

BIBLE MONITOR

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“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ANGELS ROLLED THE STONE AWAY

We're happy, dear Savior, and shall we not sing
A song of thanksgiving to Jesus our King?
We sought for his presence thro' sorrow's dark way,
And angels of glory the stone rolled away.

The grave could not hold him; on pinions of love
The bright seraphs bore him to triumph above;
A conquering Savior heav'n crowned him that day,
For angels of glory the stone rolled away.

Rejoicing in Jesus, our union is sweet;
As heirs of his kingdom each other we greet:
Together we love him, together we pray,
For angels of glory the stone rolled away.

We'll sing of salvation thro' Jesus the Lamb,
Till we on Mount Zion before him shall stand;
Forever with Jesus, forever to stay,
For angels of glory the stone rolled away.

—Mrs. Lydia Baxter

WHAT IS IT WORTH TO YOU?

People often wonder what something might be worth. It may be an antique, a work of art or an object that once was associated with a famous person. They hope it will fetch a lofty price.

Generally value is dictated by the rule of supply and demand. When there is a large supply, the price will be low; over time the supply may diminish so the value will increase. Often buyers are motivated by the current fads, which come and go with rapidity. It is difficult to guess what future value will be.

Just because an object is old does not automatically make it extremely valuable. Value is often imputed to an item by the person who once used it. If a popular President or King used a pen, it may have increased value.

An automobile used by a famous person may become valuable because it is considered to be historical. Some older houses are considered eye-sores and are torn down to use the property in other ways. Yet, other houses either because of the people associated with its history, or its style or by whom it was built or designed, will be considered very valuable and even given a special designation that insures it cannot be materially changed. Old books only have value if their authors were famous, they were owned by famous people or their contents changed the course of history.

Objects may become valuable for various reasons, which may be more sentimental than monetary. The actual value

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of any collectible is actually determined by what another person is willing to pay for it.

As we consider the value of various objects, we might also consider why God valued our souls' salvation very highly. They were so valuable to Him that He was willing to make His dearest investment in our salvation. He gave His only begotten Son as the price necessary to buy back our souls from the ownership of Satan.

When Adam and Eve changed the course of spiritual history by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, they brought sin into the newly created world and it has been present since. That sin gave the serpent, Satan, power of ownership over our souls which God paid dearly to redeem. All sin is ultimately sin against the pure, holy God, who created us. God fashioned His creation with the purpose that it would worship and honor Him. Obviously sin has broken that relationship, yet God has valued His highest creation so highly that He was willing to invest His ultimate sacrifice for our sins. God's valuing of our souls caused Him to give His Son as the propitiation for our sins.

Throughout God's dealings

with fallen men, He tried to bring them back into the relationship that He desired with them. Through various images, pictures and types, He showed men what would be necessary for their return to that relationship. There were periods when His Chosen People did make an effort to relate to Him, but often they would drift away from Him and instead choose to ally themselves with Satan. Often they became hypocrites, by word and practice they served Him, while in their hearts they served the enemy.

Despite the hypocritical and self-serving ways of men, God continued to value them. He continued to love them, despite their disobedience. He has willingly provided His plan for them over many centuries. His plan became reality through the birth of His virgin-born Son in Bethlehem, through Jesus' submission to John's baptism, through His son's teaching and healing ministry. Later through Pontius Pilate, He used the unbelieving Jews and the ruling Romans to unite and crucify this persuasive, kind, and meek Savior.

The sacrifice of His Son for the spiritual well-being of men was worth it to Him, even though He darkened the skies as Jesus

gave up the ghost on the cross. Even though His Son suffered not only physical agony, but also the spiritual agony of bearing the sins of the whole world, God did not intervene to deliver Him from the cross.

All that Jesus suffered and bore on the cross was worth the sacrifice to His Father, so souls could be rescued from Satan. The renewed relationship that God had sought since the time of Adam and Eve was worth that price.

How much is that relationship worth to us? Do we value it as highly as God does? Since we are the recipients of His Grace and Mercy we should very highly value the relationship He has offered us. If we do value it, we should be very careful to preserve it.

Is this relationship, bought with such a high price, valuable to you? Are you seeking to serve Him within that relationship?

M. C. Cook

THE BLESSINGS OF THE BODY

Membership in the Local Church

The giant sequoia trees of California are some of the largest living things on earth. Those who study these amazing trees conclude that they are almost never found growing as a single lone tree. Science tells us that these huge trees have a relatively shallow root system, such that if storms come to a single tree standing alone, it will be felled quite easily.

There is an interesting lesson in nature that can be learned from this species of trees. As these trees naturally grow in groups or groves together, their roots intertwine in such a way

that each tree's roots provides shared strength to the group as they together encounter the storms of life. This is a beautiful picture and illustration of one of the blessings of being a part or member of a body of believers as we serve in the Body of Christ. Yes, one can be a Christian without being a member of a local church body, but the choice to do so cuts him off from so many blessings that come from being part of the local Community of Faith. This illustration from nature is a beautiful picture of the blessings and importance of the local Church as its members

lend support, strength and encouragement to one another as we encounter the storms, challenges and tests of life. United we stand, divided we fall.

As we consider the history of the church, it is truly an amazing story of God at work in the lives of common man. Jesus came from Heaven and bought His Church with His sacrificial death on Mount Calvary. After His resurrection, having laid the foundation, He left much of the work of building His Church to the apostles and those who would follow. Before He returned to His Father, He left His followers with a couple of basic assignments found in the Great Commission.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matt. 28:19-20

Disseminate the Gospel, make disciples and bring them to maturity in Christ.

Simple instructions, but for this to happen, Jesus knew that those disciples needed a spiritual dynamic that came only

from Heaven above. Thus He told them to “wait for the power by tarrying in prayer” (Read Acts 1:4-14). The Bible record tells us that Jesus mingled and ministered with His disciples for forty days prior to being taken up into heaven. His assignment was, *“Tarry at Jerusalem until you be endued with power.”* Prior to the Day of Pentecost, they were gathered in one accord in the upper room.

Ten days – but those ten days were not used to “shoot the breeze.” No, they were ten days of anguishing in prayer. I believe they were ten of the most important days in Church history. Ten days that set sail for the Church Age! I find the thought of that gathering in the upper room for ten days of prayer and seeking the face of God to be an incredibly powerful challenge! Oh, I believe there was a lot of energy and passion in that upper room. There was a lot of zeal and excitement in that upper room. There was an abundance of human energy, but if they were going to do Heaven’s work in Heaven’s way, they needed Heaven’s dynamic! They needed power from on High! And so, in obedience, for ten days they tarried and prayed; they prepared.

As I think of what transpired in that upper room, I believe there was much Spiritual maturing that took place. It reminds me of the miracle of metamorphosis in the life cycle of the butterfly. God took common, frightened, failure-prone men and anointed them with His power and from that room emerged bold, dynamic Soldiers of the Cross. God was preparing Soldiers, Servants, and Builders for His Eternal Kingdom!

(Read Acts 2) As you read, notice the plural pronouns — This was a Body prepared to work together.

When the Day of Pentecost finally came, after all of the prayer and anticipation it is beautiful to see the results of what Heaven accomplished in those ten days in that upper room. That upper room became the Birthing Room of the Church of Jesus Christ; the Body of Christ, the Church!

In Acts 2:42 we find a statement that is worthy of our

Consideration: “And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. A worthy template for us to follow!

Notice several words:

They: This was a group effort. A team, a body...As we ponder

those ten days of preparation in the upper room and then think of what took place on the Day of Pentecost... Peter was the only one to preach, but Peter was not the only one that had invested in what happened that day. The Power of Pentecost was the result of the preparation of everyone that “tarry in the upper room.” It was the united preparation (of the Body) in that upper room that released the Power of Pentecost! And it is no different today! Every member has a role to play in the life of the church family. Every member, every week needs to “tarry in the upper room of preparation and prayer” in anticipation of what God wants to bring and accomplish each time we gather to seek His face in worship.

They: It is a collective pronoun; every member of the body was involved and had part in the Power of Pentecost!

They continued steadfastly: They persisted! Another challenge for us today! Are we committed to stay, to continue in prayer until God moves upon us and among us?

I wonder how often we are inclined to think, “If we just had the power God sent at Pentecost we would have revival.” And in heaven, God is thinking, “If I just had some believers committed

and prepared like those I used at
Pentecost, there would be revival!"

*of them whose heart is perfect
toward him."* II Chronicles 16:9

*"For the eyes of the Lord run to
and fro throughout the whole earth,
to shew himself strong in the behalf*

To be continued
Brother Jim Meyers

HE FREELY ALL FORGAVE

(To the tune of "Ye Must Be Born Again")

A Baby was laid in a manger at night
The King of the world was to bring us to life
Around Him a dying world He sought to save
He freely all forgave (Forgave)

Chorus:

He freely all forgave (Forgave)
He freely all forgave (Forgave)
My sins, to the cross, He willingly took
He freely all forgave (Forgave)

The Boy grew up in a world torn by strife
The message He gave was to bring us to life
Still we would not listen, a prisoner and slave
He freely all forgave (Forgave)

This Man, He was blameless yet suffered great loss
Rejected, forsaken, and hung on a cross.
To purchase our ransom His precious blood gave
He freely all forgave (Forgave)

The Lamb, He lay silent, His story untold.
But death could not conquer and hell could not hold
Then up rose our Savior, defeating the grave
He freely all forgave (Forgave)

Our King reigns eternal, from high on His throne
And someday He'll take us to live in His home
Forgiven, He loves us, no longer enslaved
He freely all forgave (Forgave)

Sister Amanda Wagner

LITTLE THINGS

Zechariah 4:10, "For who hath despised the day of small things?"

II Corinthians 11:33, "And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall and escaped his hands."

Paul was rescued from certain death by a rope. Baby Moses was saved by an ark not much bigger than he was. Many of us were brought out of uncertainty by insignificant things. A seemingly small event has turned the tide many times. One hundred years ago a tiny virus, not even seen by the microscopes of the time, killed thirty million people worldwide: not just weak and sick people, but many young and strong people including my great aunt, who was eighteen years old. The death count was more than any of the wars up to that time. In the United States it killed more than those who died in the Civil War. It affected an entire generation and it stemmed from a microbe invisible to the world: influenza.

Jesus speaks in Matthew 13 about the mustard seed, how it is among the smallest of seeds, yet a giant tree grows from it. (Matt. 13:31-32) He then tells us

in chapter 17 how that if we had faith the size of a mustard seed we could move mountains. Have we ever seen someone move mountains just by speaking it? (Matt. 17:20)

A sailor was once marooned on a small island. His ship had sunk and he was the only survivor, saving only his Bible. Two generations passed and a British merchant vessel stopped there. Instead of finding cannibals, which was what had been reported, they found schools and churches and civilized people, clothed and in their right mind. A small, wet Bible made all the difference. What would they have found had the Bible not been rescued?

E. O. Sellers wrote:

Would men know by word
and action in the small things
of this life,

In daily round of duty, in the
midst of toil and strife?

Can men tell that you love
Jesus, can they by your life
and mine,

See in daily walk and action,
that we have His life divine?

Christian Hymnal #459

I Kings 19 tells us of Elijah being pursued by the King of

Israel and his armies. God appeared to Elijah to show that he was not alone. God shook the heavens. There was wind and earthquake and fire, but God was not present in any of these. He appeared as a still, small voice to Elijah. Elijah told God he was the only one left, but

God told him there was 7,000 that had not bowed to Baal, and Elisha was following him and would replace him. That still, small voice is how God usually deals with us on a daily basis. We must trust Him.

John G. Whittier wrote this in 1872:

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
 Forgive our foolish ways;
 Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
 In purer lives thy service find,
 In deeper reverence, praise.

Breathe thro' the hearts of our desire,
 Thy coolness and thy balm;
 Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire,
 Speak thro' the earthquake, wind, and fire,
 O still small voice of calm.

Christian Hymnal #291

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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 Mohler's Congregation

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we "study to shew ourselves approved unto God..."

April 2018 Study Questions

April 1 – Read Revelation 1:1-18

What is a revelation?

How do you typically experience revelation?

Who does John say is the revealer of the revelations?

What are we supposed to do with what is revealed?

Who is, who was, and who is to come?

How does the threefold description of Jesus in verse 5 impact your daily walk with the Lord?

Who does the washing?

What is our status after being washed?

How does Alpha and Omega differ, if any, from beginning and ending?

How does John's description of Jesus impress you?

How does verse 18 impact your walk with the Lord?

Commentary: There is a revelation and Jesus is both revealer and the one revealed. It is Jesus, in all of His absolute glory, who is revealed to John. It is Jesus, who has fulfilled all of the descriptions describing Him in this chapter, except one. Verse 4 "...who is to come." It is Jesus, the coming One, who through John reveals to His church not only His glory but the glory that awaits His bride. It is Jesus who reveals what is yet to come so that His bride can draw upon His strength to endure with patience all that is coming upon the earth. It is in the coming again of Jesus that we all can hope. Maranatha! It is all about Jesus.

April 8 – Read Hebrews 8:1-13

What do you need a High Priest for?

What validates Jesus' position as High Priest?

What is the something that Jesus has to offer?

What is a mediator?

What are some of the better promises?

How do you experience the difference between the old, obsolete covenant and the new, better covenant?

How is "knowing the Lord" different from the old covenant?

Commentary: Perhaps it is difficult for us to appreciate how difficult it was for Hebrew believers to let go of the priestly office, duties, and sacrifices that was part of their experience and tradition. We can sympathize as we struggle through letting go of some traditions

that have held much purpose in our own lives. But neither do we want to stumble over tradition for its own sake rather than embrace the fullness of all that Jesus offers to us in the one covenant that is eternal in purpose. May our “knowing the Lord” continually bring us together in that heavenly sanctuary that the Lord has made.

April 15 – Read Hebrews 9:1-10

What sort of perspective of God does the description of the tabernacle begin to create in your mind?

What access would you have to God?

How did the once a year offering for sin by the High Priest cleanse your conscience of sin?

How often do you need forgiveness?

Is the forgiveness you seek based on a ritual or a reality?

Commentary: Imagine being baptized but not knowing that Jesus had died for your sins; not knowing that He had been resurrected and that you had access to His triumph over sin. You would be left with a symbol but no reality. There would be a symbol of forgiveness but no actual experience of forgiveness represented by the symbol. The difference between symbol and reality is all the difference in the world.

Rom. 8:3-4 “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteous of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit.”

April 22 – Read Hebrews 9:11-28

What are some of the “good things” that are or have already come that Christ mediates as High Priest?

How many different ways is the priestly work of Christ superior to that of earthly priests?

By what means did the new covenant supplant the old covenant?

Why wasn't water, wine, or some other liquid used to purify the people, tabernacle, and other vessels of ministry?

How long is the sacrifice Christ made effective?

Commentary: In our increasingly pagan culture the idea of sacrifice and a corresponding gratitude is primarily limited to military personnel and First Responders. There may be a sense of sacrificing for the benefit of those we love the most. But the entire notion of someone sacrificing themselves for our sins is a completely foreign notion that makes little sense. Responding with devotion and commitment of our hearts and minds to such a sacrifice is nonsensical. Yet this is the Gospel message that needs to be heard. Unknown to most it is the deepest longing of our hearts to give ourselves completely to someone who gives far more than we can ever know. His name is Jesus. His life in us is salvation. His sacrifice is perfect for everyone and for all time. May His Word and His Spirit continue to refine our hearts in preparation for worship and praise to Him for all eternity.

April 29 – Read Hebrews 10:1-18

Are there times that we believe that obedience to certain requirements is the best solution?

Are you conscious of your sins?

Do you believe all your sins are forgiven or are there some too awful to be forgiven?

Are you conscious of Christ's forgiveness?

What is the source of our sanctification?

How do you explain your desire for obedience?

Commentary: Which is easier: eradicating the darkness or turning on the light? In our faith walk with Christ we see our sins and failures. We hear the accusations of faithlessness. We feel the futility of overcoming our sinful nature. At times we think we can wrestle our faults into submission by some effort of our will or some obedience to a list of do's and don'ts. We forget that Christ is the light. His Spirit provides the strength. His love gives the joy. It is His will that works in us for His good pleasure. Let our focus constantly be upon our Savior in all that He has done for us and all that He promises to do in us.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA 95350

WORSHIP

Why do we worship God?
Is it just because of fear?
Please make your reason very clear.
Is it for what others think?
What is the key and missing link?

How do we worship God?
Is it with the songs we sing?
Is it with the gifts we bring?
What about the things we do,
Do we hope that, that works too?

When do we worship God?
Just on Easter, Christmas, done!?
When life's good and things are fun?
Sunday morning will it be?
Just when other folks will see?

Where do we worship God?
Up upon the mountain top?
Just in church and then we stop?
Or into a private place?
So others won't see our face.

-Sister Cherilyn Noecker

A MAN OF GREAT FAITH

Rudy Cover

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

How much faith do you have? Do you believe that Jesus can do anything? Do you believe He could make you well if you were sick and ready to die?

One time Jesus came to a city called Capernaum. A man who was a centurion lived there and had a servant who was very sick. A centurion is a man who is a captain over one hundred soldiers. This man sent elders of the Jews to Jesus to ask if He would come and heal his servant. The elders explained to Jesus that the centurion was a very good man, that he loved the Jewish nation and had even built a synagogue for the Jews. A synagogue was a place to worship God like our churches.

Of course Jesus knew the centurion, just like He knows everybody – even you and me. Jesus went with the elders who took Him to the centurion's house. When they came near the house the centurion came to Jesus and said, "My servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented." (The disease called palsy causes a person to shake and tremble and to be very weak.)

Jesus said to the centurion, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come into my house but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me, and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this and he doeth it."

When Jesus heard what the centurion said, He answered, and said to them that followed, "Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed so be it unto thee." And this servant was healed in that very hour.

Why did Jesus say the centurion had a faith that was greater than any He had found in Israel? It was because he believed absolutely that Jesus could heal and do the miracles that He did, that He was more than just a man. If He were more than a man, then He had more authority than man and had servants who would do whatever He asked of them. When Jesus

was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane He said to Peter, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father and He would presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Angels are obedient to Jesus. I would not try to explain how Jesus healed the centurion's servant, but we know Jesus can do anything because He has the authority from His Heavenly Father. Jesus just spoke the word and the servant was healed completely.

Can we have a faith like the centurion? We really can and we ought to. We have so much in the Bible about Jesus that the centurion did not know. Jesus died on the cross for everyone. It's up to us to believe in Jesus and to have faith that He will take us to a Beautiful Home in Heaven.

Selected from the
July 15, 1979
issue of the Bible Monitor

GOD PLANS THE BEST

I cannot tell, I do not know
What the future days may be;
If joy or pain, my lot below,
God plans the very best for me.

The present time is all I know,
If trouble comes, my Lord is there,
I do not bear them all alone,
He lifts my heart beyond despair.

So on my way, I joyful sing,
His hand Divine is holding me,
Whate'er the coming years may bring,
God plans the very best for me.

God plans the best, He cares for me.
In everything His love I see.
God plans the Best, whate'er befalls,
I'm safe with Him, who knows it all.

Selected by Shirley Frick

“HE TOOK MY PLACE”

J. Emmert Dettra

“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29. He died for sin, therefore all have sinned. The penalty of sin is death, therefore He died for us that we might live. How free we are indeed.

“For then must He often have suffered since the foundation of the world; but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Heb. 9:26-27.

“For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but quickened by the Spirit.” I Peter 3:18. God does not demand two payments for sin, any more than our creditors demand two payments of a bill from us. “Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness by whose stripes ye were healed.” I Peter 2:24.

He took my place. If Christ was unwilling to be crucified, the whole world could not have crucified Him. Jesus answered, “Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.” When you look at that touching picture of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane, remember your sins and my sins helped to drive Christ into the Garden of Agony; and pierced His heart with pain, severe enough to cause Him to sweat as it were great drops of blood.

Every time we sin someone has to suffer. Christ suffered first on Calvary, we or someone else has to suffer when we sin, and many times it is the innocent person. Like Christ for instance, how He had to suffer for the sins of the whole world and certainly He was innocent. In most every case of broken homes; prodigal sons and daughters the innocent suffer in this life but not so in the life to come.

When you think of the awful scourging, remember your sin and mine helped to sink those sharp thorns into His brow. When we sin willfully we should remember we are helping to

drive those nails into His hands and feet. Yes, we helped to crucify Christ, and it is useless for us to try to attempt to escape our share of the guilt. "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out." Acts 3:19. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." If the wages of sin is death, then we should have to die for our sins, but He took our place. Praise His Holy name. "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

My substitute, by Sir James Simpson, (The inventor of chloroform.) "When I was a boy at school I saw a sight I can never forget – a man tied to a cart and dragged before the people's eyes through the streets of my native town. His back was torn and bleeding from the lashes. It was a shameful punishment. Was it for many offences? No, it was for only one offence. Did any of the townsmen offer to divide the lashes with him? No, he who committed the offence bore the penalty all alone. Christ bore ours all alone. In the first place we were without strength 1900 years ago. Even if we would have

wanted to take His place: but I doubt it very much if we would have been there, would we have stepped up and said, 'Lord I'll die in your place.'" Dr. Simpson goes on to say, "When I was a student in College I saw another sight I can never forget – a man brought out to die. His arms were pointed, his face was already pale as death – thousands of eager eyes were on him. Did any man ask to die in his stead? Did any friend come and loose the rope and say, 'Put it around my neck, I'll die in his stead?' No: he underwent the sentence of the law. For many offences? No, He stole a money bag from a stage coach. He broke the law in one point; He gave his life for one offence. But Christ died for all for all have sinned. Thirdly, I saw another sight I'll never forget; continues Dr. Simpson; I saw myself a sinner, standing on the brink of ruin, condemned to eternal punishment in the lake of fire, for one sin, no, for many, many sins committed against the unchanging God. I looked and lo behind me, stood Jesus Christ, becoming my substitute. He bore in His body on the tree all the punishment I deserved. Again I looked unto Him and found Christ is the end of the law for

righteousness to everyone that believeth. I was a child of Satan, a child of wrath, but as many as received Him to them gave He power to become sons of God, even to them that believe on His Precious Name.”

Three men died on Calvary. One died in sin, one died to sin and one died for sin. One died in sin because he chose to; the other died to sin of his own violation, the Son of God died for sin because He surrendered to the will of God the Father.

In business we are attracted to the words on a “Detailed Voucher” coupon, “Please detach before presenting”. If that is necessary in business, how much more do the sins committed, need to be detached from us as we come into the presence of our Lord who died for us, who died for our sins. Only Christ can detach them.

The Jews have a legend about King David, which shows how deeply in the most ancient days men were moved by David’s immortal lament over Absalom and felt that in some way God must honor such immeasurable grief. According to tradition, at each cry of David, every time he uttered the words, “My Son, My Son”, - one of the seven fold

gates of Hell opened, until at length the soul of Absalom was admitted to Paradise. What the Jews unwittingly were grasping after, in that legend, was the truth of the atonement; at every cry of Christ on the Cross as He hangs there and suffers for sinners, one of the gates of the condemned swings open and a soul from the condemned sinners is admitted into Paradise. “Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise.”

“In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o’er the wrecks
of time.”

As long as the church is faithful to the cross, as long as it holds up to a dying world Christ and Him crucified it will have power and glory and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it. The long cry of the human race has been for the revelation of a personal God, able and willing to forgive human sin, and to give rest to the human conscience. From the days of Job man’s cry has been, “Oh, that I knew where I might find Him.”

Plato voiced such a cry when he said, “We look for a God-inspired man, who will show us our duty and take away darkness from our eyes.” Through long generations of Jewish history there thrilled the longing and was

voiced the prophetic hope of a coming Messiah, able and willing to meet man's deepest needs.

When Christ looked over Jerusalem and saw the great need of humanity it is no wonder He wept. Having to leave such a world of sinful men and women. It's no wonder He cried out to His Father in Heaven, "Glorify Thy Name through my death on the Cross."

It is said of Mozart that he brought angels down and of Beethoven he lifted mortals up. Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ did both, and more.

The noted evangelist Dr. W. Leon Tucker was leaving his hotel to catch Three-o'clock-in-

the-morning-train. The orchestra in the dining room was playing "Three-o'clock-in-the-Morning." He stopped to pay the night clerk and the clerk said, "That's my kind of music." Dr. Tucker replied "I belong to the Three-o'clock in the afternoon crowd." The clerk did not understand, so Dr. Tucker explained, it is three o'clock in the afternoon that Jesus died for him and for all who believed on the Christ of Calvary. He took my place; we are commanded to take His place while we live here on earth.

Selected from the
April 15, 1958
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE PRACTICALITY OF GOD'S WISDOM

A. W. Tozer

*My heart, O God, needs Thy most sacred protection.
Keep me from the infiltration of sin into my life
so that I may glorify Thee in everything I do. Do
not, O Lord, let me be caught up in my own wisdom,
but rather to render completely to Thee. May my
fellowship honor Thee in every regard. Amen.*

In my opinion, we have done this generation of Christians a great disservice. There has been too much religious education, too much study of methodology, too much effort to know how to reach

young minds by tricks, and not enough confidence in the Holy Ghost and the Word of God.

We have given to this generation the impression that there is a place or state that you

can enter by accepting Christ, where you can lower your guard, for the fight is over, the battle is won, and all because of what Christ did. You have nothing to do. I would like to say to you – and I would be a liar if I said anything else, and you would hate me for it: The Pilgrim Way is a perilous way.

You are born into the world, you are born in sin, you are here, and it is up to you to get out of sin and out of this world to heaven above. However, let me tell you, there is no easy way. It is a false teaching to say otherwise: “My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause...My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path” (Proverbs 1:10-11, 15).

Paul told us how to go out and fight the battle and how to put on the whole armor of God. Peter warned that we would be tempted, and Christ said in this world we will have tribulation. Paul warned that you must go through many tribulations to enter into the kingdom of God. First Peter was written to teach us that we would suffer but that we would win if we trusted God.

The book of Revelation tells us of those who overcome.

Does anybody preach on overcoming anymore? Is not this a good evangelical doctrine? Or are we so afraid that we will distract from the glory of grace that we are no longer teaching people that they must overcome? We have to be overcomers, and to do so there must be a fight.

“Must I be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others fight to win the prize and sail through bloody seas? Are there no foes for me to face?” (“Am I a Soldier of the Cross?” Isaac Watts).

Obviously, there is an enticement from sinners. It does not say in proverbs 1:10, “If sin entices thee.” It says, “If sinners entice thee.”

The Scripture draws a very sharp distinction here. Sinners are the incarnation of some kind of sin, and sin can hurt you in the abstract. We think of sin as being a sort of evil disembodied vampire bat floating around and we say, “If sin entices thee,” but the Bible does not present it that way. Sin cannot do much until it is incarnated in some sinner, and so it is the sinner who is dangerous. So sin becomes dangerous when it is embodied

in a popular figure, a companion, a loved one, or in society.

Sin Embodied in Popular Figures

Sin becomes particularly dangerous when embodied in a popular figure. That is why I am so dead set against everything that emanates from Hollywood. They ask, "Do you think every woman in Hollywood is a harlot?" No. "Do you think every man there is a scoundrel?" No. "Do you think there are no decent homes there?" I think nothing of the sort.

But millions of young people in this country are seeking to look and act like actors and actresses. Vast numbers in the career of acting are working on spouse number four or five. Many of them live corrupt lives, but give the impression that they are not. They are set up as moral examples for our young people.

That is why I claim Hollywood is a cesspool of iniquity, because it embodies sin in popular figures and sets them up as examples for our young people.

Sin embodied in a Companion

If someone is doing something across town, it will not generally affect you. But

when a close companion is involved, and they say, "Come on, let's go and do thus and so," that's where the danger comes in. It is the power of suggestion. It is easier to go along with a good friend.

If sin were always embodied in someone that looked like the devil, with horns and a dark, fallen countenance, it would be no temptation at all. But the temptation to sin is stronger when embodied in nice people whom we generally know and trust. I know many nice, decent people, pleasant to be around, too courteous to argue with you, even about religion. They are just nice people, but if sin is embodied in them, they have a tremendous influence upon those around them.

Sin Embodied in a Loved One

The more you love someone, the more you are going to excuse their wrongdoings and try somehow to extenuate or cover up their behavior.

If sin were just floating around out there, I would not worry. When I first became a Christian, I was afraid of demons or dark spirits, or whatever you want to call them. I do not know much about them. I know some

people are devil-conscious to the point of whenever something bad happens they say the devil did it or was to blame. I am not devil-conscious because I am not afraid of the devil anymore, that is, until he is incarnated in someone whom I love or admire. Then I am concerned.

Sin Embodied in Society

Sin becomes dangerous in a society where the mere power of suggestion is influential.

The whole American economy relies upon the power of suggestion. If a law were passed by Congress that said you could not advertise any product, our country would probably collapse overnight. Sales depend upon advertising, which depends upon the power of suggestion. A product is not advertised just once, but again and again and again. They promote it until it becomes a part of our lives – a necessity.

It is perfectly natural for us to walk into a store and immediately reach for something that we have seen advertised. Just handling the item increases the chances of our purchasing it. This pull is so strong that corporations can afford to spend not hundreds, but millions of dollars in advertising. That is the power of suggestion.

It can be almost like the power of hypnotism.

Scripture reminds us, “If sinners entice thee, consent thou not” (Proverbs 1:10). Somewhere we have developed the idea that the Christian must be agreeable in everything. We must wear a constant smile, avoid offense, and try to get along with everybody. But that is not what Scripture teaches. The saints in Bible times were usually just two steps short of either jail or the gallows. As a rule, God’s people were not liked. If you are a Christian and you are not in some kind of conflict with society, then chances are you are not a very good Christian. The idea that a Christian is always sweet and agreeable and after he dies they can say of him that he did not have an enemy is false.

There are really two brotherhoods: the brotherhood of the redeemed and the brotherhood of the unredeemed. The unredeemed divide themselves up into a thousand divisions, but they are still unredeemed. There are two races: Adam was the first and Jesus Christ is of the second, the head. The redeemed man belongs to the second race, called out of the first race and

called unto Christ, and therefore has no fellowship with the first, except the ordinary fellowship of living in the world.

You cannot leave the world; you have to work and live in it, buy and sell and accept the services of and work for and with people in the world, and quite often those people are not right with God. So there is no real fellowship there. To me, brotherhood with the world is all poppycock.

I would like to tell you what you are going to get when you are converted and believe in Christ. It will not always be easy. There will be temptation and trial and disappointment. I would be lying if I told you that you will enter a peaceful, sealed cabin with sweet music and constant fellowship and will one day float on a pink cloud to heaven.

One of the greatest curses of the modern evangelical movement, in my opinion, is that we are somehow becoming "popular." Just as soon as you become popular, something goes out of your life, or more accurately, something has gone out of your life before you get popular.

Historically, the Christian has to be emphatic. He had two words: *yea* or *nay*. When God

was talking to him, he said yes, and when the devil was talking to him he said no. When God said, "Do this," he said, "Yes, Lord." When sinners tempted him to stray, he said an emphatic no.

The trouble with us now is that we are double minded. That is why we are weak. Scripture speaks of the double-minded. That is why we are weak. Scripture speaks of the double-minded man. He is "unstable in all ways" (James 1:8). Elijah illustrated this when he said, "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him" (I Kings 18:21). We need to be on one side or the other. Wholly committed to our high calling in Christ Jesus.

ALL THAT I AM I OWE TO THEE
 Search me, O God, my heart
 discern;
 try me, my inmost thought to learn;
 and lead me, if in sin I stray,
 to choose the everlasting way.

The Psalter, 1912

Editor's note: This selection is chapter 15 of A. W. Tozer's book, The Wisdom of God, compiled and edited by James L. Snyder. Used by permission.

OBITUARY

STEPHEN L. UNGER

Stephen L. Unger, 52, of Hollars Extension, Everett, Pennsylvania, passed away on Saturday, December 30, 2017 at home. He was born on July 5, 1965 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Ralph and Jean Louise (Becker) Unger. He was united in marriage on September 16, 1989 to Lisa Marie (Musselman) Unger. Along with his wife he is survived by two children Trenton Charles Unger, Littlestown, Pennsylvania and Cheyenne Dulaney Unger at home; sisters Yvonne Louise (Unger) married to Ronald Myers, Hanover, Pennsylvania; Patricia Ann (Unger) married to Terry Crabbs, Littlestown, Pennsylvania and Marcia Jo (Unger) married to Ronald Cain, Venice, Florida; sister-in-law Joyce (Reaver) Unger, Littlestown, Pennsylvania and numerous nieces nephews, great nieces and nephews and step nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother Alvin Charles Unger.

Stephen was a graduate of Sarasota High School Class of 1982. He served in the United States Navy from 1982-1985 and went on to serve in the United States Navy Reserves from 1985-1988 as a BM3.

He was an electrician by trade being a member of the IBEW Local #24, Baltimore, Maryland from 1990-Present. Stephen was a certified Maryland State Master Electrician. Throughout the years he was employed at various electrical companies, but currently was employed at Spears Mechanical in the Electrical Division from 2003 to present.

He was a former member of Walnut Grove Dunkard Brethren Church, Taneytown, Maryland. Stephen was a former fire police for the Alpha Fire Company #20 from 1986-1995; he served as a security guard for the Lincoln Speedway and the Littlestown School District and was a pit crew member on a legend series race car from 2000-2007. Mr. Unger was also a member of the Littlestown V.F.W. Post #6954.

He loved his wife, children and family and enjoyed spending time with them.

GEORGE H. THRONE

George H. Throne, 95 years of Manheim, Pennsylvania, formerly of Alvordton, Ohio passed away Sunday, February 18, 2018 at Mt. Hope Nazarene Retirement Center, Manheim, Pennsylvania.

George was born August 26, 1922 near Alvordton, Ohio, the son of the late Harve and Bernice (Clay) Throne. He married Lucille M. Riter on December 24, 1944 in Canton, Ohio and she preceded him in death on October 13, 1988. George later married Renee E. Wampler and moved to Bethel, Pennsylvania.

He was a life-time farmer living most of this life in Williams County, Ohio. George worked as a welder and quality controller inspector for Challenge Cook Brothers.

George and Lucille enjoyed doing mission work at Torreon Navajo Mission near Cuba, New Mexico. He was a member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church where he served as a Deacon and the Conservative Baptist Brethren Church after moving to Pennsylvania. In his free time George enjoyed working outside and spending time with his family and friends. In his younger years, George enjoyed ice skating with Lucille.

Surviving is his wife, Renee E. Throne of Bethel, Pennsylvania, four children, Kathy (Arley) Cross of West Unity, Ohio, Danny Throne of Montpelier, Ohio, Martha (Dave) Herr of West Unity, Ohio and Stuart (Kristy) Throne of West Unity, Ohio; son-in-law, Keith Snyder of Lebanon, Pennsylvania; four step-children, Dawn (Justin) Beck of Bethel, Pennsylvania, Kim (Jeff) Aungst of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, Lance Wampler of Irvine, California and Joel (Lynn) Wampler of Newmanstown, Pennsylvania; fourteen grandchildren; thirty-two great-grandchildren; five great-great grandchildren; eleven step-grandchildren and nine step-great grandchildren. George was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille; daughter, Margaret Snyder; twin brother, John Throne, and two sisters, Margaret Rupp and Marie Surbey.

Funeral Services were held on February 27, 2018 at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Dennis St. John and Brother Tim Alspaugh officiating. Interment was in Floral Grove Cemetery, West Unity Ohio with Brother Keith Snyder officiating.

NEWS ITEMS**2018 GENERAL CONFERENCE**

June 9-13, 2018

The 2018 General Conference will be held June 9 through June 13 at Camp Alexander Mack located at 1113 E. Camp Mack Road, Milford, Indiana 46542 with additional lodging at nearby Quaker Haven Camp. Those traveling to Camp Mack should turn east on Waubee Road at the south edge of Milford, Indiana, proceed to Camp Mack Road turning right to the Camp entrance. All registration will be at Camp Mack.

There is plenty of room for those with campers, trailers, or RV's.

Please bring bedding, towels, and so forth. Laundry is available in nearby Milford.

When making reservations, please give: date of arrival, approximate time of arrival, number in party and the approximate time of departure. The grounds will be available for occupancy, Friday afternoon, June 8. The phone number for Camp Mack is: 574-658-4831.

Please send, e-mail or call reservations to:

Bro. Sam and Sis. Laura Dinius

Address: 19174 County Road M
West Unity, OH 43570

Phone: 419-924-2083

E-Mail: sandldinius@juno.com

Early registration will be greatly appreciated.

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 205th Street

Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

E-mail: jsmeyers630@gmail.com

Phone: 515-992-3947

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

The African Mission Board recently saw the need to reorganize. As a result of this, Brother Jeremiah Johnson is now in the position of secretary. **Please send all correspondence and donations to the African Mission Board, c/o Jeremiah Johnson. Make checks out to African Mission Board.** Thank you for your prayers and support.

NOTICE

The current telephone number for Brother Bart Hoblet is 937-459-8268. All other contact information remains the same.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation will be holding their Spring Lovefeast meetings, April 20 to 22, 2018. Bro. Caleb Heckman from Chambersburg, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist. Friday evening service will be at 7:30 P.M. Saturday examination service is at 2:00 P.M. followed by Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. Sunday services are at 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend. Please pray for Bro. Caleb as he prepares for these services.

Sister Joy Reed, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

Grandview, Missouri Congregation is planning a weekend meeting April 20 to 22. Bro. Mark Hawbaker from Dallas Center, Iowa, has consented to be our speaker. The meeting will start Friday evening at 7:00 P.M. Saturday morning services start at 11:00 A.M. with Examination Service at 2:00 P.M. and Communion at 6:00 P.M. Sunday morning worship at 7:30 A.M., Sunday school at 10:00 A.M. with preaching service at 11:00 A.M. and the final service at 2:00 P.M. Please pray that these meetings will encourage and uplift us all. Everyone is invited to attend.

Sister Jolene Andrews, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Please join us in prayer for Bro. Rodney Kimmel of the Berean Congregation in Indiana, as he comes to preach the WORD in Revival Meetings April 22 to 29, 2018, at Pleasant Home Church in Modesto, California. Sunday evening services will be at 5:30 P.M., while weekday services will be held at 7:00 P.M. Lovefeast/Communion services will be held on Saturday evening, to which all members are cordially invited. Come, anticipating a time of renewal and revival. May God be glorified.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2018

May 6—Enter Boldly, Hold Fast, Endure Sufferings, Receive the Promise- Heb. 10:19-39

1. What is the source of our boldness spoken of in verse 19?

2. Verse 29 describes a threefold rejection of 1) the person of Christ, 2) the atoning work of Christ, and 3) our acceptance in Christ. In what context do you perceive or experience this taking place?

3. Beginning with verse 32 for what reasons are the past sufferings of the recipients of this epistle being recalled?

May 13 – Mother’s Day – Ruth 1:1-22

1. What other times has famine played a role in revealing God’s will?

2. What decision in this chapter is pivotal to God’s plan?

3. Are outward circumstances the best evidence of either God’s blessing or judgment?

May 20 – The Substance and Evidence that Pleases God – Heb. 11:1-16

1. How do you apply verse 1 to all the examples that follow?

2. How is verse 3 different in its assumptions than a scientific explanation?

3. Is there any difference between our faith today and those who are spoken about here?

May 27 – The Faith of the Faithful is not for the Faint of Heart – Heb. 11:17-40

1. How do you compare yourself with those mentioned?

2. In what ways does their faithfulness encourage your faith to grow in fruitfulness?

3. What is the something better that God has provided for us?

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