

Read Psalm 139:1-16. Of special interest here is verses seven and eight:

*"Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, Thou art there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, Thou art there."*

God must utilize His ability to know all things to render a just judgment on the last day. His word tells us that He will even know the motives of men (Heb 4:12f). The Bible also tells us that no one will escape this judgment (II Cor 5:10). Whether you live in a penthouse, a basement, a cave or on the moon; God will judge *all your* deeds someday! "No one will know"? ...Don't you believe it!

# The Carriage Drive Messenger



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## NEWSWORTHY NOTES:

*This section removed to preserve member's privacy*

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## TIMES OF SERVICES

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

**Wednesday:** Bible Study 7:30pm

## THE SORROW OF PARTING

by Bob Pulliam

Some of the greatest sorrow we must endure in this life is that of parting ways. Sometimes it comes about by death, and other times it is just a separation by geographical distance. The Bible tells of many partings, of both types. At times, these partings are due to labors in the Lord. While there should be joy in such, the Bible shows us how appropriate the tears are.

Our hearts are heavy as we prepare to depart. We would have liked to have stayed longer. But we have been torn between two yearnings, and must follow the more urgent path. We have come to love you all very dearly. The work here has stabilized, and has a bright future in this area. Marilyn and I want to thank you for letting us be a part of your lives, and the work here at Carriage Drive. Hopefully, time will permit an opportunity for a reunion this side of eternity. But even if it doesn't, the grand conclusion of all things will erase all of the sorrows and pain. One day *we will* meet again, and rejoice in the presence of God.

Until that day, remember the words of Paul:

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor 15:58)*

## IT IS THE POWER

by Bob Pulliam

**T**he apostle Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation..." (Rom 1:16). The question I must raise, is this... If it is the power of God unto salvation, then why isn't it used as such? There are a couple of ways this power is being bypassed by people today. And I am convinced that some of our own brethren are guilty of this.

### *Bypass #1...*

Let's start close to home. We preach that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, and preach against the notion that the Spirit directly deals salvation out to men arbitrarily (as some teach). We know faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Rom 10:17). And with such we strive to convince the world that one must study and obey the Bible to be saved.

When was the last time you sat down and studied your Bible. Not for a Bible class, or because someone asked you a question. When was the last time you were motivated on your own to study your Bible?

We can complain about others teaching error on the attainment of faith (by hearing) until we're blue in the face; but it doesn't mean much when we don't apply what we teach! Perhaps we need a little better understanding of our need for salvation. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation... Do we need salvation? Do we need it as badly as our time studying the word reflects? Honest personal evaluation is essential here. Don't blow this off with, "Well, I'm just so busy!" You need to be a student of the word of God!

### *Bypass #2...*

Now we have those we wrote of earlier, who expect the Spirit of God to "zap" them with their salvation. The power of God unto salvation for them is getting the Holy Ghost. But not for the apostle Paul. He said the gospel is that power of God unto salvation. And why not?... The Holy Spirit revealed that word with mighty power to confirm it as the word of God! Paul called it "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Rom 8:2).

Paul told the Thessalonians that they were called to salvation by the gospel (II Th 2:14). He told Timothy (I Tim 3:16f) that the word of God would thoroughly furnish a man and make him perfect (complete, or whole).

The dispute here is not whether the Spirit exercises power over the

individual, because even I believe that. The problem arises when we ask *how?*... People in the religious world tell us that it is by a direct, miraculous operation performed on the individual's heart. But the Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit uses the word (see above, and compare Eph 5:18f with Col 3:16).

### *Conclusion...*

You either believe that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, or you do not! Paul, by inspiration of the Spirit, said that it is the power of God unto salvation. Some folks today say that it is not! Who are you going to believe?

*"He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, But whoever walks wisely will be delivered." (Prov 26:28)*

*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (Prov 3:5f)*

## HAVE YOU OUT~SMARTED GOD LATELY?

By Bob Pulliam

**H**ave you "out-smarted" God lately? Everyone's done it (or so they think they have). One might think that the ability to do such comes in a moment of lofty wisdom and cunning skill. This magnificent feat of superhuman logic actually comes in a moment of insanity (or perhaps senility). It is an "ability" born out of foolishness rather than wisdom.

Man tries to "out-smart" God when he talks himself into certain acts by such statements as, "No one will ever know", or "No one will ever care". We know something is wrong, but we want it so badly! How can we take part in it without bruising our conscience to where we can't live with

ourselves? We'll make it our own little secret! While we realize that no other human will find out or care (or so they think); we must also realize that there is an all-seeing, all-knowing God in heaven *who misses nothing*.

God is an eternal, omnipresent (in all places), omniscient (having all knowledge) being. Man has no knowledge or power that God can not know or snuff out.