

## *Dinner With God*

Do you enjoy dinners with others? I enjoyed the Sunday dinners we had this winter with the congregation. There was a good spirit, good food and time for fellowship.

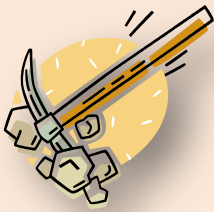
This past month, I spent a week with my brother in Florida. He made us feel so welcome. He did all the cooking, except when we went out to eat. At one time, he owned a restaurant, and enjoys planning and preparing restaurant style meals.

How would you like to have dinner with God? We read in Exodus 24:9-11 that Moses and Aaron along with 72 others go up into a mountain to meet God. Verse 10 says they saw God. What must that have been like? They saw His surroundings like a sapphire stone, and around Him the body of Heaven. It was glorious, but difficult to describe and for us to envision, but I have no difficulty identifying with what we read in the next verse - "They ate and drank with God." It doesn't take too much for me to visualize that dinner. It was about the size of our afternoon service meals. Sitting down with God.

Have you had dinner with someone special? Perhaps a politician or professional athlete. This was dinner with God. I don't know what was on the menu, but it probably didn't matter. Can't you see the elders of Israel sitting at the table with their mouths wide open staring at God?

The truth is that we will sit down and have dinner with God some day. In Revelation 19:7 we will be at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. The Lamb of God, Jesus Himself, will be the host. It will be like a reception and we're the bride. The scene is described in verses 4-6. It's a throne scene and what we see is described. It's similar to the description in Exodus 24. There is a lot of excitement - "A voice like a great multitude."

This is not the only passage that describes dinner with God in the future. Isaiah 25:6 is describing a scene in the Millennium. "On a mountain" (like Moses' experience) the Lord "makes a feast." He supplies the food and drink. He will do the preparation and provide it. It certainly reminds me of the disciple's experience with Jesus after the Resurrection (John 21:9, 12) on the shore. When they came in



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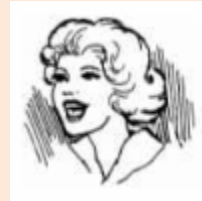
off the lake, they found a fire with fish cooking, and Jesus invites them, "Come and dine." Luke 12:36, 37 describes the reception of the wedding with Jesus coming forth and serving. He will make them to sit down to meat and come forth and serve them. Dinner with God, not only is He the guest of honor, the host, but also the server. Doesn't that make your stomach growl? I'm ready for the dinner bell. I want to see God, and eat with Him. My eyes yearn to behold Him, my heart aches for my beloved, and my stomach growls anticipating dinner with God.

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## WOMEN WHO WORSHIP

It's Who You Know

- DOT DAVIS



*"And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3).*

A little phrase often pops up during discussions about "getting ahead" in life. "It all depends on who you know," people will say. What they mean is that the pivotal factor in accomplishing one's objective is not what one does or what one says but what kind of relationship one has with important persons who can get someone where they want to go. For anyone trying to earn his or her way to the top, this can be a frustrating fact of life!

Interestingly, with regard to eternal life, Jesus basically said the same thing. In John 17:3, the Lord declared that eternal life is all about Who you know. "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." In fact, according to the gospel of John, the Savior spoke several times about the importance of having a "knowing" relationship with Him. "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine (10:14)." "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I GIVE unto them eternal life (10:27, 28a)." He sharply told the Pharisees, "Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also (John 8:19)." The tragic result of their not knowing Him or what He came to offer them was pointed out a few verses later when He said, "...for if ye believe not that



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I am he, ye shall die in your sins (v.24)." This is the crucial question, then, for each of us: do I know Him? Does He know me?

It's not what one does or what one says. In Matthew 7:21-23, the Lord related a startling account about a future day when certain people will ask to enter heaven. He said, "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works" And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity." What is truly startling is that these that these people call Jesus "Lord." Their argument for earning eternal life in heaven is that they DO all kinds of good works in His Name. Outwardly, these people appear to be "Christians." But something vital is missing: they do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord. They may talk about Jesus; they may be busy doing things that they claim are for Jesus. But He has no dwelling place within their hearts as the One Who died for their sins and brought them eternal life. They are not willing to hear and obey His Word (vv.23-27). They have devised their own "religion" that acknowledges Jesus but has no true Life connection with Him. It is a religion of deeds and lip service. In fact, Christ bluntly assesses their works as "iniquity." We see much of this in professing Christendom today-- words and works but no vital, vibrant personal union with the Savior from sin and the Giver of Life. No, it's not what we do that brings us eternal life nor is what we say.

True Christianity is a knowing, abiding relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you one of His sheep, trusting Him intimately and personally for His forgiveness, keeping, and life? Do you know His voice and follow Him, closely by His side every day? 1 John 5:20 states, "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life." Yes, in the most critical issue of life, receiving His gift of eternal life, it is WHO you know!



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## BaYouCa Camp

Representatives from BaYouCa will be here for the morning of March 8th. They will be updating us on this coming year's season during the combined Sunday School Hour. We have been sending campers for the last few years to camp, and it will be good to hear what is planned for '09. We will be taking an offering during the Sunday School Hour for the camp. Our camp will also be highlighted during the Morning Service Missions Moment.

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## Easter

## Services

Again this year, Resurrection Day (April 12) will begin early with a "Sonrise" Service at 8:00 a.m. which will be followed by breakfast sponsored by our teen group. Sunday School will follow at its normal time with Resurrection Worship at 10:45 a.m. This year's service will include a children's sermon and the choir cantata, "Behold the Lamb." There will be no evening service that day.

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## "Behold the Lamb" Musical

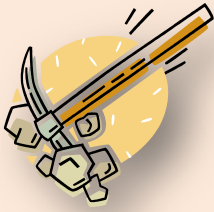
The Crusader's Class is sponsoring a trip to Lancaster, PA. for the sight and Sound production of "Behold the Lamb" on April 3rd. With a week before Easter, this will give us visual experience that will draw us to the Cross, and rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord.

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## Stretch Your Memory

March 15<sup>th</sup> is the start of the new Bible memory program for everyone in the church. We will be recognizing those who completed the memory of passages Psalm 1 and Psalm 23 last year. This year's passage is Psalms 19. Stretch your memory and memorize God's Word with the congregation.

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## Ladies' Missionary Fellowship

Our reorganized Ladies' Fellowship will meet the second Tuesday of the month following our General Reveille. All ladies are invited.

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## Pastor's Desk



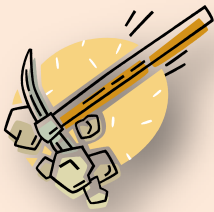
The Spiegels are back from Florida. We didn't miss them much as the congregation heard from three retired pastors who are members of our church. They covered the Sunday services and two Prayer Meetings, while Pastor was away. Pastor said it wasn't the best weather, but they enjoyed themselves, and look forward to going back.

The Spiegels are hosting a Pastors' and Wives' dinner here on March 10th. The computer sent out notice that there was going to be an Irish meal and a little bit of blarney. I'm not sure what blarney is but I think its some kind of Irish bologna.

New members, the Flatts and the Browns, were welcomed into the church family last month. A baptism has been planned and a membership class is currently being conducted. It's good to see new people coming into our family.

Pastor is going to a meeting to be board. I don't know why he would travel all the way to Ohio to go to a board meeting, but he is making plans to go to Baptist Church Planters in Elyria, Ohio on March 17, 18. I hope he doesn't get too bored at the board meeting.

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## A Lamp Unto My Feet

(Word studies from the original language  
by Dr. Robert Williams)



**IMPUTE** - *Logizomai* is a verb in Greek that has several possibilities for translation into English: to reckon, to calculate, to evaluate, to consider, to reason, to impart, to impute. Again, may we remind you a word has only potential meaning. The context wherein the word is located must determine the meaning.

We are going to observe the last possible meaning, to impute. The Apostle Paul uses this word 33 of the 40 times it is used in the Greek New Testament, unless you regard Paul as the author of Hebrews. Then he would have 34. The remaining uses are Mark 15:28, Luke 22:37, John 11:50, Acts 19:27, James 2:23, and I Peter 5:12.

Since we are limiting ourselves to the meaning, to impute, we shall use only texts where *logizomai* may theologically be so translated with the idea of meaning, to reckon or assign to the account of another a service, a substance, or a value for which the receptor has been accounted the service, substance, or value but for which he has done nothing more or less than to receive such benefit. We must see in the verse used, and in the context, that the benefactor, namely God, has provided a lost sinner a service, substance, or value for which the sinner has done nothing to warrant it, only by God's enabling help he has received it.

In Romans 4:22-24 God imputed righteousness to Christ, and the righteousness, in turn, was imputed to sinners who thus became believers through Christ Jesus. In Genesis 15:6 Abraham believed God—nothing else—and God reckoned or imputed righteousness to Abraham's account. This verse is quoted in Romans 4:3, 9, 22; Galatians 3:6; and James 2:23 to prove that, when one trusts God in God's provided effective (efficacious) faith, God then causes the sinner to realize that Christ has forever been his righteousness. In the Decree of God he was appointed to be saved through the effectual work of Christ. The effective grace of Christ has brought the sinner into the kingdom of God's dear Son (Col. 1:13). He has been born again. He is a child of God through personal faith in Jesus Christ as his savior.