

Solving the Mystery

By: Dan Jenkins

Who doesn't love a mystery? The basis of so many books of fiction is to find out who and how the villain in the novel committed the crime. Why are popular TV shows like NCIS so popular for season after season? Perhaps it is because there are those hidden clues to solve every crime? How do you explain the fascination of escape rooms and seeking to find the hidden clues that allow you to find the answer as to how to get out? There is just something about solving a mystery that is so satisfying.

Now consider this when you read that God's plan of redemption is described as a mystery. The mystery begins in the Garden of Eden and as one studies the Divine history of God and how He deals with the sin problem that is finally revealed in the rest of the Bible. Putting all the parts of the puzzle together is why a child can begin learning about God and then for the rest of his life be so fascinated as he learns more and more about the nature of God, sin, salvation, the cross, the church, the judgment, heaven, providence, atonement, and an endless list of all the Bible reveals.

One truth needs to be kept in mind as you consider this and that is the truth that the most important aspects of one's personal relationship with his Creator are the truths most clearly stated in the Bible. Having a relationship with God is so easy to find. The Bible speaks of milk and meat in studying the scriptures (Heb. 5:12-14). Having a relationship with God begins with a new birth

and feeding on the milk of the word. The "meat" of the word leads to a lifetime of study. The path to God is "milk" and it is so clearly revealed in the Bible.

The road to heaven is so easy to understand that anyone can find it. God used Isaiah to prophesy about this truth in Isaiah chapter thirty-five. He vividly described a "...road ... the Highway of Holiness" (v. 8) that enables one to see "...the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God" (v. 2). Our Creator then describes how easy it would be to travel that Highway of Holiness by saying, "Whoever walks the road, though a fool, shall not go astray...but the redeemed shall walk there" (v. 8-9).

Heaven's key to entering that highway is found in the first beatitude. "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3). His promise is, "You shall seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jer. 29:13). No one will enter heaven until he humbly seeks God.

Are you seeking Him and need help? Entering the road is simple. Humbly read Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Acts 17:30; Rom. 10:9; Acts 2:38; 22:16. The path is easy to find. Humbly seek Him. Read His words and obey them.

Safety First

By: Selected

In the workplace and in our homes, we often operate by the general policy of “Safety First.” Some workplaces require helmets and goggles, and certain equipment and machinery can only be operated by trained personnel. At home, we don’t run with scissors, and we put plastic covers on electrical outlets. Why? “Safety First!”

What about in our spiritual lives? Do we (and should we) not operate by that same policy? Do we take chances with our souls and our eternal destiny? Or are we focused on “Safety First”? Consider some things of “first” importance in our safety.

It all starts with our Lord. He “first loved us” (1 John 4:19). That’s where it ALL begins!

Our Lord must be our “**first love**” (Rev. 2:4). “None” other is to be our first love “besides” Him (Psa. 73:25).

Jesus taught that loving the Lord “with all” of our heart is the “**first and great commandment**” (Matt. 22:37-38).

Of “**first importance**,” therefore, is the gospel (1 Cor. 15:3-4). We must hear it, obey it and teach it.

Truly, when we hear and know how our Lord loves us and what He has done for us, it ought to cause us to “**first**” give ourselves “to the Lord” (2 Cor. 8:5).

As a disciple of Christ, He Himself must “**have first place in everything**” in my life (Col. 1:18), without any contest.

Having given ourselves “first” to the Lord and giving Him “first place,” it will be all the more natural for us to eagerly place His will first in our lives. That includes the following.

We must “**seek first** the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33).

We must recognize “the Lord’s Day” (Rev. 1:10) as “**the first day of the week**” (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2) and ensure He has priority (Heb. 10:24-25).

“First place” in our lives is not limited to one day of the week, but being “**first**” in His eyes entails being “**servant of all**” (Mark 9:35).

Evangelism cannot be a secondary focus, but we must “**first**” find lost souls and bring them to Jesus (John 1:41).

We must be “**first**” to seek **reconciliation** with a brother who has something against us (Matt. 5:23-24).

All of these “**first works**” that we do (Rev. 2:5), must be prioritized and maintained (Tit. 3:8) throughout our lives.

“Safety first.” We practice it in nearly every part of our lives. What about when it comes to our souls and our relationship with the Lord? Are we keeping first things FIRST?



Upcoming Events

Sunday, Nov. 2: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning worship with a 12:45pm afternoon service. Please bring a friend and a covered dish.

Sunday, Nov. 9: Monthly youth devo at the White home. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Jerry FitzSimmons who is in ICU at Citizens having tests done.

Veronica Serenil who had good test results in Houston last week.

Brad Kanning, a friend of Virginia Escojido, who had a brain bleed and is in a Houston hospital on a ventilator.

Jerri Rosales who received a new kidney recently and is recovering in Houston.

Elana Carroll who recently lost her job and is searching for a new one.

Clifton Rutherford who has been ill recently and is now taking physical therapy.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, and Veronica Serenil.

VISITORS:

Thank you for visiting today. Please take a moment to scan this QR Code to fill out a visitor card. We would love to have a record of your attendance.



Service Roster

Week of October 26, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Willie Fossati
Song Leader..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Ken Dorries
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Barry Lehtinen
Cup..... Lupe Escojido
Offering..... Jake Jacobs
Assist..... Kanin Jacobs
Assist..... Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Benny Horton

Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Jack Jobes

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Clifton Rutherford

Lord’s Supper & Offering..... Benny Horton/
Lupe Escojido

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Cody McCoy
Song Leader..... Richard Hill
Devotional..... Barry Lehtinen

Other

Prepare Communion for Oct..... Elana Carroll

Congregational News This Week

Birthdays

Caitlin Serenil..... Oct. 28
Skyler Rosenbrock..... Oct. 30

Anniversaries

Eddie & Veronica Serenil..... Oct. 26

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

And the angel of the Lord appeared to him, and
said to him, "The Lord is with you, you mighty
man of valor!"
Judges 6:12

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of October 19, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....75
A.M. Worship.....101
P.M. Worship.....60
Wednesday Worship.....57

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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