

has not spoken. Study the Bible and see for yourself that salvation is a gift of God, but that we must reach out and take what He offers. He wants us to have it; but does not make us take it.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

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**Radio Programs:** WJLS 99.5FM every Sunday at 9:00AM  
WQAZ 101.5FM every Sunday at 5:30PM  
(WQAZ CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT 98.5 FM)

**Website:** [www.beckleychurch.com](http://www.beckleychurch.com)

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### TIMES OF SERVICES

**Sunday:** Bible Study 10:00am  
Morning Worship 10:50am  
Evening Worship 6:30pm  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study 7:30pm

# The Carriage Drive Messenger



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## FAITHFULNESS IN CONTRAST (author unknown)

Several years ago, the papers carried the story of a young boy who was killed in an automobile accident. What made this so unusual was that this young man had a faithful collie dog who attended the funeral and watched in bewilderment as the casket was lowered into the earth. Every day for eight years, friends said he went to the cemetery to lie upon his master's grave for a little while and then come home. He would break ropes and pull up stakes to get away to go to the grave site. Love is a powerful thing and it finds a way to be close to those we love.

Our Master left a home in glory to come to this earth to live. He demonstrated His love for us in forgiving us, healing those who were sick and blind, feeding those who were hungry, and comforting the bereaved. Then He, who was sinless, gave His life on the cross, suffering, bleeding, and dying in our place. Then he was taken down from the cross and buried. On the third day, as He promised, He arose and appeared to many for forty days and then ascended back to the Father to intercede for us. And we have to have attendance drives, sometimes beg and urge Christians to come and worship Him? Here we have a dog breaking ropes, pulling up stakes to go and lie upon the grave of his dead master. Will we not faithfully break ropes and pull up stakes to worship a risen Lord?

Love finds a way!

## MODERN REFUGEES

by Bob Pulliam

**T**he ice storm that ravaged the mid-west over a week ago was felt most severely in Kentucky. There, hundreds of thousands were left without power in the midst of bitter cold weather. But it was not an overnight ordeal. The authorities say it could be weeks before the power is back on. In addition, they recommended that people temporarily move to a warmer climate, until they could safely return. But how do you leave your job for several weeks? Many of these people cannot afford to live in another location for several weeks.

I have not heard figures on how many may have pulled up stakes to become modern day refugees. At the very least, it seems to be a terrible inconvenience. And for some, it is an impossibility. But becoming a refugee is not a rare, or new thing. Wars around the world force people to take refuge in other countries. Famines sometimes set such movements in motion. Religious persecutions can also cause such hardships (*e.g.* Acts 18:2).

It has often been said that we do not truly appreciate what we have until we lose it. Perhaps we can draw nigh unto appreciation by trying to imagine the hardships of others. The Lord has blessed us richly. Must we lose some of those blessings before we can appreciate His generous hand? He has blessed us to be in the family of God... the "household of God" (I Tim 3:15). Do we find it difficult to get busy with the "housework"? He has given us a vineyard in which to labor. But are we taking advantage of the opportunity to work for the Master?

Let us not only count our blessings, but also use them to the glory of God.

## ALL MEN TO BE SAVED

by Bob Pulliam

**W**hat would you think if you saw the words "All Men to be Saved" emblazoned on a billboard? Some would think, "Why just *men*?" A few might think, "They already *are*." Some would wonder, "*Saved* from what?" Others would think, "*All* cannot be saved!" And you might notice that each thought emphasizes a different word in the message. The emphasis each person places is based on their own biases or knowledge.

Now, you may already know that the statement on the imaginary billboard is from I Timothy 2:4:

*"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."*

(I Tim 2:3-4)

Allow me to emphasize the word in this passage that ought to stand out. The word "desires" goes a long way to understanding the truth on this matter, and breaking down a prominent false doctrine in the religious world today. God desires all to be saved. This being so, where does the doctrine of Irresistible Grace come in? This popular doctrine teaches that God saves people, whether they like it or not, by a direct operation of the Spirit. Now the only way for both this doctrine, and I Timothy 2:4 to be correct is for all mankind to experience salvation (*i.e.* universal salvation). Even those who preach this doctrine don't believe that God saves all men.

Why does God, according to this doctrine, save some and not others? We are told that it is all in accordance with His will (desire?) from the foundation of the world. So now I must believe that God desires me to be saved, but may not do anything to bring it about! I hope you can see the clear contradiction between this doctrine of men and the Bible. It is a doctrine taught in Presbyterian, Baptist, and many other churches. It is based on the philosophies of men, rather than the Bible.

We might also wonder about the doctrine of "once saved, always saved". If God will infallibly save the saved, no matter what they do, then why not the remainder of mankind. A sin is a sin. And God does desire *all* to be saved.

Now you might ask, "But doesn't the Bible tell us that God chose us for salvation?" Indeed it does, but what many people do not realize is that it tells us *how* He chose us for salvation. People read Ephesians 1:4, and assume that He chose each individual He wanted to save. Closer examination shows us *how* we were chosen for this salvation. "He chose us *in Him* before the foundation of the world" (emphasis mine - *bp*). He did not look into the future, see the existence of each individual, and pick out the people He wanted to save! He chose us *in Him*! Salvation *in Christ Jesus* was foreknown by God. He had a plan to save mankind from sin before creation, and such involved the crucifixion of Jesus (Acts 2:23). Each person has the choice of salvation or condemnation, and Jesus Christ is the only means of salvation (Acts 4:12). This is why Peter exhorted the multitude in Acts 2:39 to save themselves from that untoward generation!

The author of Hebrews told his readers that Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him (Heb 5:9). If you would have the salvation God offers in His Son, do not wait for Him to *do something to you*. Such is only the wishful thinking of people who speak where God