

“The Theology of the Thief on the Cross?”

Rev. David J. Bauer

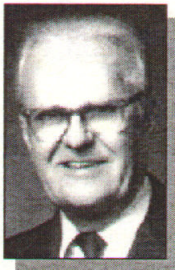
Theology is a science that examines the existence, nature and attributes of God. But we study especially human relationships to God and His supernatural input into our human lives on earth, as well as His eternal relationship with mankind after death or the end of this present age. We value our pastors and church leaders who have pursued theological courses and studies of the Bible in original languages. Through the years, many of our church pastors have earned Master and Doctorate degrees in theology. There seems to be no end to the study of the Almighty and His great works in the lives of humankind.

*But the Bible narrative in St. Luke’s Gospel tells us of a thief possessing a simple theology, who died alongside Jesus, the Savior. He did not go to our schools or seminaries; yet he demonstrated the essential theology for an eternal relationship with God. **Just what did this thief believe?***



Rev. David J. Bauer
BRM Director

Words of Wisdom Dr. Charles Svoboda



Rev. Chuck Svoboda
1919 - 2014

Elijah’s fight was against APOSTACY. He stood against 850 false prophets. It was his faith that reached God and not his shouting. We are never going to stamp out apostasy, but we must do some weed pulling if we are going to have a good garden.

The battle today is on the inside. We are dealing with churches that are having real problems. We come in as a mediator to bridge the gap and hold divided churches together. We see this more and more - it’s on the increase in these last days. The battle is from within. This is where the cancer is. We’re experiencing civil war in the churches. There are no winners.

Jude 25 says that (God) alone is “...able to keep you from falling and present you faultless. To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.” Remedy: Keep in tune with God and His unchangeable Word! Be a church-builder not a wrecker!



Carrot Cheese Log

- 2 medium Carrots
- 2 Tbsp grated Parmesan
- 8 oz container reduced calorie Cream Cheese
- ¼ tsp fine Herbs crushed (optional)
- ¼ cup chopped Pecans or Grape Nut Cereal
- 1 Cucumber or 4 Celery stalks

Finely shred carrots. In a small mixing bowl, stir together carrots, cream cheese, parmesan cheese and herbs. Cover and chill mixture for at least one hour.

Just before serving slice the cucumber, slightly crush cereal or use crushed pecans. Roll cheese log in crushed mix to coat. Serve with cucumber slices or celery.

Makes about 5 servings at 103 calories, 5 grams of fat. It’s good for you too! -Eleanor

NOTE: Housework is something you do that nobody notices unless you don’t do it!

1. He believed that eternal things matter. He said to the other thief: “Do you not even fear God?” –Luke 23:40. See –Heb11:6.

2. He believed that he was a sinner. He spoke of “...the same condemnation and we indeed justly for we receive due reward for our deeds...” –Luke 23:40b-41.

3. He believed that he could be saved. He called out to Jesus in his dying breath: “Lord remember me!” –Luke 43:42 See –Romans 10:13.

4. He believed in his own inability to save himself. He was dying and his hands and feet were *spiked to the cross*. There could be no second chance here. Only God’s *grace* and *mercy* can save. –Ehes 2:8-9; Titus 3:5

5. He believed in the sinless-ness of Jesus Christ. “...but this man has done *nothing wrong*” –Luke 23:41b. Six times in this chapter Jesus’ innocence is declared. Even the centurion at the cross declared him innocent –Luke 23:47.

6. He believed in the Deity of Jesus Christ. “Do you not even fear God?” He asked (V. 40). Then he addressed Jesus as “Lord” –Luke 23:42. This is significant as it is expressed in Romans 10:9.

7. He believed that Jesus was heaven’s King. When he addressed Jesus, he said: “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom” – Luke 23:42. From all appearances almost all of Jesus’ followers were scattered, disappointed that Jesus was taken by soldiers, went through 6 trials and was hung on a cross. He died that same day, marking the end of any hope of an established kingdom as far as they were concerned. But this man saw the future kingdom Jesus would have. He knew and believed more than most of Jesus’ disciples.

8. He believed that Jesus Christ was willing and able to save. “Remember me!” He cried –Luke 23:42 Yes, Jesus is able to save “to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, because he ever lives to make intercession for them” –Hebrews 7:25. Fortunately for all of us we have a God who “is not willing that any would perish, but that all would come to repentance” –2 Peter 3:9.

9. He believed in the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus. He described Jesus a receiving the “same condemnation” even though He had done “nothing wrong.” –Luke 23:40-41. Jesus was even substituted for Barabbas, a known murderer set free that day! –Luke 23:40. Likewise, *He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God through Him* –2 Corinthians 5:21. The thief believed this too!

10. He believed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The thief pointedly said: “When you come into your kingdom” while Jesus was dying –Luke 23:43. See Romans 10:9 and 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 for the importance of believing in Jesus supernatural resurrection. This thief clearly believed in it!

11. He believed in the future kingdom of Jesus Christ. “...when you come into your kingdom” he said. There is only one way to enter into this kingdom and paradise –John 3:3: And that one way is the way of the penitent thief!

Astronomer, scientist and mathematician, Copernicus marked his grave with this statement: “Lord, I do not ask the kindness Thou didst show Peter, I do not dare to ask the grace Thou didst grant to Paul; but Lord, the mercy Thou didst show to the dying robber, that mercy show to me. That earnestly I crave.”

This man lived as a thief and died as a thief, for he really was not deserving of the paradise granted by Jesus. But he died as a believer in the Savior!

Helpful Hints

Meatloaf: To serve meatloaf in a new way try cooking it in an angel food mould. Unmould on a large plate and fill the centre with potatoes and vegetables. A whole meal on one dish!

Biscuits: Did you ever try serving biscuits made with orange or pineapple juice instead of milk? Try it for more flavour.

Marshmallow Icing: When baking cupcakes try placing a large marshmallow on the top of each cake just before removing from the oven. You will have a nice tasty frosting without additional work.

Keeping Drains Unplugged: Keep those drains free flowing by pouring one cup of baking soda into the drain every week. Follow it by pouring in one cup of vinegar. As the soda and vinegar foam up flush the drain with about a quart of boiling water. That should do it & will not hurt your pipes!

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For information on planning a **legacy**, Give Terry Balko a call at 404-229-1645 or email Mr. Balko for forms and details at terry@terrybalko.com ! NOT PLANNING is a plan, but it is NOT a very good plan! **Leave a legacy for your family & favourite ministries.** Don't let your hard earned life-savings go into a probate bureaucracy!

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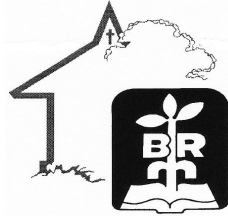
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Bible Related Ministries Newsletter

Rev. David J. Bauer, Director



2017

"That I might know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death." -Philippians 3:10

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Rev. Dave Bauer
&
Dr. Jim Rodgers'
April Itinerary



April 2, 9, Mt. Prospect Bible Church, Mt. Prospect, IL
16, 23 & 30 10:30 a.m. Dr. Jim Rodgers

April 2 Devon Church, Chicago, IL 9:30 a.m.
Rev. David J. Bauer

April 20 Pacific Garden Mission, Chicago, IL
12:00 noon Rev. David J. Bauer

April 23 Devon Church, Chicago, IL 9:30 a.m.
Rev. David J. Bauer

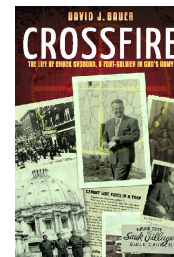
On The Lighter Side: John and Nancy were married for 40 years and decided they wanted to renew their vows and planned a second wedding.

They were discussing the details with their friends. Nancy wasn't going to wear a traditional bridal gown and she started describing the dress she was planning to wear. One of her friends asked what color shoes she had to go with the dress.

Nancy replied, "Silver."

At that point, her husband chimed in, "Yep silver...to match her hair."

Shooting a glaring look at John's bald spot, Nancy's friend said, "So, John, I guess you are going barefoot."



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BRM Field Report #Four

Our phones are buzzing these days, as we get near the Easter season, celebrating the greatest theological event of all: The crucifixion, death and resurrection of our Savior. We can stand in great liberty knowing that *Christ has set us free* -Gal. 5:1.

We are seeing a number of things holding back the ministry in our local churches today...

A church has a "patriarch" elder keeping it operating in the past, not allowing it to keep pace with modern times and the changing community around them. A question Dr. Rodgers often asks is: "How open are you and your church board to change?" What was the Apostle Paul's approach? -1 Corinth. 9:19-22

Several pastors are experiencing a need to take part-time employment to supplement their family's budget. This seriously curtails a pastor's availability and effectiveness in ministry, as he spends precious hours away from the church and his family.

A church has serious mold problems in their building and in the parsonage, and does not have the funds to correctly address mold issues. The health of the new pastor and his wife are seriously affected and they probably will need to look for another church.

A local fellowship is being disrupted by a few people with unreal expectations toward the pastor and his wife. Confidence in the pastor has been questioned by a small (but influential) inner circle, keeping the congregation from moving ahead.

A declining church in a large facility is experiencing seriously dwindling finances, operating in the red each month to just pay the bills. Most pastors would rather have the problem of being over crowded into a small building than rattling around on Sunday with few people in a huge mostly empty building.

Thank you for daily prayers and support of our ongoing ministry toward keeping our local church doors open in America. As prayer supporters you are with us as we go! Yes, you are!

Sincerely,

Rev. David J. Bauer Our church model is the one with the "open door" - See Revelation 3:8