

Did Jesus Intend to Die?

Elders:

John Deffenbaugh
Wayne Douthitt
Glen Honeycutt
Rick Hyder
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Deacons:

Pete Babb
Carl Cobb
Alan Cook
Barry Flint
Casey Flint
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Tim Murray
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Local Evangelists:

Danny Boggs
Luke Yates

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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The death of Jesus is difficult to understand. From the beginnings of Christian preaching, the cross was a barrier to conversion (1 Corinthians 1:18). Still today, many imagine the cross to have been a mistake. Jesus intended to establish an earthly kingdom, they claim, only to have His intentions thwarted by His arrest and crucifixion. But is this account true? Did Jesus intend to die?

First, we must note that God planned the death of Christ from the foundation of the world (Acts 2:23; Revelation 13:8). It was no surprise to God when Jesus was captured and crucified. That was the plan all along. Second, the Old Testament predicted the death of Jesus. The best-known passages are Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, but many other details of the betrayal (Zechariah 11:12-13), crucifixion (psalm 34:32) and resurrection (Psalm 16:10) are provided. These prophecies formed the foundation of early Christian preaching (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Third, Jesus had total power over His own fate. His purpose was to complete the will of God, as He testifies (John 6:38). Thus His life, including the manner of His death, followed the will of God (Matthew 20:22; Luke 22:42). This does not mean Jesus had no free will. To the contrary, He states, "For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father" (John 10:17-18 ESV). Although Jesus acted in accord with the will of God, He remained in total control.

On two occasions in John's gospel, the Jews picked up stones to execute Jesus (8:59; 10:31), and on both occasions He escaped their grasp

(8:59; 10:39). These accounts stand in addition to Jesus' previous evasions of arrest (7:30,44). But in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus puts up no fight, nor does He miraculously escape (Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-53). Indeed, His hour had come (John 17:1).

The choice of the Garden of Gethsemane itself was intentional, for Jesus knew the place was isolated from Jerusalem and familiar to Judas (John 18:2). He thus acquiesced to the Jews' desire to avoid strife by having Him arrested during the Passover (Matthew 26:5). Every step of His arrest, trial and crucifixion Christ carefully controlled to ensure His execution. The death of Jesus was no mistake nor a botched attempt to force an earthly kingdom. It was planned before the world existed, prophesied in Old Testament Scripture and performed by the faithful Son of God.

Justin Rogers

Justin's article appeared on page 11 of the December 2016 issue of *Gospel Advocate*. Take advantage regularly of this good magazine, along with *Christian Courier* and its in-depth Bible studies and *Voice of Truth International* and its short, faith-building articles. Pick up your copy of any of them in the foyer or on the table in the first hallway.

We remember Justin for the encouragement he gave us in our weekend seminar on Jeremiah in October 2015. The next couple of years will bring Spencer Furby, David Wright and Chris McCurley to town in gospel meetings to build us up and give us extra opportunities to help our friends hear the gospel. Spencer will be here this April 2-5. Please clear that space on your calendar now!

Danny Boggs



Kay Anderson, Betty Ball, Yvonne Barker, Jack Brodie, Shannon Brodie, Derek Campbell, Charles Collinworth Sr., Pete and Leona Conrow, Jace Cornell, Vera Cornell, Lana Couch, Lee Crabtree, Robert Crawford, Glenda Daniels, Kenneth Daniels, Kristie Deffenbaugh, Wayne Deffenbaugh, Wayne Douthitt, Emily Enfield, Titus Farley, Jerry and Louise Faules, Reva Flint, Joe and Teresa Freund, Phyllis Goins, Beverly Garrison, Faye Haight, Margaret Hawkins, Wilma Hill, Larry Jones, Wilma Knoll, Barry Koch, Brandon Lay, Guy Lewis, Pearl McLeary, Connie Mills, Max Naramore, Price Naramore, Linda Patterson, Cindy Patton, Dale Privett, Jim Privett, Russell and Sarah Puckett, John Starmer, Mark Strohl, Helen Swem, Corin Thomlinson, Richard Tink, Bobbie Tuggle, Robin VanDorn, Mary Van Nelson, Eric Wilson, Ruth Ann Wilson, Dorothy Wolgamott, Treva Wolgamott, and Velda Wood.

- Kristie Deffenbaugh is scheduled for surgery on January 20.
- Mary Jane Flint had surgery Tuesday.
- Susie Tomlin will have surgery tomorrow at Freeman West.

Dear church family,
Thank you so much for your gifts this holiday season. Thank you even more for your loving encouragement and care. You all are very special to me.

In love,
Luke Yates

The Thursday morning ladies' morning Bible class will meet at 10:00 this Thursday with a study of Exodus 17 and 18.

Senior Saints: The Senior Saints will have a soup and chili dinner this Saturday in the fellowship room at noon. If you have any questions, see Lynda Holverson.



This Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *The Gospel: Grace for Our Guilt*
(Danny Boggs)

P.M. *We Pray* (Danny Boggs)

Outreach: Join us at Medicalodge at 1:30 Sunday for a few minutes singing, hearing from the Bible, praying and encouraging the residents.

Men's BBQ Night: Meet at the Hillcrest parking lot at 6:00 next Tuesday night, January 17, for a trip to Big Ben's BBQ Station in Carthage.

Juice boxes: We're collecting juice boxes to help with the Bright Futures effort to send needy Neosho children home with nutrition over the weekends. Place your donations in the west nook of the foyer.

Make Plans: January 29 brings our next fifth Sunday contribution opportunity. Thanks again to everyone who gave so generously in our kickoff in October to pay for our new building. Everything that we give above our budget on the 29th will help pay to pay for the construction. While it's hard to see the progress on the building so far, things are happening every day and will soon be more visible.

Besides all the other good things about assembling with us to worship God, this Sunday morning's lesson could prove especially helpful to someone you know who knows it's time for a change. Whom could you invite to our services this week?

I Met the Strangest Man

He said he believes in the Bible as the Word of God—but he never reads it.

He said the church would be more effective in its ministries if more of its members were really dedicated—but he never becomes involved in any ministry.

He said he feels the church assemblies are times for edification and praise to God—but he seldom attends.

He said he believes the younger generation needs stronger spiritual values—but doesn't exemplify strong spirituality in his life before his children.

He said the church is not doing the work the Lord intends it to do—but he is not working.

He said he believes that God hears and answers prayers—but he seldom prays.

He said he knows the Lord is coming again—but lives as though the Lord will never come.

Great changes come to the world through small decisions by ordinary people. Be the change God wants to see in our world!

"But be doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves"
(James 1:22)

Via House to House, Heart to Heart

ASSIGNMENTS

Prayers Sunday, January 15

- AM Opening: Todd Murray
- AM Closing: Pat Andrews
- PM Opening: Tony Flint
- PM Closing: Bob Murray

Scripture Reading Sunday, January 15

- Proverbs 28:13-14, Harold Speir
- Prayers Wednesday, January 18**
- Opening: Matt Hayes
- Closing: Nolan Murray

RECORDS	01-08-17	01-10-16
Bible Study	135	156
AM Worship	197	212
PM Worship	112	165
Wednesday	139	136
Contribution	\$7,921.03	\$7,481.00
Budget	\$7,630.58	\$7,075.67