



# SBAOC Weekly Update

## NEWS & PRAYER REQUESTS

*If you have any news, prayer requests, or events that you would like to have included in this update, please email the information to Tony Mattia at [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com) or call us at 785-456-8513.*

## OH THE DEEP, DEEP LOVE OF JESUS AS HE WAS DYING ON THE CROSS

Steve Burchett

As Luke told the story about the opening moments and early hours that Jesus hung on the cross (Luke 23:32-43), he especially highlighted something about Christ’s character—his love. This trait of Jesus is especially noteworthy when observing that all around the cross, sin was rampant.

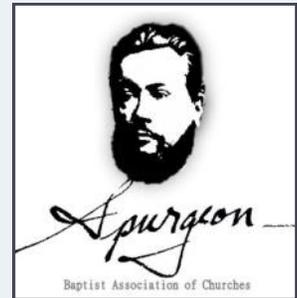


One example of the sinfulness around the cross is seen in the behavior of the soldiers. Luke says they “cast lots to divide his garments” (23:34). While the innocent Savior died just a few feet away, they were oblivious to him. Instead, they pursued material gain through this “executioner’s perk.”

Additionally, certain soldiers “mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, ‘If you are the King of Jews, save yourself!’” (36-37). Verbal abuse wasn’t limited to the soldiers but also came from the rulers (35) and “one of the criminals” (39). The soldiers’ mockery also included giving “King” Jesus the cheap wine, not the finest wine that “real” kings got.

Even the people who were simply watching in the background were guilty. Though Matthew and Mark say that there were spectators who yelled

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### PURPOSE STATEMENT:

We unite as an association of Southern Baptist churches in order to manifest the glory of God above all. We purpose to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. We covenant to strengthen and support one another, motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.

*“If there is no church... should you not commence one?” C. H. Spurgeon*

## COMMENTS ON OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

*“Do you want arguments for soul winning? Look up to Heaven, and ask yourself how sinners can ever reach those harps of gold and learn their everlasting song, unless they have someone to tell them of Jesus, who is mighty to save. But the best argument of all is to be found in the wounds of Jesus. You want to honor Him, you desire to put many crowns upon His head, and this you can best do by winning souls for Him. These are the spoils that He covets, these are the trophies for which He fights, these are the jewels that shall be His best adornment.”*

— CH Spurgeon

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insults at Jesus (Mt 27:39-40; Mk 15:29-30), Luke only notes that “the people stood by, watching” (Lk 23:35). Some might have been weeping (cf. vv. 27-28), but probably most were just curious bystanders, fascinated by the spectacle. As Jesus had said earlier in Luke, they were missing “the time of (their) visitation” (19:44). The Messiah was among them, but they treated his life and death like an entertaining show.

In fact, everyone around the cross of Jesus rejected the idea that he was the Messiah. They thought that if he really was “the Christ of God, his Chosen One” (35, 39), if he really was “the King of the Jews” (37) as the inscription said above his head (38), then he should save himself (35, 37, 39). They were lost in the sin of unbelief, blinded to the truth that the only way he could save others was by not saving himself.

Against this dark backdrop of depravity beams the love of Christ. Not only was his death as a substitute for sinners an act of love, but his loving heart is demonstrated before he dies in at least two ways.

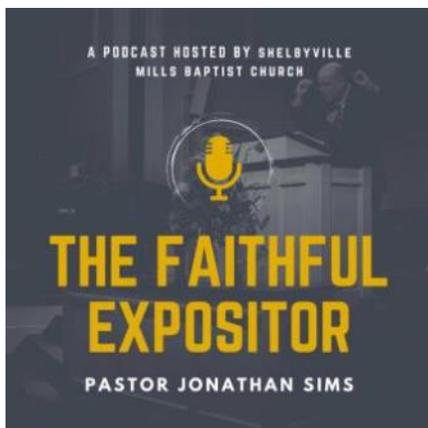
*First, Christ’s love is seen in a prayer he prays.*

He prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” (34). The “them” that he prayed for was at least those soldiers who were responsible for crucifying him, though he may also have had in mind anyone present who, to one degree or another, participated in his crucifixion. Perhaps you have heard someone say about this prayer, “Look at how forgiving Jesus was.” But he wasn’t forgiving anyone at this time. He was praying that God the Father would be merciful to his enemies.

This prayer demonstrates Christ’s love for his enemies. Sometimes, when we’re just tired, we’ll think unkindly about even our friends. But on the cross, as Jesus was dying an agonizing death for sinners, he was praying for his enemies, even the murderer who drove the nails through his hands!

Jesus loves even the worst sinners. J.C. Ryle comments on this prayer: “The vilest of sinners have no cause to be afraid of applying to a Savior like this. If we desire warrant and encouragement to repent and believe—the

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Leadership & Laity 2021—April

**9 & 10.** An event striving to strengthen local churches. Mt. Zion Community Church, Arkansas City, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. For more information please contact: Pastor Kyle Carlson at [pastorkyle234@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkyle234@gmail.com).

### **Saved By Faith Youth Camp—**

**June 21-25, 2021.** Webster Conference Center in Salina, Kansas. Speaker: Dr. Jim Orrick. Theme: *The Church: A Study through the Letters to the Seven Churches in Revelation*. For youth in grades 7-12. Cost: \$205 per person. Registration will open April 14. Website: [sbfyckansas.com](http://sbfyckansas.com).

**2022 National Founders Conference—January 20-23, 2022.** Theme: *Militant & Triumphant: The Doctrine of the Church*. Early registration is open now at [Founders.org](http://Founders.org).

*If you have a conference or event that you would like listed here, please contact Tony Mattia at [spurgeonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:spurgeonassociation@gmail.com).*



**THE SPURGEON CENTER**  
for Biblical Preaching at Midwestern Seminary

Making visible the *life, legacy and library*  
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Kansas City, Missouri 64118

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passage before us surely supplies enough” ([www.gracegems.org/Ryle/123.htm](http://www.gracegems.org/Ryle/123.htm)).

*Second, Christ’s love is seen in a promise he makes.*

Two criminals were crucified next to Jesus. They both reviled Christ (cf. Mt 27:44). But at some point, the eyes of one criminal were opened to the truth about Jesus, and he believed. He only had one request: “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (v. 42). Christ’s response? “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise” (v. 43).

When a believer dies, he goes to Paradise—a place of rest and happiness. Christians dwell there with the Lord until the second coming of Jesus. This was far more than the one criminal was hoping for. When he said, “when you come into your kingdom,” he had the distant future in mind, but Jesus responded by saying something like, “You’re thinking about something too many days away. I want you to think about today. *This very day*, you will be with me in Paradise!” He could say that because of what he was accomplishing on the cross—conquering sin and the grave.

As he endured excruciating physical pain and faced God’s justice, Jesus still engaged this man, delivered him from condemnation, and promised him Paradise. This is the love of Christ. Most would have said it was too late for this man, and that he was too far gone. Jesus thought differently.

*Still Loving*

All around the cross were sinners, but the Christ on the cross was a loving Savior. And note this carefully: the resurrected Jesus is equally loving toward all who come to him today—even the vilest sinners. Like the one criminal, why don’t you renounce your sin and trust in him right now?

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### **Melbourne Baptist Church seeking Bi-Vocational Pastor**

Prayerfully searching for a Southern Baptist Bi-vocational pastor, chosen by God, to lead Melbourne Baptist Church in Melbourne, Missouri. Melbourne is a small community in rural north Missouri. We currently average 30 people for Sunday morning worship service. The Melbourne community itself has approximately 30 folks in it, and ours is the only church. There are two communities in close proximity in which there are no other churches. Distances to conveniences from Melbourne: gas station – 5.1 miles, school (pre K – 12 grades) – 5.9 miles, grocery store – 15 miles, Walmart – 38 miles, and KCI airport – 98 miles. We have an older congregation willing to reach out to younger people. We have yearly VBS that nearly the whole congregation participates in to reach out to the families in this area.

We are seeking a spiritually mature man who presents the Truth of the Bible at all times, and who will build relationships with families in the church, neighborhood, and surrounding communities.

We know the Lord has a great plan for our church. We are actively praying for God to reveal His plan to us and to the man He has for us. Are you a part of His plan?

If interested, please contact: Rick Elder

501 Thompson Ave.

Gilman City, MO 64642

660-373-0903

Email: [rvelder@grm.net](mailto:rvelder@grm.net)

### **A Note from Trevor Johnson...**

This is Trevor Johnson, missionary to Papua. In 2020 I pretty much physically collapsed and I am now recovering. My mission was a success and an indigenous church, school, and health clinic was planted, but I came home a mess.

I am currently in Springfield, MO, until the borders open up again to Malaysia where I was recovering from illness. There are many projects ongoing in Papua and close to 100 students get an education due to my direct support. I am falling short of 8,000 USD for 2021 estimates and I am trying to find new support. I can visit your church for an evening service and give a report, meet your elders, or have lunch with interested parties.

Please email me at [sovereigngracemissionary@gmail.com](mailto:sovereigngracemissionary@gmail.com). Tell me also if you'd like to be on our prayer letter list.

Thanks,

Trevor Johnson

# LEADERSHIP & LAITY

Standing upon the Word of God & under the cross of Christ serving to strengthen the church as a witness to the world.

April 9-10, 2021

Mt. Zion Community Church

Call or Text 620-446-2200 for more information  
[www.mtzionarkcity.com](http://www.mtzionarkcity.com)



Seating is limited and a free reserved ticket will ensure a seat  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leadership-laity-2021-tickets-135881415973>

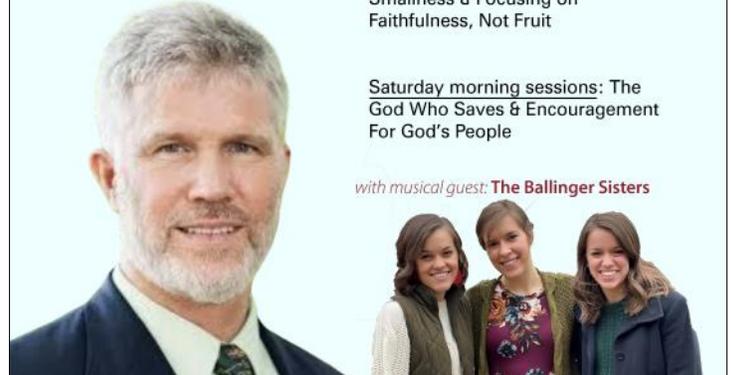
With Special Guest Speaker:

**Pastor Jim Orrick**

Friday evening sessions:  
Overcoming The Challenges of  
Smallness & Focusing on  
Faithfulness, Not Fruit

Saturday morning sessions: The  
God Who Saves & Encouragement  
For God's People

with musical guest: **The Ballinger Sisters**



# CHRIST IS OUR ONLY HOPE

ROCKPORT  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
GRACE BIBLE CONFERENCE  
APRIL 23-25, 2021



Jacob Adams Tim Gray Jamie Haguwood Geoff Ingram Scott Lee Evan Skelton Josh Wilson  
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Rm. 15:13

**SPURGEON  
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## PRAYER MEETINGS FOR SPIRITUAL AWAKENING AND REVIVAL

- Fellowship Baptist Church in Onaga, Kansas—5:00 pm on Sundays
- Trinity Baptist Church in Wamego, Kansas—8:00 pm on Saturdays

*The Spurgeon Baptist Association of Churches is an association of Southern Baptist Churches that are united to manifest the glory of God above all. We set out to do this by seeking spiritual awakening and revival by intense prayer and earnest obedience to Scripture. As an association of churches we are bound in mutual covenant to strengthen and support one another - motivated and guided by the authority and sufficiency of Scripture - by facilitating faithful preaching of the Word of God, proclaiming the gospel of the risen Lord Jesus Christ to all, making and gathering disciples, planting churches and coordinating unified missions efforts.*

*We are a non-geographic association seeking to include any like-minded body of believers so that together we might better fulfill the great commission of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Our intent is to lean on His instruction and not our imaginations so that He is honored in all that we do. We welcome churches who adhere to the confessions of faith accepted by Southern Baptists throughout their history, including, but not limited to, the Second London Confession (1689) and the Baptist Faith and Message.*



Baptist Association of Churches