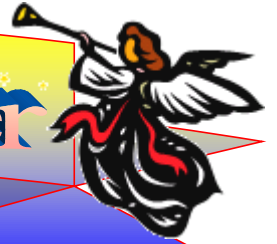


Eastside Baptist Church



Eastside Messenger



Equipping the Saints for Ministry by First Seeking the Kingdom of God

(Ephesians 4:12/Matthew 6:33)

Volume XI Issue 1

Every day is a priceless gift of God

JANUARY 2016





Rev. Dr. Arthur C. Banks

*"This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24)*

From the Editor
Eric Grimes

*This year marks **11 continuous years** of publication for the Messenger! If you would like to contribute information, pictures or articles, please submit them to: erg58@aol.com. If you would like to receive an **electronic copy**, the current and past year issues of the Messenger are now available on our church web site @*

www.eastsidebaptistchurch65.org

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Church Motto:

Where God is praised and Disciples Are Made

Listen to, or View EBC sermons on our website!



What's Inside

- From The Editor
- Healthy Living
- The Church Mouse
- What is Islam, and what do Muslims believe ?
- End Times Timeline . . .
- Kings Kids
- Classifieds



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Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.



Praise Him!





HEALTHY LIVING

Jehovah-Rophe
"Jehovah heals"

"I WILL PRAISE THEE; FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE: MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS; AND THAT MY SOUL KNOWETH RIGHT WELL." (Psalm 139:14)

The Best Seasonal Vitamins

The good news is that there's a wealth of vitamins that can help boost the immune system and support a person's overall health. Here are some top picks:



Vitamin C

The best thing that vitamin C has going for it is that it's an antioxidant. This means it neutralizes free radical oxygen molecules and keeps them from damaging bodily cells and even DNA by grabbing electrons from them. The vitamin C molecule gives up one of its electrons to the free radical molecule and prevents it from attacking the cells.

What vitamin C does best is maintain collagen, which is a protein that is vital for the formation of skin, bones and ligaments. Because of its collagen forming properties, vitamin C also facilitates the healing of wounds and burns. But vitamin C also fights bacterial infections and eases the symptoms of allergies. Because people stay indoors more often during the cold weather, these infections and allergies can be especially troublesome. Vitamin C is abundant in fresh fruits, especially citrus and vegetables.

Vitamin A

Vitamin A is also an antioxidant. It helps in the repair and growth of bodily tissues and is especially helpful in supporting the health and beauty of the skin. Indeed, any skin products are made from derivatives of vitamin A. This fat soluble vitamin also helps maintain the health of the mucous membranes in the respiratory tract and

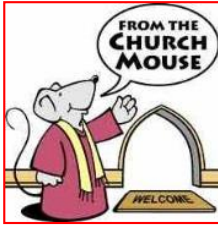
the mouth, which reduces the risk of infections as well as the effects of pollutants. It also stimulates the stomach into producing enzymes and juices that break down proteins and builds strong bones and teeth. The body can't absorb vitamin A, but gets it through ingesting carotene, which is then converted into Vitamin A. Carotene is found in carrots and gives it its bright orange color. Other sources of carotene are green leafy vegetables.

Vitamin E

Another antioxidant, vitamin E helps the cells to utilize oxygen more efficiently. It also causes blood vessels to open up and allow more blood flow to the heart, which is important during the cold weather. It brings nutrition to cells and strengthens the walls of tiny blood vessels known as capillaries. Like vitamin A, vitamin E is also beneficial to the skin. It helps prevent the dryness and itchiness that often afflicts the skin during cold, dry weather. Vitamin E is found in wheat germ, nuts and seeds.

Health Disclaimer: *The information provided on this article should not be construed as personal medical advice or instruction. No action should be taken based solely on the contents of this letter. Readers should consult appropriate health professionals on any matter relating to their health and well-being. The information and opinions provided here are believed to be accurate and sound, based on the best judgment available to the author, but readers who fail to consult appropriate health authorities assume the risk of any injuries. The Editor is not responsible for errors or omissions.*





"What is Islam, and what do Muslims believe?"

Islam is a religious system begun in the seventh century by Muhammad. Muslims follow the teachings of the Qur'an and strive to keep the Five Pillars.

The History of Islam

In the seventh century, Muhammad claimed the angel Gabriel visited him. During these angelic visitations, which continued for about 23 years until Muhammad's death, the angel purportedly revealed to Muhammad the words of Allah (the Arabic word for "God" used by Muslims). These dictated revelations compose the Qur'an, Islam's holy book. Islam means "submission," deriving from a root word that means "peace." The word Muslim means "one who submits to Allah."

The Doctrine of Islam

Muslims summarize their doctrine in six articles of faith:

1. Belief in one Allah: Muslims believe Allah is one, eternal, creator, and sovereign.
2. Belief in the angels
3. Belief in the prophets: The prophets include the biblical prophets but end with Muhammad as Allah's final prophet.
4. Belief in the revelations of Allah: Muslims accept certain portions of the Bible, such as the Torah and the Gospels. They believe the Qur'an is the preexistent, perfect word of Allah.
5. Belief in the last day of judgment and the hereafter: Everyone will be resurrected for judgment into either paradise or hell.
6. Belief in predestination: Muslims believe Allah has decreed everything that will happen. Muslims testify to Allah's sovereignty with their frequent phrase, inshallah, meaning, "if God wills."

The Five Pillars of Islam

These five tenets compose the framework of obedience for Muslims:

1. The testimony of faith (shahada): "la ilaha illa allah. Muhammad rasul Allah." This means, "There is no deity but Allah. Muhammad is the messenger of Allah." A person can convert to Islam by stating this creed. The shahada shows that a

Muslim believes in Allah alone as deity and believes that Muhammad reveals Allah.

2. Prayer (salat): Five ritual prayers must be performed every day.
3. Giving (zakat): This almsgiving is a certain percentage given once a year.
4. Fasting (sawm): Muslims fast during Ramadan in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. They must not eat or drink from dawn until sunset.
5. Pilgrimage (hajj): If physically and financially possible, a Muslim must make the pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia at least once. The hajj is performed in the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar.

A Muslim's entrance into paradise hinges on obedience to these Five Pillars. Still, Allah may reject them. Even Muhammad was not sure whether Allah would admit him to paradise (Surah 46:9; Hadith 5.266).

An Evaluation of Islam

Compared to Christianity, Islam has some similarities but significant differences. Like Christianity, Islam is monotheistic. However, **Muslims reject the Trinity—that God has revealed Himself as one in three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Muslims claim that Jesus was one of the most important prophets—not God's Son. Islam asserts that Jesus, though born of a virgin, was created like Adam. **Muslims do not believe Jesus died on the cross.** They do not understand why Allah would allow His prophet Isa (the Islamic word for "Jesus") to die a torturous death. Yet the Bible shows how the death of the perfect Son of God was essential to pay for the sins of believers (Isaiah 53:5-6; John 3:16; 14:6; 1 Peter 2:24).

Islam teaches that the Qur'an is the final authority and the last revelation of Allah. The Bible, however, was completed in the first century with the Book of Revelation. The Bible warns against anyone adding to or subtracting from God's Word (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; Galatians 1:6-12; Revelation 22:18). *The Qur'an, as a claimed addition to God's Word, directly disobeys God's command.*

Muslims believe that paradise can be earned through keeping the Five Pillars. The Bible, in contrast, reveals that sinful man can never measure up to the holy God (Romans 3:23; 6:23). **Only by God's grace may sinners be saved through repentant faith in Jesus (Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:8-9).**

Because of these essential differences and contradictions, Islam and Christianity cannot both be true. The Bible and Qur'an cannot both be God's Word. The truth has eternal consequences.

"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God; and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world" (1 John 4:1-4; see also John 3:35-36).

END TIMES TIMELINE



Not a Secret

Will there be a rapture? Yes. Will it be a secret? NO!

Rapture means "to be carried away with power," and it is true that when Jesus comes the living righteous will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). But many have come to believe that this rapture will take place quietly - that faithful Christians all around the world will suddenly disappear and that life here on earth will continue for a seven-year period of tribulation. During this time, they say, many will be converted and have a "second chance" at salvation before Christ's final coming. Although the secret rapture scenario may appear comforting at first glance, there is absolutely no scriptural support for it. The Bible plainly teaches that when Jesus comes again, every one of our senses will be bombarded with evidence!

His Coming Will Be Literal

"And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven". (Acts 1:9-11)

Heaven-sent messengers told the disciples that Jesus would return to this earth in the same manner He left. Christ left in the clouds, and He will come back in the clouds. He was visible when He left, and He will be visible when He comes again. He had a real body when He left, and He will return in the same way.

His Coming Will Be Visible

"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him". (Revelation 1:7)

"For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:27).

"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." (Matthew 24:30).

When Christ comes, it will not be merely a local sighting or an isolated event. It will be visible across the entire world.

His Coming Will Be Audible

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

"The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter his voice from his holy habitation; he shall mightily roar upon his habitation; he shall give a shout." (Jeremiah 25:30).

"Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him." (Psalm 50:3).

As you can see from the preceeding Scriptures, Christ's second coming will be loud! There will be shouts and trumpets and all kinds of noise. No one will accidentally miss it or be able to read about it in the newspaper the next day.

His Coming Will Be Emotional

"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." (Luke 21:26, 27).

"And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." (Isaiah 25:9).

When Christ returns, it will be an emotional day for the wicked and righteous alike. The lost will experience indescribable fear and anguish, while the saved will experience the perfect joy of eternal salvation.

His Coming Will Open the Graves

"And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:40).

"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." (1 Corinthians 15:22, 23).

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

This is the Bible's description of the rapture. The dead in Christ will rise by His power and will meet Him in the air. Afterward the faithful who are still alive will also be caught up. It will not be a secret!

His Coming Will Destroy the Earth

"The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again." (Isaiah 24:19, 20).

"And the heaven [sky] departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places." (Revelation 6:14).

"And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath. And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found." (Revelation 16:18-20).

This world will be uninhabitable by people after Christ comes. His coming will shake the very foundations of the earth.

His Coming Will Mean Final Judgment

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works." (Matthew 16:27).

"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." (Revelation 22:12).

It is at Christ's return that we will receive our final reward. Each person's decision will have already been made; there will be no second chance to convert. The time to make a decision to follow Christ is now!

Basis for Confusion

With so much evidence in the Bible as to the manner of Christ's coming, how did people get the idea that the rapture will be a secret event?

As with most deceptions, the secret rapture theory is based on a few texts that have been taken out of the context. Two main concepts in Scripture have been used to substantiate a "secret" rapture.

The primary one is that Jesus will come as "a thief in the night." The secret rapture theory assumes this means that Christ will come secretly to steal away the righteous and carry them quietly to heaven.

Christ's coming is described as "a thief" several times throughout the New Testament. Let's look at one of these passages and see if it describes a secret rapture. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up." (2 Peter 3:10). That doesn't sound like a secret event, does it?

In describing His return as a thief, Christ did not intend to show that it would be quiet, but that it would be sudden and unexpected - that the wicked would be taken by surprise. He said, "If the goodman of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched, and not have suffered his house to be broken through. Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not". (Luke 12:39, 40). Likewise, Paul told the Christians in Thessalonica, "But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief" (1 Thessalonians 5:4). God does not want His followers to be surprised. He wants us to be watchful and ready.

To further illustrate this truth, Jesus said, "No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house" (Mark 3:27, NKJV).

Can you picture a homeowner being oblivious to a robbery if the thief just broke into the man's house, tied him up and threw him in a closet, and then ransacked the place while searching for valuables? Of course not!

In the same way, the day and hour of the second coming is a secret, but when the glorious event transpires, all will know!

The second concept used to support a "secret" coming is found in Luke 17:34-36: "I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left." Secret rapture proponents say this passage proves that the saints will suddenly disappear from the earth when Jesus returns. But let's take an honest look at the evidence and see what these verses actually teach.

In Luke 17:34-36, Jesus employs some of His favorite symbols to illustrate a simple point. At the end of time, there will be just two groups of people living upon the earth - the lost and the saved.

"Two Men in One Bed."

A bed generally connotes sleep, and Jesus used sleep as a symbol of death. He said to the disciples, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." "Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead." (John 11:11, 14). In the resurrection at the last day, there will be two kinds of people sleeping in the grave - the lost and the saved.

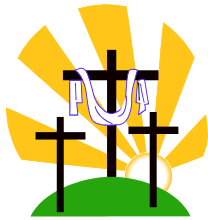
"Two Women Grinding Together."

In Bible prophecy, a woman is a symbol of a church (Jeremiah 6:2). Grinding grain represents working with the Word of God. When Christ comes in glory, there will be two kinds of churches - the false and the true. Both will be outwardly doing the same thing, but only one will be redeemed. "Two Men in The Field".

The field represents the world (Matthew 13:38). When Jesus comes again, there will be two kinds of missionaries laboring out in the field - the false and the true. This is why 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 will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:22, 23).

(To be continued next Issue: **Not Left Behind**).





The Kings Kids



But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

A large cross-shaped grid of letters for a word search. The grid is composed of the following letters:

E T A C O V D A E W H
 R U R E T S S E A M F F Z O G G
 A V R E T M S E J L I Z O G L
 W R E T M S W A Y I R R O C L O
 V I T N Y D A A K D D O L O M
 R A T S G N I N R R O R M
 T O T A L J D G R A T S R S I M
 P T O F U L O R H A D L E S J S Z
 N O F C U R H A D L E S J S Z
 F O R S F E K H O R N O F T S I G
 S E R S E K H O R N O F T S I G
 T I K E E N Z O O G S Y E T H I G
 L A N E I N D O O S Y E T H I G
 A C C E S T A E P T F N O E T H I G
 Q A C C E S T A E P T F N O E T H I G
 A R C O R S D P T O C C J T L A M
 R I H O R A T O C C J T L A M
 P H I P O R A T O C C J T L A M
 E L R O R A T O C C J T L A M
 N D O F A E R S O G E R T H E M
 T R P O A I N Z O E R T H E M
 E E H D D R A E S B B M
 R E E R E L O C I R E S B B M
 E O T O L I K O A V E T S I
 V S N L I K O A V E T S I
 I S G R V V N S T A P S I
 G A D A E R V B S T A P S I
 W P S D R V S I N O R I C Y
 A G S G E V S O N O R I C Y
 L O W O R D H I G S D F C Y
 N O I T A D N C U O F Y

- Advocate
- Almighty
- Alpha and Omega
- Amen
- Apostle
- Beloved Son
- Bishop
- Branch
- Bread
- Captain
- Carpenter
- Chosen
- Christ
- Consolation
- Cornerstone
- Counselor
- Day Star
- Deliverer

- Door
- Emmanuel
- Everlasting
- Faithful and True
- First and Last
- Forerunner
- Foundation
- Governor
- Head
- High Priest
- Holy and Just One
- Horn of Salvation
- I AM
- Jesus
- Judge
- King
- King of Kings
- Lamb of God

- Lawgiver
- Life
- Light
- Lion of Judah
- Lord
- Lord of Lords
- Master
- Master
- Mediator
- Messiah
- Mighty God
- Morning Star
- Nazarene
- Only Begotten Son
- Passover
- Priest
- Prince of Peace
- Prophet

- Redeemer
- Resurrection
- Rock
- Savior
- Servant
- Shepherd
- Son of David
- Son of God
- Son of Man
- Vine
- Way
- Wonderful
- Word

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MEDITATE ON THE MESSAGE

“So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God”

(Romans 10:17)

Did you enjoy the Sunday Service? Have you ever wanted to hear just the message, prayers, praise & worship or choir selections over again? Do you want a witnessing tool for a family member or friend. AUDIO CD's MP3's & DVD's are available: Sunday Morning Service... \$5.00 ea... Eastside 2015 50th ANNIVERSARY...(DVD Disc set \$30.00) or \$10.00 for individual day. Custom build your own MP3/CD selections \$10.00 each disc made from our digital downloadable library selections.

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