

Lo The d Ou Righteousness

The Anecdote of Morphy

Elder Charles Moore



release of Barabbas rather than Jesus. He knew in advance that the crowds would scream "Crucify Him. We have no King but

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In reading my article last month, "The Anecdote of Morphy" you might have gotten the sense that the plan of salvation was in jeopardy at different points, that Satan could have made some brilliant move and the thread of redemption woven into human history could have been broken. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

I used to read chess books, studying them trying to improve my game, back in the day when I still had brains. In them they would set up problems, "Checkmate in seven moves." Your job was to figure out how you could checkmate the other player in just seven moves. What that means is that even if the other player makes the best possible moves, you would still checkmate them in seven moves and if they don't make the best possible moves they would be checkmated in even fewer moves and lose the game. God has been playing a game of chess so to speak with Satan since his rebellion and the fall of mankind. The outcome has never been in doubt; God could have told Satan before the foundation of the world, "Checkmate in ten million, one hundred and fifty two thousand, and four hundred and seventy four moves" and there's not a thing Satan could do to stop it.

Peter on the Day of Pentecost

said, "**Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know-- this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.**" (Acts 2:22-23)

The death of Jesus was not the result of some successful satanic plot, but the result of a sovereign plan. God determined that Jesus would die. This determination was based upon his foreknowledge. He knew what sinful man would do. He knew that he would be shunned, and rejected. He knew that he would be hated by the religious leaders of that day. He knew that they would plot to seize him. He knew that Judas would betray the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver, and seal that betrayal with a kiss. He knew that Pontius Pilate would utter the words..."I find no fault in him" but still have him beaten with a cat of nine tails in an attempt to appease the bloodthirsty crowd. God knew that the mob would yell for the

Caesar." He knew that crucifixion would be the means of his death. He knew that the Roman soldiers would nail his hands and feet to the cross. God knew all this in advance, and yet he determined in his will that he would send Jesus! The death of Jesus Christ was determined by the will of God.

When was the plan incorporated by God? Remember the words of Peter from his later book, "**but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,**" (1 Peter 1:19-20) In his book And the Angels were Silent, Max Lucado writes, "Forget any suggestion that Jesus was trapped. Erase any theory that Jesus made a miscalculation. Ignore any speculation that the cross was a last-ditch attempt to salvage a dying mission. For if these words tell us anything, they tell us that Jesus died...on purpose. No surprise. No hesitation. No faltering. No, the journey to Jerusalem didn't begin in Jericho. It didn't begin in Galilee. It didn't even begin in Bethlehem. The journey to the cross began long before. As the echo of the crunching of the fruit was still sounding in the garden, Jesus was leaving for

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Calvary."

What does all this mean? The ropes used to tie his hands and the soldiers used to lead him to the cross were unnecessary. They were only incidental. Had they not been there, had there been no trial, no Pilate no crowd, the crucifixion would have occurred anyway. Had Jesus been forced to nail himself to the cross, he would have done it. It was not the soldiers who killed him, not the screams of the mob: It was his love for us. **"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"** (Romans 5:6-8). Jesus was going to come, live, die and rise again for the redemption of you, me and the whole world and there was not a thing Satan could do to stop it. The only thing Satan can do is try to get you to play with him and lose your soul. Let God play for you, He never loses and He will never lose you if you trust in Jesus for your salvation.

Jesus will say, **"It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."** (Revelation 21: 6-7)

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Guest Speaker

Miss Barbara Willis



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Cyberspace News



Greetings to you from Michigan. I said I was looking for the March 'going out like a lamb' part of the weather but I am still looking. We are all blessed with warm homes so I should not complain!

Vicki Chapman called this month with the news that she, Steve, and Daran had gone to visit Dad DuWaine this month and had stayed a week. They had a wonderful visit and said how much he would appreciate hearing from any of us. His current address is 5073 Old State Road, Menlo, Georgia, 30731. He lives on top of a mountain now. We would love to hear from you, Dewey.

On March 14 Brad and Sarah Charles welcomed Nolan Anderson into this world. He weighed 7 lbs 4 oz. See Nolan with big sister Hannah.

Dorothy Layton called me with some news from all of their family. They had a family get-together at the Dorsey's for Easter. While there, Luke Dorsey called and visited with each of them. He was in Afganhanastan working for the government on a geography program. Jim Stoner recently lost his sister-in-law Nettie Stoner with cancer. Our condolences go out to Jim and his brother's family.

Rip and Norma Ripley are still hanging on as he visits her a couple times a day. Rip wrote me news that Norma had spent 8 days in the hospital because of a fall. They found no broken bones but found a couple infections so they kept her for awhile. Rip has had a cold and could not visit her. Please pray for both of our dear Ripley's. I appreciate the notes he sends me.

Laurie Eckles called to let me know she woke up in the morning with "It Took a Miracle" on her mind. It is a wonderful song and I sure agree with the sentiment. Thanks, Laurie.

Roy and Bennie Gee have left for England for a three-week tour and visit with Roy's family and friends. More next month about that. May April bring sunshine and flowers.





Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

As the warm weather slowing comes encroaching upon us many have differing views on what this brings. For me as an example it means Diane will no longer tolerate me hunkering down in the house, which goes against my natural slothful, slack, sauntering and sluggish tendencies. She has already started a long list of essential, momentous and laborious assignments that I must accomplish in the upcoming warm weather. My hand gets tired just watching her write it all down. It also means that the gym I frequent is filled to capacity from all those seasonal gym attendees who think that a few workouts in the spring will get their bodies ready for their undersized and colorful beachwear. Soon enough their gym attendance will taper off and the door will no longer be darkened by their appearance. Their only reminder will be that unending and oppressive monthly gym payment. Meanwhile the gym owner is wringing his hand and diabolically laughing all the way to the bank.

We are all happy to say that David Charles has gotten a green light from his doctor to go, do and eat anything he would like to do. It was a long recovery and a few times it was touch and go, but with a lot of prayers and intestinal fortitude he persevered. He is already making plans for future trips and visits to faraway places and faces. We are all glad to see him out and about again.

On the 9th we had our usual Magnum Nursing Home visit after our Church service joined by those from the Petersburg Church of God. We had a good crowd join us in our mini worship service. We sang, had prayer and John Schott topped it all off with a bold and enthusiastic gospel message. While we were busy doing that my wife Diane and Elder Moore's wife Aurine attended a special well attended birthday party for Vicky Velasco thrown by her daughter Elizabeth in Royal Oak Michigan.

The next week on Tuesday my wife Diane had to make a business trip to North Carolina. I was left alone to forage for food by myself and anyone who knows how inept I am will realize this is no small occurrence. While Diane was seeing the world thru the windshield I was cloistered in a corner of our house lying in the fetal position. However, thanks to Diane's foresight she prepared everything I needed in the way of food and clothing during her absence. She finally arrived back home the next Monday and now everything is right with the world.

This month on the 16th instead of having our normal church service we attended the Seventh Day Church of God in Petersburg for a special service that was led by an accomplished musician and highly educated Dr. Ross Jutsum. He did the whole service and had something for everyone. He set many familiar Bible stories to music which all of us enjoyed. We all were blessed by his spirit filled way of worship. Our prayer is that as he travels from church to church he is blessed as much as we were.

My mom, Geneva Begeman, is battling with acute pain in her leg and lower back which has turned into sciatica. As a result she has a difficult time sleeping and other things she enjoys doing including looking after and taking care of my Dad. The doctors are currently trying to find a pain medication that will not interfere with her digestion. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

We wrapped up this month with our normal Good Friday service. Elder Moore and I reflected and reminded all in attendance of the historical facts and meanings behind the very first Good Friday aided by some video presentations and skits. We ended the service with having everyone write down their concerns, prayer requests and or personal battles and literally pounding a nail thru them on our small cross representation. The next morning Elder Moore expounded on his best exegesis of the scriptures talking about the resurrection of Jesus and about our future resurrection. We ended that service by attaching fresh cut flowers to the aforementioned cross to represent making something beautiful from something so ugly.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

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-EXPLANATION OF INSTRUCTIONS-

WHAT IT SAYS: "SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY"

WHAT IT MEANS: "SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, WE'LL FIND A WAY TO EXCLUDE YOU."

WHAT IT SAYS: "MAY CAUSE DROWSINESS"

***WHAT IT MEANS: "EXPECT A SUDDEN BOUT WITH NARCOLEPSY WHILE YOU'RE DRIVING TO
WORK."***

WHAT IT SAYS: "SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED"

***WHAT IT MEANS: "TAKE THE DAY OFF AND BORROW YOUR NEIGHBOR'S 2,000-PIECE TOOL
KIT. DON'T MAKE ANY OTHER PLANS FOR THE DAY."***

What's happening at COLOR



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