

The Inconvenient Gospel

by **BOB CASEY**, preacher
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Turn on your TV nearly any day of the week and you will hear statements like, "Just pray this little prayer with me and we believe that you have been born again." or "Lift up your hands and pray this prayer, 'Dear Lord Jesus, come into my heart, I receive you as my Lord and Saviour.'" And the one leading the prayer will say, "If you have done this, then you are saved." I ask, in view of plain Biblical scriptures, how can one believe such misleadings? The answer is, anyone who has never read the Bible! Because the Bible does not teach this plan for man's salvation!

When our Lord calls for mankind to come to him, he always calls for man to make decisive actions based upon first believing that Jesus is the Son of God. In **John 6:28-31**, the disciples asked Jesus, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said unto them, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." The last time I checked, my brain was still cased in my head, a part of my body, thus believing is part of bodily action.

For any who does not believe that there is some bodily actions that must accompany obedience to salvation, consider the following verses. Jesus told the rich young ruler the basics under the Law of Moses because this young man, according to **Matthew 19:16**, asked, "what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" Also recorded in **Mark 16:17**. The answer given by Jesus was part of the Law of Moses, keep the commandments. But, today, we are living under the New Law of Christ, not the Old Testament. **Hebrews 10:19-20** declares it to be true!

So, then, under the New Testament Law, the first converts under this law, asked after hearing the first gospel message ever preached by the 12, trained, Holy Spirit filled apostles, the heathens convicted by the sin of crucifying Jesus, asked in **Acts 2:37**, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" This illustrates the act of recognition, despair, submission. The answer given by Peter was, "Re-

pent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (verse 38). Then, also notice in verses 39-40. Then, future generations, even today's populations, and with many other words did testify and exhort, saying, "Save yourselves from this untoward (crooked) generation." The answer is very clear, they obeyed by being baptized for the remission of their sins.

Then another example, the jailer at the City of Phillipi, being awakened in his bed, missed the great prayer meeting and spiritual singing led by Paul and Silas because he was asleep. Feeling and experiencing this great commotion, fearing his life was over because he thought the prisoners had escaped, started to kill himself. This being see through the darkness by Paul, they said unto him, "Don't do it, for we are all here." Then he called for a light and sprang in and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They could have imitated the silliness of today's preachers by saying, "Repeat this prayer after us." But this is just what it is, foolishness of unbelieving men. Instead, they challenged him to believe in Jesus. Was he saved at that point? Of course not, or he would not have asked the question. So, what did they do? "And they spake unto him the word of the Lord" (**Acts 16:32**). Why was this so necessary? Notice Paul's sermon to the Romans in 10:14, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" Well, at Phillip, at the hour around midnight, they had all the ingredients for salvation; hearers, the Holy Spirit filled preachers, the Gospel proclaimed (believed upon), for in the same hour of the night they went into enough water to seal the deal. They were fully compliant to the Gospel by being baptized and were now rejoicing.

In closing, are you rejoicing in your salvation? If not, then most likely you have not obeyed the truths of the Gospel. But, the good news is, you can still do it today! We, as always, stand with you to help you obey the Gospel. If you will do it, you, too, can rejoice as they did. Attend with us at Cornerstone, you will be glad you did.

Sincerely, Bob Casey

Kitchen Diva

Homemade Microwave Meals Are Time-Saver

by **ANGELA SHELF MEDEARIS**

I've found that using my microwave oven saves hours of time and keeps my kitchen clean and cool. The history of the microwave oven goes back to 1946, when Dr. Percy Spencer, an electronics genius and war hero, was touring one of the labs at the Raytheon Company. It was testing a vacuum tube called a magnetron, the power tube that drives a radar set. As Dr. Percy stood in front of the "radar box," a candy bar in his pocket melted.

Dr. Percy tried other experiments with food, including using popcorn kernels. He designed a metal box around the magnetron with microwave power. Engineers developed and refined the idea, and the first commercial microwave oven hit the market in 1947. However, original response was negative, and it wasn't until 1975 that a microwave oven was created for home kitchens.

I encourage you to read the instruction book that came with your microwave oven. It's the easiest way to discover all its features and how to use them. My microwave has all of the usual function, but I especially love the warming oven feature. It cycles on and off so that I can hold dinner for my husband when he's running late, or keep a casserole dish warm during the holidays.

You can use your microwave to prepare everything from appetizers to desserts. It's also energy efficient, so it won't heat up your kitchen. And it helps to retain more nutrients in your foods during cooking. In some cases, a microwave is the best way to cook a dish, especially ones with vegetables, because they'll have better taste and texture.

When cooking on any power level other than HIGH, the oven cooks by cycling power on and off, so the energy has a chance to move through the food without overcooking it. HIGH is usually reserved for cooking, while MEDIUM and LOW power are generally used to soften, melt and defrost foods. Carefully follow the recipe when using your microwave, and you'll have beautifully cooked meals every time.

This recipe for Quick Stuffed Bell Peppers is easy to assemble and cooks in minutes. It freezes well, so double the recipe, and when you're pressed for time you'll have a homemade meal in just minutes!



Photo credit: DepositPhotos

QUICK STUFFED BELL PEPPERS

- 8 bell peppers, tops removed and cut into a small dice, white membrane and seeds removed and discarded
- 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese, divided
- 1 pound lean ground beef or turkey
- 5 crackers, crushed into fine crumbs
- 1 Eggland's Best egg, slightly beaten
- 1 (3 ounce) package dehydrated onion soup mix
- 1 tablespoon steak sauce
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Tomato Sauce Topping:

- 8 ounces tomato sauce
- 2 tablespoons salsa
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1. Using a large bowl, gently mix together the diced pepper tops, 1/2 cup of cheese, ground meat, crackers, egg, soup mix, steak sauce, Worcestershire sauce, salt and black pepper.
- 2. Stuff the prepared peppers with the ground meat mixture, and stand them upright in a lightly greased 12-by-8-by-2-inch baking dish.
- 3. Combine the tomato sauce, salsa, salt, pepper and brown sugar. Mix well and pour over peppers.
- 4. Cover tightly with microwave-safe plastic wrap; fold back small edge for steam to escape. Microwave on HIGH 12 to 15 minutes, until the filling is hot and pepper is almost tender. Let stand 6 to 8 minutes. Sprinkle peppers with the remaining cheese. Serve with a side of rice and a salad.

Angela Shelf Medearis is an award-winning children's author, culinary historian and the author of seven cookbooks. Her new cookbook is "The Kitchen Diva's Diabetic Cookbook." Her website is www.divapro.com. To see how-to videos, recipes and much, much more, Like Angela Shelf Medearis, The Kitchen Diva! on Facebook. Recipes may not be reprinted without permission from Angela Shelf Medearis.

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Seeds of Hope



A small child recently asked me, "Mr. Larry, I believe there is a God. And I know He's in my heart. But who made Him?"

"Nobody," I answered. "Well, when did He begin to live?" she asked politely.

"He always was," I replied.

"Well, will he ever stop living?" she wondered.

"No," I answered. "He always was, and always will be," I answered.

"But," she admitted, "I don't understand."

"Neither do I," came my confession.

We who are finite cannot ever understand the infinite.

Every rational person who is endowed with a mind that has the capac-

ity to reason finds questions about God - even in early childhood. This search for God, at an early age, is significant. Obviously, this question about God arising in the mind of a child seems to provide convincing evidence that there is a compassionate Creator who has planted Himself in the mind of everyone. Otherwise, why would anyone ever ask the question, "Is there a God?"

Questions about the existence of God are nothing new. God Himself put a curiosity within each of us to ask questions and seek answers. If we did not have a capacity to question things, we would not be human. Remember, it was God who said, "You will find me when You seek me with all your heart." The seeking heart will find God.

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Americanisms



"It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark."

—Howard Ruff

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1. Is the book of Mark in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? Back, Stomach, Head, Legs
3. From Proverbs 22, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great

- ..."? Riches, Witness, Corruption, Love
- 4. What is the Hebrew word that's usually translated as "blessing"? Brocho, Chosson, Chumash, Ducket
- 5. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul
- 6. How old was Abraham when he died? 75, 175, 202, 256

Answers on bottom of Page 9
 Now available by Wilson Casey!
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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

by Elie's Spiritual Treasures

EPHESIANS 2: 8-9

For it is by **grace** you **have** been **saved**, through **faith**—and **this** is **not** from **yourselves**, it is the **gift** of **God**—not by **works**, so **that** no **one** can **boast**.

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Find the **bolded/underlined** words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

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SCRAMBLERS

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1. Naive; 2. Patrol;
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Today's Word

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