

# Love Letter

*"Jesus Wrote In The Sand"*

Weekly Newsletter Published and Distributed By the Agape Church of Christ  
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Graylon A. Freeman, Minister



AGAPE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST



## From The Pen Of A Free Man

### **"Have You Been Swallowed Up?"**

Bro. G. A. Freeman

As Christians, we've all heard and studied the story of Jonah and the great fish. But do we know that the disobedient prophet was "swallowed up" — not once, but three times?

1) Jonah was "swallowed up" by prejudice — The Ninevites were a wicked and idolatrous people (Jonah 1:2), and God wanted Jonah to preach repentance to them. But Jonah wanted them to feel God's wrath (Jonah 4:2), so he boarded a ship and headed in the opposite direction (Jonah 1:3).

2) Jonah was "swallowed up" by the sea — A wild storm was battering the boat, so the superstitious sailors cast lots to find out who was to blame, and "the lot fell on Jonah" (Jonah 1:7). He said, "Throw me into the sea" (Jonah 1:12). As the swirling waters engulfed him, he sank toward certain death.

3) Jonah was "swallowed up" by a large fish that God had prepared to rescue him (Jonah 1:17) — Dead inside the fish 3 days, he confessed his sin and promised to obey God (Jonah 2:1-9). After he was delivered, he followed God's directive and preached judgment to Nineveh, and all the people repented (Jonah 3:1-5).

Sometimes God allows us to face frightening circumstances so that we will learn to trust and obey Him. It's always best to obey the Lord right away — then we won't be "swallowed up."

Till The Last Amen

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<i>Important Dates</i>	

*\* Weekly Zoom Thursday  
Stay With The Book Re-  
search Hour 7:00 pm*

*\* Weekly Broadcast  
The Place Where It Is  
Written  
Every Monday on Face-  
Book and YouTube*

*\* New Years Eve  
Extravaganza Dec. 31*

## Plan Of Salvation

In order to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ, which is the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) which is the body (Col. 1:18).

God has provided a scheme of redemption. A Plan of Salvation.

All who obey God, through Christ, must:

1. Hear the Gospel.  
Rom. 10:12-17;  
I Cor. 15:1-4
2. Believe in Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.  
Jn. 8:24
3. Repent of your Sins.  
Acts 2:38; 17:30,  
Lk. 13:3, 5.
4. Confess Faith In Christ. Rom. 10:9.
5. Be Baptized for the remission of sins.  
Mk. 16:16,  
Acts 2:38; 22:16
6. The Lord will add you to His Body, which is the church.  
Acts 2:47

This is the simple plan of salvation. There are biblical examples of this : Acts 8:26-39.

Dear student of the Bible, follow after the Lord in the same fashion , and you too can be saved.



# AGAPE

Corners (Evangelism Ministry)

## Let's Not Pass by On The Other Side

The parable of the Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:1-37) is known by most Bible students, but not practiced by many. Looking at this parable, we see not only a man who took the time to help his fellow man, but we see the indifference of two “religious” men who “passed by on the other side” (Lk. 10:31-32).

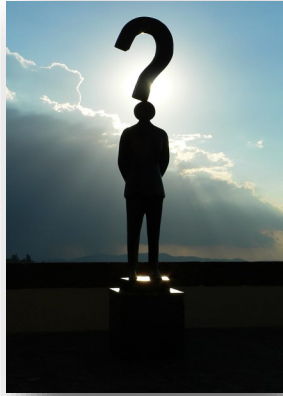
Someone has correctly stated that it is easier to meet opposition than it is to meet indifference. Let's remember that at the foot of the cross, there were some who opposed Christ, but it is said of others: “they sat down and kept watch over him there” Mt. 27:36 – they were indifferent to the proceedings.

The story is told of a young highly trained and gifted doctor who went to China as a medical missionary. One day while attending typhus cases, he was stricken and became deathly ill by the disease. When he heard there was a woman who would die if a Caesarian operation could not be performed, he asked to be carried to the operating room. Attendants had to hold him up — one at each side as he operated and saved the life of the mother and her baby. Unfortunately, the intensity of the operation in his weakened state was too much for him, and in two days, he was dead.

Thank God that this good doctor did not possess a mindset of indifference, but the mindset of compassion — caring for others, no matter what the cost.

Brethren and friends, we too must not be indifferent when we have an opportunity to help someone in need (Gal. 6:9-10; cf. Pro. 3:27-29). Let's not “pass by on the other side” (Lk. 10:31-32).

# AGAPE Spotlight (Highlighting Our Members)



From time to time we will place questions of life, faith and religion in this section.

Research them and share with other members in your study.

1. Are self-esteem and humility in conflict?
2. What are the evidence of a true conversion?
3. Is the evil thought as bad as the evil deed?

4. How can we build up a treasury of good memories?
5. How does humor help in daily life?
6. Are we ever truly free?
7. How desirable is "tough love" in the home?
8. Is depression a matter of religious concern?
9. How can we maintain a good conscience?
10. How can we come to accept ourselves?

Till the last amen.

*"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears."*

*Psa. 34:4*

# AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)



## Getting To The Barn

The story is told of a farmer who one day decided to plow the south forty acres in his

field. However, his tractor needed oil, so he started for the barn to get it, but on the way, he noticed that the pigs hadn't been fed.

As he neared the corncrib, he saw a pile of sacks which reminded him that the potatoes were sprouting. On the way to the potato pit, he passed the woodpile and remembered that the kitchen stove was burning low and needed wood.

While picking up the wood, he saw that one of his chickens was ailing, so he dropped the wood to tend to the chicken ..... and so distraction after distraction came along until the end of the day — and he still hadn't oiled the tractor or plowed the south forty.

Brethren and friends, the only way we will ever "get to the barn" of Christian service is to get our priorities in order (Mt. 6:33). The farmer in the above story didn't have any priorities — he just "rolled with the flow" of events occurring around him.

Is our Christian life ever like this trip to the barn? Do we ever have grand visions of achieving great service, but the service never gets done? Do we have too many distractions, allowing them to interfere with our goal of being a productive servant in God's kingdom?

There's no question that our life contains plenty of pigs to feed, wood to cut and chickens to doctor, but we can't allow them to get in our way of serving God.

If we will make the commitment to serve God (Josh. 24:14-15) and go the "extra mile" (Mt. 5:41), God will make a way for us to "get to the barn."

# AGAPE Salutations

*We, the Church of Christ, who meet at the Adorn Hall in Fresno, TX, are delighted that you have received this particular edition of the "Love Letter," a weekly publication which highlights important events and featured articles by our Minister and staff.*

*When you have the opportunity we would be elated to welcome you to any and all of our services at the congregation.*

*It is our great joy to proclaim the glad tidings of Christ, His Kingdom and His glorious gospel.*

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

