



LWF: ON MISSION

Love Worth Finding's purpose is to bring people to Christ and mature them in the faith

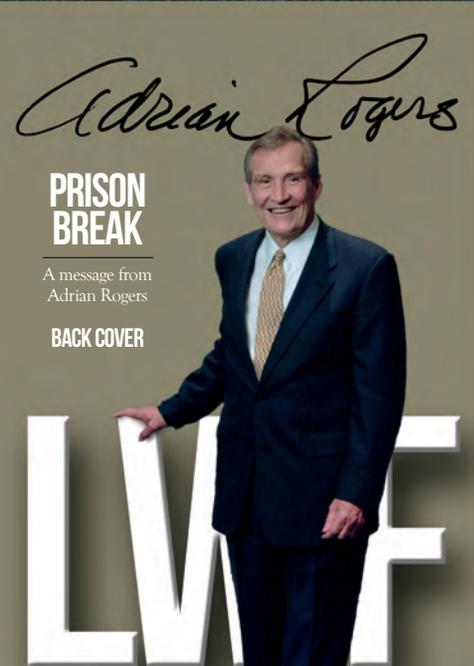
MAR | APR
2018
Vol. 25 No. 2



Stories Worth Telling

LOVE INVESTED

Mike Priest



**PRISON
BREAK**

A message from
Adrian Rogers

BACK COVER

Although my family lived in Memphis, I really knew more about Bellevue than Dr. Rogers. However, my family moved to Corinth, Mississippi, in 1977 and shortly thereafter, the Lord began to work in my heart, and I surrendered to the ministry in 1982.

By that time, I had learned what an incredible preacher Adrian Rogers was. You see, as a college student getting a degree in biblical studies, I was blessed by one of the ladies at my college church. She was an

avid listener of Dr. Rogers and subscribed to LWF's cassette ministry. She would get them, listen to them, and then pass them on to me.

Continued inside

A Pastor of Pastors

Dr. Rogers was a pastor's pastor. There are many who would testify to this. In fact, this Story Worth Telling is about just such a testimony. Read on to see what Mike Priest has to say about how listening to audio cassettes of Dr. Rogers' sermons back in the 80s prepared him to now be an encourager of young preachers himself.

LOVE INVESTED Continued from front

I can even recall my first encounter with Dr. Rogers. I was very young in the ministry, serving at First Baptist Church in Ripley, Mississippi, and was headed to Memphis to make a hospital visit and go to the Businessmen's Luncheon. The thought went through my mind...I would love to meet Adrian Rogers. I thought he may not have time to meet me, but I called anyway. I told his assistant I was coming to Memphis with two of my pastor friends, and we planned to attend the Luncheon. Then I asked that question—Could I possibly meet Dr. Rogers? She said it was doubtful but told me to hold on.

I held for only a short while, and she asked if the three of us would like to have lunch with Dr. Rogers after the luncheon. I responded with a resounding "Yes!" In the meantime, I told my two traveling buddies we were having lunch with Adrian Rogers, and they thought I was pulling their leg. Even to the end they doubted me. When we first entered Dr. Rogers' office, one of them grabbed my arm and said he'd kill me if I was not telling the truth!

Once we joined him, his first words were asking me about myself, my family, and my ministry. And then he asked my

two friends those same questions. In looking back, I recall how humble he was, and he was interested in everyone else. We wanted to know about him, but he wanted to know about us! That was mind-boggling to a young pastor like me.

Over the years and over

many visits, he became a mentor to me. I could tell you story after story, but here are some things I learned from Dr. Rogers' life:

- **Be humble.** He felt like he wasn't doing anything special beyond what he was supposed to do. Like when Jesus told the disciples in Luke 17:10 to do the things you are commanded to do, say we are unworthy slaves; we are just doing what we've been commanded. It is a constant reminder to me that I'm just doing what God has called me to do. I'm nothing special. I'm just a servant.
- **Be committed to the exposition of the Bible and to preach the Word.** To quote Dr. Rogers, "Just preach Jesus."
- **Be insistent upon integrity.** Protect your reputation by not giving any appearance of evil. This has had the biggest impact on my personally especially when I disciple other guys.

Now I have the blessing of speaking with young preachers, and I still tell them to watch and listen to Dr. Rogers. Listen to how he handled the text and watch how he communicated, how he connected with people. Those are things I learned from Adrian Rogers. Not only will you be fed spiritually, he will model for you what pastoral preaching really ought to be. Don't try to be him. No one can be him, but invest time in listening, watching, and reading Dr. Rogers.

As a young man, Mike was listening to tapes from Love Worth Finding, and now he is encouraging young preachers to follow Dr. Rogers' example. Mike took all he learned over the years and is passing it on. There is no doubt the impact that Adrian Rogers had on Mike Priest. And God is still working through faithful servants to pass it on, whether it's to young preachers or to a world of people who need Jesus!



Michael and his wife Carolyn with Adrian and Joyce Rogers.

Love Notes

Giving thanks to the Father for the precious blessing of this ministry, which builds me daily. I've changed so much; I am a new creature. The more I know the Father, the more I want to know. Thanks to those who make it possible for Word to be propagated.

Mirna, Ecuador

I would like to tell you what Jesus did in me. I was a drug addict and alcoholic for 30 years, but a month ago God broke the chains and forgave me. If you only knew how wonderful is to be with Christ. It is marvelous. I can't explain what I feel now. Thank you for being the Lord Jesus' instrument.

Miriam, Chile

By Cary Vaughn, CEO

POINTS TO PONDER

In 2003, I was part of a leadership luncheon in which the topic was **discipleship**. In the room were community, educational, business, and spiritual leaders. Two common denominators were also present: their love for Jesus Christ, and someone in their life had mentored them.

A parent, professor, coach, sibling, or friend had taken time to invest in their life. To navigate through life together was the overall goal. The understanding was that leadership would be caught, not taught.

In John Maxwell's book, *The Five Levels of Leadership*, the fourth rung deals with intentionally developing other leaders, reproducing leaders, and building the next generation of leaders. How important is this in business? How important is this in ministry? Enough that Jesus made it a mandate, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

We have a faithful supporter who lives in Houston, Texas. He enjoys our broadcast, and he listens to LWF on a regular basis. He purchases product, and he attends special receptions and events. We play a huge role in his life, as well as moving other believers towards maturity in Christ. Help us do more! Invest your resources, get involved, and use your influence for intentional discipleship. Jesus disciplined a group of ordinary men, and then they disciplined the world!

Cary E. Vaughn



Life Well Spent

By Bob Dawkins, CTFA, Planned Giving Officer

NEW YEAR PLANNING 2018

We are still in the first quarter of 2018 and most of us have been working on the information to complete and file our 2017 Federal Income Tax Return.

One practical suggestion for 2018 to make filing easier next year is to create folders for Bills to be Paid, Charitable Receipts, Medical/Pharmacy Bills, and Real Estate Tax. This should help you keep the most important information organized for filing this year's tax returns.

Now is also the time to **create a plan for your future**. It is never too early, but it can be too late. No matter the size of your estate, everyone needs a plan for the future. A plan helps ensure you are taken care of, your wishes are carried out, and your loved ones are cared for after you are gone.

We have information on our website (LWFLegacy.org) to assist you in your planning, and I can send you a Free Wills Guide. Request one at bdawkins@LWF.org or call (901) 257-4110.

This information is not intended for tax, legal, or financial advice. Consult your personal advisor.

Bob Dawkins



Love Notes

On my way home from work this morning I listened to Pastor Rogers preach on assurance of salvation. I'm a broken man, full of doubts, but they will never bother me again. Through your "Discover Jesus" link, I prayed that prayer. I had let pride restrict me from giving Him control. Praise God, I now know. Thank you for your ministry.

Matt

Featured Albums

CDs FROM MARCH & APRIL



Remembering Tomorrow
(CDA148)
8 messages for \$30
① Includes messages from calendar



Home on the Rock
(CDA111)
7 messages for \$27
② Includes messages from calendar



God's Amazing Grace
(CDA139)
8 messages for \$30
③ Includes messages from calendar



Christian World View
(CDA146)
5 messages for \$20
④ Includes messages from calendar



MARCH

March 4 – The Beginning of the End
March 11 – The Nature of the Beast
March 18 – The Signs of the Times
March 25 – Waiting for Jesus

APRIL

April 1 – What Shall I Do With Jesus?
April 8 – The Gospel of Grace, part 1
April 15 – The Gospel of Grace, part 2
April 22 – Godly Zeal and Ungodly Extremism, part 1
April 29 – Godly Zeal and Ungodly Extremism, part 2

Check your local listings, visit LWF.org, or call 800-274-5683 for help in finding a station.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Love Worth Finding Ministries
P.O. Box 38300
Memphis, TN 38183
800-274-5683
www.lwf.org ■ lwfoper@lwf.org

Love Worth Finding of Canada
P.O. Box 152
Maple Ridge, BC V2X 7G1



Radio

MARCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Gospel According to Joseph part 1 – part 2	2	3 Gospel According to Joseph part 2
4 Gospel According to Joseph part 2	5 The Beginning of the End ① part 1 – part 2	6	7 A Panorama of Prophecy ① part 1 – part 2	8	9 The Nature of the Beast ①	10 The Beginning of the End ① part 2
11 The Beginning of the End ① part 2	12	13 666 vs. 777 ① part 1 – part 2	14 Signs of the Times ①	15 Waiting for Jesus ①	16 How to Prepare for Persecution ①	17 Signs of the Times ①
18 Signs of the Times ①	19 Living in the Light of the Blessed Hope ① part 1 – part 2	20	21 Home on the Rock ②	22 Beware the Kidnapper ② part 1 – part 2	23	24 Home on the Rock ②
25 Home on the Rock ②	26 How to Prepare Kids for Marriage ②	27 What Fathers Should Teach Their Children About Sex ②	28 How to Be the Child of a Happy Mother ②	29 The Magnificence of Motherhood ②	30 What If There Had Been No Easter?	31 What If There Had Been No Easter?

APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 What If There Had Been No Easter?	2 Trophies of Grace ③	3 From Grace to Glory ③ part 1 – part 2	4	5 Don't Be a Disgrace to Grace ③ part 1 – part 2	6	7 From Grace to Glory ③ part 2
8 From Grace to Glory ③ part 2	9	10 This Is Your Life ③ part 1 – part 2	11 Liberated Living ③ part 1 – part 2	12	13 Abounding Victory Through Amazing Grace ③ part 1	14 This Is Your Life ③ part 2
15 This Is Your Life ③ part 2	16 Abounding Victory Through Amazing Grace ③ part 2	17 Freedom from the Performance Trap ③	18 The Dangers of Extremism ③	19 Christian World View ④ part 1 – part 2	20	21 Christian World View ④ part 2
22 Christian World View ④ part 2	23 Ghosts That Haunt Us ④	24 How to Have a True Foundation ④	25 What's Wrong with Animal Rights? ④ part 1 – part 2	26	27 The New World Order ④ part 1	28 How to Have a True Foundation ④
29 How to Have a True Foundation ④	30 The New World Order ④ part 2					

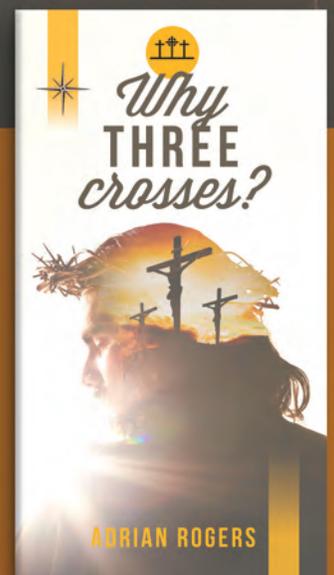
COMING IN MAY: CHAMPIONS OF FAITH

DISCOVER
HOW YOUR
STORY IS
TOLD BY
THREE
CROSSES.

WHICH CROSS TELLS YOUR STORY?

On the three crosses were three men dying in agony. One was the very Son of God. One was a man who turned to Jesus in repentance and faith and was saved. One was a man who cursed, mocked, and refused Jesus, then died and went to hell. There was a cross of redemption, a cross of reception, and a cross of rejection. In this insightful booklet, Dr. Rogers points you to what God's Word teaches you about yourself—and about Christ—by looking at the three crosses of Calvary.

Get your copy when you send a donation to LWF. Check the box on the reply slip. For additional copies, visit lwf.org or call 1-800-274-5683 Monday-Friday from 8 AM-4:45 PM CT.



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THE GREAT PRISON BREAK

FREEDOM FROM THE PERFORMANCE TRAP

By Adrian Rogers

God has called us to freedom and liberty in every area of our lives. But Satan wants to keep us in bondage. Paul asked the Galatians, “Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law [your performance], or by the hearing of faith?” (Galatians 3:1-3). Yet our flesh, our Adamic nature, tries to be good enough so we can be received by Almighty God.

Perfectionism is *judging yourself by your achievements*. You measure your worth in terms of productivity and accomplishment. The key words of a perfectionist are *I must, I should, I ought*. Although God has called us to freedom, do you find yourself striving for unattainable goals, never reaching them, and therefore never, ever being fulfilled? Perfectionists are not led; they are driven.

LIFE BEHIND BARS

What is life like in the prison of perfectionism? The perfectionist is:

- **Never satisfied.** When he doesn't reach those unattainable goals, he's disappointed and frustrated. If we think God accepts us on the basis of our achievement, we'll never know when we've done enough and never feel accepted in God's sight.
- **Critical of others,** intolerant of others' failure. We might as well learn to accept our imperfections. God already knows we're not perfect anyway. We might as well admit it.
- **Unreasonably idealistic,** holding fast to the illusion that things and people can be perfect.
- **Values himself by what he does rather than who he is.** That's where he gets his self-worth.
- **Feels guilty if he ever relaxes.** He doesn't see God as a good God but as a

demanding God, and he's trying to earn His acceptance.

- **Project-minded rather than process-minded.** He's never finished or satisfied. He may even be afraid of getting finished because the job may not be good enough. He's so obsessed with the destination, he can't enjoy the trip.
- **Has irremovable guilt.** He dwells on failure. In fact, he can never let go of his failure. He feels he must punish himself for having failed.
- **Can't accept a compliment or criticism.** Hearing a compliment he says, “I could have done better.” Criticism means, “You don't like me.”

Do any of these step on your toes? Trying to earn acceptance by your performance means you'll never have freedom from this prison the devil has you in. **Are you ready for a prison break?**

BREAKING FREE

Grasp these three keys and get out of perfectionism's prison:

- 1. Learn and believe God accepts you by grace.** You are accepted by **His grace**, not your attainment, works, or striving. Grace is completely contrary to human nature, which wants to live by achievement or guilt not by grace.

God is not eager to catch you

in some kind of sin, put you down, then grind you under. He's not sitting with a notebook, recording how many things you've done wrong, demanding you do more and more, run faster and faster, to please Him. *Grace is God's acceptance of us. Faith is our acceptance of God's acceptance of us.* If you're having great difficulty with the assurance of your salvation, you're looking at yourself rather than Jesus.

2. Learn and believe you can accept yourself. Reprogram your self-concept. In God's eyes you are special. Don't be hooked to your past. Let Jesus look into your eyes and say, “I love you. I accept you. I don't love you because you're valuable; you're valuable because I love you.” God has accepted you. Now, accept yourself.

3. Learn to accept others. Don't demand perfection from anyone. They can't achieve it. They don't have to earn their acceptance with God, so why should they have to earn it with you? Let God be God. Resign as the CEO of the universe.

When you accept other people, not only do you free them, but you're going to free yourself to be all you can be. And I'll promise you this: When you get out of the performance trap, you'll not do less; you'll probably do more. You'll achieve more. And for sure, you'll enjoy it a whole lot more.

Now you have the keys to break free from that prison of perfectionism. Use them. You will not be able to escape unless you use the keys.

This message is taken from Dr. Rogers' sermon: Freedom from the Prison of Perfectionism (#2238CD).

