

# An Equal Opportunity God

By Mike Riley

In the year 1802, Richard McNemar was taken before a tribunal of the Washington Presbytery, found guilty as charged, and excluded from fellowship in that body. One of the crimes which he was charged with was: "He has expressly declared, at several times, that Christ has purchased salvation for all the human race, without distinction." Mr. McNemar wasn't preaching universal salvation, nor was he charged with that. He was preaching "universal opportunity!" This contradicted the pet belief of that denomination that the destiny of all men has been fixed; some being predestined to be saved, others being predestined to be lost, with no alterations possible.

This hideous doctrine of predestination is still being preached today. People are still being taught that there is a class of people for whom the death of Jesus can have no benefit. What an insult to the God of Heaven! What slap at the gracious Son of God. The doctrine is both noxious and obnoxious! How thankful we are that this message of hopelessness does not have the endorsement of heaven behind it! It leaves mothers in the dark as to the destiny of their dead babies, it cheapens the purpose for the cross, it weakens the power of the gospel, and puts question marks on a multitude of passages in the New Testament. When will men learn not to put a question mark where God has put a period? **There are a number of reasons for rejecting the doctrine of predestination as described above. Permit me to list a few of them.**

**1. The great commission.** The gospel was designed for, and to be preached to, every creature" (Mark 16:15), in "all nations" (Matthew 28:19). When Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16-KJV), he meant everyone. God is no respecter of persons. Peter declared in Acts 10:34-35-KJV, "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." In Romans 2:11 (in a context of discussion concerning blessings and punishment depending upon obedience or rebellion, not on race or any other form of selection), Paul wrote clearly, "For there is no respect of persons with God." Respect of persons is something Christians are warned against (James 2:1,9). Why? Because it is ungodly! God doesn't practice such! He is an equal opportunity God!

**2. Jesus died for all men.** He "tasted death for every man" (Hebrews 2:9). God loved so much that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes might have opportunity for salvation. How can anyone look at John 3:16 and see the Calvinistic doctrine of predestination? None are so blind as they who refuse to see that Jesus "died for all" (2 Corinthians 5:15).

**3. God desires the salvation of all men.** Paul clearly wrote that God wishes for "all men to be saved, and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). The fact that God desires the salvation of all men, does not imply universal salvation, it does imply universal opportunity.

**If you're willing to be taught, you can be saved. Your destiny is not fixed. You have a say in the matter. Jesus died that you might have life. He went to the cross so that you could go to heaven. Don't let his death be in vain for you.**

Our God is an equal opportunity God. Seize the opportunity!



# STERLINGTON

## Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

4/10/22

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

### Elders:

Todd Chapman  
Paul Simpson

### Deacons:

Wayne Fowler David Garris  
Billy Granger Buddy Hollis

### Preacher:

Don Delukie

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements-** Wayne Fowler      **Lord's Table-** Paul Simpson

**Opening prayer-** Ronnie Hayes      **Closing Prayer-** Lyle Russell

### April 17th

**Announcements-** Travis Rodgers      **Lord's Table-** Todd Chapman

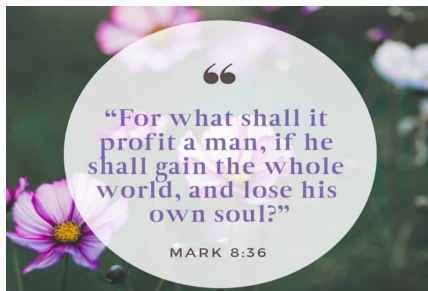
**Opening prayer-** David Reppond      **Closing Prayer-** Luke Chapman

- Communion will utilize self-contained, sealed cups available in the foyer. **Please pick one up upon arrival.**
- Giving is available at a central collection container in the foyer or online at [www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.sterlingtonchurchofchrist.com).

## Announcements

—**Ladies Day:** You are invited to a Ladies Day on April 23 hosted by Carriage Oaks Church of Christ in Bossier City, LA. See the flyer in the Lobby for more details.

—**Question & Answer Series: May 1st** will be our next Question and Answer Series. Please submit your questions via the church email address [SCOC2006@att.net](mailto:SCOC2006@att.net) or to Don.



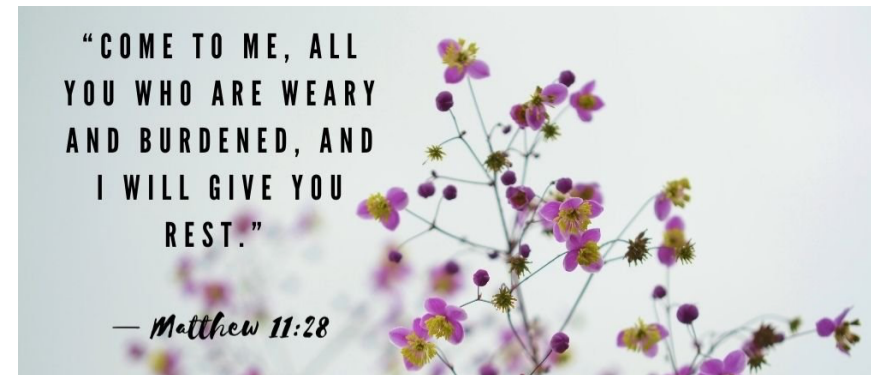
## Please Pray For:

Billy Granger, Connie Grenfell, Kase Summerhill, Leroy Russell, Roosevelt Rogers, Arlene Sumner, Judy King, Cindy Cox, Mary Kathrine Manning, James Johnson, Bettye Flowers, Leah & Tracy DeWitt.

**Bereaved:** Families of Billy George McKinnie, Bobby Fletcher, Pam Gray, John DeHart, Clyde Wilson.

## Continue to Pray For:

Shirley Goodwin, Bobby Barker, Donna Head, Debra Mike, Trey Jennings, Debbie Walker, Virginia Royal, Renita Thomas, Elizabeth Hollis, Cyndi Powell, Heath Ray, Terrance Dawson, Ann Bolden, Jamie Ross, Charlie McDaniel Jr, Lewis Bedele, Adam White.



### April Birthdays

10 - Sydney Scharf  
12 - Joanne Fowler  
15 - Keith Brister  
27 - James Johnson

### April Anniversaries

4 - Ronnie & Janice Hayes

