can be a problem for those in the church—but there is help overcoming it!

By Gregory Dullum
Part 3

Is Porn a Problem for Christians?

We may think that sexual sins, including pornography, are not a problem among Christians, especially in the Church of God. But this is not the case.

Paul wrote to the first-century church at Corinth: “It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife!” (1 Cor. 5:1). Paul knew there were fornicators and covetous people attending church there (v. 11).

Bill Perkins, senior pastor of South Hills Community Church in Portland, Ore., wrote, “I’ve addressed thousands of men and talked personally with others. I’ve administered confidential surveys to find out what men are really thinking and doing. In the process, I’ve discovered that every man has his own personal battle with lust. Nobody escapes its appeal. Nobody” (*When Good Men Are Tempted* by Bill Perkins, 1997, p. 9).

Perkins goes into further detail in Chapter 3:

“It would be nice if religious devotion freed us from the threat of sexual compulsions. It doesn’t. Unfortunately, many churches actually create an environment in which sexual addictions thrive. Why? Because secrecy and risk increase the adrenaline rush associated with sexual sins....

“The greater the wrong, the greater the excitement associated with committing the wrong. Since sexual sins provide such excitement, they carry strong addictive power. And if a man commits a sexual sin, he’ll probably keep it a secret. That makes the situation even worse. But most men would rather deal with the situation alone than run the risk of condemnation and rejection.

“One authority in the field of addictive behavior told me he believed that fundamental Christians and religious leaders suffer from compulsive sexual behavior more than any other segment of society. Could he be right? Nobody knows for sure. But I do know that more Christians are hooked on sexual sins than most of us would imagine.

“Over the past decade, I’ve conducted seminars in churches across the country. In an effort to take the spiritual pulse of these churches, I have frequently administered surveys.... To my surprise, 55%

of men surveyed said they were struggling with a secret sexual addiction or had struggled with one in the recent past.

“While most of these men are probably dealing with pornography and masturbation, others were dealing with more serious compulsions” (Perkins, pp. 38-39).

Overcoming Pornography

Putting pornography and its “culture of fornication” out of our lives can be a difficult task. The longer we have allowed ourselves to be sucked into the whirlpool, and the deeper we have gone, the harder it will be to get out.

The Apostle James warns that what begins as mere temptation becomes a whirlpool leading to death: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:14-15).

When we allow ourselves a little sin, it often leads to bigger sins, or as the Apostle Paul describes it, “lawlessness leading to more lawlessness” (Rom. 6:19).

Bill Perkins’ book, *When Good Men Are Tempted*, dedicates several chapters to breaking sexual addiction.

Here are some steps, based upon Perkins’ book and upon the Bible, to help break the cycle of pornography and sexual addiction:

1. Count the Cost. “...I want you to consider the cost of moral purity. If you’ve been hooked on pornography, prostitution, homosexuality, a romantic affair, or a host of sexual sins, changing your lifestyle won’t be easy. Even if you’ve not gone that far but find yourself thinking more and more about your sexual fantasies, returning to sexual purity won’t be easy. Choosing to be pure means giving up something you enjoy. It means embracing discomfort and boredom. It means saying no to an intense craving for impure sexual pleasure” (Perkins, p. 96).

Counting the cost of choosing to live God’s way is a Biblical principle (Luke 14:28-33). Jesus Christ asks that we *for-sake* ALL to follow Him. That includes giving up our sexual addictions.

Perkins suggests making lists of painful consequences for continuing in the addiction, painful consequences we must endure when we stop, and the benefits we’ll enjoy of being sexually pure.

2. End the Isolation. Sexual sins isolate us from God and others. “Because

lust is a spiritual problem, it isolates us from our inner self, from God, and from other people. The longer our lust runs unchecked, the more spiritually isolated we become. When our lust is in full control of our life, we’re unable to connect with God or with others....

“In the early stages of an addiction, the object of our lust (the idol) seems to nurture life and bring fulfillment to our inner self. The rush of pornography or an affair exhilarates and makes us feel alive. But as a sexual addiction progresses, the nurturing proves to be a mirage. That’s why as lust consumes us, a spiritual withering occurs. For healing to take place, we must reconnect ourselves to God and cultivate our spiritual life” (Perkins, p. 101).

The Bible tells us in many places to repent. In Rev. 3:19 we are told, “be zealous therefore, and repent.”

Turn to God for the help we need to overcome. Re-establish a strong relationship with Him. He tells us, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chron. 7:14).

We can pray as King David did after he committed adultery with Bathsheba, “Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin” (Ps. 51:2 *KJV*).

3. Flee Fornication. Follow the simple two-word instructions from Paul: “Flee fornication” (1 Cor. 6:18). Get as far away as possible from the objects of our

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lust. That is hard in today's society, where pornography is so pervasive. But we need to do what we can!

Remove all pornography from our homes. Cancel subscriptions to certain cable TV channels. Avoid improper Internet usage by disconnecting from the Internet or having someone install software on our computers to block improper Internet sites. Check with our Internet provider about installing spam blockers to prevent unsolicited sexual e-mails from getting to us. Make a commitment to stay out of the "adult" sections of book and video stores.

It may be difficult to throw away pornography that has brought us pleasure. We must realize that these images created to incite lust are actually idols that we have set up between us and God. If we allow ourselves to get angry at these idols for the spiritual hurt they have caused us, we can more easily part with them. Anger can be used to stir ourselves to righteous action! Follow David and Paul's advice, "Be angry, and do not sin" (Ps. 4:4, Eph. 4:26).

"It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking, 'One little sin won't hurt. One look at an erotic image won't do any damage.... Paul's message is clear: one sinful act leads to enslavement [Rom. 6:16]" (Perkins, p. 117).

Getting away from sources of temptation will reduce the pressure to give in to temptation.

4. Control Our Thoughts. Paul tells us we should be "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:5 *KJV*).

It is easier to fight lust in the earliest stage of the addictive cycle: preoccupation.

"This is the stage of the cycle in which you must take aggressive action. You need to catch yourself daydreaming about pornography, affairs, strip clubs—or whatever else arouses your lust. If you find yourself fantasizing, switch mental gears....

"Cutting off temptation at the enticement stage demands preparation, self-control, and a focus on Christ. How do we do that? In part by memorizing verses from the Bible. Like Jesus [Matthew 4], we need to use scripture to deal with temptation. I've found that memorizing large sections of the Bible give me a mental focus when I'm tempted. By the time I recite a paragraph or two to myself, my spirit is strengthened and my mind is cleared....

"As long as you're mentally reviewing Bible verses, your mind is distracted from the tempting thought or action" (Perkins, pp. 126-127).

5. Channel Sexual Energies Properly. Use the sexual energy which God put in

us to enhance the relationships with our mates. Paul was inspired to write that it is better to be married than to burn with sexual desire (1 Cor. 7:9). The proper place for sexual activity is within marriage (Heb. 13:4).

Instead of seeking out *imaginary* sexual situations with pornographic images, we should build *REAL* sexual relations with our mates.

Solomon offers this advice to husbands regarding their wives: "Drink water from your own cistern, and running water from your own well. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, streams of water in the streets? Let them be only your own, and not for strangers with you. Let your fountain be blessed, and rejoice with the wife of your youth. As a loving deer and a graceful doe, let her breasts satisfy you at all times; and always be enraptured with her love. For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, and embraced in the arms of a seductress?" (Prov. 5:15-20).

The Song of Solomon graphically describes the love properly shared between a husband and wife.

If we don't have a mate, physical exercise can be used to lessen sexual tension.

6. Pray for Help. In point 2, we stressed the need to re-establish our relationship with God, and we do that through prayer. While praying, ask God specifically for *HELP!* Ask God to *cleanse* us! After his affair with Bathsheba, David felt so dirty that he prayed, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin... Purge me... Wash me... Create in me a clean heart, O God" (Ps. 51:2, 7, 10).

Through the power of his holy Spirit, God can dull our desire to do wrong and strengthen our desire to do right. Ask Him for that strength.

7. Fast. Fasting has a way of weakening the bonds of wickedness that lead us to sin. Going without food and water for 24 hours while praying to God for help can have a strong impact on our lives. God said through Isaiah, "Is this not the fast I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke" (Isa. 58:6).

Pornography is a plague on this society and can be a problem for some in the church. It morphs from a seemingly innocent pastime into a serious sin that leads to eternal death! But it doesn't need to be that way. There are ways to struggle free from this sin. We hope this series of articles has been helpful for those oppressed and under the heavy bonds of sin. What better time is there than *RIGHT NOW* to start overcoming and finding freedom from the bondage of this sin?

Resurrections

Continued from Page 1

a lake of fire. This is the second death (Rev. 20:14, 21:8). It also is called "hell fire" in Mark 9:47, the "resurrection of damnation" in John 5:29 *KJV*, "resurrection of the unjust" in Acts 24:12, and "awakening to shame and everlasting contempt" in Dan. 12:2.

People will NOT spend eternity in this burning hell. They will be completely burned up (Mat. 13:30, John 15:6). " 'For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, and all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up,' says the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 4:1).

These three resurrections are "general resurrections." All humanity will be raised in either the first or second resurrection. All of the unrepentant wicked will face the third resurrection.

Individual Resurrections

A fourth type of resurrection is mentioned in the Bible. It is an "individual resurrection" back to human life. Certain individuals who died were brought back to human life and they continued to live for additional minutes, hours, days or years. They eventually died again. None are still living today.

The prophet Elijah raised a widow's son from the dead (2 Kings 17:17-23).

Elisha, following in Elijah's footsteps, raised a Shunammite woman's son from the dead (2 Kings 4:32-35).

After Elisha died, he was buried. Later, another man was buried in the same tomb. As the body of the second man touched Elisha's bones, he sprang back to life (2 Kings 13:21).

Jesus Christ raised his friend Lazarus from the dead (John 11:11, 14, 43-44). He also raised Jairus' daughter from the dead (Luke 8:41, 49, 54). And when Christ died, there was a great earthquake and many saints awoke from the dead to live a little a little longer as humans (Mat. 27:52-56).

The Apostle Peter brought Tabitha back to life in the early days of the church (Acts 9:37, 40).

Death Is Not the End

All these examples show that death is not the end of the story! God is a God of *LIFE* and He will be victorious, even over death!

Once we are spirit beings, there will be no more death! Death and the grave will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:14). At that time it will be proclaimed, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54).

College Letters:

Lessons of Life Learned at Ambassador College

Focus on God to get out of bad mood. Put recreation aside for work if you need the money.

Thursday, 3-13-75, 8:00 p.m.

Dear Mom and Brad,

How are things in Minneapolis? Are things starting to move for the Passover, and the campaign? I'll probably miss being at home for Days of Unleavened Bread. At least there are lots of matzoh out here. Boy, time has really flown! I didn't realize how long it's been since I wrote home. When I finally did, it was too late—I was too busy to write.

All the seniors went to the Handlebar Saloon tonight for a beer party—at least the guys. So Santana, Grant and Bob Bordeaux are not here. I'm alone in the study right now.

Steve and I came back from Leila McMichael's apartment (off campus). She invited us out for dinner at her place. The dinner she prepared was really a breakfast—pancakes, scrambled eggs w/mushrooms and onions, sausage and orange juice. But it tasted so good! I really do get tired of Student Center food after a while. And it was nice to get off campus for awhile.

The last time I wrote was Thursday, 2-27. That night I did an impromptu show on KAC from 7 to 9 p.m. When I came back, Grant was sitting at my desk, using my stereo. I didn't want to bother him, but I was in a bad mood too. So I took *The Day Christ Died* and went to the Student Center. I went upstairs and sat in a couch facing the window, and turned on a lamp behind me on a table. It reminded me of sitting in our living room. And reading the book made me feel very Passoverish. It really got me in the mood. And it reminded me of last year's Night to Be remembered at the Lexington, when I drove. And drank.

Friday afternoon, Santana came in with more gum and we folded wrappers into chains. We could tell we wouldn't have enough, so we went to El Rancho and he bought 10 more packages. After Bible study, we stayed up until 3:45 folding gum wrappers. We spelled out: DLS / have a good / Sabbath. ("Have a good" was not made out of the wrapper chains, the rest were.) DLS is Dianne Spencer. It was a Sabbath note. She was his date the next morning for brunch, services, etc., so we stayed up late to finish it.

That Sabbath after brunch, Bob asked

me what I was doing that night. I said I was planning on going to see *Thoroughly Modern Millie* at the Student Center, cuz I like Julie Andrews and Mary Tyler Moore. He asked me if I wanted to usher for the N.A.I.A. District III Basketball Championship playoff being held in our gym tonight. Get paid for it. I thought about it. Figured I could use the money, and said yes.

I was so tired from staying up so late, I lay down at 1:30. Services start at 2:30. Cedric Becker woke me up at 2:40. He had been sleeping too! We jumped into our clothes. The worst part was that Cedric had a Sabbath date! So we stopped at Terrace Villa and asked for her. She wasn't there. We got to the auditorium, and the usher showed us to some seats—first Cedric, then myself. Mr. Oehlman, dean of students, was just finishing the sermonette. So I didn't get any notes from it, but looked around. And who should be sitting in the row in front of me, and to the left, but Garner Ted Armstrong! He gave the sermon you all got to hear on tape.

Sunday, 3-2-75, I studied all day. About 10 p.m. Grant called me, and said all the power blew out at KAC, and he needed my stereo to finish making a tape for Forum this Tuesday. I stayed up there, and we finished at 2:30 a.m. We three (Steve was there too) were hungry, so we went to the Parasol, but it was closed. So we came back. We shared Santana's and my crackers, my banana and Steve's apple. It was fun to share these things. I talked about my last birthday—how I turned 18 at Farrell's [I worked past midnight], and we rushed out to buy beer—[the legal drinking age was 18] but too late [everything was closed]. So I came home and had one of Linda's as we stayed up watching Humphry Bogart or something. Remember? And I talked about all of the changes and things that have happened since then. Wow! Got to bed at 3:30.

Monday after lunch, I called Pat Backfisch, who turned 20 today (on March 3rd) and invited her out to dinner. We went to the Shaker. It was fun. I realized I hadn't taken a girl out to a restaurant alone for dinner since Ann [Kurtz] and I flew to Rochester!

I ushered at the basketball game that

night. I watched the game not too far from where GTA was standing. The enclosed *Portfolio* came out that night. They spelled my name wrong!

[Editor's note: A special edition of the *Portfolio* announced with a banner headline, "AMBASSADOR RECEIVES CANDIDACY FOR ACCREDITATION." Under the lead story was my "top secret" story I had been working on: "Dean Discusses Candidacy" by Gregg Dullum. My name does not have three "g"s in it.]

Tuesday, I had a midterm in speech. I scored the highest in my class. I got the only B. There were three C's, and 5 D's. After that was the KAC Forum. My only part, beside having my name and voice on the tape we made Sunday night, and my picture in the slide show, was to walk on stage, say my name and the time my show was on. I guess everybody liked the Forum. That's good. That night in Western Civ., I invited Robin Peterson to be my Sabbath date for the coming weekend.

Wednesday, I changed my name on my show. All DJs use fake names. So I called myself "Cisco Kid" and use a song by that name for my theme song. It was a riot.

Had mass communications midterm. It's funny. I came away from all my midterms thinking I blew all of them. But I didn't—I think I got Bs on all of them.

I ushered that night, and was accosted by a Jesus freak. You can always tell a Jesus freak. If someone walks up to you, and you've never seen him before, he sticks out his hand to shake, and smiles and says, "hi," he's either drunk or a Jesus freak. [Normal people in L.A. just don't act that friendly.] And if he asks you if you have "accepted Jesus in your heart," then he's a Jesus freak for sure. That's their favorite phrase. They have a limited vocabulary. This one was pretty nice. He wasn't so sappy as the one I met coming back from the Library (Public) the Wednesday of the ski trip. We had a little doctrinal disputation. Finally he let me be, and asked me to "think about it." I wonder if he thought about anything I told him. Probably not. MG had called that night, but I was ushering. Nuts. I miss her when we don't talk every week.

Thursday I took the Eng. midterm. I didn't expect better than a C, or maybe a

B with a low curve. I think I got a C, but it was crossed out, and a B- in its place. The teacher explained he originally graded us w/everybody in his section, but then changed it to just my class. So I got higher! Whew!

It's been raining a lot. And cold. It seems like November, or so, back home. The other day I could see snow in the mountains. I asked myself if I would like to be up there in it. The answer was an emphatic NO! I still don't like snow. I actually am preferring this crummy liquid sunshine [rain] over that dandruff [snow]. I used to hate rain more than snow. I got the sunglasses and the letter w/check on Friday.

I went to the barber school and got my hair cut for \$1.50 on Friday, the first time since just after the Feast. (My last paying haircut was Nov. 11!) But as it got long, I would cut it myself in the bathroom. I couldn't cut it in the back very well, because I couldn't see it. So it started getting pretty long. It made a great Ducktail for the 50's dance. The reason I had not had a haircut for so long, was cuz if I had the time I didn't have the money. And if I had the money, I didn't have the time.

But the barber (Diana, who also cuts Cedric's hair) cut it too short. Now, a week later, it's just starting to look decent. Last week, Linda called me, and asked if I wanted to sit w/her at Bible study. She said it looked shorter than when Dad used to cut it.

Last Sabbath I had brunch and went to services w/Robin Peterson. Mr. Norman Smith gave a super sermon!!!

He asked: Whose work is this? Did Christ consider it His—or God's? Do we consider it ours—or God's?

Col. 1:12-16. Christ the Creator. V. 17 and Christ is actively involved in holding everything together. V. 18—Christ the Head of the Church. V. 19—This situation *pleased* the Father.

Luke 2:41. How Christ viewed his work. Vv. 42-49—As a 12-year-old boy to his parents, He calls it His Father's business. John 4:34. To His unconverted disciples He calls it His Father's work. Neither His disciples nor His parents understood. John 5:17—"hitherto" means UNTIL NOW. "My Father worked until now. Then He turned it over to me," Christ said. "What do you mean, Pharisees, that I can't heal on the Sabbath? I can heal who I want to when I want to, because Dad gave Me the authority." Vv. 18-24, 27. Christ given authority to delegate judgment. Why? Because He's had the training.

John 5:30. Christ's decisions in accordance with God's. Vv. 31-40, 41-43. Christ came in His Father's name, did His work, and the Scriptures spoke of

Him.

John 9:4-5—as long as *I* am in the world, *I* am the light of the world. God not the light of the world. Neither were the disciples... yet.

John 10:37—Christ was doing the work. He was doing it God's way. When He explained it to the unconverted, He always referred back to God's authority. What Christ said to the Disciples and Pharisees is not what He said to the Father.

John 17:1-2—Christ given power over all flesh. The Father gave the work to Christ to do while He was on the earth. And He did it. And the Pharisees had no right to challenge Him on it. And Christ let them know about it. This is why Christ had so much confidence.

John 14:10, 11-14, 17-18, 26, Ch. 15—must be connected to the source. V. 8. We glorify Father by bringing forth fruit.

Ch. 17:18—We are under the same conditions as Christ. We are the body of Christ with Christ at the head. Eph. 4:4, 6, 11-12. Ministers for the perfecting of the Church. God was pleased that Christ was perfect; Christ that we be perfect. Vv. 13, 15-16 WE MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE VINE. AND WE MUST USE THAT SPIRIT! God tells us not to sit back. The fields are white for harvest.

God expects us to use the knowledge and the holy spirit and get busy.

Neh. 1:11. He didn't ask God what to do. HE SAW WHAT WAS NEEDED TO BE DONE, and he asked God to provide a way. Ch. 2:1-20. An example of planning and need. Ch. 4:6. The people had a mind to work. Ex. 35:21, 36:1. As they got stirred up to work, God showed them how. As we get stirred up [Col. 3:23], God will show us how to better do the work.

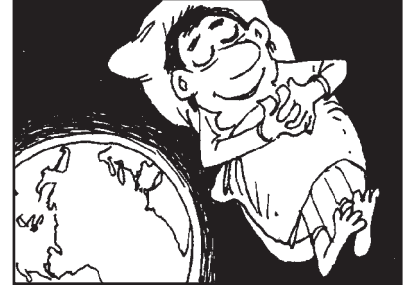
1 Cor. 3:18. All of our building must be according to Christ's foundation. Vv. 12-15. We each have a job to do. Like a son watching his father, then saying, "Dad, let me do it."

We (as individuals) can speak before groups. We can write for papers. We can make radio and TV shows. We must follow dignity, and be unified, as a ministry. THE HARVEST IS READY AND THE NIGHT IS COMING!!! We can all be light bulbs.

To the world, we explain this as God's work, and we are His instruments, just as Christ did to the Pharisees. But it is our responsibility to get the work done.

John 4:34. Those who have their hearts in the work will grow. Look up. The harvest is there. Let's get to them. Rev. 3:8. "I have set an open door," Christ said. It is our responsibility to plan what we are going to do.

Fun Fact



Drawing and Fun Fact are courtesy of NAPS

In outer space, it's impossible to snore.

Witerature

Wit and wisdom to complement the truths of the Holy Bible can be found in secular writings.

War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells, 2005, HarperFestival, p. 3.

We're Being Watched

"No one would have believed in the last years of the nineteenth century that this world was being watched keenly and closely by intelligences greater than man's...; that as men busied themselves about their various concerns they were scrutinized and studied, perhaps almost as narrowly as a man with a microscope might scrutinize the transient creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water. With infinite complacency men went to and fro over this globe about their little affairs, serene in their assurance of their empire over matter. It is possible that the infusoria under the microscope do the same. No one gave a thought to the older worlds of space as sources of human danger, or thought of them only to dismiss the idea of life upon them as impossible or improbable."

Prov. 5:21; Job 1:6-12, 2:1-6;

Hos. 7:2; 1 Peter 1:12

Quotable Quote

"Take time to deliberate, but when the time for action has arrived, stop thinking and go in."

—Napoleon Bonaparte

Memory Scripture

"Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you."

—1 Pet. 5:7

College Letters

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Saturday night was a Hawaiian luau. We had BB-qed chicken, olives, beer, salads, a rice concoction, punch, etc. And dancing! It was for 8 clubs—4 AC clubs, 4 women's clubs. I met a lot of girls! And Steve had a blast too. It was his favorite dance. Probably cuz he had more [black] girls to choose from!

Sunday night I ushered for the Glendale Symphony Orchestra led by John Green. It was beautiful! I was in the last row of the balcony, and the acoustics were great! I especially noticed how loud and clear the harp and drums were.

Afterward, I went to the reception. I had a glass of champagne (m-m-m!) and 1/2 of Santana's, cuz he was getting dizzy (it was his 2nd glass). I also had some unspiked punch made w/7-Up, sherbet, and Hawaiian Punch. It was good.

Monday night I had to interview a 65-year-old man on the telephone, about the Library Trustee election in Altadena that he lost. This was an assignment for Journalism. It was kinda fun. There were 13 candidates and 3 offices available. It's the only public office you can get elected to in Altadena, a community of 40,000. Each kid in class had to interview one person. Then the stories will be combined, and printed in the *Altadenan*, their newspaper.

Santana and I also started to figure out how much it's going to cost to go to San Francisco. It'll be a lot, I think. We figured out some things. Maybe if we could get a drive-thru up there and rent a car there, we could get by cheaper—like \$16 there and back—for 6 people.

Tuesday I interviewed Dr. Germano for another *Port* article. And I ordered my corsage for the Sophomore dance this Sunday. I talked with the Mystery Girl from 6:45 to 9:30.

Today, I got invited to a bachelor party Saturday night. And I have a date for Friday night cuz we're having a dorm get-together w/a minister in the Blue Room at Del Mar Manor. I don't have one yet.

Tonight, Steve and I went to Leila's for dinner. (I already told you that.) Tomorrow's the get-together. Sat. night's the party. Sunday night's the Sophomore Ball. Tuesday night is midterm in Civ., Thursday I'm in a debate in speech, and Friday I hope to be on my way to San Francisco for the weekend. So I have a busy week ahead. Oh yeah—I got paid last week for ushering—\$25. That's not too bad. See you in 9 weeks.

Love,
Greg



Quakes Shake Asian, Far East Countries

“A strong earthquake centered in the towering Hindu Kush mountains shook a wide area of eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan early Friday [Oct. 23], swaying buildings in the Afghan and Pakistani capitals....the magnitude 6.2 temblor was centered in a remote mountain area...” (“Quake strikes Afghanistan, Pakistan,” *The Associated Press, Southeast Missourian*, Oct. 23, 2009, p. 10A).

A powerful magnitude 7.6 quake struck Indonesia Sept. 30, triggering landslides, starting fires, cutting off communications and trapping thousands under collapsed buildings (“Indonesia earthquake traps thousands in ruins” by Anthony Deutsch, *The Associated Press, Southeast Missourian*, Oct. 1, 2009, p. 9A).

Jesus said “earthquakes in various places” would be part of the “beginning of sorrows” leading up to his return (Mat. 24:3, 7-8).

Catholic Church Invites Anglicans to Come Join

“In an extraordinary bid to lure traditional Anglicans en masse, the Vatican said Tuesday [Oct. 20] that it would make it easier for Anglicans uncomfortable with their church's acceptance of female priests and openly gay bishops to join the Roman Catholic Church while retaining many of their traditions.

“Anglicans would be able ‘to enter full communion with the Catholic Church while preserving elements of the distinctive Anglican spiritual and liturgical patrimony,’ Cardinal William J. Levada, the prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said at a news conference here [Vatican City].

“It was unclear why the Vatican made the announcement now. But it seemed a rare opportunity, audaciously executed, to capitalize on deep divisions within the Anglican Church to attract new members at a time when the Catholic Church has been trying to reinvigorate itself in Europe.

“The issue has long been close to the heart of Pope Benedict XVI, who for

years has worked to build ties to those Anglicans who, like conservative Catholics, spurn the idea of female and gay priests” (“Vatican Bidding to Get Anglicans to Join Its Fold” by Rachel Donadio and Laurie Goodstein, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Oct. 21, 2009, p. 1).

There is a time coming before Christ returns when one world religion will be the order of the day. A false prophet will arise in Europe who will try to force the whole world to worship as he commands. He will perform miracles and deceive many. He will have those killed who won't worship as he dictates (Rev. 13:11-15).

Efforts to unify various denominations into one religious body today could lead to one world religion tomorrow. A large, unified body of believers would more easily accept a great false prophet when he comes to power than would many differing religious groups.

Russian Gas Pipeline May Divide Europe

“With an ambitious new pipeline planned to run along the bed of the Baltic Sea, the Russian natural gas giant Gazprom is driving a political wedge between Eastern and Western Europe.

“While the Russian-German pipeline offers clear energy benefits to Western Europe, Central and Eastern European leaders fear it could lead to a new era of gas-leveraged Russian domination of the former soviet bloc. With its gas wealth and eyebrow-raising network of personal ties, Russia has divided members of the European Union that have vowed to act collectively to protect their security” (“Russia Gas Pipeline Heightens East Europe's Fears” by Andrew E. Kramer, *The New York Times*, nytimes.com, Oct. 13, 2009, p. 1).

Before Christ returns, there will be a weak union of 10 kings in Europe that is partly strong and partly fragile (Dan. 2:41-45). This pipeline shows how fragile the current European Union is and could be one factor that will lead to a union of 10 nations rising out of the current 25-nation union.