Berea One Life



"When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who had come with her crying, He was deeply moved in His spirit and troubled." John 11:33

What's your favorite thing about Easter?

Getting dressed up? Egg hunts? Sunrise service? Hymns we only sing once a year? The Lilies (said no one ever, haha)? The hope? The ham (traditional because it's a New Covenant, no more kosher)? The Resurrection?

This year my favorite thing about Easter is that death is a lie. Christ won the Victory over death on Easter Sunday!

Once and for all Jesus proved that death is temporary from this world's perspective and a farce as seen from above. The hope of Easter is that "everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die" (John 11:26). It may look like Jesus is looking through rose-colored glasses, but the believer never dies, we merely move from life unto life.

I love the story of Lazarus! As I dive deeper into John 11 I find a never-ending goldmine of comfort and nuggets of mind-blowing truth. Someday it will probably end up being a book.

I have had the unfortunate privilege to share the verse above at two untimely funerals over the past few years. It's the hinge point of what will become that book of mine, if it ever gets written.

Alright bear with me as I go deep and get a little preachy for a minute...

The key word in this verse (and 11:38) is "deeply moved." It's the Greek word embrimaomai (not that you needed to know that).

Hidden in our English translation is much more than meets the eye. A better way to translate it would be "angry." When Jesus saw His friend Mary crying in grief over her brother's death Jesus became angry.

Not just annoyed. Not frustrated. He was irate! One commentator described this word like an angry horse. Its tail is swishing, its nostrils flared and snorting, its feet stomping and it's about to buck, kick and do its best to destroy anything foolish enough to be close by.

Jesus was "horse snortin' mad."

I like this side of Easter. This year it really speaks to me.

As Jesus exited the grave He's saying: "take that Death." "Nice try Satan." "Death, where is your victory, where is your sting" (1 Corinthians 15:55). "You got anything else, cuz I'll swallow that up too." "We are the champions..." (too far?)

Jesus slaughtered death... be like Jesus!

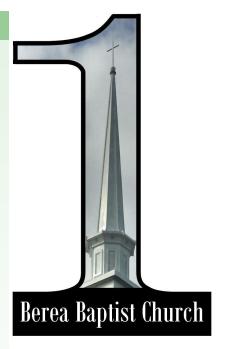
How are you fighting death? By sharing the Good News? Eating right and exercising? Getting vaccinated? Teaching the next generation about Eternal Life?

I pray we are all living our lives for Jesus. I pray we are ready to move from this life to the next. I pray we join in Jesus' anger over death and fight to win the Victory by His Life!

Jesus slaughtered death... be like Jesus!

Love you all,

Jason



Inside this issue:

- AAEO Goal Exceeded!!
- **Sunday School Recaps**
- Sermon Recaps
- New Exhibit at Museum of the Albemarle

Weekly Activities:

Sundays

- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Sunday Worship
- 6:30pm Youth @ Troxell's

Wednesdays

- 6:00pm Adult Bible Study*
- 6:30pm Awana
- *Adult Bible Studies are done via FacebookLIVE.

March @ a Glance:

- **Deacons Meeting** 4/12 @ 7:00pm
- **Newsletter Deadline** 4/19 @ 9:00am
- Church Council 4/25 @ 12:15pm



Bill Durham
Steve Durham - Reflections
John Gregory
Fahey Harrell - Secretary
Frank Lilly - Chairman
Doug Rogerson
Richard Seymour - Vice-Chairman

Next Meeting: March 8@7:00pm

Thoughtful Reflections from Your Family Deacons

God's Love and God's Forgiveness go hand in hand. As do God's Love and God's Grace. When you accept God's Grace, you rest in the knowledge that God is in Control of your life...He is responsible for the consequences and the fashioning of your life. As he leads you from person to person, task to task...you have an abiding sense that you are fulfilling His purpose for your life. That is the Greatest Feeling of Fulfillment you can know!

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Handyman Ministry





This ramp was built for Valerie Hardison. She recently had a leg amputated and lives by herself. The ramp will make it easier for her even with help.

Thanks to the guys that helped with this ramp. We worked in the rain and cold to finish it.



This ramp is for Loraine Hanson. She is having difficulty climbing steps and the ramp makes it easier for her to get in and out the house.

March Financials



February 28, 2021			
General	\$3,380.00		
AAEO	210.00		
Handyman	200.00		
Security	400.00		
TOTAL	\$4,190.00		

March 7, 2021		
General	\$6,330.00	
AAEO	600.00	
Awana	100.00	
Easter Lilies	195.00	
TOTAL	\$7,225.00	

March 14, 2021	
General	\$3,588.00
AAEO	390.00
Handymen	500.00
Memorial*	25.00
Easter Lilies	210.00
Awana	30.00
Security	250.00
TOTAL	\$4.993.00

*Memorial given to the Memorial Fund in memory of David Mooring.

March	21,	2021

 General
 \$3,841.00

 AAEO
 840.00

 Easter Lilies
 15.00

 Memorial*
 80.00

 TOTAL
 \$4,776.00

*Memorial given to the Sound & Kitchen Supplies Funds in memory of Betty Sanders.

Offerings can continue to be mailed to the Church/Treasurer, dropped off to the church during office hours or brought to Worship in the gym. Thank you for your continued financial faithfulness!!



Congratulations Bereans!!

Our Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal was \$2,000 and as of March 28 we have received \$3,220!!





Get Out of the Boat (Matthew 14:27-29)

In the summer prior to seventh grade, I went to my first ever basketball camp and began going to open gyms. Over the next several months leading up to tryouts, I took more shots, worked on my ball handling and tried to familiarize myself with this game that was very new to me. The first day of tryouts came and I thought I was ready. All day in class I was excited, and it was all I

thought about. But when the big moment came, I froze. Nothing, and I mean nothing, was going to get me to walk through those doors and into the gym. Frozen in my fear, I never even stepped out to see if I had what it took that year.

In Scripture, we find the story of Peter walking on water and often point to his failure on the waves. We look, correctly, upon the fact that he took his eyes off Jesus and sunk beneath the waves. But we often miss perhaps a subtle point that Peter got out of the boat. After the disciples' initial fear, Peter boldly says to Jesus, "'Lord, if it's you...tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' He said" (v. 28-29). Perhaps much to the dismay of the other disciples, Peter then proceeded to get out of the boat and walk to Jesus.

Let's just hold our focus right there. Despite the fact that Peter would soon falter, he did indeed step out of the boat and he did indeed walk on water. Peter showed faith in Jesus and the fact that, if called by Jesus, he could do anything. I would take it a step further to say that Peter showed courage in the face of the storm. Ultimately, we know that Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and his "little faith" was not enough to keep him above the waves, but even still, it says a lot about Peter that he was willing to take those first steps.

Where would you place yourself in this story? Would you, like Peter, have the courage to step out of the boat when Jesus calls or would you be like the other disciples, still fearful and stuck in the boat? Like Peter, Jesus has called each of us out of the boat, and as long as we keep our eyes fixed on Him, we can accomplish things for God's glory beyond our wildest imagination even if we have but a little faith. Also, like Peter, we will fall time and time again, but just as Jesus did that day on the waves, He is ready to reach out, catch us and return us to safety once again.

- Make a list of the areas of your life that you feel the most comfortable. How could you "get out of the boat" and serve God in those areas?
- Take a moment of quiet reflection and think on the area of your life that God is calling you "out of the boat." Pray that God will use you to glorify Him as you begin to live differently for Him.









Sunday School Recaps

Explore the Bible - February 28 (Focal passage: Luke 9:18-27)

It's been said that goodness requires motivation while greatness requires obsession. The word "obsession" derives from a French word meaning "to besiege" and later became associated with intrusive mental thoughts. Today it can be used more broadly to describe something that is compelling or motivational.



If greatness requires obsession, it begs the question: What is the object of our obsession? Obsession is usually characterized by a relentless pursuit, captivation or interest in something. It often has a cost. In Luke 9, Jesus teaches that the cost of following Him requires forsaking all else.

After feeding the 5,000, Jesus and His disciples moved to a private place to pray. During that time He told them about His coming death and resurrection (v. 22). This would have come as a surprise to them.

Jesus quickly followed this revelation with an equally shocking statement in verse 23, "If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me." Contrary to what was expected, Jesus explained that, not only would He be rejected and abused, but that His followers would be as well.

It is curious that Luke would juxtapose Jesus' teaching about suffering with the feeding of the 5,000 just a few verses before. We are sometimes tempted to place our hope in what Jesus gives us rather than in Christ Himself. Do you think of your relationship with God in terms of what's in it for you or in terms of what you can do for Him?

The cost of following Jesus can come in many forms and doesn't look the same for everyone. It may mean sacrificing relationships, time, money, plans, your job or your public image. Yet, we can do this and more when the object of our affection, our obsession, is Him.

For Christians, the object of our obsession is always Jesus. Only in Christ can we gain by losing. If we are focused on Him, we can live a life unashamed with hope for the future no matter what comes our way.

Bible Studies for Life - March 7 (Focal passages: John 14:8-11,16-20, 23-26)

I don't really know how my car works. I understand that I have to put the key in the ignition for it to start. I understand that my car needs fuel. But mostly, I appreciate my car's ability to get me to where I need to be. I don't have to understand every moving wire and gear to get to work every day. While I don't set aside the importance of knowing the inner workings of my vehicle, I don't have to have that all figured out to be able to get to the grocery store.



I hesitate to compare my relationship with my car to the doctrine of the Trinity, but there are some similarities.

Scholars and disciples have been studying God's trifold nature for centuries, and we still have trouble putting words to it. But that doesn't stop us from knowing and loving God in the process.

What we can know is that knowing Jesus is the same as knowing God the Father. In John 14, Jesus does not specifically mention the Trinity. In fact, this term is not used anywhere in scripture. However, Jesus tells His disciples that He is one with the Father and that, if they've seen Him, they've seen the Father too. They are of one mind as well, as Jesus was obedient to the Father by coming into the world to redeem fallen humanity.

If you are in Christ, then the Holy Spirit is also present in your life. Just as Jesus the Son and God the Father are one, the Holy Spirit is one with them as well. The Spirit is in agreement with the Father and the Son as He helps believers. The Holy Spirit is sent from God the Father to continue the work of the Son. Since Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father, the Holy Spirit is now at work. He is comforting and teaching believers. He is also drawing those who are unsaved to God.

While we may never fully be able to understand a God who exists in three distinct persons, we can marvel and rejoice in the fact that He is working in the world. We can take heart because God the Father sent Jesus to save us and He sent the Holy Spirit to help us. We can delight that God is mindful of us. The Trinity is the one person of God bringing the Kingdom of God to bear here on earth.

Explore the Bible - March 14 (Focal passage: Luke 15:20-32)

I once read a story about two shopkeepers with stores directly across from one another. At night, an angel appeared to one of them in a dream and said, "I will give you anything you ask, but whatever you receive, your competitor will receive twice as much. You can be healthy or rich, but he will be twice as healthy and twice as rich. What is your desire?"



The man frowned. Not wanting his competitor to get more than him, he said, "Here is my request: Strike me blind in one eye!"

Why would he say that? Because often it's more satisfying to see a rival fail than watch them succeed.

In Luke 15, Jesus tells a similar story about two sons. The younger son foolishly spent his inheritance, becoming poor and destitute as a result (vv 14-16). The older son remained at home, tending to his usual business with his father. When the foolish son returned, he was welcomed by his father with open arms, much to his brother's frustration (vv 28-30).

The father said to his eldest, "Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (vv 31-32).

When discussing this passage in small groups, I find that many people relate to the older brother. Why? Because in our heart, we desire fairness. It doesn't seem fair that the younger brother should be welcomed home without any consequences.

As believers we should celebrate when God restores and forgives someone. When we see a person going down the wrong path, rather than wish judgement upon them, we ought to pray for their restoration and celebrate its fulfillment!

If we are willing to see ourselves as part of the same team, we'll be more likely to celebrate with one another and bear each other's burdens. We can, as Paul says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice" and "mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15).

Bible Studies for Life - March 21 (Focal passage: Isaiah 59:1-13)

In a previous session, we recalled that because God created everything, He determines how everything works. Creator God is the One who determines what is holy and perfect. In fact, God Himself is wholly holy and wholly perfect. His holiness is the standard by which our character is measured. As sinful humanity, we are unlike God in this way. Our sin mars the image we were created in and separates us from God.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE.

We are often tempted to believe that our sin is not as "bad" someone else's. However, scripture teaches us that all sin is an affront to God. No matter how "small" we may think our sin is, it separates us from relationship with God. There is not even a small amount of sin in Him, and He cannot overlook sin in any form. This separation is the condition of all people because all

Sunday School & Sermon Recaps (cont.)

people have sinned.

Even the good things we do cannot shroud our sin. It is so evil and offensive, that any good we try to do is like trying to jump from here to the moon. It's impossible. No amount of good works can save us from the wage of death that we have purchased for ourselves with our sin. Our attempts to save ourselves are just mere acts of self-righteousness. Our "good works" cannot save us because there is no good in us.

Apart from God's intervention, we are hopeless, without peace and without salvation. On our own, we cannot undo our sinful condition. We cannot bridge the chasm between ourselves and God. Our only hope to restore us to a perfect relationship with God is the mercy and grace of God Himself. We are helpless on our own and we stand in need of divine intervention to cleanse us from our unrighteousness.



Sermon Recaps

February 28 - Monday - Wednesday - Are We Others? - Luke 20:9-19

Early in the Easter week Jesus told a parable about a vineyard owner. He has leased his grapes to farmers who refuse to give him his profits. After the farmers beat, maim and kill the owners representatives, Jesus says the owner will naturally get his revenge and lease the vineyard to more faithful workers.

This story is merely a parable, it never happened. Its graphic nature was intended to have a shock factor that would elicit a big response. The owner is not going to give up his land just because his workers become violent.

God planted a nation called Israel and expected to receive the world's salvation from it. He gave them all the tools, blessed them beyond measure, but they hoarded the gift. He sent prophets, they ignored them. He sent His Son, they killed Him. So now God has taken the "vineyard" of salvation away from Israel and given it to "others."

We are those "others." God has entrusted us with the salvation message. We have the Good News. We have the building built on the Cornerstone of Jesus Christ. It's not a building built on ethnicity, heredity or the teaching of rabbis. Rather it is built on His Son.

Is Jesus the Cornerstone of your life? Are you bearing fruit for the Vineyard Owner?

Christ alone, Cornerstone. Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!

March 7 - Monday - Wednesday - End? When? - Luke 21:7-19

Hope is key to human survival. Rabbi Hugo Gryn remembers his father "wasting" a lump of margarine to burn Hanukkah candles in Auschwitz. His father explained: "we know that it is possible to live for three weeks without food, but without hope it is impossible to live properly for three minutes."

Jesus continued his early Easter Week teaching by answering questions about the End. He explained that the End would not be immediate. It would have fairly specific signs to announce its coming. These signs are not good things.

The earth will fall apart. There will be earthquakes, famines and plagues (hello 'Rona). There will be persecution. There will be martyrs. It's gonna get bad before it gets heavenly.

Jesus told us we should get ready, we should study. We should draw so close to Him and be so focused on His promises that we could never be led astray, never be surprised by its coming, never be in doubt of what to say to those who want to take our lives.

I serve a trucking company as a chaplain. I attended a safety meeting where they were learning a unique driving skill. If your focus is down you cannot see far ahead, but if you are looking far ahead you can still see everything in front of you (go ahead, try it out). God made our bodies this way. If we have tunnel vision to the momentary we lose sight of the future, but if we look to the future, the momentary is still in sight.

What was Jesus' answer about when the end would come? His answer was look at Me. If we keep our eyes on eternity and the Author of our faith the worries of our day will fall in line.

Will you lift up your eyes and follow the One who made you so much more than right here, right now? He created you to have a purpose, He created you for forever, not just for right now.

Sermon Recaps (cont.)

March 14 - Thursday - He Served Forgiveness - Luke 22:14-27

City Slickers is a 1991 movie about finding the meaning of life by a trip to "find yourself." At one point in the movie the old cowboy, Curly, explains: "You know what the secret to life is? One thing. Just one thing. Once you figure it out, you stick to that."

On Thursday of the Easter week the hour had come. So often Jesus said His hour had "not yet come." But now, it was finally here. He gathered His disciples for a farewell meal and sought to explain to them the meaning of life.

They ate the normal Passover meal. It was a celebration that God's judgment passed over the Israelites, who were slaves in Egypt, because of the blood of the Lamb on their doorposts.

Jesus, the ultimate Passover Lamb, shed His blood so that we could likewise be passed over. When Judgment Day comes, the only ones who will be passed over are the ones who have the blood of Jesus guarding the doorposts of their hearts.

The sweet meal that we commemorate so often didn't stay sweet for long. Jesus called out His betrayer, which led to debate. The debate spilled over into argument. Before long, all of the disciples were jockeying for position as the greatest instead of basking in the glory of the meal they had just received.

Are we like the disciples? Yes. So what is it that distracts you from the most important thing in your life? What keeps you from seeing the big picture? What keeps you from following Jesus' example of service? What makes it so, even still, they should have carried you away instead of Jesus?

I pray that we will live our lives focused on the one thing. I pray we will realize the only One Thing worth our sole focus is Jesus.

March 21 - Friday - A Willing Sacrifice - Luke 22:66-23:49

What we have here is the cosmic battle between good and evil. Between God and Satan. God's only begotten hanging on a cross, Satan steering the soldier's spear into His side. Satan's ultimate attempt to usurp God's righteous throne and Jesus' willingness to hang there in my place. Satan thought killing Jesus would bring his victory, but Jesus knew a sacrifice of blood was necessary to win the battle. Satan hoped to condemn the world, but Jesus' love won.

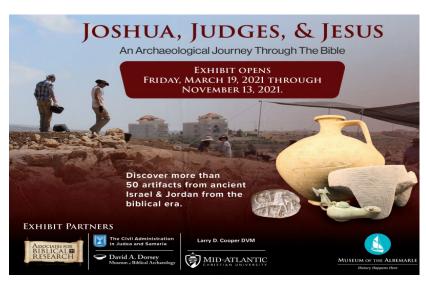
"He knew me, yet He loved me. He whose glory makes the heavens shine. So unworthy of such mercy, yet when He was on the cross I was on His mind." Jesus looks defeated. He should have been focused on breathing. It would have been understandable if all He could do was hang there. But, He was multitasking... while He was forsaken by the Father His love shone through.

"Father forgive them..." Jesus prayed for forgiveness for the ones who were breaking at least 6 of ten commandments against Him (1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 10). As they crucified the Creator they were ignorant that Jesus really was who He said He was. We are not... we understand. We have heard, and yet... do we act the same? Do we ignore His God-ness? Do we take the ultimate reality and decide, "nah, I prefer me?" Even to them... even to us He says: "forgive..."

"Today you will be with Me in paradise." Today as in right now. The Kingdom of God is at hand, and for the criminal crucified beside Him, the Kingdom is offered right now. By Jesus' words the last became first to experience the joys of heaven, while the "first" were the very ones who betrayed Him, who mocked Him, who were killing Him.

The thief's request was vague... "when you come into Your kingdom." Jesus' answer was specific... "today." To us He says that today is the day of salvation, now is the time to repent. Don't trust Him to save you whenever, trust Him to save you now.

What are you holding back? You can't partially serve Jesus. He didn't go to the Red Cross and donate a pint of blood. He didn't partially die. He gave it ALL! Give Him ALL of your life today!



Museum of the Albemarle & Mid-Atlantic Christian University partners to bring artifacts found during archeological work at the site of Khirbet el-Marqatir, the Biblical city of Ai of Joshua 7-8.

DUE TO THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA EXECUTIVE ORDERS, the exhibit is offering timed entries of 30-minute intervals: **Beginning at 10:00am.** (Last Timed Entry at 3:30pm).

The exhibit is free and open to the public Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 4pm. Every 3rd Saturday of the month beginning Saturday, March 20, 2021.

Please visit our website:

www.museumofthealbemarle.com/events

or find us on **Facebook** for more information on registering.

If you need further assistance with registering please call (252) 331-4021

Teenage Homelessness Spurs Church Planters' Move to Las Vegas

Joseph Gibbons and his wife Kristen had been involved in youth ministry in Alabama for a while when God started tugging on their hearts about church planting.

"We just sensed that God was expanding our heart for the church and giving us a burden we didn't quite have a name for yet," Gibbons said.

They also had a heart for the next generation, and when they took a trip to Las Vegas to lead a youth weekend at a church there, the burden began to take shape.

"One of the things about Las Vegas – it's our nation's capital for teenage homelessness. That was very alarming to us," Gibbons said. "Then when my wife had a young lady in her small group who was homeless, that stat became a story, and that made it real."

'Loving and gracious'

In August 2020, the couple and their two children, Canon and Riley Jo, touched down in the city with plans to plant a church with the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) Send Network. They were joined by several other Alabamians who felt God leading them to help plant Favor City Church.

For Gibbons, his family's move to the city was a moment he felt God had been preparing him for his whole life. His dad, John, is Alabama state director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA), and Gibbons came to faith in Christ as a middle schooler in the FCA context.

As he grew in his faith, he served at his church – Thorington Road Baptist in Montgomery, Ala. – and then went to the University of Mobile. That's where he met Kristen. They got married right after college, and he served at Dayspring Baptist Church in Mobile as a student pastor.

After a while, they moved to Tuscaloosa for Gibbons to serve in student ministry at Valley View Baptist Church, then back to Dayspring Baptist. Along the way, he crossed paths with a church planter from Las Vegas, and God used his story to clarify Gibbons' call.

After meeting the homeless teenage girl during their visit, they knew where they were supposed to be.

"We wanted to be in a place where the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few," he said. "And we really sensed through relationships God had given us and through His Word that He had confirmed this was our next step."

Dayspring Baptist came alongside the Gibbonses as they explored that call and supported them in every step, he said, adding, "They've been so loving and gracious to us."

Another family who had served with the couple at Dayspring – Joseph and Cyndi Eades – felt God calling them to help the Gibbonses plant Favor City Church. They moved in 2020 with their two daughters, Ansleigh and Cadyn.

And Julianne Patterson, who was discipled by Kristen as a teen at Dayspring, also moved out to join the launch team.

"God has been gracious to grow our team," Gibbons said. "Our launch team is up to about 20 adults now, and we've got others engaging who don't know Jesus and who are checking out our community to see what it's all about."

He asked for Southern Baptists to pray for his team to have continued favor in the city and for them to have wisdom about where to meet and serve.

Missionary support

He also asked for prayer for God to protect the team and their families from spiritual warfare and for continued financial provision. Some of the Gibbonses' funding comes from support raising and some comes from funds given through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions.

Every year, 100% of the AAEO goes directly to fund missionary work like the Gibbonses' work in Las Vegas. The national offering goal this year is \$70 million.





- 1 Virginia Bray
- 5 Julia Vallas
- 7 Karl & Kristy Poulson Terry & Joanie Taylor Wanda White Samuel Wise
- 8 Chris Dail
 Mildred Godfrey
 Asher Long
 Jennifer Turner
 Kenny & Kathy Waters
- 10 Cindy Hall Jerry Newell
- 11 Mike & Dawn Johnson
- 12 Pat Lehman Evelyn Milam
- 14 Laura Barbettini Robin Harrell Donovan Hodges Elijah Weatherford

- 15 Fahey Harrell
- 16 Konnie Poulson James & Ruth Russell
- 18 Tyler Byrd Kelsey Douglas Bill Durham Stephen Troxell
- 19 Blake Ennis Fahey & Amanda Harrell Pat Long
- 20 Don & Miriam Alexander Sarah Long
- 21 Woodie Kitchen Bill McPherson Anita Worsley
- 22 Wesley Dail
- 24 Sam & Paula Keith
- 26 Jean Durham
- 29 Buddy Worsley
- 30 Peggy Bunch



Regular Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm

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