

### America's Heartland **Roger Alford** RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

A very nervous man called 911 and shouted frantically into the telephone: "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart."

"Is this her first child?" the do the job well. dispatcher asked.

Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem

band," he replied.

Childbirth is one of those nerve-racking events in life that can cause otherwise intelligent men to become blithering idiots.

lives when we're so nervous we won't be able to think straight. That's when we need a friend to come alongside us who can think rationally on our behalf.

That was the case for a jailer in the city of Philipi back in at that point that he desperatethe days when the authorities had ordered the Apostle Paul a bright man to run a correctional facility, to manage the books, to supervise the guards, to do all the things required to

coursing through his body, that said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be scared him half to death.

him out of bed in the middle thou shalt be saved, and thy There will be times in all our frightening in and of itself. He him the word of the Lord, and then rushed in to check on his all that were in his house. And open. He was absolutely bepoint, thinking that all of his and all his straightway." prisoners had escaped. It was ly needed a friend.

locked up. That jailer had to be would have killed himself, supharm: for we are all here.' Then he called for a light, and sprang "No, ma'am, this is her hus- Lord brought a crisis into the fell down before Paul and Si- first appeared.

jailer's life that sent adrenaline las, and brought them out, and saved?' And they said, 'Believe First, an earthquake jarred on the Lord Jesus Christ, and of the night. That would be house.' And they spake unto prisoners and every door was he took them the same hour lives. Often when we look back of the night, and washed their side himself with fear at that stripes; and was baptized, he

mitted suicide if not for the Apostle Paul speaking into his "He drew out his sword, and situation at a time when he couldn't think clearly for himposing that the prisoners had self. Paul was that friend the that we can best see the light of fled. But Paul cried with a loud jailer desperately needed. He voice, saying, 'Do thyself no calmly offered his insights in the crisis. Yes, the jailer's world had been shaken, but, no, the Then came the day when the in, and came trembling, and situation wasn't as bad as it **at 502-514-6857 or <u>rogeral-</u>** 

You've perhaps heard the saying that suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. What looked like the darkest possible moment in that jailer's life turned out not to be so bad after all.

Crises come and go in our on what we initially thought were the darkest moments of our lives, we realize they just That jailer would have com- may have been the brightest. That's the way it was for the jailer, because his life was transformed in that crisis.

It's in those dark moments Christ. It's in the dark moments that we should draw close to Him, not push him away.

You can reach Roger Alford ford1@amail.com.

# Divas on a Dime by Patti Diamond Easy Melon Salsa Is Taste of Summer

Hello! I'm so happy to meet you. I'm Patti Diamond, AKA Diva Patti, the recipe developer and content creator for "Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal Meets Fabulous." I got the nickname Diva Patti in my former career as a musical theater professional. I was quite the soprano back in the day.

I believe everyone should live like a diva, even if they're living on a dime. My passion is finding inexpensive ways to make extraordinary things happen in the kitchen and in life. I love to help people save money on their food budget because I think we have better things to spend our money on, like paying off debt, saving for retirement or buying more shoes. If you agree, then we're going to be great friends! Let's get cookin'!

Don't you love it when something that costs as little as 20 cents per pound can be dressed up to take any occasion from



a lovely refreshing pairing. Just add chopped melon and a few sprigs of mint to a pitcher of water and let it chill for a few hours or overnight. In the summer months, it's nice to have infused water in beautiful glasses to offer as soon as guests arrive. It's a lovely way to say, "I've been expecting you." Add a splash of club soda just before serving for a little fizz.

Sweetly Savory Appetizer -- Want an irresistible hors d'oeuvre? Serve any melon sliced and wrapped with deli meat. Traditionally, you'd see cantaloupe with prosciutto, but that's rather expensive. Thinly sliced deli ham or smoked turkey give that same sweet, smoky, savory combination at a fraction of the cost.

Melon Salsa Fresca -- If you like your sweet with a little heat, you'll love this. In a mixing bowl, combinethezestandjuiceof1lime,1/2tablespoon honey and 1/4 teaspoon salt. Add 3 cups mixed melon, diced; 3/4 cup cucumber, diced; 1/2 cup any color bell pepper, minced; 1/4 cup red onion,

minced: 2 tablespoons cilantro, chopped; and one small jalapeno pepper, finely minced, with ribs and seeds removed. (Use caution when working with jalapenos.) Gently mix and chill. Serve with your favorite chips, over grilled Photo Credit: www.Jason-Coblentz.com chicken, in fish tacos or a grain bowl, or green salad, -- just put it on everything!

# You are the Church

Wednesday, July 28th, 2021 Message **Bro. Warren Rogers, Retired Baptist Minister** 

#### Based on 1 Corinthians 3:9-13

"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

### Christ the Only Foundation

<sup>"10</sup>According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. <sup>11</sup>For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup>Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; <sup>13</sup>Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

First of all, most people think of the church as that pretty building where we meet. They think it takes pews, pulpit furniture, a piano, etc. to make it complete.

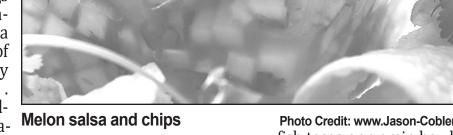
*Wrong . . .* what makes it complete is you. You are the church. You are what outsiders see. You are God's tool to preaching the Gospel outside the building. The problem we have in today's society is that a lot of the churches have turned into nothing more than a country club for entertainment. Going to a church like that will not make you a Christian any more than standing in the garage will make you a car.

We often make church what we want it to be to fit our lifestyle, our schedule, etc.

The foundation was laid for the church in 1 Corinthians 3:10 (above).

Everyone has the same cornerstone when it comes to our church life. Christ is the only foundation and if you are trying to build on anything else you are building wrong. The responsibility is yours when it comes to your salvation and your church life. Here is a list of the things it takes to build on. #1 Your conduct -- how people you meet hear or see you. #2 Your character -- What people remember about you, how you represent Christ in your life. #3 Communication -- how we reflect Christ in our lives. #4 Commitment -- Faithfulness to attend church, to vour time, and to tithes & offerings. Your workmanship will be tried -- "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. <sup>6</sup>Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: <sup>7</sup>But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: <sup>8</sup>Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."<sup>2 Corinthians 5:8-10</sup> 'Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. <sup>14</sup>If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." 1 Corinthians 3:13-14 What you have built (your church life) will be truly revealed. Christ will examine your past and you will be rewarded depending on how or what you have done. Let every man take heed on how he builds! See 1 Corinthians 3:10 (above). Friends, we are living in a time when it is more important now than ever before that we build our church on the solid rock, Jesus Christ! I know we need a meeting place to worship with our Christian brothers and sisters, but our true church lies beyond the doors of the building. Thank you for reading this, and if you have time, read it until you realize just how important that you are in God's plan. You are the only Jesus some people will ever see and how you present your life may just lead them to Christ. Be the person they would like to be. Until next week, may God bless you. To get in touch with me about preaching or singing in your church, call or text me at 606-481-0444. Bro. Warren Rogers, Baptist preacher

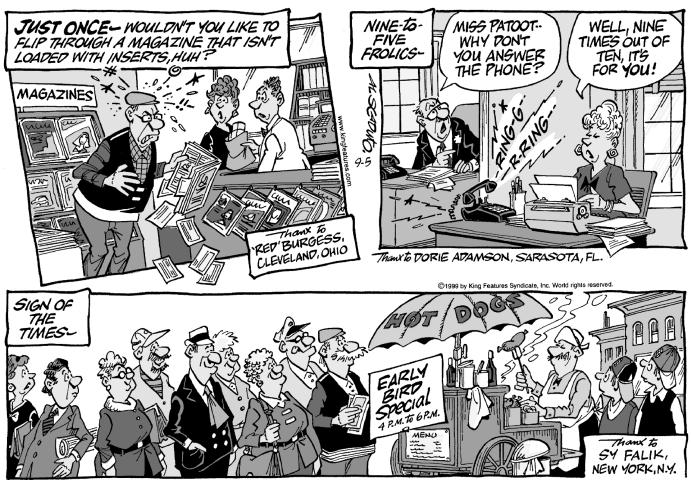
everyday to elegant? Few things say "summer" like a big slice of cold, juicy melon. Watermelon, canta-



loupe and honeydew melons exemplify the beautiful colors and sweet taste of summer. In season from June to September, choose melons without soft spots, heavy for their size and slightly sweetsmelling at the stem end. Here are some wonderful ways to make the most of your melon:

Infused Water -- The simplest thing to do with melon is make infused water. Mint and melon are

## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, partyplanning, recipe developer and content creator of the website "Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!" Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@ divasonadime.com

(c) 2021 King Features Synd., Inc., and Patti Diamond

## **BY AL SCADUTO**