**July 28, 2019**

**Volume 7, Issue 42**

Sunday School Times

***Stuff For Today***

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Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

# A Needle Through The Arm

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

***John 3:16***

***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.***

Sin is a really big deal to God! To be found guilty of sin carries the death penalty. We all are found to have fallen short of God’s perfection, and are therefore in need of His salvation. Fortunately, we have a God who loves us and offers us a way out of the punishment we deserve. In His mercy and grace He offers us an amazing gift, and all we need to do is believe in Him and accept the salvation that is offered to us free of charge. But that free gift cost God dearly. He gave His Son for us.

God is love. It is such a simple statement but has a profound truth behind it. We often see love as simply an emotion or a feeling and we live our lives governed by that description. Rarely do we love as God loves—unconditionally. God could have told us over and over what true loves looks like and we might have developed a reasonable understanding of the truth. But He chose to demonstrate His love. And that demonstration was so incredible, even the angels is Heaven are watching this thing called salvation play out here on this earth in wide eyed wonder.

We cannot pay the price for our failures. We simply cannot suffice a holy God with anything that we can offer. We have nothing of value to give in exchange for our souls. The best that we can offer is as filthy rags compared to the absolute perfect holiness of God. Without someone stepping in with the ability to pay the cost, we would surely die because we deserve it. We have earned a place in Hell, but God’s love steps in that no one need perish in the fires of Hell. His grace is deeper than the deepest pit of Hell. But the requirement is that we accept and believe Him. That last step is difficult for many.

The Creator of the universe stepped out of Heaven and came to us as one of us, as a human being, and lived among us. Laying aside His Heavenly prerogatives, He suffered an unimaginably painful beating and voluntarily died to pay the ultimate and complete price for our sins. We must see this for what the Bible claims it to be, and that is the fact that had only one person in all of history accepted His gift of salvation, Christ would have gone to the cross for that one. His love is that deep and awesome. But He also went to the cross for those who reject Him as well.

The final result is that God can now point to the cross and with confidence proclaim that it is finished; love has been demonstrated for all to see and to consider. Eternity hangs in the balance and we hold the key to our future. Where we spend forever depends on the choice we make today.

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And remember, any quills left behind, (or in your behind), are yours to keep. It’s just our little way of saying “thank you” to a good customer.

Remember, for the month of July it’s !0% off for anyone nicknamed “Spike”, “Splinter”, or “Mr. Needles”.

**The Civil War**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

The battles raged on for years as the two factions fought for control. Early skirmishes were referred to as “The Cooler Wars”. The different levels of the society entwined in the fight were fighting for supremacy, each asserting that his or her level or position in life was the most acceptable and necessary. The results were often bloody between the years of 1861-1865.

Leadership that could not have been more disparate guided the two factions. General Porterhouse led his troops with precision and finesse. His military background could not have suited the situation better. Flanked by his followers, his exploits along the New York strip were legendary.

On the opposing side was “Old Flat Iron” Chuck. He possessed no military training whatsoever. His seemingly haphazard techniques, though, resulted in dramatic wins at Brisket Point and Tri-Tip.

Everything culminated one early summer morning as the two warring factions met for the Battle of Skirt. Porterhouse commanded his troops to light a fire in an attempt to roast out the opposition. “Old Flat Iron” decided to skewer through the center cut…and the history books remember the epic battle as the greatest battle in the “War Between the Steaks.”