

Volume 12 Issue 10

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## MALCHUS' EAR

Christians are often disappointed and discouraged when they fail to convince their unbelieving friends and relatives to accept the truth from the Scriptures. They ask questions like: "How can they ignore the evidence?" and "It's so obvious, why can't they see it?" These are good questions. We understand your frustration. We agree - it is not logical for people to ignore the abundance of available proof. Do you recall the occasion when Judas brought a band of armed men to arrest Jesus? Peter, thinking to defend Him with force, drew out his sword. Each of the gospel writers describe him cutting off the ear of Malchus, a servant of the

high priest. Jesus rebuked Peter, and Luke tells us that He proceeded to heal the severed ear (Luke 22:51). Think about that a minute! In the presence of this mob of angry conspirators Jesus worked a miracle. They saw it! Yet still they proceeded to participate in the events that led to the unjust murder of God's own Son. We remind you of this simply to illustrate that prejudiced men have always ignored evidence that contradicts their predetermined positions. If the Scribes and Pharisees could see the many miracles of Jesus and still call for his crucifixion, we should not be too surprised when men today reject the plain truths of God's word. But, there is another, more positive

lesson to be learned here. Jesus said in John 10:18, "No man taketh (my life) from me but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." In healing Malchus' ear, Jesus proved His point. By working that miracle He showed that He had unlimited power to save His own life, but He refused to use it. He died willingly for our sins. What a Savior! – Greg Gwin

### **The Passing of Someone Else**

The church was bowed in grief this week to learn that one of our most valuable members, Someone Else, had passed away. This death creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Someone Else has been with us for many years. During all of these years, he did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, a meeting to attend, one name was on

everyone's list: "let Someone Else do it." Someone Else was among the largest givers in the Church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone assumed that Someone Else would make up the difference. This beloved member was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing super-human; but a person can only do so much. Everyone expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone. Who will pitch in and do the things that Someone Else has done? If you are asked to take a job in the church, we hope you won't reply, "Let Someone Else do it." Now YOU need to pick up where Someone Else has left off. (Author Unknown)

### **MENDING PANTS**

**The wives of two  
preachers,  
Had a friendship that  
was unending.  
Were sitting together as  
they worked -  
Their husband's clothes  
they were mending.**

**One said to the other,**

**“My poor John  
Is so discouraged with  
preaching.  
He’s about ready to give  
it up -  
There are no souls that  
he’s reaching.”**

**“He said nothing is  
going right -  
No new faces does he  
ever see.  
I expect that soon he’ll  
really resign -  
But this is between you  
and me.”**

**After waiting a moment  
the other said,  
“It’s different with my  
Bill.**

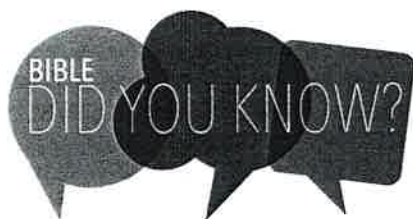
**He seems so  
enthusiastic,  
Just to watch him gives  
me a thrill.**

**He’s praying about the  
building program -  
He wants some more  
pews put in.  
He’ll have to move a  
wall to do it,  
And make a class room  
where a junk room had  
been.**

**He’s looking for Bible  
Class teachers  
To teach the classes that**

**are growing.  
Offerings are up, souls  
are being saved -  
The members’ faces are  
glowing.**

**A hushed silence fell as  
they continued  
Their work, making  
each stitch so neat.  
One was patching  
trouser knees,  
The other her husband’s  
pants seat.**



***Simon of Cyrene, who  
bore the cross for  
Jesus, was the father  
of Rufus, a later  
convert to Christ.***

***“...Simon of Cyrene  
(the father of  
Alexander and  
Rufus)...” Mk. 15:21.  
“Greet Rufus, a choice  
man in the Lord, also  
his mother and mine,”  
Rom. 16:13***



# MONTHLY CHALLENGE

**DIRECTIONS:** Each first Sunday of the month, we will have challenges that you should attempt to complete by the end of the month. If we all, as members, complete these challenges, our church will grow in spirit and in number.

## 1) Applying The Word Challenge

*Gal. 6:6 "The one who is taught the word is to share all good things with the one who teaches him."*

Pick two books of the bible, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament, and study them out thoroughly to be able to outline each book, pointing out their major themes and main lessons. When you have finished, write down a personal application from each book that has had or is beginning to have a major impact in your life and where you are seeing it being applied in your every day life. If you feel comfortable sharing these applications with the congregation, submit them to me and I will preach a sermon on the book you studied and include your personal application to share as the main point in the lesson. God's word should be very personal to us and have a practical impact in the lives we live. It would be wonderful to share with each other the various ways God is helping us to be more like Christ every day! – Daniel Ruegg  
*"...I rejoice and share my joy with you all. You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me," Philip. 2:17-18*

## 2) USING YOUR BIBLE IN THE WORLD

Share the following verses with someone who does not attend this congregation at least twice this month:

### 2 Corinthians 12:3-10

"And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses. For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me. Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And he has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.' Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong."