



DIOCESE OF TIRUNELVELI
BETHESDA C.S.I. TAMIL CHURCH
PUNE
DABARUM



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

உங்கள் தேவனாகிய கர்த்தருக்கு மரியாதை செய்து அவர் ஒருவரை மட்டும் சேவியுங்கள். அவரது பெயரை மட்டுமே வைத்து மற்றவருக்கு வாக்களியுங்கள் - உபாகமம் 6:13

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

I Corinthians 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us that are saved it is the power of God."

Paul is reminding those in Corinth and to us today that if you think the preaching of the cross is foolishness, then you are going to perish in hell fire. But the preaching of the cross is to those that by faith receive the Lord Jesus Christ into their heart, through the repentance of their sins to the Father, in Jesus name; it then becomes the power of God unto salvation. It is the power of God that through every promise that is in His Word, you and I as sons of God can claim as part of our inheritance. That is the freedom that we have in Christ.

Our power and authority comes from the fact that on the cross at Christ' death, sin was defeated for all time. That death of Christ on the cross is what gives us hope and the security that we have eternal life. Jesus Christ paid the only price that could be paid for sinful man on the face of this earth, and it was with his blood on the cross. It was no accident that this happened, that Judas betrayed Christ and later repented, for every detail of Jesus trial and death, to His resurrection and His ascension into heaven was prophesied throughout the entire Word of God.

Isaiah tells us:

Isaiah 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." When Christ was hauled away, and tried, all over his disciples headed out the gate and to their own ways.

Isaiah 53:7 "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He did not open His mouth." This prophecy took place at Christ's trial, and this record of his death on the cross was written hundreds of years prior to the birth of Jesus Christ, and it happened exactly as it was written.

Isaiah 53:8 "He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation: for He was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was He stricken."

My dear children of God, this is what Jesus when to the cross, "for the transgression of my people was He stricken." If you take what is written here by faith, and accept the blood of Christ as the price paid for your sins, then my friend, you are saved. If you do not, you are not. There is no middle ground. When you ask God to forgive you for your sins in Jesus name, by stating "in Jesus name", you are

identifying the fact that you accept His blood as the payment for your sins. That is your only credential before the throne of God, for without Jesus name, there is no forgiveness before our heavenly Father. This is why Paul states that the cross of Christ is the only gospel that he shall ever preach, for without the cross of Christ everything else is made of no effect, absolutely none. This is our security that we have eternal life, for Jesus fulfilled all prophecy of the coming Messiah when paid the price of one and all times. Jesus Christ's blood is the only perfect sacrifice that could ever be shed on this earth, and that includes any animal of sacrifice. All of our power on this earth comes from this because "death" was defeated, and Satan is "death".

Just as all mankind lives in these flesh and blood bodies, Jesus Christ also partook of the flesh and blood body just as you and I do. He saw the same passions of emotion, of hurt and pleasure, and He underwent the same temptations that each of us have. Then after living His life in the flesh, He willingly went to the cross, for through His death Christ destroyed all of the power that the fear of death had on mankind. Paul lets us know without a doubt that death is another name for Satan, who is the devil, the serpent and all the other roles of deceiving that he has done. There is only one cross that gives this power and authority that is spoken of here.

The real power in this church is not in our numbers, our leaders, our growth, our missions, our buildings, our staff, our programs, our vision. The REAL power in this church is in the message of the cross of Jesus that is changing people's lives every day. When you come to God in prayer because you're moved by what Jesus has done on the cross; when you forgive others because you were forgiven at the cross; when you show mercy to people because you understand the mercy God showed you at the cross; when you reach out to your neighbor because the love of the cross compels you to; it is that power of the cross that changes our life every single day, the power that brings people to Christ, the power that changes the lives around us, the power that moves us to speak and to act. When we truly understand the cross of Jesus, and what he has done for us, and the cost he has paid to save you and me, that is when we will see God's church really revived. That is when we will see many people saved. That is when we will see true generosity in giving, true obedience to God's word, true commitment to ministry, and true faithfulness in difficult times. This is not to shame you, Paul says. But to remind you, always return to the power of the cross. May God bless you all.

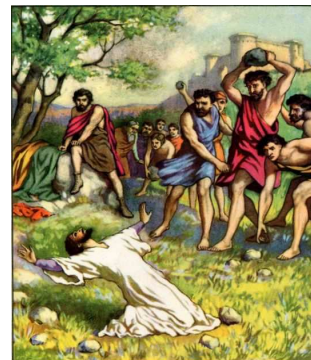
STORY FOR THE MONTH

10 Famous Christian Martyrs

Many people have been killed for their faith through the ages. Interestingly, the word we use today to talk about someone who is killed for their beliefs, martyr, is the basic Greek word used in the New Testament which is translated "witness." Therefore, when Jesus said, "ye shall be witnesses unto me" in Acts 1:8 it had great significance to them. This does not mean that every follower of Christ will be killed for their faith, but because the witness of the

early church followers lead to their martyrdom, we use the word today to mean someone who dies for their faith.

Here are 10 famous Christian martyrs or groups of martyrs. Most of them are people from ancient past, but I also wanted to include a couple of recent martyrs to help remind us that people are



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still sacrificing their lives for the cause of Christ today.

1. Stephen

Acts chapters 6 and 7 give us the account of Stephen's martyrdom.

The saint whose name leads all the rest who have sacrificed their lives for Jesus Christ is Stephen, the first martyr of Christendom because he would have been the last to deny him.

Stephen was one of the seven deacons of the original Church of Christ in Jerusalem, sharing his duties with six others - Philip, Prochoros, Nikanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas.

It was the function of the deacons to assist much as they do today in such matters as communion but with the additional responsibility of spreading the new faith and at the same time being ever on alert for the imminent danger that came with being a Christian in those early days.

Before entering the service of Christ, the young Stephen had studied under the renowned rabbinical tutor Gamaliel, who had been the mentor of the great St. Paul.

Not unlike Paul he was a qualified religious scholar who once sought to discredit the Saviour, until he came to know Jesus Christ and to embrace him as Paul did in that dramatic confrontation on the road to Damascus.

The full attention he had been giving to the Law of the ancient covenant he now directed to the new faith with zeal equal to that of those who enjoyed the company of the Messiah. There was no hint that he would be the very first casualty in the cause of the Nazarene, but each and every one of the missionaries was aware of the danger involved and chose to ignore it in their anxiety to serve.

Stephen seems to have confined his missionary work and preaching to the city of Jerusalem, the city in which he had prepared himself under the Pharisee Gamaliel for quite another career.

Well versed in the Scriptures, he used the Old Testament to full advantage in promoting the Messiah, citing the passages that were ample evidence out of the mouths of the ancient prophets

of God that a Saviour would be born and that the Saviour was among them even now in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

It was with considerable anger and frustration that the men who had studied with him under Gamaliel now viewed the defector from their ranks, being particularly piqued when Stephen boldly challenged them in the synagogues.

He must have done this several times and, in all probability, been unceremoniously ushered from the premises more than once, but there came an occasion when he addressed himself to an extremely hostile Council of elders whose anger drove them to more than just having Stephen put out.

The mob that turned on Stephen worked itself into such a feverous pitch that by the time he had been seized and dragged into the street a cry went up for his blood and grew into a crescendo demanding his death. Dragged to the gates of Jerusalem and stoned him to death.

The gallant young Stephen died a brutal death at the hands of those with whom he had grown up. In the Book of Acts there is an account that Paul was among the onlookers who made no effort to save Stephen.

Yet Stephen patiently accepted the persecution that was given to him. Stephen asked the Lord not to hold them guilty who had stoned him. He essentially repeated Christ's words on the cross.

The early Christians buried Stephen in a small chapel in Jerusalem, which was dedicated to his memory and was known as the chapel of St. Stephen the Protomartyr (First Martyr).

The glorious story of Saint Stephen the first martyr amazed me on how a man so strong a believer proved it so well and was stoned for what he believed. St. Stephen was a strong man indeed. He did not die in vain either, he died for his beliefs and for trying to steer the Jewish religion and others towards Jesus Christ and his beliefs. It also amazed me how he felt no pain when being stoned but beheld the glory of God.

BIRTH OF A SONG

(I Surrender All)

For five years, Mr. Van de Venter wavered between the challenge of the Gospel ministry and that of becoming a recognized artist. Here is how he tells it:

"For some time, I had struggled between developing my talents in the field of art and going into full-time evangelistic work. At last the pivotal hour of my life came, and I surrendered all.

"A new day was ushered into my life. I became an evangelist and discovered down deep in my soul a talent hitherto unknown to

me. God had hidden a song in my heart, and touching a tender chord. He caused me to sing."

Dr. Billy Graham, wrote this tribute to Mr. Van de Venter:

One of the evangelists who influenced my early preaching was also a hymnist who wrote 'I Surrender All'—the Rev. J.W. Van de Venter. He was a regular visitor at the Florida Bible Institute (now Trinity Bible College) in the late 1930s. We students loved this kind, deeply spiritual gentleman and often gathered in his winter home at Tampa, Florida, for an evening of fellowship and singing.

ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

Still..... I love you - A soft voice of JESUS

-Mrs. Priya Xavier

Christy was a born in Christian girl used to sing for Christ in her small age. When she reached teenage became famous among favorite singers. Got many opportunities; she wanted to be favor in the whole world by singing cine- songs and make the people happy in pubs and bars. Unexpected orders she got. Day by day become famous and reached rich enough. One day as usual she finished her program and came room, refreshed herself and went happily to bed. In her sleep a movie was played around her that

shows a number of soldiers were crucifying JESUS in the cross with big Nails. She started to shout against soldiers "Stop...don't torture more on my JESUSplease". Every soldier stopped except one. Again she started to cry and keep on pleasing that soldiers "Please don't torture more on my JESUS". Some seconds later that soldier's face turned into her one." Am I? Am I crucifying my JESUS hard?" asked herself. On that night she surrendered her life to JESUS lived and finished her life for Christ. Yes dear brothers and

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sisters"...while we were yet sinners Christ died for us (Romans: 5:8)". For god so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16). That is real love of Christ. He hates sin but loves the sinner. He paid the precious blood to save us. What a wonderful lord we serve! He raised and lifted up us out of dust and from dunghill. Christ JESUS came into the world to save sinners. He did not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance (Mathew: 9:13). He sat with publicans and sinners at meat.

Voice of Grace

John's gospel says "In the beginning was the word and the word were with God and the word was God. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us with full of grace and truth (John 1:1, 14)". God became flesh and word. Today when we confess the word of God and believe it we receive miracles. His words are powerful." So will my word be which goes forth from my mouth; it will not return to me empty, without accomplishing what I desire and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11)". The word of god is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. Oh! Lord helps us to read your word every day without fail and speak to us through your word and guide us.

Voice of Hope

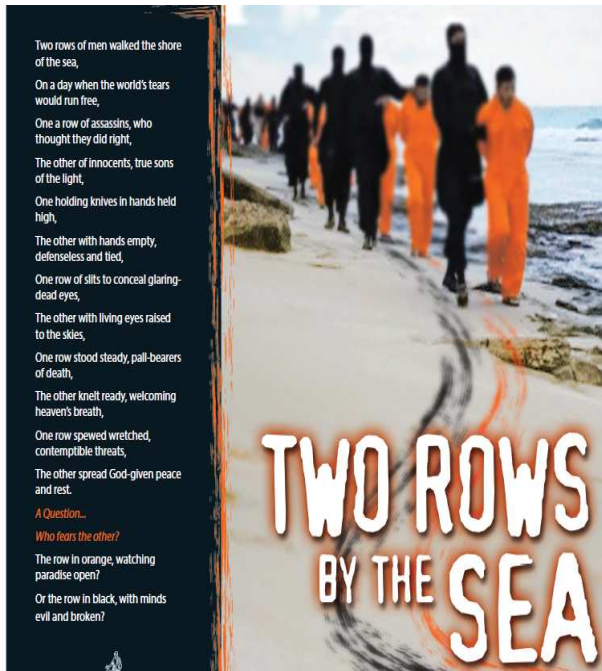
To deliver us from the power of darkness, sin and every evil work and make us to walk in the light Jesus Christ shed his blood. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Without shedding of blood there is no remission (Hebrews 9:22). So God has chosen the cleansing agent as the blood of his own son. We

are cleansed by the blood to serve the living God and intercourse through the blood. Paul the apostle says: we are being justified by His blood (Romans 5:9), we are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13), we get the boldness by the blood of JESUS (Hebrews 10:19), through the blood we have everlasting covenant with JESUS (Hebrews 13:20). When we confess our sin He cleanses with his blood and makes us kings and priests unto God and His Father (Rev 1:6). The precious blood of Christ has opened the gateway for us into God's presence. If the blood of Jesus brings us near it is also important that we should live before God as his servants.

Voice of Comfort

Jesus says, and I will pray the Father and He will give you another helper that he may abide with you forever. I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you (John 14:16, 18). JESUS came with the spirit of the lord to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives.... (Luke 4:18, 49). We have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the spirit of adoption. The spirit helps us in our weakness we do not know what we ought to pray for, but the spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans (Romans 8:26). When we are depressed discomfited and don't know what to pray, the comforter who is the spirit of God help us. God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind (I Timothy 1:7). The anointing which we have received of him teach us all things (I John 2:27). Let the Holy Spirit, the comforter lead us each and every second.

TWO ROWS by the SEA (from Egypt)



WHICH ROW PLEASES GOD?

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

(Matthew 10: 28,32,33)

Two rows of men walked the shore of the sea,
On a day when the world's tears would run free,
One a row of assassins, who thought they did right,
The other of innocents, true sons of the light,
One holding knives in hands held high,
The other with hands empty, defenseless and tied,
One row of sills to conceal glaring dead eyes,
The other with living eyes raised to the skies,
One row stood steady, pall-bearers of death,
The other knelt ready, welcoming heaven's breath,
One row spewed wretched, contemptible threats,
The other spread God-given peace and rest.

A Question...
Who fears the other?
The row in orange, watching paradise open?
Or the row in black, with minds evil and broken?

WHICH ROW UNDERSTANDS?

Dear friends,
Do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

(1 Peter 4: 12-14)

A time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God. They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me. I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you.

(John 16: 2-4)

WHICH ROW SEES?

When they heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open

and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, ... While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep.

(Acts 7: 54-60)

WHICH ROW WILL PREVAIL?

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8: 35-39)

7 Bible Verses for When Life Seems Hopeless

There was a season in my life when I was filled with hopelessness. My life was falling apart, and I woke up every day with what felt like the weight of the world on my chest. I had two small children at the time, an infant and a toddler, and every day felt like a steep, uphill battle. I was exhausted and raising them alone, overwhelmed with the situations swirling around me. I'm normally a very outgoing person, but I remember sitting down every night, rocking my baby to sleep and wondering when it would ever get better.

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I knew it would, eventually. It had to. But when you're so deep in that pit of sadness, it's hard to see how God will bring you out. People would tell me "this too shall pass," but in the middle of hopelessness, there's little anyone can say or do to make you feel better.

By God's grace, I'm now removed from that dark season. Yet I still look and see people I know and love fighting through their own hopelessness: the wife who is losing her husband to cancer, the single mother with no food and three days until payday, and the young woman fighting daily anxiety attacks. Yet, even in the midst of these dark times, where it seems there is no way out; God's Word reminds us that with him, there is always hope.

Maybe you feel hopeless today. You are in a dark place, overwhelmed by the situations you are facing and wondering when it will ever get better. In times like these, we encourage you to explore the hope of God's Word.

1. **The pain won't last forever**
He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared. – Revelation 21:4
2. **Praise God, even when it's hard**
Why am I so sad? Why am I so troubled? I will put my hope in God, and once again I will praise him, my savior and my God. – Psalm 43:5
3. **Give your burdens to God**
Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. – Matthew 11:28
4. **When you are weak, God is strong**
His answer was: "My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak." I am most happy, then, to be proud of my weaknesses, in order to feel the protection of Christ's power over me. – 2 Corinthians 12:9
5. **Keep your eyes on Jesus**
I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me; he freed me from all my fears. The oppressed look to him and are glad; they will never be disappointed. – Psalm 34:4-5
6. **God will strengthen you**
But those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak. – Isaiah 40:31
7. **Don't stop praying**
Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times. – Romans 12:12

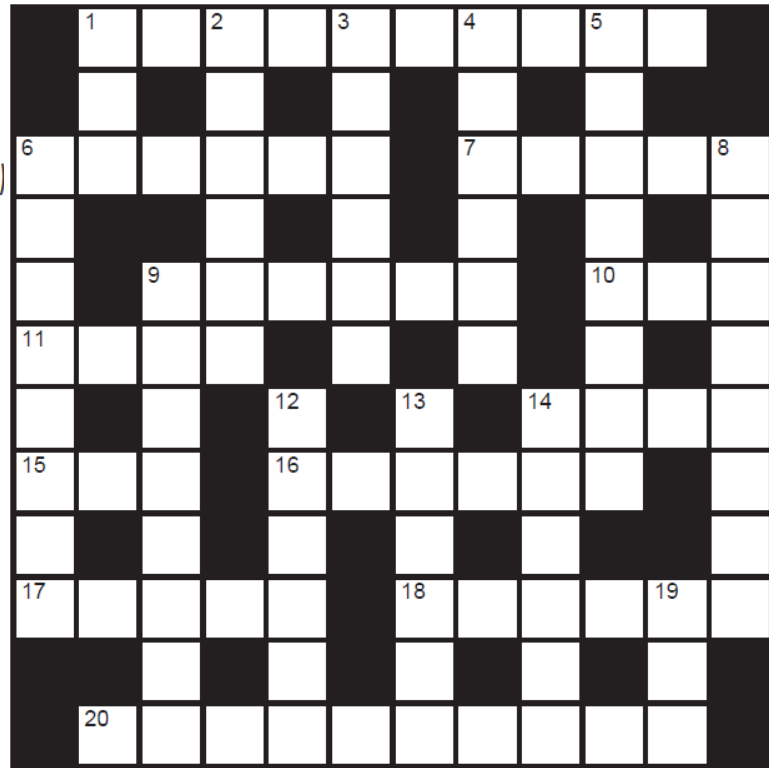
BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

Across

- 1 Remorse (10)
- 6 Consecrate (6)
- 7 Break a Commandment (5)
- 9 Make a hole (6)
- 10 Pot (3)
- 11 What Ai became (4)
- 14 This initially watered the earth (4)
- 15 Samuel's mentor (3)
- 16 Small river (6)
- 17 Mount that Moses climbed (5)
- 18 Prophet in David's time (6)
- 20 Biblical garden (10)

Down

- 1 Take flight (3)
- 2 One of the twelve (6)
- 3 All living things (6)
- 4 Response (6)
- 5 Guardians of Eden (8)
- 6 The father of Levi (8)
- 8 Grow (8)
- 9 Forbearance (8)
- 12 Second longest book (6)
- 13 Statue metal (6)
- 14 Sister of Lazarus and Mary (6)
- 19 Wood splitter (3)



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