

# BIBLE MONITOR

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“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

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OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,  
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

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## HOLY SPIRIT, FAITHFUL GUIDE

Holy Spirit, faithful Guide, Ever near the Christian's side,  
Gently lead us by thy hand, Pilgrims in a desert land;  
Weary souls fore'er rejoice, While they hear that sweetest voice,  
Whisp'ring softly "Wand'rer, come! Follow me, I'll guide thee home."

Ever present, truest Friend, Ever near thine aid to lend,  
Leave us not to doubt and fear, Groping on in darkness drear;  
When the storms are raging sore, Hearts grow faint, and hopes give o'er,  
Whisper softly, "Wanderer, come! Follow me, I'll guide thee home."

When our days of toil shall cease, Waiting still for sweet release,  
Nothing left but heaven and prayer, Trusting that our names are there;  
Wading deep the dismal flood, Pleading naught but Jesus' blood,  
Whisper softly, "Wanderer, come! Follow me, I'll guide thee home."

—*M. M. Wells*

## THE WIND

Springtime is often noted for being windy, whether light zephyrs or strong storms. They can become destructive, buildings may be destroyed; soil may be blown across the country. Depending on the temperature, it can become a very hot or a very cold wind. Wind can deepen a storm or help to evaporate water that lies in the low places.

We are able to see the effects of the wind's blowing, but we cannot see the wind itself. Since we cannot see it, we might not recognize its power. The invisible wind can be either a helpful or destructive power.

The wind brings change. A destructive wind will change the landscape by moving great quantities of soil. When

productive topsoil blows away the remaining ground lacks the proper nutrients and fertility to produce adequate crops. Hurricanes, tornados, and seasonal winds may remove buildings, destroy crops, create floods and other disasters. Strong winds can easily move what men have built.

The physical winds can bring changes in our lives that will be helpful or harmful. They can either inspire us to make changes that are necessary to protect, enhance or improve our property and even our lives. The wind's destructiveness can traumatize our lives, challenge us or ruin us. These winds can affect us physically, socially, and spiritually.

It is little wonder that Jesus

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used the power of the wind when He was speaking to Nicodemus about the power of the Holy Spirit. He spoke of the physical wind's invisibility yet very powerful force as it blows and changes what is in its path. As the wind blows, it brings change. The soil is dried; the landscape is changed; the handicraft of men is blown away. Its power though unseen by the human eye brings change that is very identifiable.

The Holy Spirit of God is not readily apparent but the result of His movement becomes apparent as a man yields himself to His power. The power of the Spirit may be subtle to those looking on, but to the person affected by His power it can be very dramatic. He should be allowed to lead and bring change into each individual's life.

While the Spirit's influence can at times be very dramatic, at other times it is a slow, soft breeze that brings gradual change. When Nicodemus came to Jesus, under the cover of night, he had questions; Jesus did not directly answer his questions, but introduced to him the more important issues of his relationship with God.

He spoke of being born again which Nicodemus could not comprehend. Jesus spoke of that rebirth not being a physical but a spiritual experience in his life. Jesus spoke of the Spirit moving as a wind in his life to draw him to God. Nicodemus did not understand all that Jesus shared, but as we follow the Biblical narrative, we see glimpses of Nicodemus at various points in Jesus' earthly ministry. We see a man who makes changes slowly. He did not reveal himself fully as a believer as he continued to serve with Jewish theological hierarchy.

However at the time of Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin, we see Nicodemus as His chief defender. He and Joseph of Arimathea were not able to dissuade the others from their course of condemning Jesus and of persuading Pilate to crucify Him. They did serve Jesus in providing the service of a burial place, rather than leaving His body to rot on the cross and become the feast of the vultures. They provided the basic service of preparing His body for burial.

The Holy Spirit as a quiet, soft breeze had moved on Nicodemus' heart to the point

that he would publicly identify himself as a believer. In other men's lives, the Holy Spirit has moved in more dramatic ways. Often He brings a total change of purpose and action into their lives. This type of change we can view in the dramatic scene on the road to Damascus as Saul was struck down and blinded. Despite his intention to arrest and frustrate the believers in Damascus, he entered the city helpless and blind. The moving of the Holy Spirit upon Ananias brought the relief and direction that Saul needed. From that

time, Saul became a totally different man, with a different purpose and destination.

Unbelievers need the dramatic change, wrought by the Holy Spirit, from serving self to serving God. Believers need to listen to the Holy Spirit, so they can live, serve and worship God consistently.

Has the wind of the Holy Spirit blown into your life, not only bringing you into the family of God, but to whole heartedly serve and worship Him?

M. C. Cook

## SETI

You may have heard of SETI (pronounced "set-ee"). SETI is an acronym for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. The word extraterrestrial means above or outside the earth. So, in other words, SETI refers to the search for intelligence beyond our world. Some know this as the search for alien life.

Interest in aliens has been around for a long time. In the late 1890's the famous electrical and mechanical engineer and physicist Nikola Tesla suggested that we might be able to contact beings on Mars by using a

wireless electrical transmission system. On August 21-23, 1924, Mars passed closer to the Earth than it had during the previous century and wouldn't be this close again for about eighty years. So, in the United States a "National Radio Silence Day" was encouraged during this time and people were asked to turn off all radios for five minutes on the hour, every hour. Why? To listen for radio transmissions coming from Mars, of course. Needless to say, no Martian broadcasts were heard.

During the space race in

the 1960's, the Soviet Union took an interest in SETI. After all, when you're in such strong competition, isn't it always good to get outside help? Especially if the help comes from an expert?

Likewise, the U.S. government also took an interest in SETI. Many millions of dollars have been spent on building and operating radio telescopes to listen in deep space for any signals, for any signs of intelligence. After all these years of listening, what have the radio telescopes heard? Pure silence.

The U.S. government even has a SETI Institute dedicated to this search for extraterrestrial intelligence. Part of the SETI Institute's Mission is *"to explore, understand, and explain the origin and nature of life in the universe, and to apply the knowledge gained to inspire and guide present and future generations"*. This sounds like a noble mission statement doesn't it?

But wait a minute. Don't we already know the origin and nature of life in the universe? Genesis 1 states *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"*. This chapter also says that God created life and that He created

it good. However, because of man's sin, the Bible indicates that the universe is affected by the curse. Genesis 3:17 indicates that the ground is cursed because of man's sin. Further, Isaiah 51:6 states *"Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished"*.

So what is the origin and nature of life in the universe? God says that He's the origin (the creator) of life. Further, He says that while He created it with a good nature, man corrupted its nature and it now suffers. Life in the universe is decaying and will eventually pass away. However, God offers us salvation, so we can live forever.

So, if we already know the origin and nature of life in the universe, why are some people still searching for it? I suppose that there are many different reasons, but ultimately, they may search because they either haven't heard about Jesus Christ, haven't really considered

what He says in His word or have rejected Him.

As people around us ask the question "*Is there intelligent life out there somewhere trying to communicate with us?*" The answer is...Absolutely! That intelligent life created every one of us and offers us eternal salvation through His Son and speaks to us through His word!

Those radio telescopes have been persistently listening to the universe, but have heard only silence. But it is not so with you. Listen and you will hear. Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened to you. Be still and know that He is God.

Brother Ken Brock

### **--WHEREFORE DIDST THOU DOUBT?**

"But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid." Matthew 14:30

While he was in the boat, the wind and the waves were boisterous, but Peter only saw Jesus walking on top of the water. Peter recognized Him and saw an opportunity to do as He did. Jesus allowed Peter to walk on the water but it was then that Peter reckoned to himself and saw the waves. He took his eyes off Jesus and he began to sink. To reckon means to reason, to consider, or to calculate, as in a mathematical equation.

In Romans chapter six Paul talks of being crucified with Christ, which allows us to reckon ourselves as dead to sin, and alive unto God. Understanding our relationship to God requires

reckoning and meditation on our part. When we are commanded of God to do something, we often cannot afford to pause to consider it, we must trust in Him and forge ahead.

When Jesus told the disciples to "launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught," (Go where you have not gone before and immediately cast out your nets,) did they debate? Did they argue with Him? They did as they were commanded. (Luke 5:4)

We often consider our situation and then doubt ourselves, which turns into doubting God. It is hard to get self out of the way, even in Peter's case when Jesus was right there in the flesh. Jesus could have made Peter fly if He

had so chosen, but this was a lesson for all time and for all people. "Why did you doubt me?" Circumstances stood in the way of fully trusting God. Self stood in the way. He does the work; we get out of the way.

Henry Van Dyke wrote in 1908:

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee,  
Hail thee as the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day.

There are many things that we need from God, and He is willing to give pressed-down, shaken-together, and running over. One of the things we need is complete confidence in the work and ability of God.

To believe is to commit yourself one hundred percent to God. It is a must to spend time in the Word and the prayer closet. To know the mind of Christ and abide in Him is essential to consider ourselves to be a disciple. If we examine John, chapter 11 in which Lazarus is raised from the dead, we explore the relationship between Jesus and Martha. She believed that

Jesus had certain power at His disposal. Had He been there He could have healed Lazarus, but now that he was dead, apparently Jesus could do nothing more. When Jesus suggested that Lazarus would rise again, she only thought of the resurrection. She did not think Lazarus could rise today. Martha was putting limits on Jesus. We must be careful not to do so ourselves. Once Lazarus was risen from the dead, she understood. Jesus told her, "If thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God." (John 11:40) Moses got to the point in his relationship with God that he could say "I beseech thee, show me thy glory." (Exodus 33:18) Seeing the glory of God is available to all who believe.

Our doubt must flee away. Johnson Oatman wrote:

My heart has no desire to stay  
Where doubts arise and fears dismay;  
Tho' some may dwell where these  
abound,  
My prayer, my aim is higher ground.

The Bible reminds us in Hebrews 12 of the great cloud of witnesses that testify of Him and encourage us on a daily basis. In 1709, Isaac Watts penned a hymn attesting to these facts. It has blessed me since I first heard it.

### **Wings of Faith**

Give me the wings of faith to rise  
Within the vail, and see  
The saints above – how great their joys,  
How bright their glories be!

Once they were mourning here below,  
And wet their couch with tears;  
They wrestled hard, as we do now,  
With sins, and doubts, and fears.

I ask them whence their vict'ry came;  
They, with united breath,  
Ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,  
Their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,  
His zeal inspired their breast;  
And, foll'wing their incarnate Lord,  
Possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise  
For his own pattern giv'n,  
While the long cloud of witnesses  
Show the same path to heav'n.

-Brethren Hymnal, #557

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
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Mohler's Congregation



## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

*As we “study to shew ourselves approved unto God...”*

## March 2018 Study Questions

**March 4 – Read Hebrews 6:1-10**

How do you reconcile the last 3 verses of chapter 5 with the first 3 verses of chapter 6?

Are verses 4-6 a clear indication that someone can lose their salvation?

Does the example given in verses 7-8 substantiate such a conclusion?

Why is it impossible to renew someone to repentance again, who has fallen away?

Does Jesus' parable of the soils help us gain any clarity?

Which is more believable: that someone can lose their salvation or was never really saved?

What parallel can be drawn between verses 4-6 and a previous example concerning the children of Israel?

What encouragement is given to these believers?

**Commentary:** It appears that the readers to whom this epistle was written are languishing in their faith. They are malnourished and immature spiritually in their development. The milk of the word is all they can digest. Their spiritual immaturity keeps them stuck in emphasizing pre-Christian doctrines rather than seeing their fulfillment in the person of Jesus Christ. Apart from Him the fields of our heart will grow briars and thorns. Spiritual growth is the only antidote for complacency. Our hearts need to be continually cultivated that they may bear much fruit.

**March 11 – Read Hebrews 6:11-20**

By whom or what standard do you measure your diligence?

What is the interplay of diligence, assurance, and hope?

Read Luke 2:25-30 as a possible example.

How is Abraham an example of both diligence and the full assurance of hope?

What are the two immutable things referred to?

What is the hope that we need to lay hold of that is set before us?

How do we lay hold of it?

What does an anchor do and how is it like hope for our soul?

What is the significance of our hope entering behind the veil?

**Commentary:** Do we believe the promises of God? If so, let us be reminded of His complete faithfulness in His love and care for us. Few of us have faced the trials Abraham endured. Yet, God kept His promise to him. Though our faith wavers His promises remain true. As we trust the ongoing work of His salvation taking hold of us we must, with increasing diligence, lay hold of the hope that is in His promises to us. He assures us repeatedly that His word is true. With faith and patience our hope swells in the fullness of assurance that no veil separates us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **March 18 – Read Hebrews 7:1-14**

Since Melchizedek is only mentioned twice in the Bible outside of Hebrews why has he gained such prominence in the book of Hebrews?

What makes the priesthood of Melchizedek superior to the Aaronic priesthood?

What is the principal limitation (among many) of the Aaronic priesthood?

How has the priesthood changed?

**Commentary:** As a people we are not steeped in a long tradition involving a High Priest and its office. We strain to catch the significance of Melchizedek about whom the rest of the New Testament is silent. But the recipients of Hebrews needed to understand how Jesus, a son of David of the tribe of Judah, could somehow hold this office in Heaven but not on earth. Melchizedek offers an earthly comparison as a priest of God, distinct from the Aaronic priesthood and the law which it ministered. His offices included being a King of peace and a King of righteousness. Our High Priest ministers by grace through faith and His offices include being Prince of Peace and King of Kings who reigns forever.

**March 25 – Read Hebrews 7:15-28**

What is the basis of Melchizedek's priesthood?

How is it different from the Aaronic priesthood and how does it give us a glimpse of what was to come in Christ Jesus?

How is the old and new covenant contrasted?

Who has sworn what to whom and how does this contrast with the Aaronic priests?

What other reasons are given for the superiority of Christ as High Priest?

What final purpose does the oath provide in God's revelation to man?

**Commentary:** Melchizedek stands outside of our normal thinking when we consider salvation history. He is a brief and mysterious musical note in the lengthy story of Abraham's life. He appears again in one verse in Psalm 110, a messianic Psalm. Jesus uses that Psalm to confound the Pharisees but says nothing about Melchizedek. In Hebrews alone this solitary note becomes a melody adding to the totality of the symphonic understanding of who Christ is, especially as our great High Priest. Often enough we wonder whether our lives play any part in God's continuing salvation story through Jesus Christ. May Melchizedek's small role assure us that God uses us, in the likeness of His Son, according to His time and place.

Brother Phil Franklin  
Modesto, CA

**THE BIBLE**

It is so important for a young Christian to start reading. Therefore, the first lesson is designed to help establish your faith in the Bible, for it is the Word of God.

Keep in mind that the Bible is not a book of philosophy. Do not go to the Bible for a scientific

treatise. However, there is no discrepancy between ascertained facts of science, and the Bible.

The Bible is not just a book of history. But it is found to be accurate when history is recorded.

The Bible was given to man from God, revering Jesus Christ,

the Son of God, and God the Son, the only Savior. "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

He is the center and the circumference. It is Christ from Genesis to Revelation. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

The Bible is high above all other books, as the heavens are high above the earth.

Someone has said of the Bible, "Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, and practice it to be right."

The Bible is the inspired word of God. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction in righteousness..." (II Tim. 3:16).

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Pet. 1:21).

The Word of God has special power. "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb. 4:12).

The Bible commands the believer to study the Scriptures. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).

Holy Bible, valued treasure  
I will make of thee my choice,  
Who can fathom thee – or measure,  
Only he who knows thy voice.

I do prize thy holy teachings,  
And thy promises I claim.  
I adore thy meek beseeching  
To accept a Savior slain.

What were all the world without thee,  
All in ignorance yet would be,  
May all those that gladly seek thee  
Soon from evil be free.

May we render sweet submission  
To the wholesome laws of God.  
May we learn on what condition  
Life is promised through his word.

Buren Boone  
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## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Rudy Cover  
Matthew 5:43-48

Did you ever hate anyone? Did you ever feel that someone hated you? Anyone who hates you is your enemy. Jesus says to love your enemies. How can you love someone who doesn't like you?

Jesus had many enemies. They didn't like Him because He told them about their sins. Jesus loved them and wanted to help them. The only way that Jesus could help people who were sinners was to make them realize that they were doing wrong. If we don't know we are sinful, we have no way to correct our mistakes and do what is right. Jesus called the Pharisees, "hypocrites." A hypocrite is one who tries to make people believe he is good when really he is bad. Jesus said they were like whited sepulchers

which appear to be beautiful on the outside but within they are full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness. Because Jesus told them the truth, they hated Him and planned to put Him to death.

How could Jesus love people like that? Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He said, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." But who is righteous? There is none righteous, no not one. We all need Jesus. Without Him we are unrighteous; we are all sinful. We can only become righteous by letting Jesus come into our hearts and control our thoughts and actions. It is only through Jesus that we can love our enemies.

Jesus died on the cross for His enemies. He said, "Father

forgive them; for they know not what they do.” Jesus loved His enemies even though they nailed Him to the cross. If Jesus did that for us, how can we hate anyone?

After Jesus rose again from the grave and went to Heaven, Peter preached to the people and said, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart and said unto Peter and the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” When they realized what they had done to Jesus, the Son of God, they knew they were guilty. Do you know that if you sin you are just as guilty as they? That’s why Jesus had to die on the cross – because people are sinful. It was the only way that God could forgive

sin. Jesus paid the price so you and I could go free – but only if we choose to let Jesus control our lives.

Peter told those people, “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.” This is the only way we can love our enemies. We should not love their sinful ways but we should love their souls. We should want them to come to Jesus, too, and receive the promise of forgiveness and eternal life.

Can you love your enemies? Yes, you can, if you let Jesus come into your heart. When you receive His Holy Spirit, then you can be like Jesus. You can love your enemies like Jesus did.

Selected from the  
July 1, 1979  
issue of the Bible Monitor

## **JESUS CHRIST – OUR REDEMPTION AND SALVATION**

C. M. Kintner

He made atonement on the sacred cross of Calvary for the sins of the whole world that our fore-parents brought upon the whole human family by their transgression in the Garden of

Eden. Gen. 2:15-17; 3:22-24. His birth brought our Savior and Redeemer from Heaven. His life gave us the plan of salvation, the saving gospel of grace. His death gave His all. He made the great

sacrifice to save fallen humanity from sin and destruction. The Garden of Eden is a symbol of the Kingdom of God, separated from the world by sin. John 18:36.

First provision: Every child born in the human family is hereditary of the Adamic sin, but Jesus' death has redeemed all children in their helpless state. They are free, born without sin into God's kingdom – the Adamic sin is canceled. Jesus died once for all. There is no more sacrifice for sin. Heb. 10:10-26. Every child that dies under the age of accountability is saved.

Then were there brought unto Him little children, that he should put his hands on them and pray and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. And he laid his hands on them." Matt. 19:14-15. And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and sat him in the midst of them and said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little

child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." Matt. 18:3-4.

And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them and His disciples rebuked these that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the Kingdom of God. And he took them up in his arms, and put his hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:14-16. "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein." Luke 18:17.

Matthew, Mark and Luke record similar accounts, concerning Jesus receiving children and blessing them, for of such little children is the Kingdom of God. This is ample proof that God's eternal kingdom has more children that die under the age of accountability, than adults. The Lord reaps a bountiful harvest of children from all generations of the earth, from the creation to the end of the world.

Second provision: Is for the salvation of adults, who have knowledge of good and evil,

and accept the easy terms of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: that saves lost sinners by repentance and water baptism, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, for the remission of all past sins. Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-39. Jesus answered Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again." John 3:5-7. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12. Man must be submissive to God's commands, John 3:16-17.

Third provision: The Holy Ghost. Matt. 3:11, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Immerse with the Holy Ghost, as fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:3-4. He is also present during the fiery trials of life, for the trying of our faith and patience. Beloved, think it

not strange concerning these fiery trials which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Pet. 1:7.

Jesus saith unto Thomas, "I am the way the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. "If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter that He may abide with you forever." John 14:15-16. "But the comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." John 14:26.

The weightiest commandment for each man and woman is, to first seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all their temporal needs will be supplied. It is not God's will that any should perish. All that fail to be loyal obedient servants to Christ and the church, are double loss



to the Lord and His Eternal Kingdom. It makes redemption all in vain for them, all in vain if we don't allow the Holy Spirit to have first place in our lives: to lead and guide us into all truth

of God's Holy Word, to be saved by the blood of the Lamb of God.

Selected from the  
March 15, 1958  
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## THE BENEFITS OF ETERNAL WISDOM

A. W. Tozer

*Heavenly Father, open my eyes to recognize Thy hand in my life. I praise Thee for the enrichment that has come into my life as I have embraced Thy wisdom. May I be aware of my surroundings in light of what Thou art doing. Amen.*

In the book of Proverbs, you will discover eloquent but urgent exhortations to seek wisdom – to labor for it, to sell everything to get it, to get it by all means. In chapter 4, the Holy Spirit urges the wandering sons of men to “receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many” (v. 10). Elsewhere in the Old Testament, in the Psalms and in the books of the prophets, wisdom is presented in equally poetic and colorful terms, whereas the language in the New Testament is more doctrinal.

One question I pose is simply this: What does this offer us? If this is merely rhetoric, of what value is it? How does this change my life today?

The Scriptures speak often

about the wise man and the fool. The wise man has been illuminated with a divine infusion of wisdom from the heart of God. The fool has not. In the Scriptures, a fool cannot distinguish the chaff from the wheat. He does not know a pearl from a grain of corn, he does not know a diamond from glass; he does not know the living from the dead. He completely lacks the ability to distinguish the lasting value of things.

Human society is built on the errors of fools. This sounds brutal, but in the context of the Scriptures it is very kind. I say this because a fool acts without regard to future consequences – as though there were not another world besides this one and he was not intending to die. The strange thing is, he

lives this way only in his mortal life. Intellectually, he knows he's not going to be here always, and he makes sure his insurance is in place and writes a will and arranges for his family after he is gone. However, morally he lives as if he were going to be here forever, as if there were no death and no future life.

That is what a fool is, and again, a philosophy upon which our whole society is built.

Take ambition, for instance. Ambition drives men, enslaves them, and then at last hurls its victims down in disappointment. Human society has also arranged amusements in order to quiet the victim while death creeps nearer all the time.

Scripture says wisdom cures this. "If thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding...then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God" (Proverbs 2:3, 5). There comes an illumination to the heart that enables you to understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Again, in Proverbs 2:9, it says, "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."

Is it true, then, that the

average man on the street lacks understanding of righteousness, judgment, equity, and every good path? Look at the many who are seeking direction for their lives. The trouble is, a great deal of this seeking is simply a desire to have a guide that will help him get what he wants, get all the fun he can out of life and not have to pay the consequences. Many counselors today are doing that very thing. They meet with young people, instructing them in a manner that will enable them to have their own way, miss the cross, miss the dying to self, miss repentance, and ultimately miss the will of God. But the wisdom of God imparts discernment that will save you from the wrong choice and the false counselor.

Divine wisdom can also save us from worthless pursuits – those that are not God's will for us.

It is better for Christians to sit on their hands until the judgment than to undertake pursuits God has not willed for them. It is the wisdom of God that enables a man to be delivered from these pursuits, giving him discernment so that he will know God's truth and be delivered from false doctrine.

Too many people are led away by the suspicious, smooth, empty

sophistry of false doctrines, and it takes the Holy Spirit to teach us the difference. We should not only memorize the Word, which is an excellent thing to do, but also know the difference between truth and error in applying the Word faithfully.

No one upon whom the holy light of wisdom has shone will ever follow a false god. The voices of false shepherds are heard everywhere. If you try to meet a false shepherd on his own terms, he will win because he has been taught to respond to that. The true believer hears the voice of God and knows His voice.

Moreover, wisdom enables us to recognize God's hand. Many cannot see it, or they mistake the hand of man for God's. In the Old Testament, I find this statement in various forms over and over again: "And ye shall know that I am Jehovah." God wants to reveal Himself to His people.

Often we do not recognize the hand of God leading us providentially. The church fathers preached on the providence of God. They said, God "plays" the world as a man plays checkers, and every move He makes works with everything else to accomplish His will. He moves down the paths of the universe, making all things

fit together – playing the pieces around the board so as to win for you. You may not immediately see the providence of God, but the Holy Ghost will help you so that you are able to look up and say, "Thank you, God, I see now Thy hand in all of this."

The wisdom of God also enables us to recognize His presence.

In the Old Testament, we read how Jacob was awakened suddenly from a sound sleep. I imagine him leaping to his feet and looking about him before declaring, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven" (Genesis 28:16-17).

Oh, what a different world it would be, what a different life we would live, what a different service we would render, and what a different death we would die if we were able to see the presence of God in all things all of the time.

In prayer meetings, I often hear people pray, "Thou hast said that Thou wouldst be with us; therefore, Thou art with us." Logic. Jacob was a logician enough to know God was everywhere. But

the reality never hit his heart until that providential night: *Why, God is in this place, and I just now am waking up to it.* What a world this would be, with all its sin and crime and all the rest, if we had that light of recognition to know the presence of God with us at all times.

The wisdom of God also enables us to know God's chastisement.

When trouble comes, it may be one of two things. It may be the price you are paying for how you have lived. Or, it may be your Heavenly Father disciplining you to make you a better person. If you have not the light of God, you will rely on your sense of logic and think it is the devil causing the trouble, or you will blame it on somebody else. Without illumination, you will not know if God is disciplining you.

Some of God's dear people go through life with clenched fists. They pray, read their Bible, attend church, give to missions, but they are tense and struggling, thinking, *Nobody is going to put anything over on me.* I suppose not, but how wonderful it would be if we could only see the hand of God in everything and not have to struggle. Paul tells us that we do not war against flesh and blood.

You never have to fight people if you get a spiritual viewpoint enabling you to see what God is trying to do in certain situations. If board members, deacons, elders, and all the children of God could have a divine illumination, it would enable them to think like God, and there would be little reason for fusses and divisions and quarrels in the churches.

But we tend to do things in the way of the world. We try to reason things out the way they do at First National Bank or General Motors, and put it down on a business basis to reason it out by logic. We do have problems in the churches and it is because we do not seek God's hand. We do not know what God is trying to do, and we do not see as God sees.

If you know that God is chastening you as you would chasten a loving son, it would take the bitterness out of it. You could even smile through your tears. You could be glad even when things are going against you if you know that God was in it.

But you may not know it, because every time God raises a hand to chasten you, the devil tells you that you are getting your just punishment. God allows someone to work on you and persecute you, and the devil will

say, "You're no good" or "That person is treating you wrongly. That's unjust."

I always cringe when I hear the word *unfair*. Nobody ever heard a holy man use the word, because the Christian does not know anything about fairness. He does not live in a world where people treat him fairly. The world did not treat Christ fairly. Who treated the apostles justly? No one. God's people do not fight back. When we are accused, we do not accuse again. When they pour coals of fire on us, we do not get angry. We try by kindness to pour a different kind of fire on their heads.

This is the problem with the church of Christ today. We do not live in this area, this glorious plateau where we recognize the hand of God, where we are

conscious of the presence of God, see the chastisement of God, and see the truth of God. But God says, "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding" (Proverbs 3:13). "Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7).

O Boundless Wisdom, God Most High  
E'en so on us who seek Thy face  
Pour forth the waters of Thy grace;  
Renew the fount of life within,  
And quench the wasting fires of sin.

Author unknown, trans. From Latin by Gabriel Gillett

This is chapter 11 of A. W. Tozer's book, The Wisdom of God, compiled and edited by James L. Snyder. It is available from him.

## THIS IS AN EYE OPENER

I never thought nor looked at the Psalms in this way before:

The Lord is my Shepherd

*That's Relationship!*

I shall not want

*That's supply!*

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures

*That's Rest*

He leadeth me beside the still waters

*That's Refreshment!*

He restoreth my soul

*That's Healing!*

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness

*That's Guidance!*

For His name's sake

*That's Purpose!*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death

*That's Testing!*

I will fear no evil

*That's Protection!*

For Thou art with me

*That's Faithfulness!*

Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me

*That's Discipline!*

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine  
enemies

*That's Hope!*

Thou annointest my head with oil

*That's Consecration!*

My cup runneth over

*That's Abundance!*

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life

*That's Blessing!*

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord

*That's Security!*

Forever

*That's Eternity!*

Face it, the Lord loves you.

What is most valuable, is not what we have in our lives, but  
WHO we have in our lives!

What a healing balm for our souls! Read Psalms 23 over again  
but this time read it slowly letting the words sink deep into your hearts!

Selected from the  
July 2017 Pilgrim  
by Shirley Frick

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## OBITUARIES

### PAUL L. NELL

Paul passed away December 16, 2017, at Country Meadows Home in York, Pennsylvania. He was 92 years old, and the loving husband of Dorothy (Yohe) Nell. Together they shared over sixty-nine years of marriage.

Paul was born on July 27, 1925 in Franklinton, Pennsylvania and was the son of the late Eugene and Pauline (Rider) Nell. He spent most of his life as a residential contractor, having owned his own company, Paul L. Nell, Builder. He was an ordained minister in the Dunkard Brethren Church for twenty-five years. In his spare time, he enjoyed farming and gardening, traveling with family and friends, and volunteering for several missions. He was a long time member of the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. His first priority in life was always his Lord and Savior, but a very close second was his wife and family.

In addition to his wife, Dorothy, Paul is survived by his daughters, Glenda Martin and husband Arthur of York, Pennsylvania, Dorene Earhart and husband Spurgeon of York, Pennsylvania and Jill Beck and husband James of York, Pennsylvania; his son Kevin and wife Sydney of Spring Grove, Pennsylvania and ten grandchildren and twenty four great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brothers, Harry, Fred, Wayne, and Charles, his sisters, Janice Godfrey and Joan Grim and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brothers Vernon and Earnest Nell and sisters Elaine Martin and Vivian Sheaffer.

Funeral services were held December 21, 2017 at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren, with Elders Frank Shaffer, Ken Nell and Robert Yohe officiating. Interment was in the Church cemetery.

The family wishes to thank all of you who showed us comfort and love during this difficult time in our lives. Thank you for the cards and prayers and visits. God bless you!

Sister Dorothy Nell and family

### VIRGINIA G. CRAWFORD

Sister Virginia G. Crawford, 73, of Hegins, Pennsylvania, passed away on Thursday, December 28, 2017 at the Kepler Center, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. She was the wife of the late R. C. Crawford.

Born in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on August 28, 1944, she was the daughter of the late Mark and Eunice (Minnich) Wampler. Virginia had worked as a caregiver and was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Modesto, California.

She is survived by her sons, Brian M. and his wife Mary Crawford of Hawaii and R. C. and his wife Mary Crawford of California; daughters Anna J. wife of Daniel Alspaugh, Jr., of Hegins, Pennsylvania and Naomi E. Crawford of California; brothers Glenn Wampler of Ono, Pennsylvania and Kenneth Wampler of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brothers David and Leonard Wampler and a sister Esther Wampler.

Funeral services were held January 8, 2018 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church with Elders Justin Beck and Jeff Aungst officiating. Interment was in the Wolf's Union Meeting House Cemetery, Bethel Township.

#### ELDON LILLY

Eldon Lilly, 81, LaFontaine, Indiana passed away on January 5, 2018 at Rolling Meadows Health and Rehabilitation Center in LaFontaine, Indiana with family at his side.

He was born in Quinter, Kansas on January 5, 1937 to the late Jesse and Clara (Jamison) Lilly.

He graduated from Quinter High School in 1955. Eldon retired from Dana Corporation after thirty years of service. He always enjoyed farming and raising various farm animals.

He is survived by his brother, Richard Lilly of Gerrardstown, West Virginia; daughters Marie Jones of Wabash, Indiana, Marilyn (Bill) Boswell of Sheridan, Indiana and Marsha (Randy) Frazier of Van Buren, Indiana; eight grandchildren, Jaron (Erica) Jones, Jeremy (Stephanie) Jones, Justin (Jessica) Jones and Janthan (Jessica) Jones, all of Wabash, Indiana, Evan Boswell and Chad Boswell both of Sheridan, Indiana, Jessica (Eric) Howell and Tyler (Carly) Frazier, of Van Buren, Indiana; thirteen great-grandchildren, Hayden, Kycen, Braelyn, Laney, Reilynn, Rosden, Tanner, Owen, Milo, Connor, Logan, Stella and Ruby; and his daughters' mother, Ruthanna Lilly, LaFontaine, Indiana.



He was preceded in death by his parents, two infant sisters and an infant brother, a sister, Cecile Light, a brother, Russell Lilly, his wife, Harriett, and his son-in law James Jones.

Funeral services were held January 9, 2018 at McDonald Funeral Home, La Fontaine Chapel with Pastor Brad Wright and Elder Robert Carpenter officiating. Burial followed at Garden of Memory Cemetery, Marion, Indiana. The eight grandsons served as pallbearers.

In earlier years, Eldon and his family attended many General Conferences and were acquainted with many Brothers and Sisters.

### ARVILLA M. KEENY

Arvilla M. (Weaver) Keeny, 87, died of cancer on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at her home. She was the wife of the late Ray A. Keeny.

Arvilla was born December 24, 1930 in Grand Junction, Colorado, a daughter of the late Henry H. and Viola H. (Miller) Weaver Moss and step-daughter of L. I. Moss.

She was a nurse in Greenville, Ohio prior to her marriage, and had baked and delivered bread and rolls from her home in the Shrewsbury and New Freedom area for a number of years.

She was a member of the Conservative German Baptist Brethren Church.

She is survived by six children, Rachel Yaeger and husband, David of Piermont, New Hampshire, Kenneth Keeny and wife, Sue of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania, Kevin Keeny and wife Ruth of New Freedom, Pennsylvania, Jane Stalter and husband, Paul of Millersburg, Ohio, Nathan Keeny and wife, Cynthia of Woodward, Iowa, Shirley Lichtenberger and husband, Duane of Denver, Pennsylvania; forty-one grandchildren; and sixteen great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by three grandchildren; one great-grandchild; two brothers, Delbert Weaver and Albert Weaver; and three sisters, Hazel Weaver, Charlotte Frick and Ida Keeny.

Funeral services were held on January 24, 2018 at the Geiple Funeral Home with burial in the New Freedom Cemetery.

## MARRIAGE

### LORENZ – HAWBAKER

Sister Kaitlyn Lorenz, daughter of Brother Mark and Sister Sharla Lorenz of Greentown, Indiana and Brother Thomas Hawbaker, son of Brother Nelson and Sister Laura Hawbaker of Dallas Center, Iowa were united in marriage on June 24, 2017. Their address is P. O. Box 352, Pleasanton, Kansas 66075.

## NEWS ITEMS

### 2018 GENERAL CONFERENCE

2018 General Conference will be held at Camp Alexander Mack near Milford, Indiana, June 9-13, 2018.

Please send your reservations to:

Brother Sam and Sister Laura Dinius

**Address:** 19174 County Road M

West Unity, OH 43570

**Phone:** 419-924-2083

**E-Mail:** sandldinius@juno.com

Second District Lodging Committee

### NOTICE

All queries, reports, and any other business for 2018 General Conference should be in my hands by April 18, 2018. Thank you.

Brother James Meyers

General Conference Writing Clerk

**Address:** 26331 205<sup>th</sup> Street

Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

**E-mail:** jsmeyers630@gmail.com

### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation will be holding their spring revival starting March 11 through 18 with Bro. John Eberly from the Chambersburg Congregation. May we remember him in prayer as he studies for these meetings and may we prepare our hearts to take these sermons to heart. Pray for those who have not made their decision to follow the Lord, that they may receive Him in their hearts.

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March 18 there will be a basket lunch in the basement for all who want to join us. All are welcome – come and enjoy the fellowship.

Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

#### PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will be holding their spring revival meetings, March 18 through 25. Bro. Jeremiah Johnson from the Hart Congregation will be our evangelist. Evening services will begin at 7:30 P.M. We will be having a 2:00 P.M. examination service on Saturday, March 24, followed by our Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. The conclusion of our meetings will be on Sunday at 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend. Please pray for Bro. Jeremiah as he prepares for these meetings.

Sister Susan Nines, Cor.

#### LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Lord willing, Lititz will be holding their spring revival, Sunday, March 25, ending Sunday, April 1. Services Sunday nights will be 7:00 P.M., Monday through Saturday 7:30 P.M.

Bro. Mark Cordrey from Modesto, California has consented to be our speaker. Pray for Bro. Mark as he studies and brings the Word to us that we would accept it with open hearts, and that the lost will be saved.

All are invited to attend.

Sister Miriam Snyder, Cor.

#### FOURTH DISTRICT MEETING

The New Life Congregation of Granger, Washington, is pleased to host the District Meeting of the Fourth District, April 6 – 8, 2018. It will begin with a preaching service on Friday evening. The business meeting will be on Saturday morning. The Lovefeast will be Saturday evening. Preaching services will conclude the meeting on Sunday morning. Meals and other opportunities for fellowship will be provided by the congregation. All are welcome to attend.

**THANK YOU**

Many thanks for your prayers, hospital visits, home visits, cards, flowers, phone calls, food, gifts, and Christmas Caroling visit to our home. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated. The Doctor said my right lung is completely healed and my left lung has greatly improved since my recent bout with pneumonia.

God bless each of you!

Sister Darlene Marks

**BEREAN, INDIANA**

The Berean Congregation in Peru, Indiana, will be having revival meetings, March 21 - 25 with Brother Len Wertz from Quinter, Kansas, as our evangelist. Week day evening services will start at 7:30 pm. All are welcome to join us for these meeting.

Sister Becky Hirt, Cor.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2018**

### **April 1 – The Resurrection – Rev. 1:1-18**

1. How does John describe Jesus Christ in the greetings? How do these descriptive words incorporate His resurrection?

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2. How does the concept of Alpha and Omega describe Him?

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3. How does Jesus explain His eternal life to John?

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**April 8 – Planned Obsolescence of the High Priest of the New Covenant- Heb. 8:1-13**

1. Would Jesus have been a priest under Moses' Law?

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2. Since He did not conform to the Old Law, of what was He now the mediator?

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3. How did the new differ from the old?

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**April 15 – The Limitations of the Temporary Things That Were Seen – Heb. 9:1-10**

1. Where was the center of worship under the old covenant?

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2. Why was the holy of holies special?

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3. How was it replaced? What became of the Temple of God?

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**April 22 – No Limitations in the Mediator of the New Covenant –  
Heb. 9:11-28**

1. With what did He replace the Tabernacle and sacrifices?

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2. Why is His blood superior to that of animals? How often did He need to make His sacrifice?

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3. What is the fate of men?

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**April 29 – The Perfect Priest and the Perfect Sacrifice for Sins Forever – Heb. 10:1-18**

1. Was the Law's sacrifices able to give continuous coverage? How was Jesus' blood different?

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2. What sacrifice was necessary to please God?

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3. How does God place His will in people's hearts?

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