

FRESH NOTES

May - Vol. 15.07

*Christian Fellowship
Is Essential To Spiritual Growth!
We Invite You To Come Fellowship With Us &
Be Blessed By The Word!*

ABYSSINIA BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Robert W. Trice, Jr.

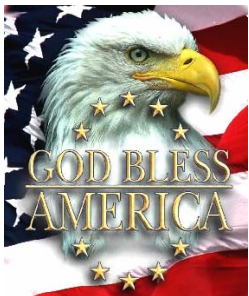
4705 Addison Road

Capitol Heights, Maryland 20743

E-mail address: abyssiniabaptist@comcast.net

Website: www.abyssiniabaptistonline.org

Church: (301) 773-4712, Fax: (301) 773-4636



Happy Memorial Day!

It was 1866 and the United States was recovering from the long and bloody Civil War between the North and the South. Surviving soldiers came home, some with missing limbs, and all with stories to tell. Henry Welles, a drugstore owner in Waterloo, New York, heard the stories and had an idea. He suggested that all the shops in town close for one day to honor the soldiers who were killed in the Civil War and were buried in the Waterloo cemetery. On the morning of May 5, the townspeople placed flowers, wreaths and crosses on the graves of the Northern soldiers in the cemetery. At about the same time, Retired Major General Jonathan A. Logan planned another ceremony, this time for the soldiers who survived the war. He led the veterans through town to the cemetery to decorate their comrades' graves with flags. It was not a happy celebration, but a memorial. The townspeople called it Decoration Day.

In Retired Major General Logan's proclamation of Memorial Day, he declared:

"The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country and during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

Happy Birthday
MAY Saints!

Old Testament

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

New Testament

1. Matthew
 2. Mark
 3. Luke
 4. John
 5. Acts
 6. Romans
 7. 1 Corinthians
 8. 2 Corinthians
 9. Galatians
 10. Ephesians
 11. Philippians
 12. Colossians
 13. 1 Thessalonians
 14. 2 Thessalonians
 15. 1 Timothy
 16. 2 Timothy
 17. Titus
 18. Philemon
 19. Hebrews
 20. James
 21. 1 Peter
 22. 2 Peter
 23. 1 John
 24. 2 John
 25. 3 John
 26. Jude
 27. Revelation
- I am an imperfect being,
living in an
imperfect world,
Loved by a perfect God,
Who sees me
as complete in Him!
How can I go wrong!
- I am just a Body,
Trying to tell Everybody
About Somebody
Who can Save Anybody!



MISTAKEN CONFIDENCE

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. 1 Peter 1:18-19

A successful businessman made this statement: "Almost every religion talks about a savior coming. When you look in the mirror in the morning, you're looking at the savior. Nobody else is going to save you but yourself."

We as Christians do not agree with that worldview because it is in direct contradiction to the gospel. The Bible teaches the exact opposite of such a self-sufficient confidence. The apostle Peter said of Jesus: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" *Acts 4:12*.

In *Romans 4*, we have forthright teaching that it is by faith, not by what we do, that a relationship with God can be established: "To him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness" (v.5). And we read in *Romans 3:28*, "We conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." By no means—not with money or good deeds—can we secure God's acceptance of our sinful selves.

We cannot save ourselves. We can be saved only by God's Son, Jesus, who lived a sinless life, died as the perfect sacrifice for our sins, and rose from the grave.

You cannot earn your way into heaven—the wages for sinning is death. Jesus is longing to save you from sin; don't wait until you draw your last breath.

JESUS GAVE HIMSELF TO GIVE US SALVATION!

THE GOSPEL OF JUDAS

The recently discovered manuscript *The Gospel of Judas* alleges that Jesus asked Judas to betray Him. Supposedly, Jesus hoped that His death would free Him from this world of matter to become a pure spirit again.

There is a big problem with this ancient text. Judas could not have written this manuscript that bears his name, since it was written long after the time of Jesus. But because *The Gospel of Judas* has been newly discovered, it provides a novelty for those who like to speculate.

Proposing a fake story to replace the New Testament account is not new. Paul wrote, *In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5*

There's a trend today to look for new theories to undermine the Bible. In *1 Thessalonians 5*, Paul told us to "test all things; hold fast what is good" (v.21). Based on the questionable content and authorship of *The Gospel of Judas*, we know that it's a fable. The real gospel (good news) lies with the apostles, who walked with Jesus and wrote down His life-saving message in the New Testament.

The Bible stands and it will forever when the world has passed away; by inspiration, it has been given.

ALL ITS PRECEPTS I WILL OBEY. TO TRUST GOD IS TO TRUST IN HIS HOLY WORD.

THE DEVIL'S SOUP BOWL

When [the devil] speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. —John 8:44

While my sons-in-law and I were hiking in a state park last summer, we noticed a trail marker that pointed toward something called The Devil's Soup Bowl. Intrigued, we took off for this geologic formation. As we went, we joked about the kind of soup we might find in the bowl.

When we arrived, we discovered it to be a large sunken area of land—something like a deep lake without any water in it. We were rather disappointed to discover that The Devil's Soup Bowl was filled with nothing but trees and weeds.

The Devil's Soup Bowl is the perfect name for a formation that offers something of interest but ends up providing nothing, because the devil is a deceiver. His menu is a bowl of tricks that delivers only empty promises and broken dreams.

Satan began his deceitful work of substituting nothing for something when he tricked Eve in the Garden of Eden, and he has not changed his plan. He tried his deceit on Jesus, but the Lord resisted and "the devil left Him" *Matthew 4:9-11*.

So how do you know if you are being offered one of Satan's lies? Test new ideas with Scripture. Consult with people you trust to be godly and wise. And pray.

Don't fall for the devil's bowl of empty lies.

Satan's a liar, deceiving all men, subtly he causes their fall into sin; but his sly methods we surely can know, looking to Jesus wherever we go.

SATAN OFFERS NOTHING BUT TRICKS AND DECEIT.