

So Sorry to hear of your loss Church but Heaven had a great gain. While I didn't know brother Otis or his wife Alma Joyce, we have some things in common besides being part of the family of God.

Otis Weaver and his wife Joyce were from the same town in which my Grandma and Grandpa Wedge lived, Mansfield AR. Otis was laid to rest in Hartford AR, Friday. That is the town where my dad was born.

Brother Otis may have known my grandmother and grandfather. My grandmother Mernie Wedge was an Assemblies of God Evangelist and she attended the 1st Assembly of God Church in Mansfield.

About Me:

I Love Jesus Christ. My faith continues to grow. He died for the likes of me and his Father resurrected Him through the Holy Spirit never to die again.

I became a Christian in July of 1980. I married my sweet wife Raylene May 22, 1981. We raised two children and two grandchildren.

I retired from the Air Force in October of 2000 at Tinker AFB.

We moved back to Panama in January of 2004. I began teaching at Panama Schools in July 2008 where I also serve as the Technology person for the school district. I currently teach computer applications at the high school.

I also teach Sunday School to Seniors at Victory Worship Center. Pastor Brian Fouts is an awesome Man of God. He called me Wednesday and asked me if I would come by and serve you today and Wednesday.

My wife and I have been involved in children's ministries for many years. God is my manager, and she not only keeps me on track, but she has an awesome voice and a precious heart. I am a Gospel Ventriloquist. My puppets can sing but I can hardly sing a lick. I do love ministering to children and youth. I also love preaching the Good News and teaching about Christ. I love watching God move on people when the Spirit falls.

God's Wonderful Plan

To me, Church is all about Jesus. I appreciate the opportunity to be at Heavener 1st Assembly.

I have been praying for the Heavener church and I know God will move.

Let us Pray...

Intro: You have heard of a One man show? I'm here for a One God show up. Our heavenly Father knows all. My Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit have a plan. This plan involves us. We have eternal life through Christ. I will share more with you this morning about His awesome plan. Have you ever developed a plan that you never had to altar as the plan unfolded? God will not change his plan.

God does not have a watch. He stands outside the timeline. Time means nothing to him. When I turned 60, it took me several months to figure that out. I often feel like an 18 year-old until I get up and start walking or move any part of my body. Then my age becomes clearer. God is full of energy and has more than all the time in the world.

[Psa 139:1-5 NLT] 1 For the choir director: A psalm of David. O LORD, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. 2 You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I'm far away. 3 You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. 4 You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. 5 You go before me and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head.

1. God's plan of redemption only comes through Jesus. Jesus is the Only Way God's plan works. God has a purpose for his plan.

[Jhn 14:4-6 KJV] 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

God's Wonderful Plan

- a. Let me remind us who God is before we share more of his plan.
 - i. [Heb 4:13 NLT] 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes, and he is the one to whom we are accountable.
 - ii. [Amo 4:13 NLT] 13 For the LORD is the one who shaped the mountains, stirs up the winds, and reveals his thoughts to mankind. He turns the light of dawn into darkness and treads on the heights of the earth. The LORD God of Heaven's Armies is his name!
 - iii. **Jesus revealed hidden things through parables.** [Mat 13:35 NLT] 35 This fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet: "I will speak to you in parables. I will explain things hidden since the creation of the world."
 - iv. **[1Co 2:7 NLT] 7 No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God--his plan that was previously hidden, even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.**

2. God's plan includes our understanding the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus opened his disciples understanding and the Holy Spirit opens our understanding.

[Luk 24:45 KJV] 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

Many read the Bible but they don't have complete understanding of the mysteries of God.

Charles Spurgeon said, The most unlearned of men become ripe scholars in the school of grace when the Lord Jesus by His Holy Spirit unfolds the mysteries of the kingdom to them, and grants the divine anointing by which they are enabled to behold the invisible.

Charles also said, Had it not been for the love of Jesus we should have remained to this moment in utter ignorance, for without His gracious opening of our understanding, we could no more have attained to spiritual knowledge than an infant can climb the Pyramids, or an ostrich fly up to the stars.

The Holy Spirit enlightens us concerning the kingdom of heaven.

[Jhn 14:26 KJV] 26 But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Opening our understanding is not automatic. In other words. It is not our right as his children to know the mysteries of the kingdom. We must ask, seek, knock, and have the right attitude, a strong commitment and balance in our walk with God.

God's Wonderful Plan

God revealed to Abraham what he was going to do to Sodom and Gomorrah.

Abraham had faith, he believed God when God told him he would bless his family and he would have a son through Sarah and kings would come from him

Jesus revealed the mystery of the kingdom to his disciples when they asked him. He also revealed the truth about the Messiah to the men on the way to Emmaus

[Luk 24:30-32 NLT] 30 As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! 32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

3. We see the Father and the Son at work with God's plan in Hebrews.

[Heb 1:1-3 KJV] 1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of [his] glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4. The Holy Spirit is also a key part of God's plan

[Jhn 16:7 KJV] 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

God revealed his holiness through the Law but he gave us the means to become holy in God's eyes through Christ.

[Jhn 1:17 KJV] 17 For the law was given by Moses, [but] grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Bob Hoekstra a saint of God who is in heaven, says this:

These two covenants of law and grace present one of the major contrasting themes in the word of God. "For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Understanding the differences between these two covenants is of utmost importance for living the Christian life as God intends.

God's Wonderful Plan

The law of God is the "what"; the grace of God is the "how". The law of God reveals sin; the grace of God forgives sin. The law of God indicates man's problem; the grace of God provides God's remedy.

God's law tells us that He desires holiness to characterize the way we live. Only God's grace can provide such godliness in our lives.

The law of God demands performance by man; the grace of God offers provision from God.

The law of God tells us of the character of God; the grace of God reproduces that character in us. The law of God is the effect God wants to see; the grace of God is the cause that brings forth that effect in Christians.

5. God don't need us for his plan to succeed. He is in a class by Himself. He doesn't need weapons to complete his plan.

Gideon was tasked to lead Israel against the Midianites. God paired down the army from 32,000 to 22,000 to 10,000 to 300. The enemy had 135,000 soldiers.

[Jdg 7:7 NLT] 7 The LORD told Gideon, "With these 300 men I will rescue you and give you victory over the Midianites. Send all the others home."

[Rev 22:12-17 KJV] 12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. 14 Blessed [are] they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

6. The Father's plan is based on Godly Love. Paul defines Godly Love

[1Co 13:4-8 NLT] 4 Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5 or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6 It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. **7 Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 8 Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever!**

7. Do you want to play a role in God's plan for the redemption of humanity? He wants to use all his saints.

[Pro 4:23 NLT] 23 Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

God's Wonderful Plan

[Pro 4:23 KJV] 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life.

[Rom 16:25 KJV] 25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

[1Co 15:51 KJV] 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

[1Th 4:13-18 KJV] 13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Sunday night. What can we, the church, do to change the course of America?

Pray, seek God, Obey God, Expect a miracle.