

RECOMMENDED READING
FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

GOOD NEWS!

HOME
RUN!

WE WON! GOOD
GAME KIDS!



*We
Care*
MINISTRIES



I want you to meet my neighbors, Jim and Pam. We talked about something one day that maybe you'd like to listen in on.

They are good neighbors. They thought they were ready for Heaven, prepared to go. Several of my neighbors do. They love God just like many in the Bible did. Jim, Pam and I found a common ground this day we talked; that was that we all love the Lord. But Jim and Pam discovered as we talked, that although they thought they were saved, they really hadn't been cleansed by the blood of Christ, hadn't stepped into Christ, and hadn't been born again.

They are honest neighbors. They were able to look at themselves candidly. They were able to let God speak to them through the Bible, and what they saw moved them closer in their walk toward Heaven.

They are now saved neighbors. They learned something new in our conversation that day. They learned that they were honestly mistaken... Their hearts were right, but they were merely misinformed. And wow, the Lord once said we should know the truth, for the truth is what sets us free.

I don't know – maybe you too are like Jim and Pam. I've talked to a lot of neighbors in the last 40 years about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I've watched faces light up with joy, eyes glow and hearts get excited as they have said to me, "Larry, before now no one has ever shown this to me!"

Let's go to the ball park, you and me. We're with the kids. On our way to the car, I want to ask you the same question I asked Jim and Pam.

Let's talk....

All footnote page numbers are taken from the We Care Ministries Chain-reference New Testament. These are also available through We Care Ministries.



We Care Ministries conducts multi-church, multi-media campaigns and seminars throughout the country, winning souls to Christ and training Christians to be evangelistic.

Larry West, Director, Evangelist
Marco Senoret, Spanish Evangelist
Bill Oden, AfterCare Coordinator

Peggy West, Campaign Coordinator
Amy Gill, We Care Office Mgr.
Ken Ludden, Gospel Comic Book Design

We Care Ministries is under the oversight of the **White's Ferry Road Church of Christ**.
3201 N. 7th Street, West Monroe, LA 71291 • 318.397.2000

WE'VE TAKEN OUR KIDS TO A LOT OF BALLGAMES HAVENT WE?

YEPI AND I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL BE TAKING THEM TO A LOT MORE, TOO.

YAY!

I WANT TO CONFRONT JIM AND PAM AND PRESENT THE GOSPEL TO THEM!
HOW DO I CONFRONT THEM?

OH, YEAH! I MUST ASK THEM THE QUESTION!

YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO ME, MY FRIEND! AND I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A BOLD BUT VERY WARM AND LOVING QUESTION BECAUSE I CARE! IF I MAY ASK YOU...

JIM AND PAM, WHAT IF THE LORD WERE TO COME RIGHT NOW - WOULD YOU KNOW FOR SURE, WITHOUT A DOUBT, THAT YOU WOULD GO HOME WITH HIM TO HEAVEN?

SURE I WOULD! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, LARRY! I KNOW I'M SAVED.

WELL, ARE YOU A CHRISTIAN?

YES! ABSOLUTELY! I BECAME A CHRISTIAN A LONG TIME AGO...

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, PLEASE CONTINUE... IF YOU HAVE NEVER HAD ONE, OR WERE BAPTIZED AS A BABY, SKIP TO THE NEXT PAGE.





WELL LOOK HERE FOR EXAMPLE. JESUS SAID UNLESS YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM HE, YOU WILL DIE IN YOUR SINS.



*John 8:24 (pg 153)

OH, I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN IF WE DON'T BELIEVE JESUS IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS, WE ARE GOING TO DIE IN OUR SINS!

THAT'S LIFE AND DEATH!



SO, WHO IS HE?

WELL, THAT WAS HIS QUESTION HERE WHEN HE WAS TALKING TO HIS DISCIPLES. HE ASKED THEM "WHO DO MEN SAY THAT I, THE SON OF MAN AM?"

THEY GAVE HIM ALL KINDS OF ANSWERS: JOHN THE BAPTIST, ELIJAH, JEREMIAH.



*Matt 16:13-14 (pg 27)

BUT PETER GAVE HIM THE RIGHT ANSWER. HE SAID, "YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD."



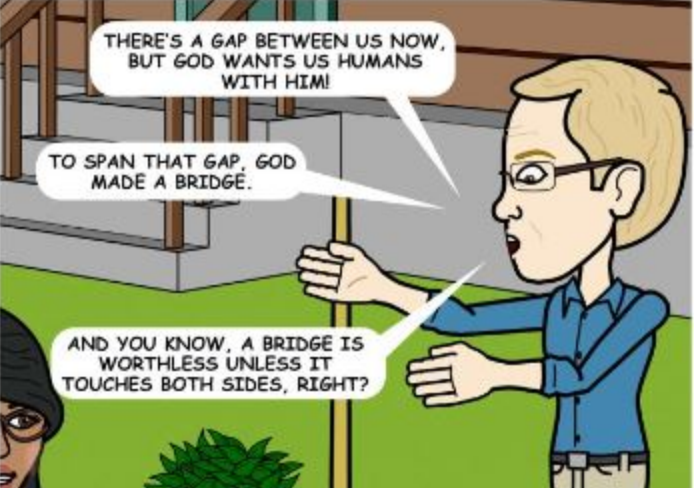
*Matt 16:16 (pg 27)

SUDDENLY FROM THE HOUSE...

LARRY! COULD YOU PLANT THOSE ROSE BUSHES THIS AFTERNOON!








THERE'S A GAP BETWEEN US NOW,
BUT GOD WANTS US HUMANS
WITH HIM!

TO SPAN THAT GAP, GOD
MADE A BRIDGE.


AND YOU KNOW, A BRIDGE IS
WORTHLESS UNLESS IT
TOUCHES BOTH SIDES, RIGHT?



AND THAT'S WHAT JESUS IS! THE
GREAT "MEDIATOR". BECAUSE HE
IS **MAN**, HE TOUCHES OUR SHORE.
BECAUSE HE IS **GOD**, HE TOUCHES
GOD'S SHORE.

NO WONDER HE'S OUR ONE
AND ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN.

*Isaiah 59:1-2 (pg 392)



BUT IN MY SEARCH OF THE BIBLE, I ALSO
LEARNED I HAD TO BELIEVE WHAT
THE BIBLE CALLS **THE GOSPEL**.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE GOSPEL IS?

THE GOSPEL? WELL,
YEAH - THE GOSPEL IS THE
BIBLE... ISN'T IT?

*Rom 1:16 (pg 229)

*I Cor 15:1-2 (pg 267)



I USED TO THINK THAT TOO
UNTIL I LOOKED IT UP **IN** THE BIBLE.

WELL, WHAT DOES THE
BIBLE SAY THE
GOSPEL IS?

LOOK AT THIS AND TELL
ME WHAT **YOU** SEE
THE GOSPEL IS.

*I Cor 15:3-4 (pg 267)

FOR I DELIVERED TO YOU FIRST OF ALL THAT WHICH I ALSO RECEIVED: THAT CHRIST **DIED** FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES, AND THAT HE WAS **BURIED**, AND THAT HE **ROSE** AGAIN THE THIRD DAY ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES...

LET ME JUST DRAW THAT HERE IN THE FLOWER BED...

*I Cor 15:3-4 (pg 267)



IT'S THE **DEATH**...



THE **BURIAL**...



AND THE **RESURRECTION** OF JESUS CHRIST!

LEMONADE!

THANKS PEGGY!

I KNEW OF THESE EVENTS BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE CALLED **THE GOSPEL**.

WHY MUST WE BELIEVE IN JESUS' DEATH AND HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE GRAVE? CAN'T WE TRUST GOD AND LEAVE ALL OF THE DETAILS TO HIM?

WELL, FIRST GOD TELLS US WE **MUST BELIEVE IT!** SECOND, BECAUSE THE BIBLE SAYS WE GET TWO THINGS **THROUGH THE GOSPEL.**

WE CAN HAVE **LIFE AND IMMORTALITY** - LIFE THROUGH HIS DEATH... AND IMMORTALITY THROUGH HIS RESURRECTION!

*II Tim 1:10 (pg 320)

AND... IT SAYS WE ARE NOT TO PREACH ANY OTHER GOSPEL THAN THAT ONE. SO, WE'VE GOT TO KNOW THE **TRUE GOSPEL!**

WHAT DID YOU MEAN WHEN YOU SAID THAT WE CAN HAVE **LIFE AND IMMORTALITY** THROUGH THE GOSPEL?

*Gal 1:6-9 (pg 284)

WELL, I LEARNED IN THE BIBLE THAT, BECAUSE OF MY SINS, I **DESERVE TO DIE!** BUT JESUS TOOK MY PLACE.

SINCE **JESUS TOOK MY PLACE,** I DON'T HAVE TO DIE! I HAVE LIFE.

BECAUSE OF HIS **DEATH,** I HAVE **LIFE.**

*Rom 6:23 (pg 236)

THEN, BECAUSE OF HIS **RESURRECTION,** MY OWN BODY CAN BE RAISED! THIS MORTAL SHALL PUT ON **IMMORTALITY!**

THAT IS, ON RESURRECTION MORNING, I CAN GET MY BODY BACK AND TAKE IT TO HEAVEN! IN FACT, IT WILL BE LIKE **JESUS' BODY!**

*Phil 3:20-21 (pg 301)

*I Cor 15:44-58 (pg 269)

WOW! THAT'S GOOD NEWS.

I CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

THE GOSPEL

II TIMOTHY 1:10

JESUS' DEATH GIVES US LIFE

JESUS' RESURRECTION GIVES US IMMORTALITY



CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING **SHUT OUT...**
CAST AWAY...
FROM GOD FOREVER?

THAT'S ANOTHER OF THOSE
"LIFE AND DEATH" STATEMENTS, ISN'T IT?

SURE IS! WHAT DOES IT MEAN
"OBEY THE GOSPEL?"

WELL, WHEN YOU LOOKED AT
I CORINTHIANS 15:1-4,
WHAT DID YOU FIND THE
GOSPEL TO BE?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

SO, HOW CAN WE OBEY THAT?

HOW ARE WE TO OBEY THOSE PAST EVENTS...
JESUS' **DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION?**

IT'S THE **DEATH, BURIAL**
AND RESURRECTION
OF JESUS.

WELL, HOWEVER IT'S DONE WE KNOW WE
MUST DO IT, RIGHT?

IT'S A **LIFE AND DEATH**
STATEMENT, ISN'T IT?

RIGHT!

SO, READ THIS AND LOOK
FOR THE **DEATH, BURIAL AND**
RESURRECTION OF
JESUS CHRIST.

...AS MANY OF US AS WERE BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST WERE BAPTIZED INTO HIS **DEATH**.

THAT'S THE FIRST PART OF THE GOSPEL. WHAT DOES IT SAY NEXT?



*Rom 6:3 (pg 235)

IT SAYS "THEREFORE WE WERE **BURIED** WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM INTO **DEATH**..."

THAT'S THE SECOND PART, CONTINUE.



*Rom 6:4 (pg 235)

...THAT JUST AS CHRIST WAS **RAISED** FROM THE DEAD BY THE GLORY OF THE FATHER, EVEN SO WE ALSO SHOULD WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE."

IN BAPTISM...
THAT'S HOW WE OBEY...
...OR RE-ENACT
THE GOSPEL!



HOW DOES THE BIBLE SHOW US HOW TO EXPRESS OUR FAITH IN THE GOSPEL?

WHEN WE OBEY THE GOSPEL WE ARE SHOWING OUR BELIEF IN THE **DEATH, BURIAL AND RESURRECTION** OF JESUS.



SO, LARRY? YOU MEAN BAPTISM IS A **MUST**? ARE YOU SAYING WE **MUST** BE BAPTIZED TO GO TO HEAVEN?

WELL, WHAT DID YOU READ? **MUST** WE OBEY THE GOSPEL TO GO TO HEAVEN?

YES!



AND HOW DOES THE BIBLE SAY WE **MUST** OBEY THE GOSPEL?

THE BIBLE SAYS IT'S THROUGH BAPTISM.

WELL, YOU HAVE ANSWERED YOUR OWN QUESTION.





HEY! WE'RE HAVING A POTLUCK DINNER AT THE CHURCH, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

SURE!

BLIP...
BLIP...



WOW, LARRY, THEY NEVER EXPLAINED TO ME WHY THEY BAPTIZED ME! IF THEY DID, IT WASN'T ANYTHING LIKE THIS!

OBEYING THE GOSPEL IS... INTO THE WATER, INTO THE DEATH, INTO THE BLOOD. AND...



IT SAYS HERE "... WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD THERE IS NO REMISSION."

AND HERE IT'S A NEW COVENANT IN JESUS BLOOD.

WHAT'S A COVENANT?

*Hebrews 9:22 (pg 336)

*I Corinthians 11:25 (pg 263)



IT'S AN AGREEMENT. ISN'T IT LARRY?

YES. AND GOD WANTS TO MAKE ONE WITH US.

I LIKE THAT!



TO GET INTO THE COVENANT WE'VE GOT TO APPLY THE BLOOD!

AND THE BLOOD IS IN THE DEATH!

AGAIN, THE BIBLE CALLS IT "OBEYING THE GOSPEL".

AHA! AND THAT'S THE DEATH!

John 19:33-34 (pg 174)



WELL, JESUS SAYS YOU MUST REPENT OF YOUR SINS!

IT'S ANOTHER "LIFE AND DEATH" STATEMENT! JESUS SAYS "EXCEPT YOU REPENT, YOU WILL PERISH!"

I DID THAT YEARS AGO, LARRY.

*Luke 13:3 (pg 114)

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CURSING? YOU CAN'T CURSE GOD AND LOVE HIM TOO.

YOU'RE RIGHT, AND THERE ARE OTHER SINS I MUST QUIT, TOO!

I MUST REALLY DECIDE TO LOVE THE LORD.

I Corinthians 6:9-11 (pg 256)

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?

WELL, YES! I READ HERE THAT JESUS SAYS IF WE CONFESS HIM BEFORE MEN, HE WILL CONFESS US BEFORE THE FATHER!

BUT THAT IF WE DON'T, HE WON'T EITHER!

*Matt 10:32-33 (pg 15)

I WILL CONFESS HIM NOW...

AND FOREVER!

I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT THAT UP!

THAT'S BECAUSE CONFESSING JESUS IS ACTUALLY TO BE A WAY OF LIFE!

JUST AS REPENTANCE IS! I KNOW WHAT REPENTANCE MEANS! IT MEANS CHANGING YOUR WHOLE LIFE!

*Acts 2:38 (pg 180)

I MEAN, RIGHT NOW YOU ARE ALLOWING ME TO CONFESS MY FAITH IN JESUS. I WANT TO THANK YOU!

WELL, YOU'RE VERY WELCOME!

REPENTANCE MEANS TO STOP DOING SOME THINGS, LIKE WHAT ARE ON THE LIST IN I CORINTHIANS 6:9-10, AND START...

... I KNOW! AND START OTHER THINGS, LIKE TELLING OTHERS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS!



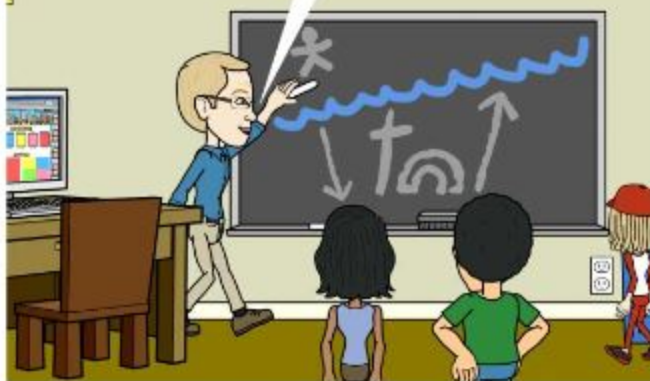
YES! THAT'S PART OF THE CONVERSATION PACKAGE!

WE ARE TO WANT OTHERS SAVED TOO!

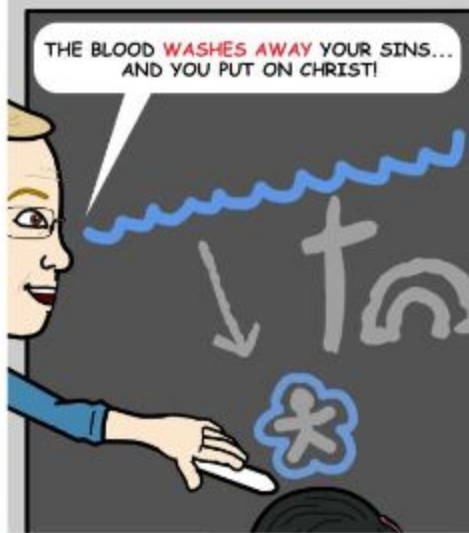


OKAY NOW, LET'S DO THE RIGHT THING!

NOW YOU KNOW BAPTISM PUTS YOU INTO THE GOSPEL! YOU STEP INTO THE BLOOD; JESUS' BLOOD.



THE BLOOD WASHES AWAY YOUR SINS... AND YOU PUT ON CHRIST!



HERE, BECAUSE YOU'VE "TOUCHED BLOOD," YOU'RE SAVED. GOD HAS "CONFIRMED" HIS COVENANT WITH YOU, AND NOW YOU ARE IN CHRIST. GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT IS IN YOU AND YOU ARE BORN AGAIN... HERE YOU BEGIN YOUR WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE!



*Acts 2:22-24 (pg 180)

*John 3:3-5 (pg 141)

*Romans 6:3-9 (pg 235)

IN ACTS 2, WHEN PEOPLE HEARD THE GOSPEL, 3,000 OBEYED IT.

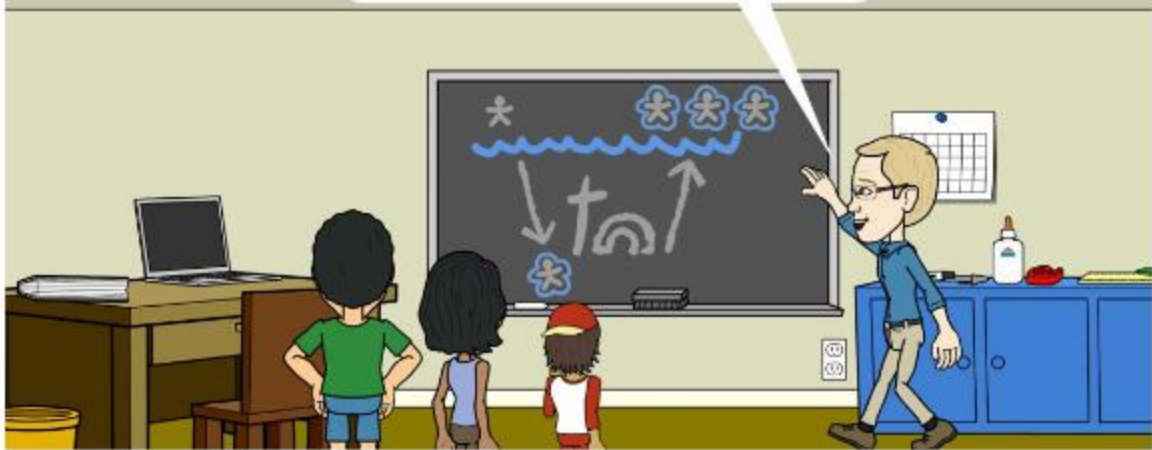
AND GOD SAID THAT'S WHEN THEY WERE SAVED!



*Acts 2:47 (pg 181)

*Col 1:18 (pg 303)

JIM AND PAM? WHERE IN THIS PICTURE
ARE YOU STANDING?



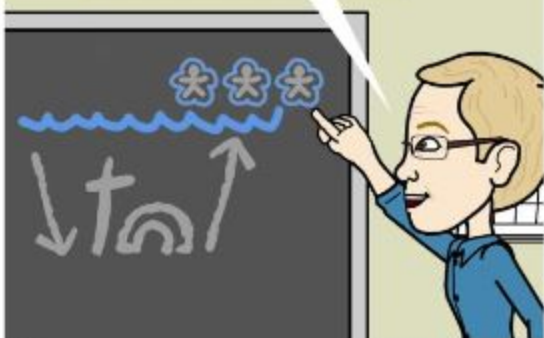
THAT'S GOT TO BE ME! I'VE NEVER
UNDERSTOOD BEFORE. SO, YES! THAT'S ME!



I'VE GOT TO BE HONEST
ABOUT THE GOSPEL! HOW COULD
I HAVE "OBEYED THE GOSPEL"
IF I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND?



WELL, THAT'S ME RIGHT THERE!
I'VE DONE IT!



SO, LET ME ASK YOU JUST LIKE A FELLOW NAMED
ANANIAS ASKED SAUL IN THE BIBLE...



I'M LISTENING!



"WHY ARE YOU WAITING? **ARISE AND BE BAPTIZED**, AND WASH AWAY YOUR SINS, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD."



*Acts 22:16 (pg 217)



THE GOSPEL ENACTED

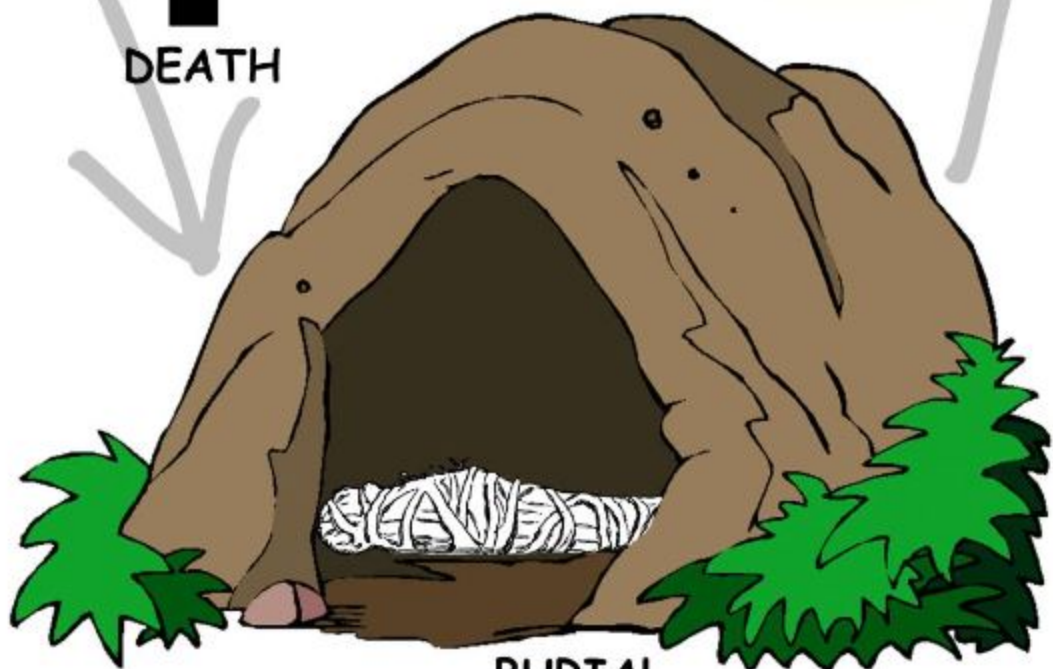
I CORINTHIANS 15:3-4



DEATH



RESURRECTION

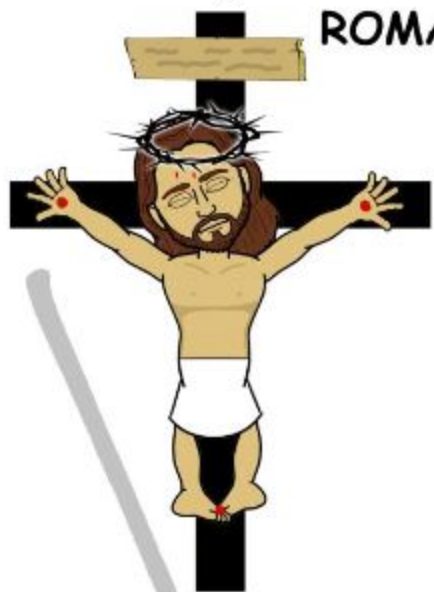


BURIAL

THE GOSPEL RE-ENACTED

(OBEYING THE GOSPEL)

ROMANS 6:3-6



DEATH



RESURRECTION



BURIAL

WHAT IF THE LORD
WERE TO COME

RIGHT NOW?

WOULD YOU KNOW FOR SURE, WITHOUT
A DOUBT, THAT YOU WOULD GO HOME
WITH HIM TO LIVE FOREVER?

HAVE YOU OBEYED THE GOSPEL?

ROMANS 6:3-6

NOTES:

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