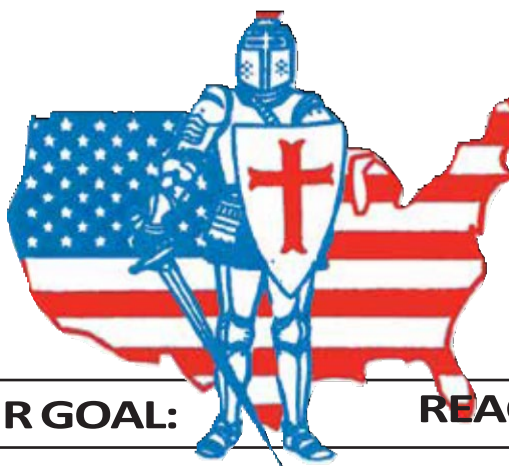




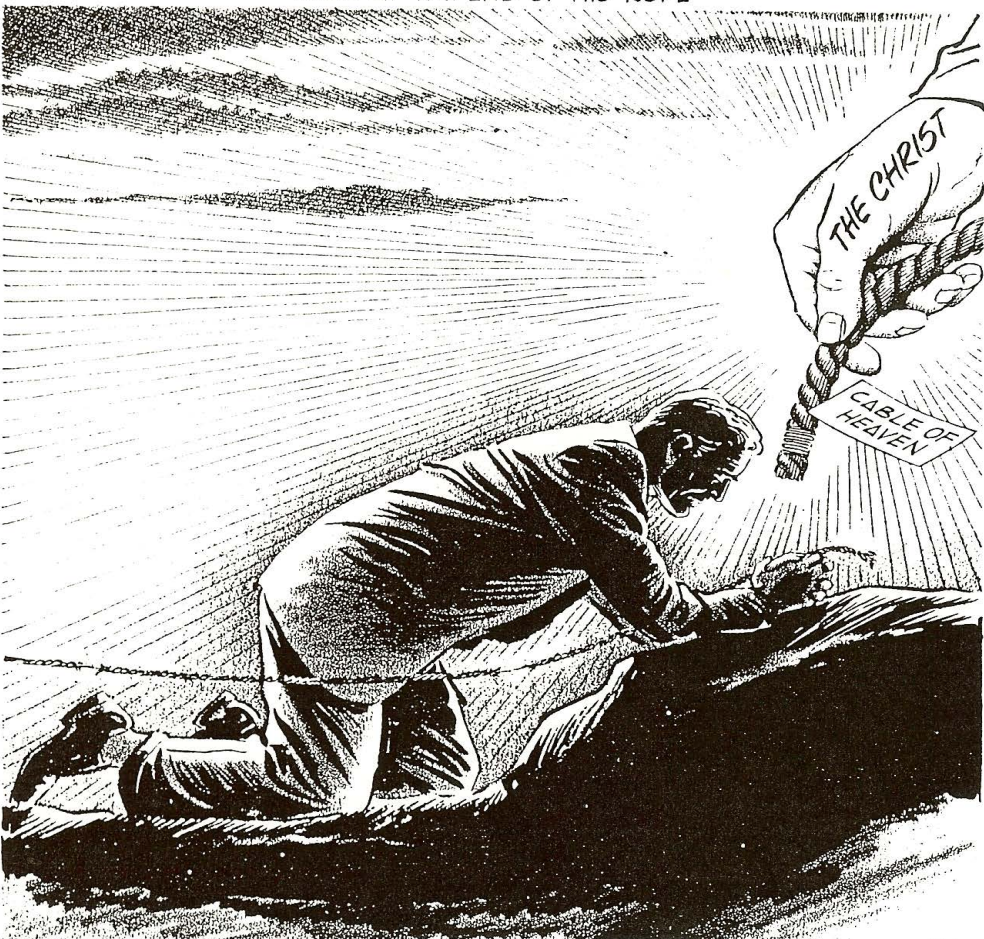
AMERICA'S CHRISTIAN NEWSPAPER

May-June 2020

OUR GOAL:

REACHING FOR LOST SOULS FOR CHRIST WHILE THERE IS TIME

MAN AT THE END OF HIS ROPE



"MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE: FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS."
— 2 COR. 12:9

God knows and cares beyond what we could ever possibly imagine. He is working all things for those who belong to Him for His glory and His children's good. While we are distracted in the mist of the weeds, our omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient Holy God can see the forest and the roots. In Psa. 61, David is at the end of his rope. He has just experienced the brutal betrayal of his beloved son, Absalom, who usurped his throne in grievous ways (2 Sam. 16:22). At the time David wrote this song of praise, it is likely he had just mourned the death of his son and was still in hiding unsure of the tenor of Jerusalem toward their king I can imagine David felt defeated, out of control, fearful, and maybe even a little angry at how his life had played out. It's how I would have felt David had reached the end of his rope. So, what did he do? Throw a pity party? Give up? Seek retribution? Let resentment seep in his heart toward God and his remaining family?

No. Instead, David asked God to do three things in his life. Three things that God still desires to do for us today when we find ourselves clinging to the end of frayed circumstances.

DAVID ASKED GOD TO LISTEN (Psa. 61:1-2a), DAVID ASKED GOD TO LEAD (Psa. 61:2b-3), DAVID ASKED GOD TO HIDE HIM (Psa. 61:4) God's Word promises us much. God promises to hear us when we are overwhelmed by life. He promises to lead us in the path of wisdom. And He promises to hide us in Him so we will never be fully defeated by sin. 2 Peter 1:10

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CHRIST IS
THE ANSWER

Greetings to the Saints of God!



Pastor Junior and Sister Brenda Tingle

Hello Christian Friends

So glad to once again be able to come to you by way of America's Christian Newspaper.

We are truly facing uncertain times now, but we must remember that we are serving a certain and faithful God, rather to live in fear we need to trust Him all the much more.

"Be wise to take the necessary precautions, but at the same time, pray a prayer of protection for you, your family and all that are and have been affected by this virus. In some ways the viral fear may be worse than the virus itself. Many times in the Bible, God tells his people to not worry; to stop their fears; to be brave and courageous," When everyone else is running for cover, we choose to follow God into the fire. Jesus told his followers not to worry about tomorrow, but to focus on the things of today Philippians 4:6,7 says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto

God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Yes, those who follow that comforting admonition from Scripture will surely experience all the provision of God that is needed to face COVID-19 or any other troublesome issue that will come upon us in life.

We do regret that we will not be able to have the Western Ky Youth camp this year our state is not allowing mass gatherings and therefore will not give us permission to hold services in the Ballard Center but our goal is still focused on next year pray that we will be able to have a huge and miraculous Camp May God bless you and your family through this ordeal

~ Bro. Junior Tingle

The Christian Tabernacle



*1406 Tucker Schoolhouse Road
Madisonville, Kentucky 42434*

**Phone:
270-584-4248**

Service Schedule:

Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Monday Evening	Tues Evening
Word & Worship	Word & Worship	Prayer Meeting	Bible Study
10:00 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	5:30 p.m.	7:30 p.m.

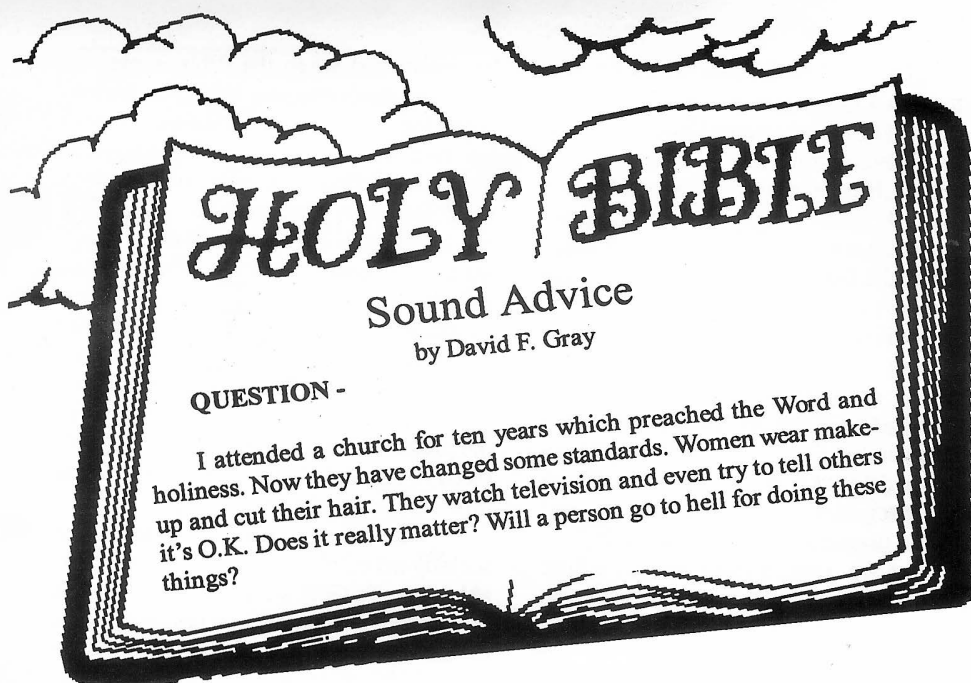
Please remember To pray for this Newspaper!

Don't Forget!

To write to America's Christian Newspaper if you want to be on our mailing list.

You can also text us your name and address to 270-339-0873 and we will be glad to send you the next issue.

Oh Yes! Don't forget to send a donation to keep this great paper alive.



ANSWER-

You ask two questions, and I will endeavor to answer them both. First, does it really matter? The answer is, Yes, it really matters. Let me explain. The Bible is God's Word and our only guide. It is God talking to us, revealing His will and His truth. If the Bible has anything at all to say about the standards which the church you attended practices or does not practice, we should take heed to it. And it does! Let us take for example women cutting their hair. I Corinthians 11:2-16 sets forth the plain teaching that women's hair must not be cut while, on the other hand, men's should: The common argument against these Scriptures applying to us today is that Paul was dealing with a local situation and culture only, and that it did not apply universally to all the churches. That this is not so is plainly revealed in I Corinthians 1:2 where Paul declared that he wrote this letter not only to those in Corinth, but to "all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ..." Therefore, it could not possibly be referring only to the local situation existing in the Corinthian church. But back to your question, Does it matter? Do you think the Holy Ghost would inspire Paul to write fifteen verses on a subject that did not matter? Do you think those fifteen verses were written just to fill space? What did Jesus mean when He said that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4)? And what did God mean when He declared that "all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3: 16)? The answer is obvious to every honest believer, It does matter. Your second question naturally follows the first: Will a person go to hell for doing these things? God does not send a person to hell for doing certain acts no matter how sinful they may be. A person is lost because he because he rejects the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word

Questions & Answers

(see John 3:19; 12:48; Ephesians 5:6).

The outward acts are merely symptoms of the disease of the heart. If one disobeys the scripture he becomes a transgressor.

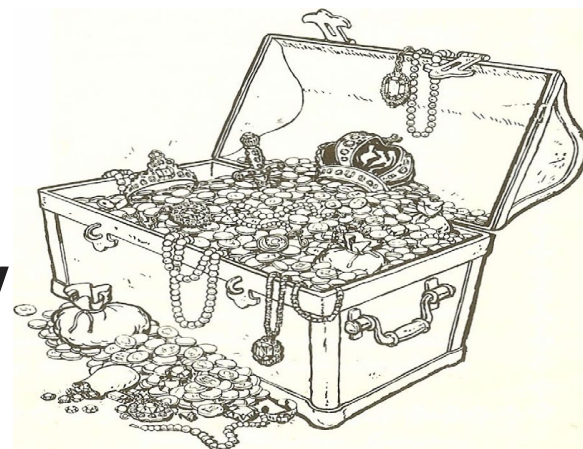
This is true particularly of one who at one time had obeyed the truth by destroying the works of the flesh in his life, but who has returned to them.

"For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor" (Galatians 2:18).

It is of utmost importance that we obey God's Word in every respect. No matter how much one may shout, do good works, show outward love, and piously declare that he is serving God, it all means nothing if he does not obey God's Word from his heart.

Jesus said, Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (Matthew 7:21-23). Say, isn't it about time that we stopped playing around and started really loving the Lord enough to do His will and obey His Word?

Only
Jesus
Can
Satisfy
Your
Soul



Princes Walking As Servants

"Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place. I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth." Ecclesiastes 10:6, 7.

The Living Bible rephrases these verses: "For I have seen foolish men given great authority, and rich men not given their rightful place of dignity! I have seen servants riding, while princes walk like servants."

The most qualified or the most deserving people are not always accorded the recognition and honors that are rightfully theirs. This is why rewards will be given out in the next world, and why honors will be given to whom it is really due, by Jesus himself. This is not to say that all deserving persons will be passed by in this world, not that all who are accorded honors are overlooked or deliberately side-tracked by less worthy ones. It simply means that many of the greatest humans on earth will be honored at a later date, even if Jesus' only will rectify the oversight for whatever reason.

Of course, there is the usual routine honors that men give to the dead, but this is usually done by those who have something to gain from the recognition. For instance, the Jews garnished the sepulchers of the prophets that their fathers had killed.

Take any of the prophets in their own day, how highly were they honored by their contemporaries? Noah was ignored; Abraham led a lonely sojourn as a pilgrim right in the land of promise itself; Jacob was in exile for many years. Joseph was sold into Egypt and humbled as few people could stand; Moses seemed to have spent eighty years stranded from God's purpose for him though this was useful to him) to lead a people who seemed to honor him with constant criticism for the next 40 years.

Such people as David was always in danger of losing his life. Jeremiah was repudiated as an enemy because he told Israel the, unpleasant truth about themselves 'and their future captivity; Daniel was one of the ultimate victims of that captivity, along with the three Hebrew children, all of whom were tested by the enemy. Ezekiel too was a captive of Babylon. They all had a measure of recognition, but far greater recognition today than when

they lived.

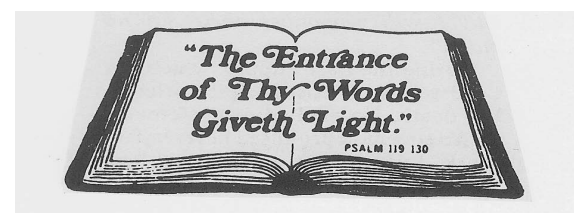
The Apostle James had his head removed as a martyr. The Apostle Paul is said to have spent about half of his ministry going into, being in, and coming out of one jail or prison or another. The early church must have had thousands of their very best killed, but whose names are not even mentioned in history books. But what should a person do if he is either ignored or rejected? Should he or she take measures to show how important they really are? Should they compare their virtues or qualities with those they feel are inferior, but who are riding upon horses, and by this seek to replace them? Of course not. Whether we pray, fast, give alms, preach, serve in the background, in whatever capacity, God knows exactly where we are, and will do what is best for all concerned, even if it is the next world. Are we not supposed to be living and working for Him anyway?

By: Kenneth Reeves

One

One word can spark a moment,
One flower can wake the dream;
One tree can start a forest,
One bird can herald Spring.
One smile can bring a friendship,
One handclasp can lift a soul;
One star can guide a ship at sea,
One cheer can obtain a goal.
One vote can change a Nation,
One sunbeam can lift a room;
One candle wipes out darkness,
One laugh will conquer gloom.
One look can change two lives;
One kiss can make love bloom.
One step must start each journey,
One word must start each prayer;
One hope can raise our spirits,
One touch can show you care.
One voice can speak with wisdom,
One heart can know what's true;
One life can make a difference,
One life is me and you....

by: Shawnee Kellie.



Material Malignancy

Psalms 37:16 admonishes us, "A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."

Oftentimes life's trends compel us to "keep up with the Joneses." The desire to be financially secure so many times dominates the mind of the Apostolic to the point that, that which we have worked so hard to acquire controls us. We, as Pentecostals, no longer live across the track. We have been blessed greatly and beyond measure. There is nothing wrong with money. It is a significant element of society. Money is not evil, but as the Apostle Paul penned in his first epistle to Timothy " ... the love of money is the root of all evil..." Malignant, defined, means rapidly growing and tending to do great harm. Mr. Webster defines malignancy as "dangerous to life and extremely heinous." It can best be brought to a spiritual sense with the lives of Ananias and Sapphira. They made a mistake with their money that proved to be fatal to both of them. After hearing of others selling possessions and giving the proceeds to the believers that had suffered financially because of their faith, they talked it over and decided to sell a certain field and give part of the money to the church. When asked by Peter if what they gave was the total that was received, they said that it was. Peter's piercing question, "Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?" was never answered. Both were slain on the spot.

Why did they both lie to God? Was it because they wanted credit for their generosity without paying the full price? Interesting questions! But we can profit better by answering them for ourselves rather than for them. Why did God use the subject of money in the early church to teach us this valuable lesson? Probably because our possessions are so crucial to our relationship with God and with man. Money has no moralistic value in itself but takes on moral qualities with the way it is handled. It can be a blessing with us or it can actually become a malignancy, placing more value on the temporal rather than the eternal. "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"

(Matthew 6:19-21).

by Mark H. Pooser

Who Changed The Locks



by J.L. Spence

Matthew 16:19

" And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven

These words of Jesus seem to ring out through the ages and have been the subject of many sermons and writings since they were first spoken to Peter by Jesus as he taught his disciples of his deity and purpose. Often we refer to this verse of scripture when we share the gospel with a lost soul and tell him about the word of Peter when he explained the plan of salvation on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:38 tells us, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." We then go on to explain that this plan of salvation has not changed and that we today still have the same opportunity and are given the same promise, as is explained by the next verse: Further in Acts 2:39 we read, "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Peter used those keys to unlock the kingdom to about 3,000 souls. These are the same keys that were used throughout the book of Acts.

It is the only plan of salvation taught by any of the Apostles;

therefore, they all used the same **keys** to unlock the lock of salvation to a lost and dying world. The last time I noticed, the world was still full of lost souls, and people were still dying and going to hell. They still need the keys ~ to be used to open the kingdom of heaven to them.

Today, many things are being preached that do not sound at all like the message that Peter brought forth on the Day of Pentecost. If keys are being used, they must be keys to some other door; maybe some different kingdom; maybe many religious folks think the keys have changed. To those who do preach some message other than that which was first preached in the church, by, Peter, I would like to ask this one

question: **Who changed the lock?**

Think On These Things Today

The past leers accusingly over my shoulder
This you did or didn't do
That you should or shouldn't have.
But the one-way street that life is
Allows no recall or return,
Let me bend to this nagging,
Let me weep with vain remorse
Then Yesterday's arrogant thief
Will rob me of Today !

His Only Fear

JOHN CHRYSOSTROM, the "golden-mouthed" preacher of Constantinople in the 4th century, was hated by the Emperor Arcadius and his wife Eudoxia, because he reprovved them for their sins. The story is told that the Emperor in a fit of anger, said, "I would I were avenged of this bishop."

Those who heard the emperor's remark began to suggest ways of punishing Chrysostrom: "Banish him to the desert," said one. "Put him in prison," another proposed.

"Confiscate (or take away) his property," suggested a third. "Let him die," a fourth said. "You all make a great mistake," interrupted a man whom the bishop had reprovved for his sins. "You cannot punish him in any of these ways. If you banish him to the desert, he will feel God as near him as here. If you put him in prison and load him with chains, he will still pray for the poor and praise God in the prison. If you confiscate his property, you merely take away his goods from the poor, not from him. If you condemn him to death, you only open heaven to him. Prince, do you want to be avenged on him? Force him to commit a sin. I know him; this man fears nothing in the 'world but sin.' Selah

**Be the
Reason
someone
smiles
Today**

**A Candle looses
nothing by lighting
another Candle**

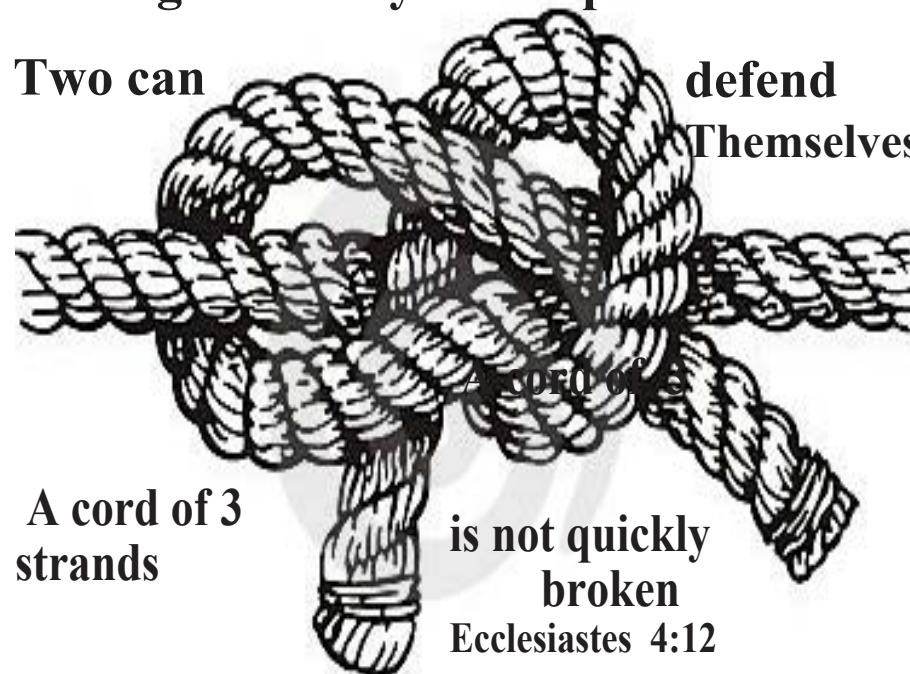
He Lives!

It is sometimes hard to comprehend,
The love God has for us,
It is difficult to understand,
A little thing like trust,
But He who made the universe,
And set the stars on high,
Can solve our every problem,
If we will not deny.
Denial once caused Christ to die,
A death no man could stand,
But trust gave Him the victory,
For men of every land.
So trust our Christ to save your soul,
And deny not what He gives,
But take the precious bread of life,
And say, "Praise God! He Lives!"

by: Rick Hendrickson

Though one maybe overpowered

**Two can defend
Themselves**



**A cord of 3
strands**

**is not quickly
broken
Ecclesiastes 4:12**

NOTICE ABOUT PACKAGES

We are sending out a limited number of bulk packages, due to the amount of newspapers that we are printing. We have many faithful supporters who are receiving the newspaper in bulk. We are limiting the mailing of bulk packages to those who are regular supporters due to our limited finances at this time. If you wish to receive a package of papers, 6 papers is the least we can mail out, please keep your address current with us as packages that are returned are very costly. This new age of Technology has many people reading online if you do receive our newspaper and enjoy it please consider a donation so that we can reach others with the Gospel.

MIGHTY SUMMATION OF THE PSALMS



THE SOVEREIGN EXPRESSION OF LOVE

by **E. W. Reeves**

If one truly loves God, there will of necessity, dwell within him a passionate love for the souls of men also. This love must find a means of expression. You, in your own particular way, may have shown forth this love when you first found Christ.

But, have you now, more or less, come to the place where you no longer feel the passion that once caused you to cry out in be-half of others who are, as you once had been-lost.

In our day there seems to be a trend toward the sensational, which is indiscriminately given the mark of spiritual-ity. I am not against God's working in this way, because I realize it was a miracle that this soul of mine was saved.

However, there is a higher place in God to which one can attain-the place of intercessory prayer for those about us.

Paul, in writing to the church in Corinth, gave them this truth in a profound way. There is hardly a more spiritual chapter in the Word of God than the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians. There Paul outlines for us the gifts and callings of God. Truly he was inspired of God when he wrote, even to us today, such wonderful things. The person who genu-inely possesses, or is used by the Spirit in one of these gifts is mightily blessed of God. However, if you do not have the gift of tongues, or of interpretation, and if you do not have the ability to speak great flowing words to edify the church, do not feel that you are not being used of God. The possession of these gifts does not always prove their possessor to be spiritually superior to others. Rather, Paul tells us to covet earnestly the best gifts. We should desire wisdom, whereby we may help win the lost, (proverbs 11 :30); knowledge; and faith, "without which it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11 :6).

After writing all these things, Paul said, "

" ... yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." He then began his beautiful discourse in the thirteenth chapter. There he speaks of "charity," but not in the same sense that the word is used today. Most people think of charity as merely contributing to some worthy cause. This is in order, and very good. But, Paul was giving a deeper meaning to the word. The real meaning of the original is "love." Paul implies that giving, alone, is not charity, but true charity is rather an everyday way of life--the giving of one's self as a daily sac-rifice unto God and to his fellow man. The gifts and callings of God are ranked high in His eyes, even to the point that they are without repentance. Yet, Paul states that there is a more excellent way- the way of love. In the last verse he states, "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Notice how vividly John described the prayer of our Lord in chapter 17. Here was one facing death. He had upon His shoulders the sins of the whole world, those from Adam until the end. Yet with all this load, His prayer for Himself was comparatively brief, recorded in only five verses (John 17:1-5). The remainder of the chapter records His prayer for His disciples and those who would believe on Him through their words. It was a beautiful prayer of intercession for those of the little band, who would shortly be so overcome that they could not even watch with Him for one hour. In that prayer was included intercession for us today.

We literally cannot go to Calvary and give ourselves as the supreme sacrifice, as He did. We can go to "Gethsemane," which in the eyes of God, is a most wonderful place of love. There Christ gave us a sovereign example of charity (love) in action. This is the spiritual summit to which we can climb if we are willing to pay the price.

Prayer is hard work, demanding self-denial. But, oh the glorious results of such denial. Someone interceded for us when we were saved, and our highest expression of love is to intercede for others. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. John declared, " ... as he is, so are we in this world." Again we read of Jesus, " ... he ever liveth to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25). This being true, we should give ourselves daily in prayer and supplication for those about us. We do not need to condemn our leaders so much as we need to pray for them. We cannot go to Calvary as He did, but we can go to Gethsemane!

Love Never Fails

1 Corinthians 13:8

I am a Christian

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I am saved."
I'm whispering "I get lost"
That is why I chose this way.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need someone to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I am weak
And pray for strength to carry on.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And cannot ever pay the debt.

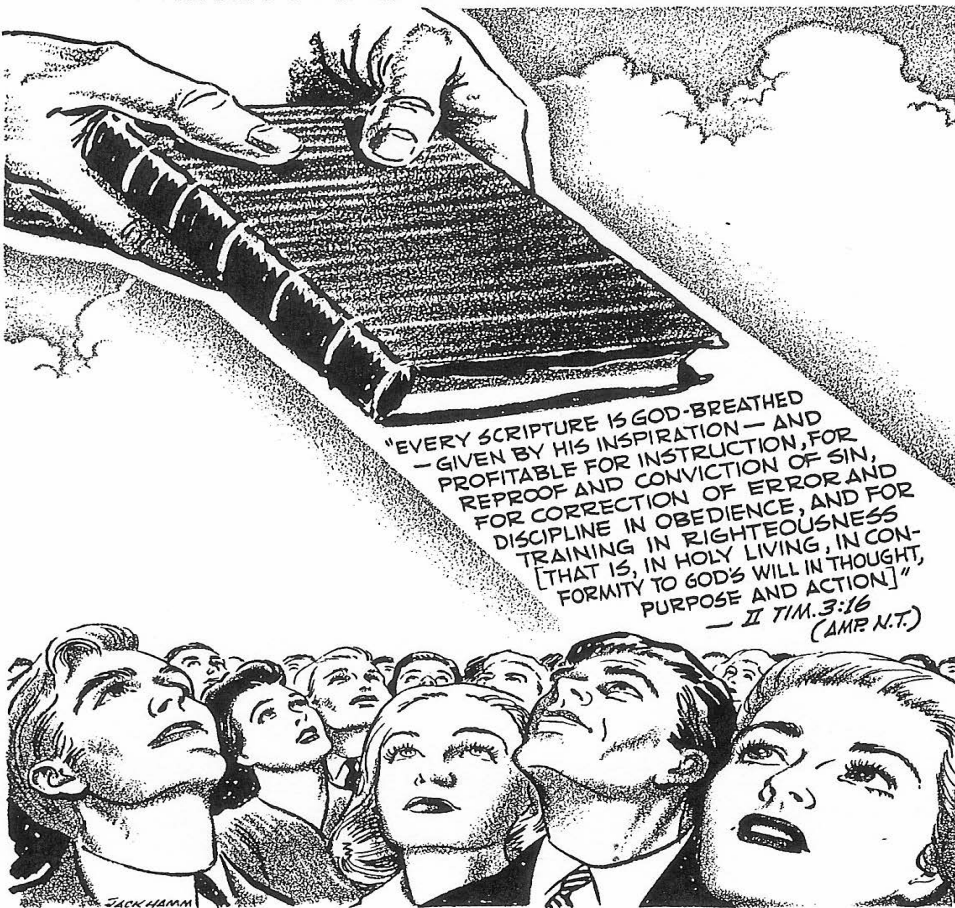
When I say "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are too visible
But God believes I'm worth it.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
Which is why I seek HIS name.

When I say "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge.
I have no authority
I only know I'm loved.

Maya Angelou

THE MOST DEPENDABLE GUIDELINES



God's Holiness by: Donald Bryant

I have heard about prisoners all my life. I have seen prisoners throughout my life. I have visited prisoners in their jail cells. But I have never thought of myself as a prisoner.

However, it is amazing how many individuals have come to me through the years with the declaration that I am in prison because of rules, standards and boundaries. "You're not free in Christ" is thrown out as if that statement alone establishes the proof of what God demands from His people. Does the world think that a Christian's life is about a bunch of "you cannot do that" rules? Too many people are truly bound, not by rules or prison bars, but by the very lack of rules or boundaries. True freedom cannot exist without boundaries. Freedom and discipline have come to be regarded as mutually exclusive, when in fact, freedom is not at all the opposite, but the final reward, of discipline. A great part of claiming and walking in victory and freedom is simply the decisions we make to be holy - to live holy lives. What is holiness? In its most basic and literal understanding, to be "holy" means "to be set apart". Holiness is the condition or the state of being "set apart" or being "removed" from all that is sinful or worldly. The need for us to be holy is grounded in the holiness of God because the most central attribute of God is His perfect holiness.

A.W.Tozer wrote "God's holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire his wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine."

It's important to realize the imperative that Christians have to live lives of holiness - and WHY we are to do so. God does not say: "Be holy, and I'll make it worth your while." Not even "Be holy, and I'll bless you." NO. God says in His law "Be holy. FOR I AM HOLY." Holiness is God's essential character. The journey of the believer is INTO HOLINESS. It's about becoming more and more distinct and separate from the fallen condition of this world. The opposite of holiness is "SAMENESS". To be unholy is to be just the same as everybody else. Our lives should be a stark contrast to those around us who have not come into right relationship with God.

So here is the race the Christian runs. Hebrews 12:14 commands us to "pursue ... holiness without which no person will see the Lord." Everything in God's presence is holy - set apart for Him, sharing His holiness. All in His presence are holy.

The key to freedom and a life of holiness then lies partly in being set apart or having boundaries or standards. These in and of themselves don't make a person holy, but can facilitate his separation and will give an individual true freedom.

What is God's number one agenda for your life. today? CHANGE! He is making you holy. Every day He's making you to be more like Him. He's setting you apart to be uniquely His - separate from all that is ungodly.

A life of holiness is a DELIGHT, not just a duty. It brings marvelous joy. True holiness brings us into close, uninhibited fellowship with God. And that in itself is where real joy and fulfillment is found.

Called To Freedom

Called to freedom,
not worldly bondage
called to understanding
wisdom and knowledge.

Called to liberation,
not worldly dependence
called into holy living
moral transcendence.

Called to empowerment,
not worldly subjection
called to be the Light
of Jesus' reflection

Called to separation,
not worldly servitude
called to be discerning
with minds daily renewed.

Called to freedom,
not worldly conformation
called into a new life
a holy transformation!by

by:Deborah Ann Belka

I believe miracles are
on the way, today,
tomorrow, every day.

The Truth That Is Important

by I. A. Meeks

In these last days, what we all need is to hear a clear sound, words that will give us the right direction. So many do not know what is right morally or spiritually.

Pilate asked Jesus a question, "...What is truth?" (John 18:38). Truth scripturally may be defined as conformity to fact or actuality; faithfulness to original or to a standard. One of the most positive voices of direction and truth must be found in the Christian church today. Jesus Christ must be our standard and prototype. We as Christians must point mankind to Jesus.

Jesus is the truth. " ... I am the way, the truth and the life" (John 14:6). I have learned that people want to know what is right and the things that will help them have a better quality of life. Every soul that we have helped to find Jesus has come to see that serving the Lord is the greatest thing that has ever happened in their life.

If a person desires to know what is right morally and spiritually, let me point him to the Lord. Truth is a moral and personal characteristic of God. He is merciful and gracious and long suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.

We must not forget that all of God's work, precepts and judgements are done in righteousness and truth. Furthermore, because of the Lord's character and perfect nature, it is imperative that He speaks and acts in complete truth, hence He cannot lie.

Not one person should ever be reluctant in following the Lord. According to John 1: 14, God became flesh, thus, Christ became the vessel that the Father used to lead and guide men in the correct pathway of life.

Grace and truth today is found in the person of our Lord. All that James declared was truth, the message he spoke came from the Father.

The promises He made to men surely came to pass and are coming to pass in the lives of those who will step out by faith and obey His voice as He speaks.

The Bible is the truth we must live by. It is the Word of God.

Heaven and earth may pass away, but the Word of God will endure forever. David said the entirety of God's Word is truth (Psalm 119: 160).

Jesus is our example in love (John 11:36); in forgiveness (Luke 23:34); in compassion (Matthew 14:14).

What It Amounts To



"For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart." - Hebrews 4:12

Nothing compares to the Word of God. It is Active, Operative, Energizing and Effective.

The work that the Word of God does is like no other. There is something about God's Word that reaches into the unreachable places of our spirits and exposes what needs exposing. God's Word brings into alignment our thoughts, actions and our plans - with His truth.

Whatever there is within us contrary to the Word of Truth, it will be exposed so we can make changes. Sometimes this can be a painful time if it is a past hurt or a painful memory we have long before buried deep within. We often don't want to revisit the past, when it brings us so much pain.

God's Word can bring healing, restoration, comfort and hope. It builds up our faith to be able to stand firm. We need to allow God's word to do a thorough work within, and align our lives to God's truth.

The world disguises lies as truth, but God's Word will stand and expose it for what it is. Don't get caught up in what the world says, but measure it up with what God's Word of Truth says.

© By M.S.Lowndes

Water Baptism cannot save anyone. The blood of Jesus the Lamb of God, remits sin and cleanses the sinner. The theory of baptismal regeneration is not a doctrine. It is a dogma. It is absolutely with-out scriptural backing. Let the stewards of the Word of God zealously guard its peerless prerogatives. "Every word of God is pure ... Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6). The Word is the only real cleansing power. "Ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you" (John 15:3). You cannot inject a material ingredient into a Spirit entity. "That which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). Material water is merely a type of the Holy Spirit-the "living Water." "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 3: 11). The Holy Ghost is "Living Water." "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water, But this spake he of the Spirit"

(John 7:38-39). Baptism is tremendously significant because it sets forth in a spiritual photograph, the repentant, believing, obedient sinner's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Its significance is not in the water but in the name of Jesus, which means "The Lord who saves you." Baptism does not save from the filth of the flesh; it is the answer of a good conscience toward God, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

(See 1 Peter 3:21.)

Surely this wonderful scriptural rite could not have a greater significance than this. Because baptism is the scriptural mode of identification with Jesus in His death and resurrection, we find it included in the three accounts of the Great Commission: (Matthew 28: 19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47). There it is commanded by Jesus, practiced by the

apostles in dealing with both Jew and Gentile, and its true significance expounded in the teaching.

The Significance Of Water Baptism

By Frank J. Ewart
(1877-1947)

When Peter, Paul, or Philip the evangelist preached Christ, all who believed were instantly baptized in Jesus' name. Those who did not believe were not baptized. When Paul did not have a helper to do the baptizing, he baptized his own converts. (See 1 Corinthians 1: 17-27.) At Ephesus, he expounded the true significance of baptism in the name of Jesus to the disciples of Apollos, and though they had been baptized, he baptized them again, in the name of the Lord Jesus.

God's precious people err, when they quote Paul to justify them in doing away with water baptism. He preached it as essential in a true understanding of the gospel of grace, declared this to be the only gospel, and put a curse on any other. He asks, in Romans 6:2, "How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Then he shows us that by baptism we put our faith in Christ's death and resurrection, as that which will make us dead to sin and alive unto God through our Lord Jesus Christ. He used the Red Sea judgment on Pharaoh and his host as a type of God's judgment on old creation or our "old man." Pha-raoh is a type of the "old man,"

and you can search the records of the Pharaohs and there is significant break in the records-one is missing. The last we hear of him, he is dead, at the bottom of the Red Sea. In Colossians 2: 12, Paul explained that baptism means a burial with Christ, and calls it "true Christian circumcision." This is of the utmost importance. In Galatians 3:27, he declared, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." The apostles of Jesus preached Christ so that their hearers were invariably eager to be baptized in His name. The record at the very beginning of the Acts of the Apostles: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized," is exemplified in every revival thereafter. If we are preaching Christ as they did, our preaching should produce the same affect on our audience and be justified by like results. Baptism in the name of Jesus and the preaching of the Cross are inseparable. You cannot do away with baptism unless you cease preaching the Cross as the apostle Paul preached it. This will hold good both in this age and that which is to come.

PRAYER
changes things

If you want to lift
yourself up, lift
someone else up.

The Liberated Hen House



THE CHICKEN YARD WAS IN AN ABSOLUTE TIZZY. Never had chickens been pitted against chickens like this—roosters against hens, hens against chicks, and chicks against everybody! It was awful, and no one seemed able to bring peace to the hen house. Chaos reigned, and it all started over one young hen wanting to be liberated.

It had happened only a few before, about the time summer heat was reaching its worst temperatures. The young hen, Birdie by name, was sitting on her roost sweltering in the heat.

"I've had it. I'm sick and tired of burning up in this heat. And you know why I'm so hot! It's these stupid feathers! Who needs them?"

Birdie's mom looked over at her in astonishment. "Why, Birdie, your feathers are your beauty, and you have been I blessed with such a lovely array of colored feathers! I don't want you talking like that again. This heat will pass."

"But they are so useless. And I'm tired of the tyranny and bondage of these silly things. I say we pluck them out!"

Her mom gasped in horror. Just at that moment some other equally liberated young hens were scratching outside. Upon hearing what was said, they applauded and cheered. "Right on, Birdie! We're with you all the way!" And that was the beginning of pandemonium.

The next day, several of the teenage hens and roosters were picketing the hen house and calling for a Poultry Council meeting to discuss the matter. Mavel, the oldest hen in the chicken coop, was behind them one hundred percent and carried a sign reading "FEATHERS AREN'T FOR ME, SET ME FREE." Other signs read

"ONLY CREEPS LIKE THIS HEAT," "PLUCK ME, PLUCK ME, PLUCK ME," and "DON'T BE A SLAVE, GET A SHAVE!"

Needless to say, the issue had to be resolved. The hen house was divided down the middle. Half the chickens thought Birdie's idea was the greatest thing since automatic feeders, but the other half thought the idea was preposterous and absurd, a discredit to all poultry everywhere, and wanted no part of it. The Poultry Council was going to have

to make a decision. Anarchy could not go on like this. Everyone was so caught up in the upheaval that egg production had almost come to a halt.

The council called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. that infamous Saturday evening. The yard was jam packed. Word had spread to neighboring chicken yards, and many flew the coop to be at this momentous meeting. Everyone knew history was being made. Birdie, the hub of the controversy, was asked to speak on behalf of all those fowl who wanted to see the old standards set aside. "Too long we in the younger generation have sat under the archaic rules of our forefathers. We want to be free! Keeping feathers is a bondage that some aged rooster put on us to keep us bowed down, but I say, PLUCK US AND LET US GO FREE!" The liberated crowd cheered wildly. Birdie continued, "We do not ask that all poultry everywhere must abide by our decision, just let us have the right to do as we please!"

The pluck crowd cheered so loudly and fervently that it was several minutes before the meeting could go on. A wise and respected rooster was asked to speak on the side of the chicken population who wanted to keep what they had. Old Stonewall began like this: "I understand the point that Birdie is trying to make. There are times that our feathers are a burden to us. Though they are somewhat warm today, I'm sure there will come a day when we will need them. The young ones in our midst should not be so quick to leave the old paths. We may not understand the reasons why we must keep our feathers, but perhaps someday these reasons will be made known to us."

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The Poultry Council deliberated for several hours, and though it was late into the night, all the spectators stayed until the decision was issued. The council members filed in one by one, and Elijah, the chairman, stood to give the verdict. "We have personal convictions that strongly side with those of the yard who want to leave things as they are and let the fowl keep their feathers. However, we rule that if Birdie and her following want to pluck, then let them pluck on!" The crowd went wild! Birdie and the liberated group flapped their wings and jumped on top of the hen house. Victory was theirs and they were enjoying it.

Though they had roosted very late that night, at sunrise a great line of chickens had already formed to have their feathers plucked. Birdie called in others from barnyards around the community to help in the feather pulling. And how the feathers flew! A cloud of feathers rose from the chicken coop by the end of the day. And, oh, the sight that one beheld at sundown! The plucked chickens strutted around completely bare of all their feathers except for a few around their faces. Many of the older hens had tears running down their beaks in sadness. Birdie's mom left the chicken yard in disgrace, never to return. In the weeks ahead, word of the controversy spread throughout the countryside and thousands of chickens became liberated. Birdie was truly a celebrity.

(continued page 12)

The Liberated Hen House

continued

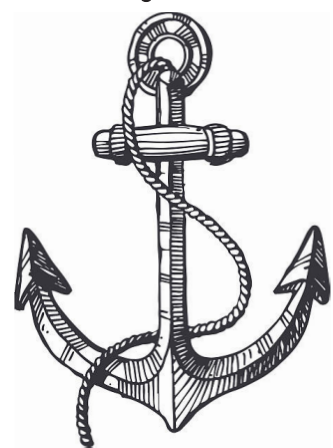
The days went by, and one morning the hen house awoke to a brisk wind outside. The feathered chickens hardly noticed it, but the liberated, plucked chickens would not stick their heads out. With each passing day,

The temperatures grew colder and colder the plucked crowd became weak from staying indoors. Very little food made its way into the hen house. And were they cold! There was no relief. The hay just did not have the warmth their feathers had. Bad colds developed among them, and when the really cold weather came, pneumonia set in. The plucked crowd was the most pitiful looking group of living beings ever to walk on the face of the earth.

One morning after a deep snow had settled, they awoke to seven dead chickens. The next morning eight more were dead. Birdie huddled in a corner with a weak cough but would occasionally whisper, "I'm sorry" to her dying mends. By the end of the week every plucked chicken throughout the region lay dead. Such grieving and mourning had never been seen in the countryside.

Elijah, chairman of the Poultry Council, gave the final eulogy with tears in his old eyes. "Somehow I feel responsible. If the council had voted to forbid the pluckings, perhaps they could have been saved. Those in leadership carry a vast responsibility, and surely I will carry this weight as long as I live."

They learned a lesson: absolute "freedom" carries its own bondage.



**You can't
control the
way the
wind blows,
But you can
adjust the
sails**



Have You Hugged Your Pastor's Wife Today?

Some of the most dedicated people we know are pastor's wives. Many have a strong sense of calling in their particular ministry. Yet, the pressures on them are great and in some instances greater than that experienced by their husbands. Usually the pastor's wife has all of the problems the pastor has, plus him. This is enough for an overload.

In order to help the pastor's wife deal with life, church members should understand the kinds of things that cause stress, tension, and pressure and take positive steps to help overcome them.

First, there is the pressure to serve in every position that is difficult to fill. There are some church people who believe that because the pastor is paid full-time to serve the church, then his wife is to be a full time unpaid worker. The pastor's wife should have the same right to say "yes" or "no" as any other woman in the church. She should not be made to feel guilty and that she is not "dedicated" if she doesn't do everything anybody asks of her. Sometimes the pastor's wife is asked to lead a class nobody else would teach. This is also unfair and could cause her to feel she had no choice in the matter. Second, there is the pressure to do a major portion of earning enough salary to live on.

The church people should not automatically think that the pastor's wife is to help earn a living. If she chooses to work' outside the home, then that is good. But she should not be overloaded with jobs that others should and could do. The pastor's wife cannot rest on weekends. After working all week, her weekends pick up speed with church responsibilities and preparations. Sunday is not a day of rest for the pastor's family. Third, there is the pressure of coping with her husband's schedule. Even though it is good when the pastor and wife, can minister together, there are times when the pastor's wife cannot do everything the pastor does and be everywhere the pastor is. This is especially true if they have children. In most cases, the pastor attends many meetings and ministers at all hours. Even when the pastor is at home, he may be called away to the hospital or for some other emergency at any time. There are many times when the pastor's wife is at home alone while he is away meeting other people's needs. While the ministry is the pastor's calling, there are times when the pastor's family needs ministry. Finally, there are other pressures. Some people use the pastor's wife to get the pastor to do things; or feel that to tell the pastor's wife something is the same as telling the pastor; or when the pastor is away then the pastor's wife must visit, make phone calls, tend to business as a associate pastor. So what can churches do to help reduce the pressure of pastor's wives? First, they can recognize that pressures exist. They can be kind, cheerful, understanding and considerate of her. Second, let her be who she is and don't try to force her into a former pastor's wife mold or someone you think she should be. Third, realize the pastor's wife has the same needs, dreams, feelings, and problems that any wife and/or mother has. She too, needs attention. She needs a real friend. Fourth, pray for your pastor's wife. She needs prayer support as much as her husband does. Fifth, when you see her Sunday, give her a big hug, and tell her you love her, appreciate her, and you would like to take her and her family out for lunch. What a difference that would make if we could be that type of people .

The Risk We Run In Being A Church

by: C.M.becton

It just never occurred to me that the church that Jesus said He would build upon a rock and against which the gates of hell shall not prevail was running any risks. Therefore, the title of this article is not original. It came from an article that appeared in the Nashville Tennessean. Its title, "Bucking Strong Tides - Church Moral Voice of Society," led me to read the first paragraph, which started with a question: "What happens when a person's private views appear to conflict with the church?" The answer was: "While society is more receptive to changing moral standards, most churches are holding firm to beliefs, even at the cost of losing members."

Of course, I was interested in the author of the article and was surprised to discover that he was Pastor Clark of the fashionable West End United Methodist Church, a church said to be connected with Vanderbilt University. His remarkable answer was not what I expected from a United Methodist minister.

In the fourth paragraph, he explained his answer: "The church obviously runs the risk of offending people by upholding standards which are alienating to some. But then that is the risk we run in being a church." His explanation, from which I lifted my title, underscored the purpose of the church to uphold standards even when to do so offends people. He clearly stated the position the church must maintain in regard to the way people live. "In some ways the church is simply caught in the middle. We want to minister and reach people but we can't do so at the cost of compromising the church. The church upholds a standard that is alienating to some. but for others it represents an island of stability where the rules do not change." He then continued. "[being] caught in the middle of wanting desperately to minister to someone but being unable to approve of their lifestyle often places ministers in agonizing positions." His concluding remarks sound more like a United Pentecostal minister: "People don't want their religion soft-peddled. They want a church to make demands on them. Making demands is the charge of all churches. Churches are the moral voice of society."

We do not read many articles in newspapers as thought-provoking as the words of Pastor Clark. In fact, today's prevalent mentality among ministers and churches is not to offend anyone but to make everyone feel so

comfortable that they will keep on coming to church. In their efforts to accommodate everyone, many ministers simply air-brush sin out of their language.

One minister observed, "To fill their burgeoning need for spiritual comfort, Christians are flocking to jumbo-size churches." The jumbo-size churches are outfitted with health clubs, movie theaters, and a 24-hour prayer hot line. What a combination! One such church changed its name to "Shepherd of the Hills," and it was built to look like a divine dude ranch. It is obvious that thousands of people are searching for a faith that fits them rather than fitting their lives to the faith. These people do not convert; they merely choose. What must God think about current church trends? Did He intend that His church merely make people comfortable? Are we to miss out on evangelizing the masses if we do not accommodate them with entertainment to make them feel good? John MacArthur, Jr. wrote: "We don't want to be personally or institutionally offensive, but we cannot buffer the offense of the cross." But do not churches "buffer the offense of the cross" when they turn to merchandising schemes and entertainment programs in an effort to appeal to people?

Preaching the Word may be too confrontive to many, and the unvarnished gospel is certainly offensive to people who love pleasure more than they love truth. Better to charm people first and then subtly to slip the gospel into the program. But those who follow this misguided philosophy seldom get beyond entertainment, and when they do they often shun profound truth and deep experiences of worship, prayer, and conviction in favor of a perverted gospel. They do not want to run the risk of losing their crowd.

Donald Stamp, a missionary for a large Pentecostal organization, wrote: There are those in the Pentecostal movement who feel no need to defend the biblical faith as did the New Testament apostles. Rather, they glory in their tolerance for all kinds of doctrines as long as those doctrines are accompanied by a professed

experience with the Holy Spirit.

They are attracted to successful preachers who openly scorn the apostolic faith. They lack sympathy and affection for the true spirit of the Bible which rebukes and reproves false doctrine. They seem ready to accept without challenge nearly anything for the cause of unity or the success of their own ministry. "It is tragic that their inability to recognize that distortion of the Pentecostal biblical faith will result in millions of souls being eternally lost."

There is a risk we run in being a church. The recorded words of Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost can be read in less than four minutes. Yet his message invaded the comfort zone of the hearers. Peter climaxed his sermon by pointing them to Jesus being crucified and glorified: "That God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The people were pricked in their hearts and so smitten with conviction that they asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Peter's answer was not a gentle suggestion but a command that has thundered through the centuries:

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

A Christian advertising agent, who both represented the Coca-Cola Corporation and engineered the "I found it" evangelistic campaign, stated the mentality of today's church world: "Back in Jerusalem where the church started, God performed a miracle there on the Day of Pentecost. They didn't have the benefits of buttons and media, so God had to do a little supernatural work there. But today, with our technology, we have available to us the opportunity to create the same kind of interest in a secular society." Paul wrote to Timothy about those who are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Timothy 3:7).

continued on page 14

Think On These Things

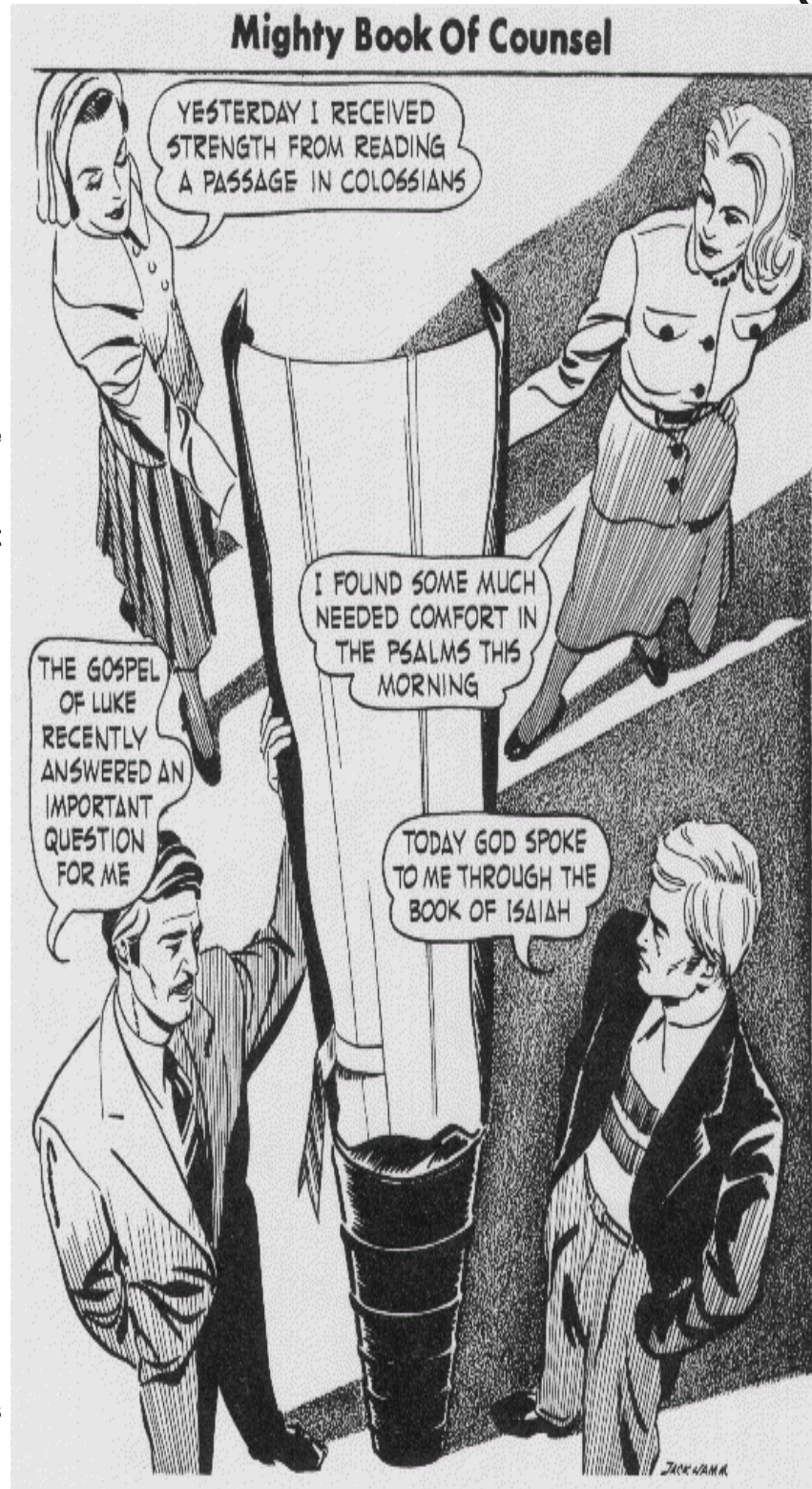
The Risk We Run In Being A Church continued

Paul wrote to Timothy about those who are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." (II Timothy 3:7). The technology of today may be all right in some areas, but when we depend on it rather than on God's supernatural presence, we assume that there is no need for God, even in His church.

What a risk it was for Peter to expose Ananias and Sapphira for their deceit (Acts 5). But they were both carried out lifeless, causing great fear to come upon all. Some people may not want God's supernatural power displayed today, but without God working among us we will not reap the harvest of souls in our communities. Let us note the results of the risk Peter took in confronting Ananias and Sapphira: "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed everyone" (Acts 5:12-16).

It is worth the risk of being the church that holds firmly to its scriptural beliefs, for when people wake up to their need of salvation, they will cease to be comfortable with their worldly lifestyle and turn to God, who provides the only comfort to troubled hearts and the only answer to spiritual problems. More than anything else, we need the supernatural presence of God in our midst today. This means that the church Jesus built will take the risk of displeasing the crowds by standing firm on the gospel message. The apostle Paul wrote the position we must all take "for I am not ashamed of gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16-17).



The Master Speaks

What happened to the years? I asked, He said, "for everything a time". Where are my friends of long ago? He said, "beyond the hill you climb". Why are my footsteps slower now? He said " 'tis all within the plan".

But what of all my hopes and dreams? He said, "they mellowed with the man".

But there is still so much to do, He said, "be grateful for today".

The road to heaven seems so long, He said, "there is no other way".

But what of all the things I need? He said, "and do I not provide?"

Sometimes I even grow afraid, He said, "I'm always at thy side".

He said, "I'm always at thy side".

My purse is thin, my coins are few,

He said, "sufficient for the day".

And oftentimes I'm wrongly judged,

He said, "care not what others say".

Oh, to be peaceful and secure,

He said, "all things are thine in Me".

My cross grows heavy with the miles,

He said, "I'll lift it presently".

The future looks so bleak and grey,

He said " 'tis darkest 'fore the dawn".

But who will share my lonely way?

He said "you've Me to lean upon. No

love so lasting as My own,

No power greater than My hand, For

you belong to Me, and this

Is all you need to understand".

The only people that are mad at you for speaking the truth are those people living a lie !

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

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