

The Springfield Redeemer



All scripture is given by
inspiration of God, and is
profitable for . . . instruction
in righteousness.
2 Timothy 3:16

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Coffee House Opens for Bible Study

by Roberta D'Amico

God willing, on May 4th, 2020, Holy Grounds Coffee House will resume Bible Study! After being closed since March 23 because of Covid 19, the door will open at 7:30 a.m. for Bible Study only, and for only 10 people to attend. Pastor Cooley is asking that the 10 people who are able to come in wear masks or other face coverings, and that we sit spaced a little distance apart. There will be no food preparation yet.

In spite of the restrictions, what a joy it will be to see each other (no hugging!) and resume the Bible Study! We will be beginning in Daniel!



Speaking of restrictions, Pastor Cooley had some words to say about them. Sometimes it is said among Christians that: "I don't have to follow the rules, because God will protect me!" Not so, that is a

misapplication of the truth. Yes, God is always watching over us, but He expects us to be careful and use wisdom.

Two reasons why we as Christians need to follow the guidelines our governor has established: one is that the Lord says to obey our leaders, Romans 13:1, as God has ordained government leaders to be considered also as ministers. The second reason that Pastor Cooley wants us to think about is this: that taking precautions not to spread the disease is a way of loving our neighbors. We ought to do nothing that will harm our neighbor, but look out not only for our own interests, but also for the interests of others, Philippians 2:3-4

In addition, Pastor Cooley is now available on a YouTube channel, teaching bible and preaching for United Temple Church and Redemption Gate Mission Society. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPeBROLWdW8>

He invites you to tune in and listen to God's Word. Future special events will be announced as we continue to move forward. God bless you.

Ezekiel Teaches About the Coming Kingdom! By Roberta D'Amico

Speaking of Bible Study, since we have not met since mid-March, we decided to offer this study in the May Newsletter. Our last gathering of the morning Bible Study took us to the end of Ezekiel, but in chapters 40 to 46 we learned about the coming Millennial Kingdom. We discovered that there are to be actual animal sacrifices in the future Millennial Kingdom! This

revelation caused some fervor among us, because most of us had assumed that there would never be sacrifices again after our Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again, to take away our sins forever! We puzzled over what the scriptures meant.

After studying many scriptures, we realized that there were in fact, going to be sacrifices in the Millennial Kingdom. And

Ezekiel tells about them in detail, even describing the priests, who must be the descendants of Zadok, one of Levi's sons. But why? Didn't the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ take away the sins of the world? By this we understand, do we not, that our sins are as far from us as the east is from the west; and we are made heirs of eternal life? Absolutely!

First, let us consider some background: that from the beginning of creation, God wanted a relationship with His people. Having given them a choice, and knowing that they would choose wrong, He planned for reconciliation. Starting in the Garden of Eden, the penalty for sin is death. Blood must be shed. That is the wages of sin. So, in every generation after Eden, people built altars and made sacrifices for their sins. See Job 1:5 for example.

Then for His chosen people Israel, He provided a temporary solution, daily animal sacrifices. The Jewish people sacrificed lambs and doves year after year until the Temple (Herod's Temple) was destroyed in 70 A.D. Since then there have been no more sacrifices. But did all those sacrifices take away sin? According to Hebrews, no. They only temporarily covered them. All were awaiting the coming of the Christ (Messiah in Hebrew) to pay the penalty to actually take away sin. (Remember the Sunday school song, What Can Take Away My Sin? Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!)

The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament served two purposes: they were a forerunner of the coming sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29), whom they were waiting for. When Jesus came, He brought eternal life to all who believed (John 3:16). Secondly, they provided a way for a holy God to meet and fellowship on a daily basis with a people by covering their sins. See Exodus 29:42-43.

In a similar fashion, these two aspects of salvation apply to my life here and now in the church age. Many years ago, God saved me by His grace, through faith in the blood of Christ, an undeserved gift, and made me a member of His family (Ephesians 2 and John 1:12,13). I received His righteousness and eternal life. But what about the sins I commit now every day? I am still God's child, but my fellowship with Him is affected. I must repeatedly confess and repent of my sins in order to stay in daily fellowship with Him.

This explains Matthew 6:14-15, which was addressed to the

disciples of Jesus. One's eternal standing was not in view here, but their daily fellowship with God.

When our Lord Jesus returns, all of us Believers, as His Body and the Church, will have been taken up to heaven to be with Him, and will come back to reign with Him in our immortal bodies for the 1000 year Millennial Kingdom. But, what about the living people who go as mortals into the Kingdom? Sin and death are still a reality for them and their children born during the Kingdom.

So in conclusion, just as animal sacrifices were necessary to have fellowship with God in the Old Testament times, in the coming Millennial Kingdom it will be necessary again. For the duration of the Thousand Years, animal sacrifices must be necessary to make possible fellowship between a holy God and His still mortal people, until the end of the thousand years and the final judgment. After that, a new heaven and new earth and no more death! Amen!

Ongoing Events are still on temporary hold!

SUNDAY SERVICES: 8 a.m.- Redemption Gate Church with Pastor Brian Greene; 10 a.m.-Motivated by Faith with Pastors Bobby & Kim.

MONDAY -- FRIDAY: Morning Bible Study at 7:30 a.m.
Come and be blessed studying the Bible with us!

WED – Trust Jesus Recovery at 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.(or later!)

THURSDAY: Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. ;
FIAT 2nd and 4th Thursday 7 p.m.

1ST SATURDAY: "Marriage with God" 4 to 6 p.m.

SATURDAY NIGHTS: Open Mic and Fellowship!
For details, call Cathy Marvici at 413-233-7242

Hopefully, perhaps we can resume some of our activities later in May!

With the help of God's people, we will continue to serve the folks and high school students of Spfld!

May 2020 –Next fundraiser ?
(To be announced.)

Only \$10 donation to support the Holy Grounds Coffee House.