



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY – 10 AM

All the ladies are invited to join in the Ladies' Bible study classes. This week, the lesson will be facilitated by Gill Brandstetter. Proverbs 18:5, "The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge...."

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SUNDAY TIMES:
BIBLE STUDIES: 09H00
WORSHIP: 10H00 TO 11H00
01 MARCH 2026

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY - 9 am.

We will start a new lesson this week, which will be the book of Acts. Johan is facilitating the class. Please join us during this time of learning God's Word. Start reading through Acts!

Preacher: Johan Smulders
Sermon Topic: The Question of Suffering
Scripture reading: Romans 8: 35 - 38
Text: 1 Peter 2: 21

Song Leader: Mike Baisley **Scripture Reading:** Mike Baisley
Opening Prayer: Jan Roberts **Lord's Table:** Chris du Preez
Closing Prayer: Ordene Engelbrecht **Attendance last Sunday:** 46
Servers: Jan, Mike, Chris & Ordene

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for the members in our congregation who are in need of God's grace, healing and strength through difficult times. Please pray for Taida Marembo (Geraldine's mother), Petro and Kate, as they are going through a very difficult time. We ask you to include their families in your prayers for a source of strength and comfort as they support their loved ones.

THE PENALTY FOR SIN

God sees how the world is.
God: I made them with the ability to choose to do good or evil, and they chose to do evil.
God looks off into the distance with a disappointed look on His face.
God: Being perfectly just, I cannot ignore their blatant evilness. In my infinite wisdom, I know the only suitable punishment is death. Justice must be served.
God looks sternly ahead with a clenched fist.
God: But...
God's expression becomes troubled.
God: How can I give them death? I love them. The penalty must be paid. But how can their penalty be paid when the cost is so high?
God hangs His head and a single tear falls. He then raises His head and looks ahead with conviction through tears.
God: I will pay the penalty.
And so Jesus was born into this world, to do something for us, something big, something we couldn't do ourselves. Jesus wiped the slate clean.

Satan sees how the world is.
Satan: Haha! All these people are sinners! Not a single one is good! They'll all be thrown into the unquenchable fire!
God: You're wrong, Satan. They're square with the house. Their penalty has been paid in full.

Father and Son, Spirit and Human. Jesus died for us! It's not just a short bout of pain and suffering to be compared with aeons of the comforts of heavenly realms. God is eternal. He's outside of time. Everything He's ever done is part of Him, every "instant" for eternity. From God's perspective, Jesus is on the cross forever for us. To speak metaphorically, using the concept of time, Jesus' physical pain and suffering and God's heartache of seeing His innocent son crucified are such a vivid "memory" to God, it's as if the crucifixion is happening right now. He made this a part of Himself forever for us, even though He knew even the "best" of us would often spit in His face and say, "I don't need your ways. I don't need your love. I can take care of myself."

BIRTHDAYS

Tammy Harper – 2nd March
Louise Crossley – 2nd March
We wish you an awesome day! May God bless you with a wonderful year ahead!

WELCOME

We welcome all visitors this morning. We believe that you will be blessed as we worship God. Please feel free to ask any questions regarding our worship or about God's Word. It was great to have Mfundiso Badi with us last Sunday. Mfundiso, we hope to see you with us every Sunday!

VERSES FOR THE WEEK

Romans 6: 23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

1 Peter 3: 18, "For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body, but made alive in the Spirit."

Isaiah 53: 5, "But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed."

CHRISTIAN STORIES AND PARABLES ABOUT A PENALTY BEING PAID

The Substitution of Barabbas (Mark 15, Matthew 27): This narrative is a direct picture of substitutionary atonement. Barabbas, a convicted murderer and thief, was slated to die on a cross, but Jesus took his place. Jesus, who was sinless, paid the penalty (death) for the criminal, allowing Barabbas to go free.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18: 21 - 35): In this story, a king forgives a servant a massive, unpayable debt (10,000 talents). The debt represents the insurmountable penalty for sin that humanity owes God. The story emphasizes that this immense penalty was forgiven through mercy, but highlights the expectation that those forgiven should also show mercy.

The Story of the Judge and the Woman (1930s Anecdote): Often shared to illustrate salvation, this story tells of New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia acting as a night court judge. When an elderly woman was fined for stealing bread, LaGuardia fined her \$10, but then paid it himself, stating that justice must be served, but compassion must prevail. Similarly, God, as a just judge, requires the penalty for sin (death) but pays it Himself through Christ.

The Redemption of Onesimus (Philemon 1: 17 - 18): In this Bible book, Paul asks Philemon to receive his runaway slave, Onesimus, back as a brother. Paul says, "If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account... I will repay it." This act directly mirrors Christ paying the debt of sinners.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Luke 15): While more focused on salvation, this story highlights the effort of the shepherd (Christ) to find and rescue the lost, bearing the burden of bringing them back, thus paying the cost to bring them out of danger.

Bulletin compiled by:

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