

God Can Save the Worst of Sinners

Is there a place you would never want to visit? Perhaps a large crowded city, with a huge mass of humanity and a dangerously high crime rate?

We all have preferences about where we would like to live or visit, which brings me to the New Testament book of Titus and the island of Crete. In Titus 1 its people are described in awful terms: liars, evil beasts, abominable, disobedient! It was a rough place and the inhabitants were dangerous, unscrupulous people. Yet God, through Paul, through Titus, planted churches there. Such unattractive, evil people were the objects of God's redemptive love.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world," becomes "For God so loved the Cretans that he sent church planters so that Cretans might hear of his Son and receive salvation through Him."

How this changes our view of our culture! Pray for the salvation of your city, both the citizens and also the government leaders. Keep your eyes and ears open for God's work in preparing hearts for the gospel and for opportunities to share the gospel.

As you share, those in whom you plant the seeds of God's Word may not be ready to trust Jesus for salvation at that time. But, as Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 3:6, he planted seeds, Apollos explained the gospel further, and God "gave the increase." We're all called to faithfully sow and water God's Word in people's hearts, no matter how unlikely we think they are to accept it. God will faithfully save them in His time!

*Adapted from Sunday Rewind
by John Grunditz*

*Come,
let us reason
together*

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Covenant Church
3115 N.W. 16th Avenue Gainesville FL 32605

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Covenant Ministries

Our ministry for January is Family Promise. Since 1998, Family Promise of Gainesville has provided families experiencing homelessness with compassionate care that includes shelter, case management, education, housing, meals and transportation until they can transition to a home of their own.

We are also stocking up Pine Grove and Newberry Highschool. Let's start the new year off by supplying the young and old with what they need.

In His Footsteps
by Helen Steiner Rice

When someone does a kindness, it always seem to me

that's the way God up in Heaven would like us all to be.

For when we bring some pleasure to another human heart,

We have followed in His footsteps and we've had a little part

In serving God who loves us – for I'm very sure it's true

That in serving those around us, we serve and please God too.

Call to Worship

Sounds of Hope

Invocation

Don Mauldin

Sing Unto the Lord

Hymn #415 We Are Called to be God's People

Welcome and Announcements

Ron Marks

Recognition of Guests

Mission Moment

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Worship in Song

Hymn #431 Shine, Jesus, Shine

Offertory Prayer

Craig Alexander

Offertory

Rose Morgan

Special Music

Sermon:

Reverend Don Mauldin

Hymn of Benediction

Hymn #670 Make Me a Blessing

Shine, Shine, Shine!