

3 MARCH 2013

ambassador|baptistchurch



be ye reconciled to God
2 Corinthians 5:20

be ye *reconciled* to God

2 Corinthians 5:20

the weekly digest of ambassador|baptistchurch

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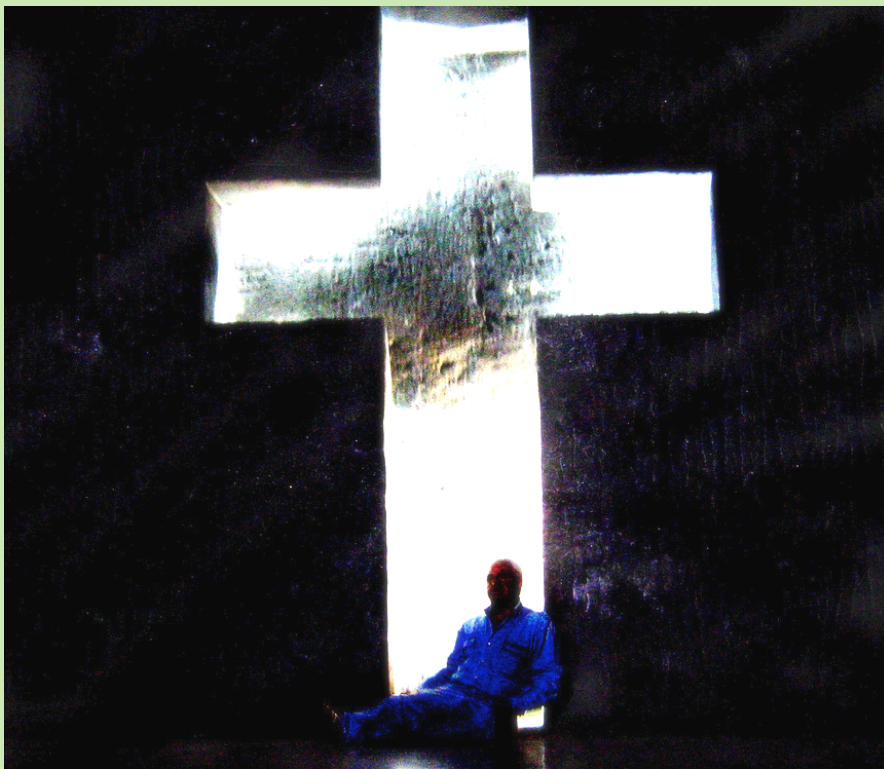
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from the pastor's heart

SET APART



today's program

the **news**

hymn | *onward, Christian soldiers!*

opening **prayer**

hymn | *He is able to deliver Thee*


hymn | *the fight is on*


offertory

hymn | *the Comforter has come*

exhortation | *pastor Johnny*

invitation and closing

 Pastor Johnny Tan (johnny@ambassador-baptist.org)

 Courtesy Luz Adriana Villa, Flickr

Follow ... holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:14

Holiness, as an attribute, is reserved only for the Lord God of Heaven and Earth, the

Creator of all man, the Lord Jesus and the King of kings, for the Bible teaches that there is none holy as the LORD (1 Samuel 2:2). When man was made, man was holy, meaning he was set apart. The words 'holiness', 'sanctification', and 'saints' all have their root word in holiness. What does holiness

in our lives imply?

Firstly, to be set apart requires propitiation. In our current spiritual state without Christ, we are dead in sin and on our way to a devil's hell. God's wrath is upon our lives and we live in fear of eternal

continued on page 2

judgment. However, God in His love took our punishment on Himself. When the Lord Jesus died at the cross, He bore the brunt of God's anger against sin, paid the price of our iniquities, appeasing God's wrath against our souls, and forgives us all our transgressions; that is propitiation. When we realize our sin, and that Christ's crucifixion redeems us from our sins, we are saved and set apart (Hebrews 10:10). We are forever set apart to God.

Secondly, to be set apart implies a parting from sin. The sins in a believer's life had been paid for in full once he was saved. All our sins in our lives were crucified at the cross (Galatians 5:24).

We are separated from sin spiritually by the redemption in Christ. However, we need to part from our sins practically in our daily lives (Romans 6:12, Ephesians 4:25, Ephesians 4:28, Ephesians 4:29, Ephesians 4:31). We need to part from sin, in order to be holy.

Thirdly, to be set apart implies possession. We are to holy to the Lord (to be set apart to the Lord) for we belong to Him. He purchased us through His grace and His propitiation (1

Corinthians 6:19). We belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and we are no longer our own. We are the purchased possession of Christ. (Ephesians 1:13 - 14)

Fourthly, to be set apart implies purpose. When Christ set us apart, it was for His purpose. To show His grace (Ephesians 2:7), to good works (Ephesians 2:10, Titus 2:14), be like the Lord Jesus (Romans 8:29), to glorify God (1 Corinthians 6:20), to glorify the Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16), to do His will in this life (John 4:34).

Dear reader, are you set apart by trusting Christ? Is this evidenced by a renouncing of all sin? Do you realize that we belong to Christ alone and that there are clear indications of His grace and His holiness? Why are these things important? Because without Holiness, no man can see the Lord. If an individual does not have an experience of being set apart clearly evidenced in his life, he will need to examine his faith.

Are you set apart to Christ? In your faith, in your heart, in your obedience, in your life?

thought of the week

He that hath a clean heart
will necessarily have clean
hands.

Spurgeon

memory verse

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Ezekiel 3:18

Sunday Worship Service
3 March 2013
"Be Not Unequally Yoked"

Turn to: **2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18**

Deuteronomy 22:10 Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.

Haggai 2:12 - 13 If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No. Then said Haggai, If one that is unclean by a dead body touch any of these, shall it be unclean? And the priests answered and said, It shall be unclean.

1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

1 Peter 1:15 - 16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

1 Corinthians 6:19 - 20 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's

Romans 8:23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

Turn to: **1 John 2:15**

Sunday Worship Service
3 March 2013
"Be Not Unequally Yoked"

Passage: **2 Corinthians 6:14 - 18**

introduction

- I. God's way is always _____ .

- II. God teaches that we are not to seek to _____ that which God has clearly made distinct. So what happens when we are yoked together with non-believers?
 - A. We get _____

why are we not to be unequally yoked?

- I. We are not to be unequally yoked together with non-believers because we have**

- II. We are not to be unequally yoked together with non-believers because we are the**

- A. What does God do in us?
 1. He _____ here

 2. He _____ there

 3. He is the One to be _____

 4. We have a _____ with Him

FRIDAY CHURCH NEWS NOTES

ALPHA COURSE BUILDING THE ONE-WORLD CHURCH

The Alpha Course, an interdenominational evangelistic program, has grown phenomenally since its inception in the early 1990s. More than 18 million people have participated in the program in 169 countries, and the materials have been translated into 112 languages. It was birthed by the charismatic Holy Trinity Brompton Anglican church in London, England, and the developer, Nicky Gumbel, said that he experienced “massive electricity going through” his body in 1994 when the laughing revival broke out at the parish. One person was thrown across the room and lay on the floor howling and laughing, another lay on the floor with his feet in the air, laughing like a hyena, while others were “drunk.” The Alpha Course includes a “Holy Spirit Day” with the objective of bringing the participants into a charismatic experience, including “tongues.” Gumble says tongues speaking begins with a limited vocabulary and “develops” (*Questions of Life*, p. 147), but of course we see nothing like this in Scripture. The apostles did not have to attend a class on tongues speaking to prepare for Pentecost! The Alpha Course is a radically ecumenical program that is helping to build the end-time, one-world “church.” Gumble says:

“We need to unite ... the movement of the Spirit will always bring churches together. He is doing that right across the denominations and within the traditions ... People are no longer ‘labelling’ themselves or others” (*Renewal*, May 1995, p. 16). Last year, Gumble made the following statement: “Alpha runs in every arm of the Church. It’s growing the fastest in the Catholic church. ... the course runs exactly the same no matter the denomination. ... What unites us is infinitely greater than what divides us. We focus on what unites us. We present a united front to the world. In every different part of the body of Christ--Presbyterian, Baptist, Lutheran, non-denominational, Catholic, Pentecostals, Bulgarian Orthodox, Coptic Orthodox--Alpha crosses all divides” (“The Alpha Course: An International Phenomenon,” WillowCreek.org, March 2012). The Alpha program has achieved this ecumenical acceptance because it is doctrinally weak. It refers to salvation, the cross, the death of Christ, etc., in such a vague way that false doctrine is not refuted. For instance, it says salvation is “by grace,” but it does not say that salvation is by grace ALONE by faith ALONE through the blood of Christ ALONE without works or sacraments. Of course, there is not a hint of condemnation of Rome’s gross heresies and blasphemies. When Gumble was asked whether the Alpha Course was sometimes used “to poach Catholics,” he replied, “No! When they do Alpha I say to them: do not come to Holy Trinity Brompton but go back to your Catholic parish. It’s part of the Church and I love the whole Church” (“Alpha Male,” *The Spectator*, Dec. 12, 2012). Alpha is also a major force in the Contemporary Worship Music field. See *The Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians*, a free eBook available from www.wayoflife.org.



BABIES ABORTED IN THE U.K. FOR MINOR ABNORMALITIES

The following is excerpted from “UK: Cleft Lip, Club Foot Abortions 10X More Than Reported,” LifeNews.com, Feb. 5, 2013: “In a shocking new report, the *London Telegraph* newspaper indicates European researchers show abortions done on babies with minor disabilities that doctors can easily correct is ten times higher than previously indicated. Although babies with club feet or cleft palates can undergo surgery to correct the physical problems, mothers and couples are still having abortions when the conditions are diagnosed in the womb. And Eurocat, an agency set up to monitor congenital abnormalities across 23 countries says 157 unborn babies were aborted in England and Wales who had been shown to have a cleft lip from 2006 and 2010. However, the newspaper says the UK government, via the Department of Health, records only 14 such abortions during that time. Another 250 babies were killed in abortions because they had a club foot and, again, officially government figures paint a different story--showing them at a lower number.”



NEW HOMOSEXUAL CCM BAND

In 1998, gospel star Kirk Franklin said that “homosexuality ... is a problem today in gospel music--a major concern--and everybody knows it” (*Church Boy*, pp. 49, 50). The truth of this has been demonstrated more clearly with each passing year. The most recent example is a trio named Micah’s Rule which recorded their first album in 2012. The band is composed of Greg McCaw, a homosexual; Chasity Scott, a lesbian; and Mary Anne Hewett, a “transgender.” Their first CD is “a mix of Southern gospel, classic country, blues and a medley of 1960s peace songs--all with a Christian message” (“Gay, Transgender Band Breaks Barriers in Christian Music,” Religion News Service, Feb. 15, 2013). McCaw was a Church of God pastor for 25 years and sang bass for more than two decades for popular Southern Gospel and CCM musicians such as Sandi Patty, Bill Gaither, and the Gatlin Brothers. Currently, the members of Micah’s Rule attend St. Jude Metropolitan Community Church in Wilmington, North Carolina. Micah’s Rule wants their music to speak the message that “in life, it’s how you walk your road, not listening to people who say you’re not worthy of God’s love.” McCaw adds, “We’ve all had that experience.” This is a deceptive smokescreen. The issue is not whether homosexuals are loved of God, or whether Christ died for them, or whether they can be saved. It is not whether their sin is greater than someone else’s. The issue is repentance. The Bible plainly teaches that Christ shed His blood and died because God loved the whole world of sinners (John 3:16). Christ came to seek and to save every lost soul. But



Hewett, McCaw, Scott.

the Bible just as plainly teaches that men must repent of their sin in order to be saved (Luke 13:3-5; Acts 17:30), and homosexuality is most definitely a sin before God. In Romans 1:26-27 it is called “vile,” “against nature,” “lust,” “unseemly,” and “error.” Homosexuals today must do what homosexuals did in ancient Corinth. They must repent of their sin before God and receive the life-changing, sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit in regeneration. “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither FORNICATORS, nor idolaters, nor ADULTERERS, nor EFFEMINATE, nor ABUSERS OF THEMSELVES WITH MANKIND, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God? (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

TIM TEBOW’S NON-OFFENSIVE CHRISTIANITY

Pro football star Tim Tebow is outspoken about his personal faith in Jesus Christ, but his brand of Christianity is the soft, non-offensive type that is popular in America today, and it appears that he values his career more than standing for God’s holy Word. When it became known that Tebow had agreed to speak at First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, there was an uproar from the Christ-hating sports media because Robert Jeffress, First Baptist’s senior pastor, has called homosexual behavior sinful, which is an unforgivable sin in the modern pop culture. Gregg Doyel of CBS Sports brashly claimed that “Tebow is about to make the biggest mistake of his life.” Others chimed in, and bowing to the pressure, Tebow told Pastor Jeffress that he needed to “lay low of controversy” (“Despite Canceling First Baptist Appearance,” Dallas News, Feb. 22, 2013). He said he intended to “continue to use “the platform God has blessed me with to bring Faith, Hope and Love to all those needing a brighter day.” But genuine faith, hope, and love cannot be separated from righteousness and holiness and truth. What people need is not merely a brighter day; they need salvation from eternal condemnation, but the good news of salvation cannot be understood without the bad news of God’s holiness and man’s fallen condition. The enemies of Christ are winning simply by screaming like howler monkeys whenever a public figure appears to be saying something in favor of biblical righteousness. They have already intimidated many Christians into keeping their mouths shut on important biblical issues. But Jesus said, “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets,” and, “For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father’s, and of the holy angels” (Luke 6:26; 9:26).



*Shin Dong-hyuk*

NORTH KOREAN PRISON CAMPS



The following is excerpted from “North Korean Prison Camps Are Like Hitler’s Auschwitz,” *Business Insider*, Feb. 20, 2013: “North Korea’s prison camps are a closed-off world of death, torture and forced labour where babies are born slaves, according to two survivors who liken the horrors of the camps to a Holocaust in progress. ... ‘People think the Holocaust is in the past, but it is still very much a reality. It is still going on in North Korea,’ Shin Dong-hyuk told AFP through an interpreter on the sidelines of a human rights summit in Geneva. Shin himself spent his first 23 years in a prison camp in the secretive country, where he says he was tortured and subjected to forced labour before making a spectacular escape seven years ago--and giving the outside world a rare first-hand account of life inside the camps. Camp 14--a massive slave labour camp comprising a number of ‘villages,’ factories, farms and mines--is one of five known prison camps in North Korea believed to

house as many as 200,000 people. ... Chol-Hwan Kang, now 43, was sent to Camp 15 with his whole family when he was nine years old to repent for the suspected disloyalties of his grandfather. He spent 10 years there before his family was released and later managed to flee to China and on to South Korea -- the same route taken by Shin. ... At age 13, Shin was forced to watch the executions of his mother and brother. ... Shin, who says his father and grandfather were sent to the camp because two of his uncles apparently defected to the South, said he was expected to spend his entire life there under North Korea’s ‘guilt-by-association’ system that calls for up to three generations of family members of an accused to also be punished. ... ‘Daily I saw torture, and every day in the camp I saw people dying of malnutrition and starvation. I saw lots of friends die and I almost died myself of malnutrition,’ Kang recalled.”

TURNING PURIM INTO A DRUNKEN PARTY



Purim is the Jewish celebration of victory over the ancient enemy Haman in Persia, the background of which is found in the book of Esther. But instead of Purim being a time

of thanksgiving to God for His compassion in days of old and a time of solemn reflection upon the nation’s relationship with that God today, Purim has been turned into a drunken festival in modern Israel. It reminds us that though Israel is back in the land, she remains spiritually dead as described in Ezekiel’s prophecy of the Valley of Dry Bones. The following is excerpted from “A shot of religion in the Holy Land,” *BBC Travel*, Feb. 22, 2013: “Going to Israel during a Jewish holiday wouldn’t normally be my idea of a good time. I haven’t set foot in a synagogue since I moved out of my childhood home nearly a decade ago, and many religious holidays--at least in my experience--tend to put too much emphasis on repenting, and not enough on drinking, dancing and setting off fireworks deep into the night. But Purim--a holiday commemorating a time when the Jewish people living in Persia (modern day Iran) were saved from extermination in the fourth century BCE – is

different. The booze-fuelled celebration, which takes place on the 14th day of Adar on the Jewish calendar (sunset of 23 to 24 February this year), is like Halloween, St Patrick’s Day and New Year’s Eve all rolled into one. ... Before my arak-drenched boozefest commenced, an Israeli friend explained that there are three things you are supposed to do on Purim: read the Megillah (the relevant section of the Talmud, the central religious Jewish text), give *tzedakah* (charity), and throw on a disguise and proceed to do as the Talmud states: ‘drink until you can’t tell the difference between Blessed is Mordechai and Cursed is Haman.’ Mordechai is the hero of the Purim story, and Haman, the villain. ... Purim was all around me. It flowed out of temples and into the bars, in the streets, on balconies and rooftops. ... If this is what religious holidays are like, I decided, sign me up.” “And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: BUT THERE WAS NO BREATH IN THEM” (Ezekiel 37:8).



THE ANHINGA

The anhinga is a water fowl that is also called the “snake bird” for the fact that its long neck looks like a snake when its body is submerged in the water. Found throughout the world in warm shallow waters, the anhinga is a large bird with a wingspan of up to 4 feet and a body weight of 3 pounds. It has beautiful multi-colored wings of jet black, blue, and white. The beautiful green and blue iridescent sheen to the bird’s feathers is produced by a reflective layer of melanin granules with a keratin substrate marvelously arranged to reflect a particular portion of the light wave, similar to the way that many butterflies produce reflective coloring. A distinguishing characteristic of the anhinga is its habit of perching and spreading its wings for long periods. This is done to dry out the feathers, as it does not have waterproofing oil glands like most other waterfowl. This is not an “accident.” It is a design feature that allows the bird to be less buoyant, as the non-oily feathers absorb water, thus enabling the anhinga to swim and hunt with its body submerged and only its long neck out of the water and to dive under water easily and stay down for long periods. It has air sacs located on various parts of its body that allow it to control its level of buoyancy in the water. The anhinga spears fish with its sharp bill, using its long neck to strike out quickly. “The rapid stabbing motion is made possible by the anhinga’s unusual arrangement of neck vertebrae. The eighth and ninth vertebrae form a kind of hinge-like mechanism that allows the head and bill to snap forward at a high rate of speed, so fast that very few fish escape” (Russ Heitz, *Krazy Kritters of Florida*). Anhingas form lifelong mating pairs. They build their nests in trees, particularly on branches that extend over water, and the male and female take turns incubating the eggs. A flock of anhingas is called a “kettle.”



photo by David Cloud

CONCLUSION: The Friday Church News Notes is designed for use in churches and is published by Way of Life Literature’s Fundamental Baptist Information Service. Unless otherwise stated, the Notes are written by David Cloud. Of necessity we quote from a wide variety of sources, but this obviously does not imply an endorsement. We trust that our readers will not be discouraged. It is God’s will that we know the times (1 Ch. 12:32; Mat. 16:3) and that we be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. The News Notes remind us that the hour is very late, and we need to be ready for the Lord’s coming. Are you sure that you are born again? Are you living for Christ? “And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” (Rom. 13:11-14). This material is sent only to those who personally subscribe to the Fundamental Baptist Information Service mailing list. To SUBSCRIBE, go to <http://www.wayoflife.org/wayoflife/subscribe.html>. TO UNSUBSCRIBE OR CHANGE ADDRESSES, go to the very bottom of any email received from us and click "Manage My Subscription." Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org.

B. What should we do? The three-part command of biblical holiness.

1. _____ from them
2. Be _____
3. _____ the unclean thing

III. We are not to be unequally yoked together with non-believers because God wants to have a _____ with us.

IV. We are not to be unequally yoked together with non-believers because it shows our _____ with God

A. We show that we are reconciled with God by our _____ from this world in _____ to the scriptures.

personal application and reflection

Courtesy Timothy Lee

Ambassador Baptist Church welcomes you! We are thankful that the Lord Jesus has brought you and we believe He has something wonderful for you. May our spiritual life reach new heights of growth this year for Christ's name sake.

IN BRIEF

Easter Evangelistic Weekend

Discussions and preparations are ongoing. The event will be a screening of a Christian film at the end of March. Your prayers and labours are sought for this important event. All are invited. More details to be released.

THE VISION AND MISSION OF AMBASSADOR

"To win the north of Singapore for Christ and a thousand souls for Christ in five years."

COMING UP • CHURCH EVENTS

Parent Support Group

The next session of the Parent Support Group is around the corner! The session will be held on 9 March 2013.

Ambassador invites all parents to attend this crucial time of learning.



Courtesy Jude Freeman, Flickr

Parent Support Group

"Leading our Children to Faith in Christ"

9 March 2013

3 - 5 PM

It will be a time of:

- Prayer
- Topic Sharing
- General Sharing

6 more days...

4 - 10 MARCH 2013

ambassador**baptist**church



"Be reconciled to God"
1 Corinthians 5:20

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday	sunday
Faith Bible Institute	Outreach Efforts (SEM)	Outreach Efforts (YIS)		Rivers in a Dry Place	ABC Youth Parents' Support Group	Sunday Worship Service Mandarin Service

"All activities running normally"

get in touch!

We'd love to hear from you, be it feedback about this bulletin, requests for material, or just about any other query you may have about Christ, His Kingdom, and Ambassador. Contact us by:

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weekly activities

Sunday Services

Children's Bible Hour 09:30AM
Sunday Bible Hour 09:30AM
Mandarin Service 03:30PM
English Worship Service 11:00AM

Routine Weekly Activities

Faith Bible Institute
Mondays, 07:45PM

"Rivers in a Dry Place"
Fridays, 08:00PM

Ambassador Youth
Saturdays, 10:30AM

For more information on our weekly activities, visit our website at www.ambassador-baptist.org

Outreach Efforts

SEMBAWANG
Person-in-Charge: Bro. Robert
Tuesdays, 08:15PM

YISHUN
Person-in-Charge: *We need one.*
Wednesdays, 08:15PM

prayer requests

- **For wisdom as we prepare to move to our new facility**
- The various ministries
- For God's leadership in the transition of Ambassador Baptist Church to a Discipleship church
- For direction and unity in the training of Discipleship Group Leaders and other areas of training
- Souls to be saved, baptized and added to the church in 2013
- Bro. Terry's palliative care.
- ABC Biblical doctrines manual

the new testament in 4 months

MAR 4 Matthew 26

MAR 5 Matthew 27 - 28

MAR 6 Mark 1 - 2

MAR 7 Mark 3 - 4

MAR 8 Mark 5

MAR 9 Mark 6

MAR 10 Mark 7 - 8