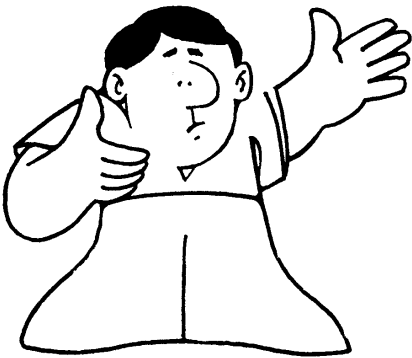


# THE BULLETIN

## Q u e s t i o n / A n s w e r

### UNBELIEVER'S QUESTION...



Since God is infinitely good and all-powerful, why doesn't He do away with all evil and violence?

### BIBLE ANSWER...

He is going to do precisely that, when Christ returns (2 Peter 3:7).

### UNBELIEVER'S QUESTION...

Why is He waiting so long?

### BIBLE ANSWER...

He is giving you time and opportunity to repent in order for you not to be among the evil He will destroy (2 Peter 3:8).



## The Manchester church of Christ

66 Mammoth Rd.  
Manchester NH 03109  
603.623.5559

[mht\\_church@comcast.net](mailto:mht_church@comcast.net)

[mhtchurch.org](http://mhtchurch.org)

### Our Ministers:

Park Linscomb 540-0287  
Mark Casella (501) 388-1687

### Our Elders:

Barry Fogal 487-2387  
Gerry Millette 497-3105  
Mike Moser 429-9487

### Our Deacons:

Tony Casella- Finance  
Fred Hillhouse- Facilities  
Doug Paul- Education  
Stuart Peacock- Worship  
Pete Steffensen- Facilities  
David Skerry- Benevolence & Outreach

### Regularly Scheduled Services

Sunday worship: 9:30am  
Sunday Bible class: 11:00am  
Sunday evening: 6:00pm  
Wednesday Bible class: 7:00pm

ℳ  
A BIBLE IN THE HAND IS  
BETTER THAN TWO IN  
THE BOOKCASE  
ℳ

# Our Family News

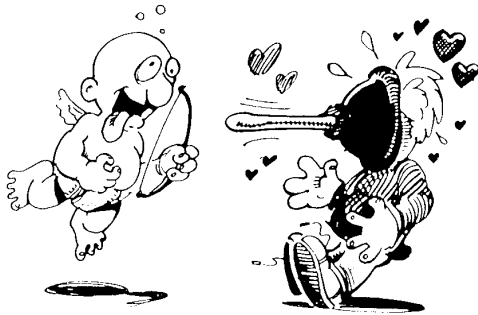
"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household," Ephesians 2:19, NAS95.

**If you're a visitor to our church, welcome!** If you have questions, we welcome them; please don't hesitate to ask Park Linscomb our minister (the really tall guy) or any other church member.

## THIS AND THAT

### SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR

**VALENTINE'S DAY** Valentine's Day falls on Sunday this year, so we



are having a church gathering on Feb. 14 in place of small groups to celebrate marriage and family. Adults, teens, singles, and everyone are encouraged to come!

**WEDNESDAY DINNER:** Sausage gravy, biscuits, scrambled eggs. Yum! Be sure to sign up so that the Potters will have enough for us all.

**THE FUND** for bringing John and Kehinde Ogunsuyi's children to the US is going well. Thanks to everyone who contributed! John's car was totaled recently, so further funds are being raised to help here, too. Pray for the family; this will be a big change for parents and children.

**THE HARDING SPRING BREAK MISSION GROUP** will be here in just a few weeks. In preparation for them, we need sleeping bags and volunteers to help feed them. If you can help in either of these ways, please contact Mark or Park. This will be a great event

for the church here, and a great opportunity for these young people to get "sold" on New England mission work.

**CONGRATULATIONS, JAMES CASELLA**, who graduated from Universal Technical Institute on Friday. He finished their auto training program including Nissan and Mercedes Benz training with Honors!!

### BIG EVENTS FOR US, JUST UP THE ROAD...

- *The Harding Spring Break Mission Group* Feb. 26-Mar. 5.
- April 1-3, the Manchester (that's us) youth rally!

### THANKS...

...Thanks to everyone who filled in for Park

while he was gone on Gander Brook business.

...Those who came and worked at Monday Night for the Master last Monday evening. You are appreciated!

### INVITATIONS FROM CHURCHES AROUND THE AREA...

- The Conway Youth Rally, Feb. 26-28, Conway NH.
- Kittery Ladies Day: March 10 Biddeford, Me. The speaker will be Becky Blackmon. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Please let Linda Paul know if you are going, so we can organize some car pools to go.
- March 11, the ninth annual New England Church Growth Conference. Theme: "Stronger Families; Stronger Churches". Place: the Manchester CT church of Christ. More info is posted on the foyer bulletin board.

- April 10, from 2-5, an area-wide hymn singing held at the Concord NH church, 141 Fisherville Rd., Concord NH
- May 1, Area wide singing in Springfield VT.
- May 14 There will be a Ladies Day in Manchester CT. More information to come.
- May 21, a men's day at the Concord church building, 141 Fisherville Rd., Concord NH. Park Linscomb and David Rollert will be speaking.

### PRAYER LIST: .

*Good*

*Works:*

Bible studies in progress, the Gander Brook Center for Christian Leadership, our website, MNFM, food pantry, Penny Ranger's evangelistic efforts online

*Health:* Tom Jones, Susie Peacock, Cy Stafford Deb Dlutowski, Darlene Cordaro, Marge Simon, Lynn Millette, Brian Day, Penny's niece Chelsea, Mary Jane Parker, Dave Seguin, Natalie Cleavitt, David Lovering, Linda Tetrault and her brother Bob, John Matthew and Anni

*Struggles:* Randy Stevens, Mark Brown & Emma, Jim Kenison, and finally, brethren who have forsaken the assembly.

*Leadership:* Ministers, Elders, Deacons, Teachers, Parents



# A Word of Encouragement

"For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it." Hebrews 2:1, NAS95.

## ONLY THE KING MAKES THE RULES

The book of Romans begins with a presentation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—ending in chapter 8 with “no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus” (8:1) and how we “overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us” (8:37).

In chapter 9 the theme changes, however, in answer to an urgent question asked by Jewish Christians of his day, “What about my unbelieving family? What about the nation of Israel? Will they be lost?” How could all these good, dear people “...to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises, whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh...” (Romans 9:4, 5) be lost for not believing in Jesus? Paul expressed his own deep concern by saying, “For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh” (9:3). You can hear his great heart breaking.

So, Paul needed to compassionately—but truthfully—answer this question. He started by reassuring them that God’s promises about Israel will surely be fulfilled (v.6), but reminded them of a familiar set of Bible stories with applications that they probably hadn’t realized before. He pointed out in Romans 9 that although Abraham had several sons (e.g., Ishmael, Isaac, Zimram, Jokshan, Midian, etc.), only Isaac was the “son of promise”. Doubtlessly, Ishmael may have wondered, “What was wrong with me?”; nothing, but God’s choice was firm. Again, Paul reminded them of Isaac’s twin sons, Esau and Jacob; Jacob was chosen to be the father of the nation that finally became chosen Israel and the bloodline of the Messiah—but Esau was not. Paul then pointed to additional familiar stories (Pharaoh: “He has mercy on whom He desires”), a parable (the potter’s prerogative), and a quote from the prophets (Hosea: “...I WILL CALL THOSE WHO WERE NOT MY PEOPLE, ‘MY PEOPLE...”) to make this crucially important point—it is God alone that makes the choices that sets the criteria about salvation and chosenness. Salvation wasn’t going to be by Mosaic law, Temple sacrifice, or sincerity (Romans 10:2). Chosenness wouldn’t be founded on bloodline. It would be by putting faith in Jesus Christ and all that this includes by choice and edict of the Lord. Paul is essentially saying—with great heartache and compassion to the Jews of his day—wish whatever you want to wish for Israel, with as much earnestness as you can muster, but God was choosing to include the Gentiles and salvation would be through Jesus. “But, but...!” they might have objected; but no, the standard of salvation and chosenness is always God’s final, sovereign call—not ours. His promises will be fulfilled His way, not ours.

The principle still stands true today—and so does the problem, with a twist. The twist is that the problem is not Jewish in nature anymore, but Gentile. Many Christians are deeply concerned for their beloved family and friends. Many of us could say right along with Paul, “that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart” (Romans 9:2) for their souls’ salvation. But the principle remains the same, the fulfillment of God’s promises remain as much His unilateral, royal prerogative as it was in Paul’s day. And the hard truth is that salvation will not be by the sinner’s prayer, not by “receiving Jesus into your heart”, and not by being a good person. Neither will it be by the religious traditions of persuasive preachers, by intellectual theologians, by decisions of religious convocations, by being married to a Christian, by being the child of a religious family, by church attendance, nor by any other human device. Chosenness and salvation—forgiveness, grace, hope, inheritance, and glory—are God’s sovereign choices, with which we must comply to be among the chosen.

As Paul continues through Romans 10 and 11 he teaches 1) that Jews who had not believed in Jesus had been pruned off of the cultivated “Olive Tree” of the Lord (11:17ff) in favor of believing Gentiles, 2) that it had actually been predicted by the Lord, but 3) that not all hope was lost. Jews could still place their faith and give obedience to Jesus Christ and be grafted back into God’s “Olive Tree” (11:23,24). So also with family and friends today. Hope—the only hope—continues to be in believing in and obeying Jesus, the sole Chooser of the conditions of salvation and chosenness.

Today as we struggle with our personal feelings, fears, and hopes for family, friends, and good people of various religious persuasions, we must keep uppermost in our minds that...

- Jesus is the sovereign of the great Kingdom of Heaven, God’s chosen people
- the way of salvation isn’t open-ended or adjustable
- God alone is God, we are not
- reconciliation to Him is not on our own terms, but His alone

The Lord’s choice of criteria remains, as always, 1) hear the Gospel, 2) believe in Jesus, 3) repent of sin, 4) confess faith, 5) be baptized for forgiveness of sin, and 6) live a life of faithful discipleship. Anything else is a loser’s bet of our eternal soul that Jesus is not really Lord, and that God doesn’t really have the last word.

Park Linscomb

## Our Congregational Calendar for Feb. 7 through Feb. 20

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7 Worship 9:30 BC 11am 6pm @ bldg	8	9	10 6pm dinner 7pm Bible study	11	12 Mike G. BD Teen commercial work, 7:30, bldg.	13 Steve J. BD
14 Worship 9:30 BC 11am Valentines Day gathering, 5:30 @ bldg	15	16	17 6pm dinner 7pm Bible study	18 Jason T. BD	19	20

Bible Reading Schedule for this Week		
Sunday	Feb. 7	Psa. 33,34
Monday	Feb. 8	Acts 24
Tuesday	Feb. 9	Psa. 35,36
Wednesday	Feb. 10	Acts 25
Thursday	Feb. 11	Psa 37
Friday	Feb. 12	Psa. 38, 39
Saturday	Feb. 13	Acts 26

Service Schedule for Feb. 7 and Feb. 10		
Call to Worship	<i>Gerry Millette</i>	
Song Leader	<i>Mark Casella</i>	<i>Steve Johnson</i>
Scripture	<i>David Skerry</i>	
Lord's Supper	<i>Gary Diaz</i>	
Closing Prayer	<i>Steve Johnson</i>	
Worship Tech	<i>Stuart Peacock</i>	
Coordinator	<i>Rich Therrien</i>	
Devo		<i>Park Linscomb</i>



### THINGS ARE GETTING BUSY SO LETS TRY TO STAY UPDATED ON EVERYTHING!

- ★ Conway youth rally forms and money are due Wednesday the 10th. Please bring them to Mark or Ann.
- ★ Friday the 12th there is a youth rally commercial work night from 7:30- 9:30 at the church building.
- ★ Sunday the 14th is our Valentines day church gathering. A sign up sheet is located in the foyer. Starts at 5:30.
- ★ Conway youth rally is Feb 26-28. Please pray for this weekend of spiritual growth and encouragement.
- ★ Needed: sleeping bags for the Harding Spring Break mission group. Also need newspaper for the youth rally in April

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