

The "I Am's" Of Jesus Christ

Larry Huggins II (2011)

Jesus stated on many occasions that he and God were ONE since before the beginning of time. In Exodus 3:13, Moses asked God what to say when the children of Israel would ask what the name was of the One who sent him. God's answer was, "I AM." In John 8:58, "Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM'" (Ex. 3:14, NKJV). After He stated this the Jews attempted to stone Him. Jesus later gives a list of "I AM" statements to show that He came to bear the sins for all mankind and the only way to heaven is through Him.

In John 6:35 and 48, Jesus states, "I am the bread of life." In verse 51, we read that the bread gives eternal life.

In John 8:12, Jesus stated, "I am the light of the world." If you follow Christ, you will be in the light. In Psalm 119:130, we find that God's words give light.

In John 10:9, Jesus said, "I am the door." Back in verse one we find that He is the only Door. When one is baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27), he is going through the correct door.

In John 10:14, Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd." As a shepherd, He is responsible for the flock, and Jesus cares for and loves his flock. He loves it so much that He gave his life for the flock (John 10:15).

In John 11:25, Jesus stated, "I am the resurrection and the life." In 1 Corinthians 15:23, we are told that resurrection is pledged to us.

In John 14:6, Jesus stated, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." The only way to approach God is through Jesus. According to 1 John 3:24, those that obey Him abide in Him.

In John 15:1-5, Jesus stated, "I am the true vine." Each branch represents an individual who is to abide in the Vine.

We now look at the book of Revelation for the next "I AM" statements. In Revelation 1:11, Jesus stated, "I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last." Jesus clearly existed before the beginning (John 1:1-2).

In Revelation 2:23, Jesus said "I am He who searches the minds and hearts." He knew the hearts of the apostles (Mark 2:8), and He knows what is in every heart (John 2:24-25).

In Revelation 22:16, Jesus said, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." Christ guides us.

All this proves that Jesus and God were ONE since before the beginning of time, and that Jesus' claim to be the only way to heaven is correct. Ω



Publishing Peace

A monthly journal published by West Virginia School of Preaching under the oversight of the elders of Hillview Terrace Church of Christ, Moundsville, WV 26041 (888) 418-4573

Vol. 8 No. 1 January 2012

"Behold on the mountains the feet of him who brings good tidings, who proclaims peace!..." (Nahum 1:15)



From the Director's Pen

There Is Still A Need

Denver E. Cooper

We are very grateful for all who contribute finances to West Virginia School of Preaching. Some may think that the need ought to cease. However, as long as there are students there will be a need for financial support.

Most are aware that students are not permitted to engage in outside employment. When they are considered by the elders of the Hillview Terrace Church of Christ to be trained to go out and preach, they are permitted to preach over Sundays and teach a mid-week class. Each student is required to raise his own personal support by contacting friends, family, or congregations requesting assistance. For this we need your help. There are three students who are yet in need of monthly or one time support.

A few months ago the services of brother Jefferson A. Sole were secured by the elders to serve as associate director of the school. Since I am approaching my 89th birthday I will obviously be stepping down from the position I have held for several years. That being the case, there is a need for us to raise support for brother Sole. If you are presently assisting our effort to train preachers, teachers and elders, perhaps you can increase it a little. If you are not sending support for a student or brother Sole will you please consider doing so?

Additionally, every year we take a week for all students and faculty to attend the lectures at Freed-Hardeman University. This requires extra funds. Will you please help us raise enough money to care for this trip? We will need money for the trip, food, and lodging while we are there.

The school is doing well. We have room for several more students, either those who want to prepare to preach and will spend two full years of study, or men who want to take a few classes during the week to improve their abilities to teach or prepare for the elders' work. If you desire to improve your talents in any one of these abilities, please plan to enroll just as soon as possible. We will be happy to help you any way we can.

You may enroll online or by mail. We will send you an application if you will send us your address. Maybe you know someone who needs a little encouragement to become a full-time preacher. Please send us the name and address of anyone whom you think we might be able to interest. If you would like for brother Sole, one of the faculty, or me to come and meet with the brethren of your congregation we shall be happy to visit with you and tell you more about the work we are doing. Please help us to become better known to any who want to serve the Lord. Please address us at West Virginia School of Preaching, P. O. Box 785, Moundsville, West Virginia, 26041. Ω

Hillview Terrace Church of Christ
West Virginia
School of Preaching
PO Box 785
Moundsville, WV 26041



We Love Our Students

Student Spotlight:
Gavin James
Andy Robison

The West Virginia School of Preaching has been conceived, built, funded, and prayerfully supported for the benefit of her students—to prepare them to meet their heart’s desire to fulfill the Lord’s command to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. We deeply love and appreciate those who give two years of their lives (whether at youth, middle-age, or beyond) to intense preparation. Their sacrifice is admirable, their desire nothing less than heavenly. Shall we say every admitted student has been a perfect emblem of these ideals? Not at all. But most have. Most are. Most will be. For this, we are deeply thankful to God who has enabled them, and to those students for their servants’ heart.

Meet, please, **Gavin James**—a brilliant young man now in his second year. Born and raised in Crown City, Ohio, Gavin is a 2003 graduate of Gallia County High School, and a 2007 graduate of the University of Rio Grande (Ohio), with a Bachelor’s Degree in Mass Communications. While, pursuantly, working on his second degree in Chemistry, Gavin became a Christian under the tutelage of Van Sprague, the local minister at that time and a graduate of WVSOP. Plans began to rapidly change. Instead of finishing a Bachelor’s in Chemistry, Gavin completed the Associate’s Degree, solely so he could quickly move on to WVSOP for preparation for his new life’s goal—preaching the Gospel.

Accompanying him on this remarkable journey is his wife, the former **Kelly Davis** of Wheelersburg, Ohio, whom he met while at Rio Grande. Kelly, who has her Bachelor’s Degree in Hispanic Studies, became a Christian on the same night as Gavin, while the two were studying with Van in a pre-marital counseling session. This loving couple has taken into their household a niece and nephew of Kelly’s, **Matthew**, and **Makia**, who will turn ages five and six, respectively, in February. They are cute ones who bring life to the WVSOP building when they sometimes appear after their school day is concluded.

Brethren need to know and reflect upon the inspirational stories that have brought these young men to the intellectual and, yes, emotional decision to sacrifice high-paying careers for a life of servitude to

the Christ. From time to time, we hope, in this column, to call the readers’ attention to another student’s chronicle.

Neither Gavin nor Kelly desire accolades. The praise of God is much more attractive than the praise of men (John 12:42, 43; 1 Cor. 4:5). Nevertheless, it wouldn’t hurt if brethren wanted to bow their heads and thank God that there are such young people in the world, especially since they’ve graciously entrusted WVSOP with their preparation.

At WVSOP, we desire to take that charge and responsibility seriously, committing the things we have learned to the hearts and minds of these precious souls, that they might be well-equipped to speak the truth in love to a lost and dying world (cf. 2 Tim. 2:2; Eph. 4:15). Ω

**Check out the
new website!
WVSOP.com**

Come study the Bible with us!

West Virginia School of Preaching

- 2 Year Program
- 2600 + Class Hours
- Tuition Free
- Bible & Related Subjects
- Qualified Faculty
- Approved for VA Benefits



Director: Denver E. Cooper

Associate Director: Jefferson A. Sole

Toll Free: 888.4184573

WVSOP.COM

Faculty
Feature

When Is It Ever Enough?

Steve Stevens

It was just a routine day of hospital visitation. I was waiting to see another patient because they were receiving care at that time. As I waited by the nurses’ station I overheard two of them talking about their weekend activities. One of them asked the other if they had played the Powerball lottery. “No,” was the reply. The reason—the jackpot was only worth twenty-five million dollars and that wasn’t worth the price to play it. The lump sum pay out would only be twelve million dollars which would be nice to help pay some bills and to put a little money in the bank, however, they would wait until the jackpot was higher.

Let me be clear. Playing the lottery is gambling, and gambling is a sin! However, I was amazed to see the level of materialism reflected in the above conversation. Twelve million dollars, which neither of them possessed, was not enough. I suppose that if you are going to dream in millions of dollars it might as well be in hundreds instead of tens.

The Bible teaches a lot about riches. Many men and women in the Bible were wealthy (i.e. Abraham, Job, David, Solomon). For those who are rich God has instructions about their attitudes and actions (1 Tim. 6:17-19). The Bible also warns those “that will be rich” about things they need to know (1 Tim. 6:9-12).

The Bible also teaches about “contentment.” It is hard to find people, even those professing to be Christians, who are content in a Biblical way. John the Baptist taught the soldiers who asked what they should do to “...**be content with their wages**” (Luke 3:14). Then, the rest of New Testament teaches several things concerning contentment: 1] “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and **be content with such things as ye have**: for he hath said, I will never leave, nor forsake thee” (Heb. 13:5). 2] “Not that I speak in respect of want: for **I have learned**, in whatsoever state I am, therewith **to be content**” (Philip.4:11). 3] “And **having food and raiment** let us be therewith content” (1Tim.6:8). 4] “But **godliness with contentment** is great gain” (1Tim.6:6).

If a person earned \$100,000 a year over a forty year career it would total four million dollars in a lifetime. Yet, the above incident reveals there are those working at good jobs who would not be satisfied with three lifetimes of earnings. There is always more to want and no one gets it all. God help me to learn to be content. Help me to realize my sufficiency comes from You and does not come from having more stuff. Help me to understand that generous giving and the doing of good

works find their genesis in me learning to be content in a Biblical way (2 Cor.9:8). Ω

West Virginia School of Preaching Victory Lectures

Books of past lectures are still available at reduced prices. Contact the school to order your copy!

| | |
|---|---------|
| 2002 <i>Studies from the Book of Zechariah</i> | \$3.00 |
| 2003 <i>The King & the Kingdom in Matthew</i> | \$3.00 |
| 2004 <i>Minor Prophets: Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk</i> | \$3.00 |
| 2006 <i>The Minor Prophets</i> | \$3.00 |
| 2007 <i>Ephesians: The Glorious Church of The Glorious Christ</i> | \$10.00 |
| 2008 <i>My Servants—The Prophets Zephaniah, Haggai, Malachi</i> | \$10.00 |
| 2009 <i>The Treatise to the Hebrews: The Perfect Christ</i> | \$10.00 |
| 2010 <i>The Acts of the Apostles</i> | \$10.00 |
| 2011 <i>The Need for Redemption, Genesis 1-11</i> | \$15.00 |