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— Dave & Putter Weeks —



WORLD CULT EVANGELISM

Reaching The Unreached At Your Doorstep And Around The World

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WHAT WAS IN THE GARDEN CUP?

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour (John 12:27).

When the Lord Jesus Christ was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed three times and asked His Father to "take away this cup from me." So, what was in the cup? Some have suggested, without reference to any verse in context, that Jesus, in a moment of human weakness, was asking the Father if there was another way other than the cross. This would mean that Jesus' prayer was a self-serving and self-centered attempt to abort His mission at Calvary. The idea of a "moment of human weakness" also implies that His human nature was like ours rather than flawless as the perfect Son of God manifest in the flesh.

A look at the Lord's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane from the synoptic gospels is the best way to focus on the context. Before we do that, let's take a look at what was not in the cup. These verses in John make it clear that Jesus was not referring to Calvary in His garden prayer, for He knew His time to be crucified was very near.

John 12:23&27; 23 *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

The context of the synoptic gospels will show that death was in the cup, but it was not His death at Calvary; rather, it was the immediate threat of His death in the Garden that prompted Him to pray three times saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matt 26:37-39 *And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.* At this point He was about to physically die. Mark 14:33-36 *And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; 34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And*

he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; takeaway this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Luke 22:41-45 *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow.*

Our Lord's prayer was answered within moments when the angel came to strengthen Him, and **the cup of death, imminent death, in the Garden, was soon removed.** The Lord's sorrow and agony in the Garden was, in part, a fulfilling of the prophecies in Isa 53. Much of the mental suffering mentioned in Isaiah's prophecy, Christ experienced in the Garden of Gethsemane before His physical sufferings began.

In a seemingly moment of time, Jesus suffered the mental anguish that placed Him at the very threshold of death. He was bearing the griefs and carrying the sorrows of every soul that will have ever lived. This affliction brought the sinless Son of God to His knees to ask His Father to remove the cup of death that was about to take His life. A life that was to be sacrificed at Calvary and not at Gethsemane. Oh, what a Savior is He and Oh, what love could this be! Thank you, Jesus!

Heb 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Oh, what a Saviour, what a victory, what a reason to celebrate Easter, resurrection day, and spread the gospel that Jesus preached about the eternal kingdom of righteousness, when He shall make *all things new.*

PLEASE READ OUR FIELD REPORT AND PUTTER'S PEN ON THE BACK PAGE

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FIELD

MINISTRY UPDATES

In our last prayer letter, we introduced our readers to Mr. J, a young man responding from our jwinfo website. He was thinking that he would be speaking with a JW person in the Kingdom Hall. After explaining to him, that we were there to help him, but not to connect him to a Kingdom Hall, he began to give me the sad story of his life. He was so confused that he didn't know what to believe or where to start. So, he agreed to start in the beginning with Genesis 1:1; *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* When he was asked if he believed that God was the Creator or evolution, he said that he believed in creation. This was the expected answer for someone that may have been coached by JWs. So, we went on from there to who is God?

It's a blessing when you begin to see the Lord's patience and long suffering with people. He continues to make progress and here is a quote from one of his recent emails: "Hi Dave it's Mr. J. I wanted to thank you for your advice and guidance. Thanks for everything. I wish there was some way I could show you my gratitude and appreciation for your kindness and advice."

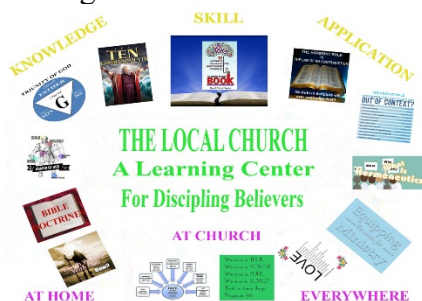
I have a new contact and address of a Mormon. I am praying for wisdom and the right time to knock on his door. Please pray with me about the timing and that the Lord will prepare his heart.

I am trying to get the address of a JW man, Mr. D, that I had a great conversation with last fall. He lives in — and stays with his in-laws in — during the summer. He had a question about Rev 21:1 that I would like to respond to in a letter. Once again, thanks so much to each of you for being a vital part of our ministry.

LEARNING CENTERS

In February, we were invited to visit the home church of a dear friend from Bible college days. The people greeted us with a warmth that truly reached our hearts. We sensed a real spirit of fellowship that continued to make our experience more special as we entered the Sunday school class room and met the teacher.

I had brought three of our books with me that were intended for the pastor, but after being introduced to the class teacher my thoughts were changed. He became the receiver. The class could be, for the most part, characterized as a 50's class. The lesson's subject was apostasy. Various groups were mentioned and the final one was Calvinism. After the teacher mentioned the five points and went through the acrostic, TULIP, he asked me for my comments. I explained how to introduce the rules of agreement when using the John 1:3 checkmate. In a few minutes the teacher and the class were full of questions and eager to learn the rules. This class room turned immediately into a learning center.



The teacher and the people were all ready to learn the rules of agreement (rules of interpretation) and begin using them. This was truly the Lord's doing. It was truly a blessing for Putter and me to see it happen. They continued to thank us and encourage us throughout the rest of the morning service. I sent them a case of *The Sunday School Book*.

"PUTTER'S PEN" WRITES AGAIN

Ps 105:1 *O give thanks unto the LORD; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people.*

This month's "Putter's" Pen is one of thankfulness to the LORD! Also, thankfulness to each of you, who prayed for our sweet daughter-in-law, Christie, and David, Bella and Matthew. This is the update I have been looking forward to giving about her progress. The insurance approved her stay at Neuro Restorative in Augusta, GA, and she was transferred the end of December to the facility. What a difference the right treatment has made for her. Long story short, she will be discharged the first week of March. She still has a way to go for complete recovery, especially with her short-term memory; however, physically she is doing great, up and walking (she still uses a walker because her legs muscles are not as strong as they were) and she performs all daily routines independently. They were able to wean her off all but two of the meds the other doctors had her on; most were not helping her recovery but hindering it. Her long-term memory is coming back; in fact, when we visited her, she was so excited as she told me "Mom, I remember our wedding and the births of the kids!" (Yes, ladies I cried over that! How sweet that the Lord allowed her to remember these important events in her life, her wedding and the births of her children! God is good!)

Thank you all again for your prayers, cards, gifts, and concern for David, Christie, Bella, and Matthew during this time. Sometimes thank you does not seem enough, but it does come from grateful hearts from all of us to each of you. The Lord heard all our and your prayers, and I just want to thank Him and praise His name and make His deeds known. Hallelujah, what a Savior we serve.

Until next time, Jehovah-jireh,
"Putter"

Dave & Putter

Dave & "Putter"
Isa. 41:10

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