



# The Worker

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Volume 4 Issue 24

www.hamburgpikecofc.org

June 14, 2015

## Our Great Salvation in Christ Jesus

By Ron Boatwright

As faithful Christians we have a great and wonderful salvation that is waiting for us. We cannot even begin to imagine how wonderful it's going to be. "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Corinthians 2:9). We have "an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:4). "And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away" (1 Peter 5:4).

God has planned for our salvation from the beginning of the world. "Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace, that would come to you" (1 Peter 1:9-10). But we know more concerning our salvation than the people in the Old Testament did, because more details have been revealed to us in the New Testament. "By which have been given to us exceeding great and precious promises that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). Today we have "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7).

We must not become complacent and neglect our salvation. We cannot afford to lose it. We are to, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2:12). Any burden we now bear doesn't even begin to compare to our great salvation that is reserved for us. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at things which are seen, but at things which are not seen" (2 Corinthians 4:17). "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him" (Hebrews 2:3). We cannot afford to fail.

Paul says, "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). Only those who are in Christ have access to this salvation. How does one get into Christ to have this great salvation? "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). It is at the point of baptism that one gets into Christ. Those of us who are in Christ must continue to diligently serve the Lord. We should serve the Lord with gladness and joy by obeying His every command for Jesus says, "My yoke is easy and My burden is light" (Matthew 10:30). In doing this we should "be even more diligent to make your call and election sure" (2 Peter 1:10). "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" (Hebrews 10:23). Jesus promises, "Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of Life" (Revelation 2:10). Let's make going to heaven our number one priority in this life.

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey  
**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney  
**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch  
**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Schedule of Services

**Sunday**  
 Bible Class 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

### Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org) Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Sow Far, Sow Good" Mark 4:1-20  
 Sunday Evening: "What is Right about the Church: The Plan of Salvation"

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
 Opening Prayer Ernie Marshall  
 Scripture Greg Blanton  
 Sermon Eric Welch  
 Lord's Supper Mark 15:1-37  
 Message Harold Tincher  
 Attendant Leon Stocksdale  
 Attendant Ethan Welch  
 Closing Prayer Robby Stocksdale

#### PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr  
 Bible Reading Rick Martin  
 Selection 23  
 Prayer Joe Sweeney  
 Sermon Eric Welch  
 Closing Prayer Jerry Casey  
*If you are unable to serve, please  
 call Art Patrick 502-819-9481  
 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr  
 Lord's Supper Matt Johnson  
 Offering Grover Blanton  
 Usher Hank Tincher  
 Count Offering Harold Tincher  
 Assist Count Joe Sweeney

#### Last Sunday

Contribution \$2,095  
 Attendance 81

## “Pastor Welch?”

Eric Welch

Sometimes people will ask me “Are you the pastor?” I usually answer with a variation of “I am the preacher.” Out of respect, some people ask me how I want them to address me. I usually say, “Eric will do.” I have had some brethren in Christ in various congregations to introduce me as “pastor.” Am I or Irvin a pastor of the Hamburg Pike church?

“Pastor” is used just one time in its noun form to identify a particular position in the New Testament (NT) church-- Ephesians 4:11: *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.* Although it occurs just once, the word has become the most common form of address for all kinds of denominational “ministers.”

First Peter 5:1-2 uses the verb form for “pastor”: “*So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight...*” (underline mine—ew). In these verses, Peter uses all three words to describe the work of God’s appointed leaders: “elders” are to “shepherd” (pastor), “taking the oversight (overseers).” Compare Acts 20:17, 28. “Elder,” “pastor,” and “overseer” are interchangeable; they refer to the same function.

Can a preacher be a pastor? Certainly. Peter was (1 Peter 5:1). Since “elders,” “pastors” and “overseers” are three descriptions of the same role, 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9 outline what a preacher must be and do in order to qualify as “pastor.” He must be Scripturally married and he must have faithful children. Denominational pastors who are single, childless and female are not pastors in the Biblical sense! In addition, pastors/elders/overseers are always rendered in the Scriptures as plural; the church was never led by one man. Thus, the rest are not pastors in the Biblical sense either.

Therefore, what am I, if not a “pastor?” I am a preacher or evangelist. Evangelist means “messenger of good news” (2 Timothy 4:5-6). Although some make the distinction that an evangelist is a preacher who travels, the words mean the same. Philip the evangelist traveled and preached, but he ended up in Caesarea (Acts 8:40) where he stayed some 20 years and was still called “evangelist” (Acts 21:8). Paul urged the evangelist Timothy (2 Timothy 4:5-6) to “remain in Ephesus” (1 Timothy 1:3).

By the way, I do not deserve any title that distinguishes me above my brothers and sisters in the church; that honor belongs only to the Lord (Matthew 23:8-12). Even the term “Brother” can be used for that purpose. If you call me “Brother,” expect the same in return.

## Romans 7:2-3

By Ron Boatwright

In Romans 7:2-3 we read, "For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress; but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man." Here God says that a person is bound to their spouse as long as their spouse lives. God's law on marriage is one husband, for one wife, for life.

We also see from the above two verses that there can be a vast difference between being married and being bound. As far as God is concerned even though a person may get a divorce and remarry someone else, she is still bound to her first husband for as long as he lives.

How long? As long as he lives. As we see in Matthew 19:6, "Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." God does the joining and the joining is for life. No one has the right or the authority to separate what God has joined.

But what happens if there is a divorce and remarriage as is so common today? Romans 7:3 says, "So then if while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress." Notice if she is married to another, the adultery continues all the "while her husband lives". The adultery is not "point action" as some would like to wishfully believe and teach, but is continuous while her former husband lives. She is still bound to and under obligation to her former husband. According to God's inspired word, the only way she is free to remarry and not be an adulteress is "if her husband be dead". Could God have made it any clearer?

Concerning an adulterer we read in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, "Do not be deceived, neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals...will inherit the kingdom of God." An adulterer cannot go to Heaven. There will be no adulterers in Heaven. If one does not go to Heaven with the few, he will have to go to Hell with the many (Matthew 7:13-14). Such is a sobering reality. We dare not teach anything other than God's truth lest we also lose our own souls.