

April 2022

Hardeetown Baptist Church

*From the Crossroads of Levy County to
the Crossroads of the Mission Field*



The Pulpit and Pen

Where Did Jesus Go?

There are many opinions about where Jesus went between the crucifixion and the resurrection. While one may have to do a bit of digging to find the answer, the Bible is actually pretty clear about it.

The first clue is from Ephesians 4:9-10, which says that before Christ ascended He descended to the lower parts of the earth. Catholics believe that Christ descended into hell, but there is no scriptural evidence for that beyond this passage.

If Christ descended but did not go to hell, where was He? Jesus gave us the answer to that in Luke 16:22-26. Jesus described a place where Lazarus went after he died and where he was comforted by Abraham. Lazarus and Abraham were close enough to the rich man, who had also died, that they could communicate, but the rich man was in torment. He clearly was in hell, whereas Lazarus and Abraham were not.

We are left with the question how the rich man could be in hell yet still communicate with Abraham, who was in a place of comfort. The answer lies in an examination of the Greek word that was used by Luke when he recorded this teaching of Christ. Luke did not call this place *hell*, but *hades*.

Over the centuries many have tried to equate

hades with hell, but based on this story told by Jesus, that is inaccurate. Hell is the place of punishment where the rich man found himself after death. However, in the story Abraham described a great chasm that separated hell and the rich man from the place where Abraham and Lazarus were. Clearly, Abraham and Lazarus were in a different place, yet close enough to communicate with the rich man. Hades included both hell and the place where Abraham and Lazarus were.

Jesus called this place *paradise*. As with *hades*, many over the years have misidentified *paradise* as being heaven. While heaven is certainly a place of paradise, that is not where Jesus told the thief on the cross that he would be going that day (Luke 23:43). Jesus told the thief that he would be with Jesus in *paradise* that very day.

However, we know that Jesus did not die and go to heaven that day. Peter tells us that having suffered for our sins, Jesus went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison (1 Peter 3:19). No one in heaven is in prison. So Jesus could not have been there. Abraham and Lazarus were not in prison either. However, the rich man was in prison as were those spirits mentioned in 1 Peter 3:19-20.

Jesus did not go to hell and make a proclamation

because his suffering ended on the cross. Peter said in 1 Peter 3:18 that Jesus suffered for our sins only once, which was on the cross. Going to hell would have ensured even more suffering.

So how did Jesus make a proclamation to the spirits in prison without being in hell Himself and simultaneously be in paradise with the thief on the cross? He was with Abraham and Lazarus and communicated across that chasm just as Abraham and the rich man did.

The reason the thief on the cross, along with Abraham, Lazarus, and every other Old Testament saint, did not immediately go to heaven is because Jesus had not yet been resurrected. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:17 that if Christ has not been raised, we are still in our sins. Christ was not raised until the third day. So in between the crucifixion and resurrection, the Old Testament saints were still in paradise but not heaven. Jesus was there with them declaring to them that their sins had been paid and also declaring to those demon spirits in chains across the chasm (cf. 1 Peter 3:19) that Jesus had won the victory.

Today, on this side of the resurrection, there is no need for a paradise of *hades*. We have been justified. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord in *heaven* (2 Corinthians 5:8)!

- Share with your friends and contacts that the church's services are available online via the church's website and YouTube page. They can go to our church website, www.hardeetownbc.com, and click on the link to sermons.

- If you are new to the church, we offer Bible study classes for all ages. Regular Bible study is an essential part of Christian discipleship, and we encourage you to participate each Sunday at 9:30.

- If you are ill but still want to participate in worship, our services continue to be broadcast from the parking lot on Sunday morning by tuning to FM 92.1.

- Invite the youth and children around you to our growing youth and children's ministries. We meet every Wednesday night and twice on Sundays!

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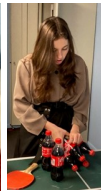


Hardeetown Student Ministries

Our next Bible study will be about followers of Christ. This six-lesson study will include Philip; Nicodemus; the Samaritan woman; Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; Thomas, and Peter. We also try to keep things both fun and educational in the youth department. On one recent Sunday night the kids helped prepare breakfast foods before we started our lesson. Mrs. Barbara created a Bible-search game, too! It was great fun, except when we popped the electrical breakers with our small appliances. Here are some pictures of your HSM students:



Hayden the McMuffin chef



BREAKFAST AND BIBLE STUDY



Never thought I would be cooking pancakes on a tailgate.



SPRING BREAK FUN!

Since many of our kids were unavailable during spring break, we did a smaller activity—Beef O’Brady’s and games in the youth room.



Champions for Christ Kids

Vacation Bible School and the kids’ summer camp ministry are in the works. VBS has been confirmed for June 27 through July 1 from 5:30 to 8:30 each evening. This might prove to be an interesting experience for our adults. We are putting together lessons from multiple sources so that our kids do not end up being taught the same material that they will probably get from another church. Then, on July 11-15 we will have the Go Outdoors! Adventure Camp ministry with us again. Plan now to attend.

HBC Women’s Ministries



Nine ladies were in attendance at our March breakfast! Thank you all for your participation. We are finalizing our plans for our April and May meetings and will share more information as we lock things in. We decided that we will not meet during June and July due to the many activities that will be on our family and church calendars.

We hope to get a paint party time set up in the near future. Stay tuned for more information about that.

If anyone has any suggestions for guest speakers for our upcoming meetings, please contact me at 229-977-8764. We will probably continue to alternate between morning and evening gatherings.

CHIEFLAND WOMEN’S MINISTRY APRIL DINNER

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022, AT 6 P.M.
CHIEFLAND FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

ALL LADIES ARE INVITED.

SUGGESTED DONATION FOR THE STEAK DINNER IS \$10.

APRIL HBC WOMEN’S MINISTRIES

STAY TUNED FOR OUR NEXT WOMEN’S MINISTRY ACTIVITY. WE ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR A DINNER GET-TOGETHER ON APRIL 25TH AT BEEF O’BRADY’S AT 5:30. WE WILL SHARE MORE INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!



ANOTHER WAY PROJECT



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS! WE WERE ABLE TO DELIVER OVER \$500 WORTH OF ITEMS AND FUNDS TO ANOTHER WAY IN MARCH!!





April birthdays:

William Bosch 04/10
Richard Howell 04/27

Happy Birthday to All!



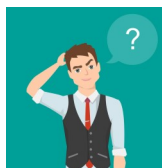
CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Dear Bro. Eli, some of us were wondering if we could have our sun-rise service around noon this year and forgo the regular morning service..."

Bible Trivia

Which New Testament figure was a permanent Nazirite?
Last month's answer: Tabitha (Acts 9:40)



Announcements

Beef O'Brady's Restaurant at 5:30 on April 25. All ladies are invited.

Crafts for a Cause meets every Thursday morning at 9:00 in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to be a part of this important evangelism outreach ministry.

The church council will meet in the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 10, at 5:00. If you are the leader of any of our church's ministries, please make every effort to attend.

Our church bylaws committee meets every first Monday. We will meet April 4 at 6:30.

The next men's breakfast

will be Sunday, May 1, at 8:00. All men and boys are invited.

Our Easter sunrise service will be April 17 at 7:30 followed by breakfast at 8:00. We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper together on Easter Sunday. There will be no evening service that day.

Plan now for our VBS, June 27-July 1. We will be hosting a planning meeting in the near future. Please consider volunteering for this important ministry. You do not have to teach one of the classes to help.

Go Outdoors! Adventure Camp will be July 11-15 for children ages 6-12.

April Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Bylaws meeting 6:30	Sign Language 5:30 Deacons' dinner 6:00		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Church council 5:00 Business mtg 6:00		Sign Language 5:30		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Easter Sunrise svc 7:30 Breakfast 8:00 No evening svc		Sign Language 5:30		Crafts for a Cause 9:00		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	Women's ministry dinner @ Beef O'Brady's 5:30	Sign Language 5:30		Sr adult luncheon, Cedar Lake Woods/Melanie's Restaurant, Williston, 9:00 to 12:00		

April Memory Verse

I Corinthians 1:23

But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness.

(1995 NASB)



1716 NW 14th ST
Chiefland, FL 32626

A cooperating Baptist church affiliated with the Harmony Baptist Association, Florida Baptist State Convention, and Southern Baptist Convention.

Hardeetown Baptist Church exists for the purpose of bringing glory to God by worshipping Christ, making disciples, fellowshiping with believers, and ministering to those in need. Our goal is to reach Chiefland and the northwestern Levy County community for Christ by evangelizing the lost and producing growing disciples of Christ through relationship-building and intentional evangelism. We are an autonomous body of believers that voluntarily cooperates with the Southern Baptist Convention and Florida Baptist Convention in order to support local, regional, national, and international missions through the Cooperative Program and with the Harmony Baptist Association for the support of local and area missions.

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