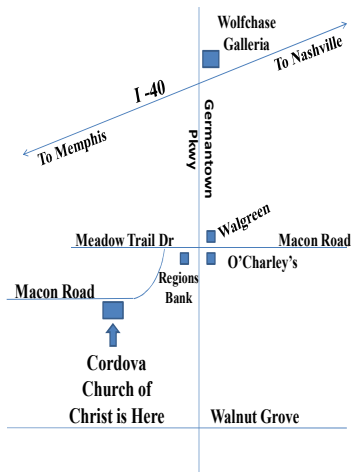


The Cordova Connector

...Connecting our community to Christ

A Publication of the Cordova Church of Christ

Romans 16:16



Rick Owens, Minister
7801 Macon Road
Cordova, TN 38018
(901) 754-9893
www.cordovacoc.com

Connecting to Life

Her Favorite Song

Some years back, I read in *The Commission* magazine an incident I will never forget. A church group from New Bern, North Carolina, had traveled to the Caribbean on a mission trip. Their host took them to visit a leper colony on the island of Tobago. While visiting with these sad patients, they held a worship service in the campus chapel. The lepers filed in and took their seats on the pews, and the Carolinians led them in hymns. The minister of the group - his name is Jack; wish I had the last name - noticed that one patient was sitting on the back row, facing the opposite direction. How unusual.

Jack said, 'We have time for one more hymn. Does anyone have a favorite?' Now for the first time, the leprous woman on the back row turned around to face the front. Jack said, 'I found myself staring into the most hideous face I had ever seen. She had no nose and no lips. Just the bare teeth, like a skull.' As she turned, she raised her hand in the air. Except it wasn't a hand. It was the bony end of her arm, just a nub. As poor Jack was trying to take this in, she spoke. 'Could we sing 'Count Your Many Blessings'?'

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Connecting to Jesus

Evidences of Jesus' Death

As strange as it may sound, some unbelievers — in order to get around the miracle of the resurrection — have denied that Jesus actually died on the cross. Let's explore the evidence ...

The precipitate cause of Jesus' death is not precisely known, but His death is attested to by four recorded facts.

First, the soldiers (professional executioners) testify of His death. They perceived that Jesus was dead and did not break His legs—a normal procedure to hasten death (Jn. 19:33). Instead, they pierced His side with a spear (logche, made of iron, with an egg-shaped head as wide as a man's hand) (Jn. 19:34). If He had not been dead, this would have been a fatal wound.

Second, the flow of blood and water from His side is proof of His death. This piercing almost certainly indicates a laceration of the heart itself (pericardium) which would, even under normal circumstances, be fatal. Albert Barnes wrote, "This membrane [pericardium] contains a serous matter or liquid resembling water, which prevents the surface of the heart from becoming dry by its continual motion." The separation of blood and water further implies some time had elapsed since His death. The blood and water indicate a post-mortem separation of the cellular components of blood from the fluid component (serum).

Third, Jesus Himself attested to the immediate proximity of His own death by saying, "Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit" (Lk. 23:46). Matthew adds, "Jesus...yielded up his spirit" (27:50). The Greek implies a willful sending forth of the spirit at the point of death (aphiemi, "to send forth"). Jesus had said that He would lay down His life (Jn. 10:17,18).

Fourth, there are supernatural evidences that He had died. The Temple veil was rent in two from the top to the bottom. This veil hid the Holy of Holies, the place where dwelt the very presence of God. No man could enter it except the High Priest, and he only once a year, on the great Day of Atonement. It was as if the way to God's presence, hitherto barred to man, was opened to all. It was as if God's heart, hitherto hidden, was laid bare (Jn. 14:9). On the cross, as never before and never again, men saw God's great love. Also, tombs were opened and bodies raised. This symbolizes that Jesus had conquered death. The tomb lost its power, and the grave lost its terror, and death lost its tragedy.

All that remains to complete the scene is the removal of the body and burial in the new tomb to await the resurrection on Sunday morning (Mt. 27:57-60). The certainty of Jesus' death has thus been verified both medically and Biblically.

"... Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing" — John 20:37

Connecting to Life continued ...

The preacher lost it. He stumbled out of the pulpit and through the door into the yard, with tears in his eyes. Another stepped up and led the hymn, and a friend walked outside and put his arm around Jack. 'You'll never be able to sing that song again, will you, Jack?' 'Oh, yeah, I'll sing it,' Jack said, 'but not in the same way.'

Serving the Lord, rejoicing in Him, obeying, giving, loving, praying. Regardless.

-Adapted from Joe McKeever

'Ye are blessed of the Lord which made heaven and earth.'
Psalm 115:15

House To House Heart To Heart, Volume 12 #1

Connecting to God's Word

1. Spend a few minutes thinking about what characteristic of God brings you the most peace in your life.
2. Read Psalms 8 and 9.
3. Which verses drew your attention the most?
4. What important aspect of prayer can be learned from these two psalms?
5. What observation did you notice from the reading?
6. How can the psalms help in improving one's relationship with God?

Connecting to His Church

7801 Macon Road ~ Cordova, TN 38018

Mother's Day Out ~ Tuesdays and Thursdays ~ 9:30 to 2:30

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship	1:00 P. M.
Wed. Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
(Attended nursery at all services)	

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