Ready to Answer

SCRIPTURE SEARCH CHALLENGE · MATCH THE VERSE

> *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;"* **1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)**

Evidence for the resurrection. Look up each reference in the Verse Bank. Find the one that says each statement below, then write that reference's letter in the box. The letters, read down, spell the hidden message.

- ☐ The risen Jesus "was seen by over five hundred brethren at once."
- ☐ He "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs," over forty days.
- ☐ He told a doubter, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands."
- ☐ Soldiers were paid to say, "His disciples came at night and stole Him away while we slept."
- ☐ Peter preached, "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses."
- ☐ He said, "Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones."
- ☐ God "has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."
- ☐ Paul told a king that "this thing was not done in a corner."
- ☐ "If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile."

VERSE BANK

S	Matt. 28:13
I	Luke 24:39
I	John 20:27
E	Acts 1:3
R	Acts 2:32
S	Acts 17:31
E	Acts 26:26
H	1 Cor. 15:6
N	1 Cor. 15:17

HIDDEN ANSWER: 1 2 | 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 9

BONUS SEARCH · Two Gospels record the angel saying these exact words at the empty tomb. Find both verses.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWER · EYEWITNESSES — 2 Peter 1:16; Luke 1:2

This week's answer and bonus: next week's bulletin. Want to talk it over? Text **918-550-2246**.

CATOOSA CHURCH OF CHRIST

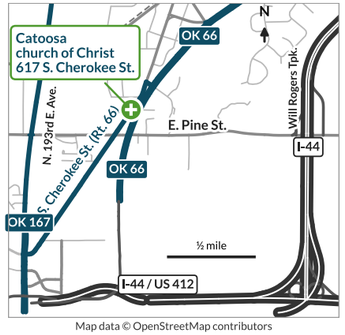
617 S. CHEROKEE ST. · CATOOSA, OK 74015

WHAT TO EXPECT

- ✓ **WORSHIP** — a time of worship, teaching, and fellowship.
- ✓ **SINGING** together, without instruments (Eph 5:19).
- ✓ **LORD'S SUPPER** shared every Sunday (Acts 20:7).
- ✓ **BIBLE TEACHING** — the Bible is our only guide.

BIBLE CLASS	Sundays · 10:00 AM
WORSHIP	Sundays · 11:00 AM
BIBLE STUDY	Wednesdays · 7:00 PM
MINISTER	Randall Hunter
PHONE	(918) 266-3426
TEXT	918-550-2246 (Bible study)
EMAIL	catoosachurchofchrist@gmail.com
WEB	catoosa.churchofchrist.info

We welcome anyone to visit so we can get to know you!



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

JOIN US ON ZOOM — ALL SERVICES

Sun 10:00 & 11:00 AM
Wed 7:00 PM

Meeting ID: **840 160 0170**
Passcode: **427101**
Link: **is.gd/NV8PsM**

SCAN TO JOIN

CATOOSA CHURCH OF CHRIST

617 S. CHEROKEE ST. · CATOOSA, OKLAHOMA

"The churches of Christ greet you." — Romans 16:16 (NKJV)

Vol. 1 · No. 2 | Sunday, November 1, 2026 | catoosa.churchofchrist.info

WELCOME — WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Thank you for worshiping with us today! Join us in a journey of faith and loving service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We welcome anyone to visit so we can get to know you. If you are our guest, please scan the QR code to fill out our digital guest card and take this bulletin home with you.

SCAN TO SIGN OUR GUEST BOOK

VERSE OF THE WEEK · *"And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."* **Hebrews 9:27–28 (NKJV)**

WHERE DO WE GO WHEN WE DIE?

SEEING THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

by Eric Lyons

Q. *How could Jesus have seen the thief on the cross in paradise the very day that He died and was buried?*

A. The fact that Bible critics ask such a question reveals their **severe** lack of Bible knowledge. Allegedly, the promise that Jesus made to the penitent thief who hung on a cross next to Him ("Today you will be with Me in paradise"—Luke 23:43), "could not have been kept unless Jesus went to heaven that day, in which case he would not have been buried for three days" (McKinsey, 1983, p. 3). Skeptic Steve Wells similarly commented on Jesus' promise to the thief, saying: "[H]ow can that be since it's only Friday and, according to the gospels, Jesus lay dead in the tomb Friday night and all day Saturday?" (2007). Obviously, these skeptics do not understand the Bible's teaching about afterlife.

The reason Jesus could say that He and the penitent thief could be together in paradise the very day they died (even though their bodies were still on Earth), is because Jesus was referring to their **souls** cohabiting paradise, not their physical bodies. The Bible clearly teaches that when people die their souls depart from their bodies (cf. Genesis 35:18) and dwell in hades—the "receptacle of disembodied spirits" (Thayer, 1962, p. 11) where all people who die await the Lord's return and subsequent judgment.

The word "hades" occurs ten times in the New Testament, and always refers to the unseen realm of the dead. One part of hades is known as paradise (or "Abraham's bosom"—Luke 16:22), whereas the other part is known as "torments" (Luke 16:23). The spirits of the righteous dwell in paradise, whereas the wicked, like the rich man of Luke 16, find themselves "in torments in Hades" (vs. 23).

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter quoted from Psalm 16 ("You will not leave my soul in Hades"—Acts 2:27), and applied this passage to Christ, saying, "His [Jesus'] soul was not left in Hades" (Acts 2:31). When was Jesus' soul in hades? After His death, and before His resurrection. Who was with Him in the part of hades known as paradise? The thief on the cross. Did Jesus lie when He told the thief, "Today you will be with Me in paradise"? Certainly not!

REFERENCES

McKinsey, Dennis (1983), "Jesus, the Imperfect Beacon," *Biblical Errancy*, February.
Thayer, J.H. (1962), *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan).
Wells, Steve (2007), *Skeptic's Annotated Bible*, [On-line], URL: http://www.skepticsannotatedbible.com/lk/23.html.

Article by Eric Lyons (text unaltered). **Reprinted from Apologetics Press,** https://apologeticspress.org/seeing-the-thief-on-the-cross-2135/

Where Do We Go When We Die?

LUKE 16:19–31 · HEBREWS 9:27 · MATTHEW 25:31–46

Chart: World Video Bible School (© 2009 WVBS, wvbs.org)

Watch the video

whereafterdeath.org

What happens after we die? A video and website on heaven, hell, and what the Bible says.

YOU CAN BE SAVED — WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Salvation is found with faith in Jesus, repenting of sins, confession, baptism into Christ, and remaining faithful.

1. **HEAR** *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* **Romans 10:17**
2. **BELIEVE** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* **John 3:16**
3. **REPENT** *"unless you repent you will all likewise perish."* **Luke 13:3**
4. **CONFESS** *"with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."* **Romans 10:10**
5. **BE BAPTIZED** *"He who believes and is baptized will be saved"* **Mark 16:16** · *"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"* **Acts 2:38**
6. **REMAIN FAITHFUL** *"Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."* **Revelation 2:10**

Scripture quotations: New King James Version (NKJV)

Free Bible Study — Just Ask!

Have questions about God, the Bible, or what it means to become a Christian? We would love to study the Bible with you, one-on-one, at your own pace — no cost and no pressure. In your home, at the building, on Zoom, or by phone.

◂ SCAN TO TEXT US
Text or call
918-550-2246

Ask a Bible question — get a Bible answer

Text your question to **918-550-2246**
◂ SCAN TO TEXT YOUR QUESTION

OUR MOTIVATION. We have a deep love for God and a sincere care for all people. Love is the mark of true followers and the foundation of all service. (Jn 13:33–34; 1 Cor 13:1–8)

OUR STANDARD. We believe the Bible is the only guide for our faith and actions. It is the foundation for everything we teach and do. (2 Tim 3:16–17; 1 Pet 4:11; Col 3:17; Rev 22:18–19)

THE WORK. The mission of Christ's church is threefold: share the message of Jesus, support each other in faith, and serve others with love. (Mk 16:15–16; Rom 14:19; James 1:27)

TRUE UNITY. We embrace Biblical New Testament Christianity, which can unite all Christians as one Body in Christ. (1 Cor 1:10; Eph 4:4–6)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE CLASS RECAP

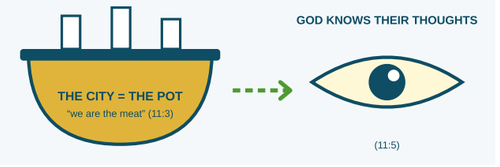
NKJV

Last Wednesday: Ezekiel 11 (Part 1) — Truths 1–3 of Seven Truths from the Departure of the Glory

KEY THEME

Wicked leaders gave Jerusalem false comfort, but God knew their every thought and saw the blood they had shed.

The last part of the vision of chapters 8–11: at the east gate Ezekiel sees twenty-five leaders, among them Jaazaniah and Pelatiah (11:1).



11:5 KEY VERSE *"Thus you have said, O house of Israel; for I know the things that come into your mind."* **Ezekiel 11:5**

Truths 1–3 of Seven

1 BAD ADVICE DOES REAL DAMAGE

The leaders claimed the city walls would keep them safe, just as a pot keeps meat from the fire. False comfort made the people feel safe when they weren't and encouraged them to keep sinning.

"these are the men who devise iniquity and give wicked counsel in this city" **Ezekiel 11:2**

2 GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

When God asked Adam, Cain, or Elijah a question, He was not looking for information. His understanding is infinite, and He will bring every secret thing into judgment.

"I know the things that come into your mind." **Ezekiel 11:5**

3 SIN MAKES LIFE SEEM WORTHLESS

Idolatry and violence go together. When people stop seeing others as made in God's image, life loses its value, as it did before the flood and in Manasseh's Jerusalem.

"You have multiplied your slain in this city, and you have filled its streets with the slain." **Ezekiel 11:6**

IN SUMMARY · Judah's leaders gave wicked counsel and false comfort, but nothing was hidden from God. He saw their thoughts and the innocent blood that filled the city's streets.

Ezekiel 11, Part 2 (Truths 4–7) will be in next week's bulletin.

Our Church Family — Members' News

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- Cathy Councill
- Lesa Davis
- Tony & Ony Emery
- Carol Hodge
- Cindy Lonergan
- Hailey Phelps
- Ola Ross
- Stephen Smalley
- Diane Tiner
- Bill Whisenhunt

OUR NATION: Leaders, military, first responders — "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority" (1 Tim. 2:1–2, NKJV)

NEWS & CALENDAR

TODAY: Bible class 10:00 AM · Worship 11:00 AM
TODAY (SUN 11/1): Church potluck after morning worship
WED 11/4: Bible study, 7:00 PM
MEMBERS: Make sure to update your directory information.

Prayer requests: scan to email the church (for yourself or someone else). Include addresses so members can send cards and notes of encouragement.

FOR MEMBERS

Members: scan to update your family information.