



# Sharing Life Newsletter

MARCH 16, 2010

## March Birthdays

3/2 Russ Price  
3/3 Delores Brooks  
3/3 Elizabeth Cooper  
3/9 Gary Kornegay  
3/16 Ruth Yeager  
3/24 Danny Manning  
3/25 David McCrary

## Prayer Needs

### Hospital:

Bessie Ray  
(UAB Main)  
Nellie McMicken  
(UAB West)  
Steve Rushing  
(Brookwood)

## Special Needs:

David McCrary  
(Home w/ Shingles)  
Patsy Gamble  
Wes Dabbs  
Family  
Preschool  
Workers  
Adult Class  
Shepherds  
Apprentice  
Shepherds  
Adults

## Shepherd Gathering – Thank You! Thank You!

Your attendance at our last Shepherd Gathering was greatly appreciated. We are trying to make these gatherings fewer but effective to stay connected to things going on in your class and the church. If you have ideas on how we can make this better, please let me know.

## Explore the Bible Series: “When Life is Unfair”

### Mark 15

As Christians, we live in an imperfect world. Others may mistreat us for our faith out of fear or hatred. We can remain faithful. In this lesson we will examine Jesus’ faithfulness when treated unfairly and consider how we can be faithful in unfair situations. [Read more](#)

## Family Bible Series: “How Can You Keep from Losing Your Mind?”

### 2 Corinthians 10; Ephesians 6

Christians face a daily spiritual battle for their minds. When we fail to take the threats seriously, we leave ourselves open to attack. This lesson will help believers stay alert to the spiritual conflict, and will help them to prepare to stand strong in the battle for their minds. [Read more...](#)

## “Marks of our Mission”



The month of March is always a growing time for our church. It is great encouragement to see several inactive class members attend more regularly. It is also a launching opportunity for Easter! Please use this month and April to add “marks to your mission”. Stay in contact with every member and opportunity of your class.

## TOUCH SEASON

**1<sup>st</sup> Monday:** Youth, College & Career, Singles, & Older Senior [RESERVE A MEAL](#)  
**THIS IS A CHANGE DUE TO FEBRUARY & MARCH CALENDAR**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Monday:** Preschool & Young Adult Departments [RESERVE A MEAL](#)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Monday:** Children & Medium Adult Departments [RESERVE A MEAL](#)

***Touching Every Absentee Weekly,  
Every Member Monthly – Is Effective!!***

*Lesson  
Resources*

[Lifeway Extra](#)

[Lifeway  
Lessons  
Online](#)

[\*\*I KNOW AN  
OPPORTUNITY  
FOR OUR  
CHURCH\*\*](#)

*Sunday  
Morning  
Message*

*Walking  
Wealthy &  
Worthy in  
Christ:*

*Walking in  
Unity*

*Ephesians  
4: 1-6*

## Explore the Bible

Lesson: When Life Is Unfair

Scriptures: [Mark 15:15-20, 29-32, 37-39; 16:5-7](#)

When the Jewish leaders showed up at Jesus' appearance before Pilate they made a point of informing the Roman official that Jesus had claimed to be a king. In effect, this was true. Mark 14:61-62 records Jesus replying in the affirmative that He is Messiah - King of the Jews, according to Old Testament prophecy. By association, Jesus could be tried before a Roman court for insurrection against their authorities, since they had established their own ruler in Judea. Yet as God's law is higher than man's, to accuse the Son of such a crime is ridiculous. However, a true insurrectionist against Rome, Barabbas, was granted freedom in Jesus' place. The perfect, sinless Son of God would go on to die a tortuous death on a cross as substitute for a murderer and anarchist. That very cross may have been meant for Barabbas. Instead it held the King of the Jews, the King of kings, the Lord and Master of all creation, Jesus. This is the message of the gospel: the Lord Jesus has died in the place of punishment we all deserved for our sins. He is our atoning sacrifice. The punishment for our peace was placed upon Him.

Jesus bore the ridicule and shame of His punishment as added suffering upon the agony of the cross. Just as Isaiah predicted, He did not lash out at His accusers or respond to their taunts to save Himself. Jesus endured the cross and despised its shame because He was fixed upon the pathway toward His resurrection and eventual seating at the Father's right hand. It's there that He continually intercedes for us as we continually sin, even in the righteousness Jesus imputed to us. None of us could ever have borne the wrath of God like the Lord Jesus. Our works are as filthy rags before our holy Father. None of us could have endured the mocking and taunting of Jesus' enemies. Only the Son had the perfect strength to fulfill God's plan for salvation. This is the message of the gospel: We are freed from the works of the Law and ushered into a covenant of grace because of Christ's finished work on the cross.

Through this work we now are granted full and unrestricted access to the mercy seat of God. The old covenant of blood atonement has been fulfilled. The new covenant of mercy is in effect. We can approach the throne of grace with confidence, knowing that the Father will hear our prayers through the words of our Advocate, the Lord Jesus. This is the message of the gospel: The dividing wall of hostility between us and God has been brought down by the strong arm of the Lord Jesus.

Not even death could defeat our Savior. No stone could be large enough to hold Him in a grave. The stone rolled away not to let Jesus out but to let the disciples in - to see the wonder and miracle of the Lord's absence from the tomb. Jesus accomplished everything He came to earth to do. He won the victory over sin and death He planned to win from before the beginning of time. His work was complete and perfect. His redemption of mankind came through His fulfillment of Scripture. This is the message of the gospel: The grace and mercy of God foretold in the Old Testament was made perfect in His Son. Our redemption is secure in the resurrection of the crucified Christ.

[Sign up for "Explore the Bible" Series Newsletter](#)

*Lesson  
Resources*

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## **Bible Studies for Life Series: *Family Life Series***

**Unit: Battle for the Mind**

**Lesson: How Can You Keep from Losing Your Mind?**

**Scriptures: [2 Cor. 10:3-5](#); [Eph. 6:10-17](#)**

Taking a big-picture look at the Ephesians passage, understand that everything Paul wrote in the latter three chapters flowed from his incredible explanation of God's grace and mercy in Christ - His "calling" of the saints in the church - in the first three. Eph. 4:1 begins with the words, "I, therefore ..." which shows that everything that comes before comprises one long argument for action toward God based on God's actions toward us. It's so important that we understand the grace of Christ compels our love-response. We must "walk worthy of the calling we have received" (4:1). One way we do that is by standing firm against Satan's lies and schemes.

I must take issue with the interpretation given for verse 15 regarding the shoes of the gospel of peace. We cannot assume that because the word "gospel" appears here that the subject is evangelism. For insight into why Paul mentions the soldier's shoes, look back to verse 13 and note that once he tells us to "resist" and once to "take your stand." The Christian doing warfare against demonic ideas neither retreats nor advances; he holds the ground of the solid gospel on which he stands. In fact, every piece of the armor mentioned is defensive, except for the sword of the Spirit. Therefore the shoes are meant to help the soldier plant his feet firmly on that ground. The gospel of peace spoken to the heart of the believer tells him he is at peace with God, when before he had been the object of His wrath. Go back and look at Eph. 2. The entire chapter makes the case that we were once alienated from God because of sin, but through Christ we have been rendered at peace with Him by faith. So then when Satan tries to fool us into thinking God's wrath has returned to us because of sin, let us stand firmly upon the truth of that peace that Christ paid for with His blood, neither advancing in pride nor retreating in fear. Should we be prepared to take the gospel wherever God sends us? Of course! But this passage does not teach that truth.

When Paul told the Corinthian church they demolished strongholds - arguments and high-minded things raised up against the knowledge of God - he referred to things going on in the church! Refer back to 1 Corinthians to recall the kinds of wrong ideas pervasive at that time. The Christians in Corinth did not have to look far to find ideas and arguments contrary to Scripture. They were being spoken and affirmed in their very midst. Not much is different today. The state of biblical teaching and understanding in the church today is at a critical level. Part of your responsibility as a Bible teacher is to defend sound doctrine against fads and popular movements that do such things as demoting Christ and the gospel and elevating man and his works. You have the tools to win those battles. God has supplied you with strength and courage - and armor!

[\*\*Sign up for "Bible Studies for Life" Series Newsletter\*\*](#)