

Trends

A recent survey asking "When He lived on earth, Jesus Christ was human and committed sins, like other people." Those who "agreed strongly" or "agree somewhat" were:

- ☛ 52% all adults
- ☛ 56% Millennials (age 18-34)
- ☛ 59% Gen-xers (age 35-50)
- ☛ 52% Boomers (age 50-70)
- ☛ 52% Elders (over age 70)

- via Barna Research

Hebrews 4:15: "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."

Sentence Sermons

"Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important."

—C.S. Lewis

2 Corinthians 5:10-11a: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. I know, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men..."

News & Notes

Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. She is an encouragement to all of us!

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

Pray for all the lost souls, especially those in the greater Bloomington area. Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?! Let me know.

Anyone need prayers? Let us know so we can announce it and post it.

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68



Improve Your Life

1. Turn off the TV and read your Bible. The Psalmist said of the blessed man, "His delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night" (Psa. 1:2).
2. Put down the phone and pray. I never cease to be amazed at how much time some people spend on their cell phones. Is all that talking, texting, browsing really necessary or profitable? "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17). "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much" (Jas. 5:16).
3. Get up out of bed an hour earlier and come to Bible study on Sunday morning. "As the door turns on its hinges, so does the sluggard on his bed" (Prov. 26:14).
4. Cut down your credit card purchases and give. Give to the poor. Increase your contribution at church. "One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed" (Prov. 19:17). "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).
5. Change the conversation from sports, weather, and politics to spiritual things. Do that at home. "These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up" (Deut. 6:6-7). Do that at work, too. "He who wins souls is wise" (Prov. 11:30).

—via Manslick Road Speaker

For One Indulgent Moment

What some will pay for a moment's reckless folly is recorded again and again in the Book of Ages. Do you think these people got their "money's worth?"

1. Adam and Eve, for one bit of luscious fruit when they were not even

- hungry, brought sin, suffering, shame, and death upon themselves and the human race (Genesis 3).
2. Lot's wife, revealing her longing for the things that pertain to earth, took one look back at Sodom and became a pillar of salt (Genesis 19).
 3. Esau, to satisfy one day's fleshly appetite, lightly esteemed his birthright and forfeited his right to the ancestry of Christ (Genesis 25).
 4. Achan, for a garment he could not wear, and silver and gold he could not spend, paid with all his possessions, his family, and his life (Joshua 7).
 5. Samson, for the caress of a hypocritical woman, lost his eyes, and finally his life (Judges 16).
 6. David, to enjoy another man's wife, hands to posterity a tale of his life with adultery, shame, and tears, boldly written for all to read (2 Samuel 11).
 7. Ahab, coveting another's little vineyard, permitted his wife to have its owner killed, claimed it for his own, and heard his own funeral preached in these words, "*In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall the dogs lick thy blood, even thine*" (1 Kings 21).

➤ **Selected**

A Corrupt World

Rick Duggin

Though no one can predict the future of our nation, we can say with confidence that God is in control, His cause will triumph, and He judges nations. "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God*" (Psalm 9:17). "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people*" (Proverbs 14:34).

Gibbon's famous work, ***The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire***, lists five reasons for the fall of Rome. There are several parallels between ancient Israel and Rome, and even more disturbing, between Rome and America.

1. *The rapid increase of divorce; the undermining of the dignity and sanctity of the home, which is the basis of human society.* American families are under attack by humanists, homosexuals, and Hollywood. Some don't even know what a family is any more (Matthew 19:4-9).
2. *Higher and higher taxes: the spending of public monies for free bread and circuses for the populace.* America is on the greatest spending binge in history. Many have forgotten how to work; they expect the government to support them (2 Thessalonians 3:10; 1 Timothy 5:8).

3. *The mad craze for pleasure: sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.* Many Americans are so obsessed with sports that they have no time for Bible studies (2 Tim. 3:4; Hebrews 11:25).
4. *The building of gigantic armaments when the real enemy was within - the decadence of the people.* Babylon's wall, water, and wealth could not prevent the Persian invasion (Daniel 5). No armament can protect a nation that has rotted from within – not even America's.
5. *The decay of religion: faith fading into mere form; losing touch with life and becoming impotent to warn and guide the people.* Most churches have become social clubs, pursuing entertainment to attract bigger crowds. Many audiences no longer expect to hear book, chapter, and verse (2 Timothy 4:1-4). They have replaced the house of prayer with food, fun, and frolic (Matthew 21:12-14).

Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it.

Jesus' Family Thought He Was Crazy

Robert Hines

Early on, as Jesus chose His apostles, taught truth, and worked miracles, His "*mother and brothers*" (Mark 3:31) were very concerned: "*But when His own people heard about this, they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, 'He is out of His mind'*" (3:21).

Why might they have thought that Jesus, as the *New American Standard* says, had "*lost His senses*"? Some possible ideas might be...

1. He had left His home, His business and any income.
2. He was on a collision course with the religious elite.
3. He had attracted a varied, strange group of followers.
4. He had started forgiving the sins of other people.

But these things, instead of making us think Jesus was crazy, lead us to appreciate Him all the more. Using the same four points we say...

1. He was willing to dismiss His own earthly security.
2. He was willing to set aside His own personal safety.
3. He was willing to live beyond the verdict of society.
4. In forgiving, He showed Himself to be God's Son.

He was not crazy, beside Himself, or out of His senses. He knew what He was doing every step of the way. He was showing who He was. And by example He was showing us how to live today!