

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.
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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.

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING

Love divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art:
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit,
Let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning,
Take our load of guilt away;
End the work of thy beginning-
Bring us to eternal day.

—Charles Wesley

EXPRESSING LOVE

Love may be defined in many ways. Love may be defined as an emotional, romantic relationship or a lustful desire. It may also be a feeling of sympathy or empathy towards others. It may be a fanciful feeling of approval for a beautiful day, a piece of material, a well-prepared meal, or for a pet.

The word "love" may be misused, abused or confused in its usage. It depends upon the integrity and maturity of the person using the word. The definitions that people use for love as well as many other charged words usually depends upon their desires, emotions, and morality.

Since God is the epitome of love, His definition should be our preferred usage of the word and the thought. He desires that the people He has created and

rescued would use His pattern of love as their practice. His pattern seeks the greatest well-being for the one sharing that love, even when it is expensive for Him. It has cost Him dearly to provide the spiritual love that He has shown through the sacrifice of His Son. He has paid the ultimate price to gracefully cover our sins that separated us from His perfection. He raised the definition of love to a level above any earthly definition of love and shared that abundant love through His Word, the Bible.

As the recipients of this love, we have many opportunities to share the love we so mercifully received. Our first sharing of this love should be with Him. We love Him because He first loved us. We can best show

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our appreciation to Him for what He has given graciously by not only words of thankfulness, but also of deeds that match those emotions.

We have opportunities to worship Him, not only at stated services of God's children, but on a daily basis. Any day or time of the week is appropriate for our worship of Him. Our worship can take many forms. It can be through spoken words, music, prayer and continuing thankfulness. These expressions of love are directed towards Him.

Our love may be expressed through attitudes rather than spoken words. When seeking the best for the other person, it may be through physical nearness, or emotional and spiritual support while dealing with distasteful events. It may be shown through an appropriate word during a time of testing. A kiss, a hug, a blessing may be worth more than many words or songs. Kindness and gentleness bespeak love.

There are other times that love demands more than words and emotions. It demands deeds that are appropriate for the situation. A part of our thankfulness and returned love is shown through our obedience to God. As our perfect parent, He

gives us various tasks that not only please Him when completed but also are beneficial in our spiritual lives. He does not ask us to do anything unimportant or optional. He sets standards to be implemented in our lives; these are not the standards of the culture around us. They not only separate us from the world, but elevate our lives for our spiritual well-being.

Our love as expressed by our obedience to God's standards may improve other's lives by providing them with a higher example. We not only model God's standards but we also seek the best for their lives. Love does not seek its own desires but what benefits the other person. It is easy to seek the well-being of our loved ones, but it is more like God to seek the well-being of those who are cantankerous, hateful, and spiritually ignorant. While they may seek to do harm to us, our response should be to seek their well-being. We need to remember that when God shared His grace with us, we were His enemies, living for self, sin and Satan. He extended His grace and mercy towards us when we did not deserve it. He set the pattern for our expression of love for our enemies.

God's humility should be our pattern. When Jesus, the Son of God came to earth, He lived the poorest of them. He not only took on the form of man but He humbled Himself to suffer a man's death. He died for our spiritual well-being. We are to live our lives for the benefit of others. Whatever our relationship with the people around us, we are called to share the love that He has shown to us.

Our expression of love

should be powered by His grace and mercy. As a reflection of His love, our love should be expressed through the many avenues available to us. It may be through worship, words, attitudes and deeds; however it is accomplished it should be for the glory of God and for our neighbor's good.

How are you expressing your love?

M. C. Cook

ENCOURAGEMENT AT ZIKLAG

David was here facing a very bleak situation, one of the worst of his life. Although he had been anointed king of Israel, he was a fugitive, hiding from the reigning king. Everything he had, including his family, was gone. The Amalekites, longtime enemies of Israel, had raided Ziklag and carried everything away. The town had been given to him by Achish, a Philistine prince with whom David had found favor as he ran from Saul. His town was burned. The confidence his men had in him was gone too. They were ready for a new leader.

They followed, even when he rejected what looked like

opportunity to take out Saul. This would have opened the way to achieve their common goal, David's coronation. He had kept his troops together and going the same direction to this time. Given the comment on the character of some of them, 1 Sam. 30:22, David evidently had skill in leadership. So was he finished? He could have been.

"...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." 1 Sam. 30:6. No more explanation given here. But we know of David's life before this experience. In 1 Sam. 17:37 he credited God for delivering him from a lion and a bear and expressed faith that Goliath would be given the

same fate as they were. In I Sam. 17:45-46 he states his faith in God's protection to Goliath as he faces him in the field. Verses 48-51 record the rest of the story.

Also he had the promise of the position of king of Israel. In chapter 16:13 he received not only the anointing but also the abiding spirit of the Lord. Certainly his personal memories and the fulfilled promises and prophesies of his people Israel are what encouraged him in the Lord his God here at Ziklag.

The Hebrew word interpreted here to encourage is "chazaq" meaning "to seize, to fasten upon, or take hold." Reading Heb. 11:1, 6 brings us to believe this encouragement is by faith in the one who has orchestrated life's circumstances to this point. It also leads to trust the one who also rewards those "who diligently seek Him".

And David sought the Lord through Abiathar the priest, I Sam. 30:7. The next verse records the answer he received to his dilemma. Pursue, overtake, and recover that which was lost.

In I Sam. 28:6 near the same time, King Saul was facing his dilemma, the one which would lead to his end. God's spirit had departed from him therefore Saul

received no answer to his plea for direction. His courage was displaced by fear. Descending to consult a witch, he, receiving the message of death, cast himself down on the earth.

What a difference the encouragement of faith and hope made in these two lives! Both were among the people of God. The difference, one life was lived in God's will, the other was not.

With today's flood of communication, our courage level can vary greatly. Our focus on circumstances can settle our minds in pessimism and despair. Knowing the end of "our story" we should be giving a testimony to the world which has hope through the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

The diet we feed our souls and spirits will definitely affect and form our world view. Sights and sounds in abundance vie for the consideration and attention of our senses. Those earthly things can consume our time and energy, crowd our schedules and take up "mind space" we need for positive edification and maintenance of our spiritual man. We can be "chained" to a sensual response to life if our inner man has not been properly nourished.

"Take time to be holy" the hymn writer admonishes. Most

of what we have, we get in exchange for time given in our schedule or space made in our lives. Both of those are limited resources to us humans. Another asks “Have you any room for Jesus?” Both writers go on to answer and explain how to meet the needs of our souls and spirits made in His image.

Most of us have spiritual encouragement available. The Holy Spirit Himself, the written

word of God, the fellowship of the believers with their testimonies, our own experiences with the work of God in us, the church with its worship and teaching all are our “Spiritual Store”. These blessings in our settings prepare us for the time of trial. When we come to our “Ziklag” we will know where to turn for strength as David did, the Lord our God!

Brother Ron Marks

PRACTICE!

“Lights off, voices off!” When the lights are turned off, the talking is to stop. We practiced this at the beginning of the school year and now I expect it to happen. Lately, the talking has not stopped when the lights went off, so we will practice again. Sometimes the practicing is not fun – we may take some of our lunchtime now to practice.

Friday when my students returned from Art class they did not follow procedures very well. They should come into the classroom, put away the art project, and go to their desks. This time they were very chatty, noisy, and wandering around the room. Several did not put away the art project, and some were

visiting at other desks. Time for a practice session! We lined up and went back through the hallway to the Art classroom. We pretended we were leaving from Art class, walked quietly through the hall – in a line, and entered our classroom, where we “put away” the art projects and went promptly to our desks. It was rather fun to do this, and it was a good reminder of the expected behavior. By now it was time for recess so some play time was lost in the practice. I reminded the children of that to emphasize the need for obeying.

When you take piano lessons you must practice faithfully, and, hopefully, every day. “Practice makes perfect,” we say. We

practice other things – the more you make that recipe, the better that food looks and tastes. As I sew this pattern multiple times it will go more smoothly. A student commented wistfully that my coloring looked nicer than his. I reminded him that I've had more practice.

"Erase this and try it again," I tell a student. "Let's practice that once more." We keep practicing for the Christmas program. Is this the way we practiced? Oops, we're slipping. We need to try again. "Did you practice your Bible memory at home?" I ask a student. "No?" (I can tell!) "You need to practice at home, also, so you can say your verses." A student tells me, "I practiced my spelling words!" We work on spelling at school, but you need more practice, so make sure you do it at home, too.

"What do we do in chapel?" We sit up. We listen. We look at the speaker. Some people need to practice this. They will stay in at recess and we'll practice sitting still and listening and looking. I will take the part of the speaker and they will try it out.

Sometimes we need multiple practice sessions! I think we should be able to do this behavior/directive/skill now, as we've gone

over it and we've practiced a few times, but it may take more practice to get it ingrained. At the beginning of the year we practiced walking in a line. We headed for the library, and the line got out of line, so we had to stop and practice. "Walk behind the person in front of you, keep some space, be quiet. Aaah! I hear talking; we must go back to the room and practice again!" So we went back to our classroom and started over. We were late to library that day, but we are learning to follow procedures. Maybe you think this is a picky thing! Who cares if the line isn't perfect? That used to be my feeling, too. After our professional development on classroom management, I see the necessity of it. We need to be consistent – if I talk about a good line; I need to keep that going. I can't say it, and then just let the line go however it goes. Learning to follow these simple directions will help the students in other areas as well. It relieves congestion in the hallways. It helps my students – now they're not pushing or running into others.

I thought of this 'practice' when a mother at church asked for ideas to help her child be quiet and still during church. At school

we practice things. Maybe a practice session for church would be helpful. Sometimes children don't know what it means to sit still, be quiet, behave, and pay attention. The adult could model this behavior and then practice at home with the child.

I am reminded of the time when Alison would not sit down during circle time at school – after three reminders she was still up on her knees. I told her we will practice at recess. So she stayed in, and I said, “These are ways you must sit during circle time.” I sat on the floor and showed her different positions. After she got over her surprise of her teacher sitting on the floor, I think she rather enjoyed the session! We practiced – we tried out, together, the different positions. She had a practice session, not only in sitting on the floor correctly, but in obeying. She also saw consistency and follow-through as her teacher required her to follow the directions, and her teacher remembered that she needs to do this.

Perhaps children need practice in respectful behavior during church – you can sit on the bench, you can be quiet, you can do it. I see twenty-nine first-graders doing this in chapel, with a teacher and an

aide watching over them and guiding them. Some children get signaled reminders – a finger to the lips reminding to be quiet, a gesture to sit down, or a twirled finger for “turn around.” Or maybe the teacher slips over to them and reminds them. Good behavior is recognized after chapel – let's have Ella, Maria, Joel, and Robby stand up. “Every time I checked, these people were sitting nicely, looking at the speaker, and listening,” I announce in the classroom. (There, I just reiterated the good behavior, everyone heard those reminders again, and those who cooperated were recognized.)

Some children benefit from cue cards – we tried this at school, with the children drawing pictures and writing words to remind themselves of expected behaviors. We do not stick out the tongue at people, so Riley draw a tongue, put a big X on it, and wrote “No.” This card is on his desk to remind him what he should be doing. I can point to it to remind him. He also has a card with “Shhh!” to show him to be quiet. This works the same way – I can point to the card, he can see it and remember, and I didn't have to interrupt my teaching to tell him to be quiet.

Practice – I need to do this as well! I can practice using self-control. When I'm driving and annoyed with that slow driver ahead of me – practice nice responses. Pray for that driver, notice the beauty around me, think that maybe this is a very elderly person and I really don't want them to go fast! Or maybe it's a new driver, so I don't want them to go fast. Use this time to meditate. Maybe this slowness is preventing

me from being in an accident. I need to practice aspects of classroom management – I get tired of having a mess of papers in the stacker. Practice collecting them more often. Be consistent – ask the class to put them in neatly every time, and monitor that. Again, practice makes perfect! It works for the teacher as well as the student.

Sister Arlene Birt

THE FOREMOST PRIORITY OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

One problem in our trendy society is that we have really lost our priority. Our priority seems to be whatever is trending at the time. Woe be onto the person who is one trend behind.

I am afraid even Christians are allowing Hollywood to set the priorities in their life. The latest celebrity is the one we draw our attention to, which becomes the standard of what is normal.

I believe this is a neat trick of the enemy to get our attention away from the number one priority of the Christian life.

The devil does not care what he has to use as long as it diverts us from that priority Jesus set for us before He ascended into heaven.

I do not think I really need to mention the priority, but that priority is simply to go into all the world and preach the gospel. That priority is understanding that people, no matter who they are or where they live, are lost.

The important thing here is we do not understand what the word "lost" means. We sometimes have the idea they are just stumbling around and really have not found direction in their life. If God can give them certain direction in their life, well then, that is okay.

One of the great aspects of our society today is the fact that people are asking the question, "Who is God?" And of course, they are giving every answer except the right one.

That is where we as Christians come along. We know who God is. We know who He is not because we have researched it, or have scientific evidence or all kinds of philosophical support. No, we know who God is because the Holy Spirit has revealed Him to us in the Scriptures. It is a matter of revelation, which only the Christian can receive.

As we look at the disciples, they had a hard time adjusting to the priority of Jesus. Just when everything was going fine and the momentum was beginning, Jesus would say, "Let us go into the next town because that is the reason I came."

The disciples could not really comprehend the priority Jesus had of going to the "next village."

I am sure those disciples were rather frustrated many times at Jesus and probably complained among themselves, but Jesus allowed them to complain because He understood that until the Holy Spirit came, they would not really understand His priority.

We must understand that all people are lost. No matter how good they may look on the outside, they are still lost. A criminal who has done the most hideous of crimes is just as lost as a young person who has not

really lived much of life. People are lost. To miss something by an inch or by a mile is still to miss it.

What they do in life is a result of that lost condition and can become quite a terrible character in their life.

As believers, we understand that people are lost, but more than that, we understand that the only solution for their lostness is Jesus Christ.

Not all of the philosophy and encouragement and mentoring and the latest fad can undo a lost condition. Only Jesus Christ can do that. That is what He did on the cross.

Therefore, our priority is to go into all the world and proclaim Jesus Christ as the Savior. We need to loudly proclaim Him so everyone can hear.

Today we are trying to use God to fatten our wallets. We have a prosperity gospel. We have an inspirational gospel. We have all kinds of Gospels. But none of that is what Jesus Christ went to the cross to die for.

As believers, our priority is to understand why Jesus went to the cross and to understand that unless people embrace the resurrected Christ in all His glory, there is no hope for them whatsoever.

People put hope in accomplishments. People put hope in dreams. But the only hope that has any kind of validity to it is in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Zaccheus was the kind of person who had heard so much about Jesus. Whatever else was going on in his life is hard to understand at this point. But he wanted to know more about Jesus. He did everything he could to try to find out Jesus.

Can you imagine how he felt as he sits up in that tree just wanting to get a glimpse of Jesus and Jesus stops right underneath him, looks up and invites Zaccheus to come down and go to have lunch with Him.

I can imagine how thrilled Zaccheus was. The thing that brings purpose to a person's life is Jesus Christ. Outside of Jesus

Christ, there is no purpose, just stumbling in the dark not knowing where you are going.

The priority of my life as a Christian is to understand who I am and then understand who Jesus Christ is and how, when He comes into my life, He changes everything forever.

We need to go out and tell people that. I think people are tired of the false hopes that are being given out today. I think people need to see, not just hear the message but also see the message lived in someone's life. The foremost priority of every Christian is to proclaim Jesus Christ as the only salvation for the hearts of the lost.

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ATTRACTING ATTENTION

Acts 17:6, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also."

A few hundred years before Jesus Christ was born a man-made religious system was created in the Middle East. It was a combination of Jewish religion, Greek civilization and education, and Roman militarism. It was into

this world that Jesus came. Even though the Jews were permitted to practice their religion, Caesar was the supreme ruler as well as a god to the Romans. As long as he was acknowledged and the laws of Rome were abided by, all was fine. If crossed, Caesar's punishment was extreme. He completely eliminated his enemies.

New religions were not allowed. Any religious leader attracting followers and proselytizing in any way would be seen as an enemy of Caesar. Anything upsetting the status quo was rebellion, or, if you please, revolution. Roman citizens were entitled to a trial; others were disposed of with no fuss. While there were many such cults popping up here and there, Christianity came from God and is authorized by the Holy Ghost Himself.

For the Romans, as well as the Jews, the cult of Jesus Christ was almost eliminated when Christ died on the cross. But the death was only temporary. With Pentecost came the Holy Ghost to a huge group of Jews gathered peacefully, and literally thousands came to Christ, the resurrected Son of God. No earthly government, regardless of strength, could hold such a work in check.

After a careful and thorough study of the Book of Acts we have concluded that the preaching of Stephen and Peter and Paul, as well as the rest of the disciples was so powerful because these men trusted in the strength and power of God without doubt. God was not just with them, He was in

them. (Christ in you, the hope of glory, Col. 1:27) What a blessing to follow Jesus and embrace all His promises without doubting!

When we witness to others about our Saviour, do we do so without fear of consequences? When we preach, is our heart filled with love for those before us because Christ first loved us? As Christians, we must share Christ. It is not a choice, it is a mandate. There is nothing more important, not even our livelihood. If we trust God, we must trust Him completely, for everything and for all.

Consider Stephen. His early martyrdom seems to be a waste, but his message was instrumental in the conversion of Paul and countless others. D. L. Moody said, "I live for souls and for eternity. I want to win some soul for Christ. If you want this and work for it, eternity alone can tell the result." In Revelation 2:10 it says, "...be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." The name "Stephen" means "crown". He achieved his crown. We will achieve ours when we desire, above all else, that others, whose souls are worth more than the whole world, must also receive the gospel.

There are so many places in

the New Testament indicating the necessity of telling others about Jesus Christ. If we need more evidence, we can read about John Hyde, David Brainerd, Oswald Chambers, George Whitefield, D. L. Moody, or C. H. Spurgeon. We can also read about John Kline, James Quinter, Christian Hervey Balsbaugh, and many others. Are these men any better than anyone else? God uses ordinary people under extraordinary circumstances. If we are willing to give our all, we can embrace God's love and present it to others.

What is the purpose of our ministry? We must preach or teach or witness in order to elicit a response. Without a response, what has been achieved? In Acts 16, the response was, "Sirs, What must I do to be saved?" Of course, the events leading up to that question were supernatural, but any time the Holy Ghost is at work, it is all supernatural.

We must honor the Lord. As long as we do we will be put in contact with someone in need of Christ. First Peter 3:15 tells us, "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: (make Him above all else) and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh

you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

Attract attention. Be vocal about God. Be vocal about your Christianity. "They spoke the Word of God with boldness." (Acts 4:31) Do not hide your faith, but tell others with love. Even in persecution there is tremendous blessing.

Once a Christian imprisoned for his faith, was given papers to sign that would incriminate and imprison others. "A chain prevents me from signing." "I see no chains," the guard replied. "I am in chains," retorted the Christian. "I am bound by a chain of witnesses who throughout the centuries have given their lives for Christ. I am just a link in that chain, but I cannot break it."

II Corinthians 5:14, "For the love of Christ constraineth us."

*O, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love-
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it,
Seal it for thy courts above.*

-Robert Robinson 1758

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

HOW READEST THOU?

C. M. Kintner

In this article we wish to mention some of the important and notable features of the commandments which are the essentials of salvation. That which edifieth and is profitable for doctrine, which every true Christian can rely upon to be saved. All is vain but what is written in the Holy Scriptures.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39. Search the scriptures, make sure your life measures up with the Holy Bible for it testifies and proves that Jesus is Christ and Lord and that He has the ability and power to give eternal life. Thinking alone is not sufficient, it is too serious a matter to neglect and lose. “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation.” Heb. 2:3. “And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out

of the mouth of God.” Matt. 4:2-4.

The spiritual inward man must be supported by the Word of God and the bread of life, Jesus Christ. “Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips: I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food. But he is one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.” Job 23:12-13.

As Jesus was led to the cross of Calvary, He looked upon them who were weeping for Him in their sad condition, in this world of sin. He had compassion upon them and their children: for He loved them unto the end. “And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.” Luke 23:27-28.

“And behold a certain lawyer stood up and tempted him saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, What is written in the law? How readeest thou? And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy

God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live. But he, willing to justify himself said unto Jesus. And who is my neighbor?" Luke 10:25-30.

The parable of the priest, Levite and good Samaritan is a lesson of inspiration to every true Christian, to go and do likewise. We must be a good neighbor ourselves to have good neighbors. "Which now of these three thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go and do thou likewise." Luke 10:36-37. The lawyer's answer was correct. He that shewed mercy loved him and was interested in his soul's welfare.

"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God. And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:15, 17. How readest thou, the parable of the rich man and Lazarus is a

sad narrative. "But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receives thy good things and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented." Luke 16:25.

"And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God. And he fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." Luke 17:11-18. Only the Samaritan was cleansed; both soul and body. Jesus' answer was, "Go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." Luke 17:19. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

How thankful we should be to our Lord for His healing and cleansing grace, from the leprosy of sin and for the blessings of each day. Do we kneel at our bedside before retiring for the night and commit our lives in His keeping? Every Christian is indebted unto Christ to give Him their life's service. "Go ye" pertains to everyone who has accepted Jesus as their Saviour. All the commandments are essential for salvation and are the most important theme of life. It is impossible to serve two masters. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy, of the Lord, our good Samaritan. We are demanded of the Scriptures, to do unto others as we wish to be done by. We are obligated to them, otherwise we are not in favor with the Lord and have no part with Him. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Ec. 12:13.

The Ten Commandments are very strict but must be obeyed. "Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it." Luke 17:33. We need Jesus' assistance every moment of life, to live a Christian life. We need Him for every breath we

breathe, for growth in the wisdom and knowledge of the truth. The end will come sooner than the world expects. We have no time to waste. Improve it while the opportunity is ours. "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope." Job 7:6. May we be ready when the time comes. We have no excuse for not being ready for the resurrection day. The most unsafe and difficult problems in living a Christian life are: falling away from the faith and drifting back into the world of sin again.

How readest thou? If we obey God's written Word and do as it tells us, we know we are living right with Jesus our Saviour, otherwise we have no promise of eternal life. How readest thou? Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap. We can expect to reap the kind of crop we have sown. Grace is a Christian growth. "But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever." 2 Pet. 3:18. How readest thou what is written in the perfect law of liberty? The Bible is perfect; we dare not take from or add to it. Something perfect cannot be made better; it is only made

imperfect by our application of it.

The Word of God is established in the truth and what the Word says, must be and will come to pass in their appointed time. "God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." John 4:24. God is love and we must worship Him through love. "Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." I John 4:7-8. All the commandments are essentials of salvation. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt. 6:21.

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowls of compassion for him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth." I John 3:16-18. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Tim. 3:16. "But I say unto you, That every idle

word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." Matt. 12:36-37.

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." Titus 2:1. "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Luke 11:9-10. "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matt. 5:7. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." Rev. 1:3. The end of the world is near. We need to take heed and be ready for that great day of His coming.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with

fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being

on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?" 2 Pet. 3:9-13. The will of God is that all shall be saved, whosoever will may come.

Selected from the
August 1, 1958
issue of the Bible Monitor

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

August 2018 Study Questions

August 5 – James 3:1-12

Why are teachers held to a stricter judgment?

How closely do you listen to your own words?

Have you ever felt ashamed by something you said?

How easy is it to say more than you intend?

If horses can be led and ships steered why is the tongue so difficult to tame?

Is there any experience in your life that can correlate with verses 5-6?

What are some of the purposes of profanity?

What conclusion does James draw concerning our Christian profession and how we use our tongue?

Commentary: Most of us have had the experience of misusing our tongue. Whether it is passing on gossip, telling an inappropriate joke, or slandering someone, we have realized too late how easily our tongue can betray our best intentions. When anger, guilt, or defensiveness has loosened our tongue to hurt someone we have stopped seeing through the eyes of God's love. Yet, when we openly, honestly, and quickly confess the misuse of our tongue we are given the opportunity to demonstrate that Jesus is our Master and that He is gaining control of our tongue for His glory.

August 12 – James 3:13-18

How do you describe the meekness of wisdom?

How does bitter envying and strife blur the truth?

What is the character of earthly wisdom?

What is the fruit of earthly wisdom?

How would you rate yourself from 1-5, 5 being the highest on each of the character traits ascribed to the wisdom that is from above?

What follows in your wake, strife or peace?

In what area do you need the most growth?

What will bring growth in that area with the most assurance?

Are you a peacemaker? What hinders you from being one?

Commentary: In an age where flaunting, brash, and in your face confrontation seem to be so much in vogue James seems quite demur. How can such serene and placid behavior gain recognition in a world so frequently polarized and contentious? But we dare not congratulate ourselves too quickly. Bitter envying, contention, and strife are not unknown in our own hearts and conduct. These words of James should chasten us most of all. But they are also words of hope for ourselves because they so clearly portray the Lord Jesus Christ who inhabits our hearts and guides us according to His perfect will. While we continually fall short of His perfect character He continues to mercifully grow His righteousness in us. By faith we can receive the wisdom that is from above that our obedience might be complete in Him.

August 19 – James 4:1-10

Who does it sound like James is writing to?

How do you respond to some of the accusations James is making?

Do the accusations represent actual events in our lives or primarily in our hearts?

What consequences do we experience when they represent the thoughts and affections in our hearts?

What kind of relationship do we have with the Lord if our hearts are full of war, lust, murder, adultery, and self seeking?

What does the inventory of your desires look like?

Have you humbled yourself so that the Lord is your chief desire?

Commentary: If these verses were spoken to a group of prisoners in a maximum security prison we could feel reasonably confident that many of James' accusations would be right on target. Yet, if any of these accusations are on target with what is in our hearts are we not also in a prison of our own making? James is looking deep into our hearts and the picture is not a pretty one. We may look good on the outside but God sees us completely. He wants our hearts not just our external appearance. God wants us to delight in the purity of His eternal nature that He gives us as we live in Him. It is not how humble we appear in the sight of others but in His sight that truly matters.

August 26 – James 4:11-17

How do we tend to speak about people we don't like?

Have you ever thought you were speaking evil of them?

Where does the temptation to judge others, based on our knowledge of good and evil, originate?

Do you presume upon the future or fear it?

Are you prepared for what God has prepared for you?

What informs your awareness of the brevity of life?

What is the sin of omission?

Commentary: It is easy to see or think we see the flaws in someone else's life. Even if what we see is accurate we are no better or wiser when all we do is point fingers of blame and condemnation. As peacemakers we are called to the ministry of reconciliation, to come alongside those who struggle to apply their faith to their circumstances. We are to be spiritually proactive rather than judging reactively. We too easily leave God out of our plans choosing our own way and not doing what we should know to do.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

LIFE WAS GOOD

Life was good for the two young boys,
Abundance of time and plenty of toys;
The things they did, they did together,
There was no hardship they couldn't weather.
When folks asked one about the other,
He'd grin and say, "Oh, he's my **brother!**"
Sometimes they'd tangle when things went wrong,
But it wouldn't last, least not for long.
Their simple logic just seemed to say,
"Let's duke it out, and then go play!"

But boys become men; they get wiser and older,
A once teachable spirit has now become bolder!
"I'll never give in," they each seem to say,
"I've dug in my heels, till I get **my way!**"
"My mind is made up and I'll win this fight,
Why should I change when he's wrong and I'm right?"

Oh, that as men we would love one another,
And bring back the days of "Oh, he's my **brother!**"
I Corinthians 14, Paul says again,
In malice be children – in understanding be **men!**

Brother Alan Meyers

THE HOLY SPIRIT: AN UNCOMFORTABLE PRESENCE

A. W. Tozer

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42

One issue that needs to be dealt with is simply *who would be uncomfortable in a Spirit-filled church?* I think this is an important subject because not everyone is going to be comfortable when the Holy Spirit is Lord of all.

Many think everyone is anxious for a move of the Holy Spirit in their church. They may say they are interested in it and are praying for it, but there may be nothing that suggests they will be willing to actually see the Holy Spirit move in their midst.

Controlling People

When dealing with the Holy Spirit, we are dealing with God. When we deal with God, we must deal with Him on His terms, not ours. Most people do not quite understand that, even some Christians. They believe God is at their disposal at the snap of their fingers.

This would be the first group of people uncomfortable in a

Spirit-filled church. They want to be able to tell God what to do and when to do it. They may have good intentions – I do not argue that – but their intentions are not rooted in the Scriptures. Does not the Bible say that not all men have faith? When we come into a church setting, we must leave behind us our will and our intentions.

I will grant you there are many good people in the church, but they really do not understand who the Holy Spirit is and what He is about. Yes, they have heard teaching about the Holy Spirit. But they do not know the practical application of submitting themselves to the Holy Spirit.

Take some people’s prayer lives. Their prayers are based upon what they want and when they want it. Even if what they want is contrary to the plain teaching of the Scriptures, they still want it.

These people will be very uncomfortable in a Spirit-filled church.

Sunday-Morning Christians

I think another group of people uncomfortable in a Spirit-

filled church are those who put on their religion as a suit for Sunday morning. After the service, they carefully take off their suit and hang it up until next Sunday.

Those who want to walk with Christ day by day and moment by moment are not in this category and do not put on their religion like a sweater. They put it on as their garment for day-by-day living. If the Holy Spirit is going to move in my heart, I must commit myself to Him every day of the week with expectations based on Scripture.

Nothing in the Scriptures says the Holy Spirit will only move on Sunday. These people think Sunday is the time the Holy Spirit will move. If He does they are excited about it, but then come Monday morning it is a different story. We cannot tell the Holy Spirit when He is to move and when He is not to move.

Looking back at history of revivals and the great movements of the Holy Spirit in our past, you will discover revival was never at the whim of the church. The revival was a work of the Holy Spirit in His time and in His way.

People who want to limit the Holy Spirit like this will certainly be uncomfortable in the Spirit-filled church.

Pleasure Addicts

There is another group of people in the church that would be very uncomfortable if the Holy Spirit moved in their midst. They are those who are addicted to entertainment and pleasure.

I must confess that there is nothing entertaining or pleasurable about the move of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit begins to move, He often uproots many things we have grown accustomed to. He destroys those things we have been resting upon in order that we might come to the point of resting wholly and completely upon Him.

Entertainment is not in the scope of the Holy Spirit. Many churches have given way to this attitude of entertainment and as a result have hindered the Holy Spirit from working.

People often come to church to feel good about themselves and have positive thoughts about where they are going and what they are going to do. As long as the pastor can soothe them and make them feel good about themselves, they are going to keep coming. The Holy Spirit does not work that way. Rather, the Holy Spirit will not soothe you, nor will He make you feel

comfortable. The Holy Spirit may uproot your present life and bring a bit of discomfort to you.

As I have read biographies of those men and women involved in great moves of God in the past, I have noticed one thing about them. All of them have different lifestyles and different personalities; they are different from one another. The one common thing among them all was a disruption of their life. When the Holy Spirit moves, He disrupts a person's life. Those who do not want that will not be comfortable in a Holy Spirit-run church.

Along this line are people who really want church to be fun. They want church to be full of games and activities and fellowship, dinners, picnics, and you name it. If it is fun they are going to be there. If it is a worship service where the focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ, chances are they are too busy to come. They will flock to a church picnic but will never show up at a prayer meeting.

We have a fun generation trying to run the church today, and these people will never be comfortable in a Spirit-filled church.

Big Shots

Another thing is true: A Spirit-filled church will never be a platform for people who desire to be big shots and popular personalities.

In order for the Holy Spirit to begin to work in the church, those personalities and celebrities need to die to themselves. The Holy Spirit will not allow them to run His church.

Yet this is what we see today. If the pastor is not a celebrity or vibrant personality he cannot draw a crowd. The crowd wants to go where the popular celebrity is. Worship has become our performance. The one who can put on the best performance is the one who is going to get the largest crowd.

These people would be very uncomfortable in a Spirit-led church because the Holy Spirit will never bow to a personality or celebrity. The Holy Spirit will always be God. And those who are looking for celebrities and personalities will be very uncomfortable with the exaltation of Jesus Christ.

As I have said before – and I do not mind repeating myself – the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the church is to glorify Jesus Christ, and He cannot be glorified

when competing with celebrities and personalities.

The big shots are running the churches today. And if I may be so bold, I believe they are running them into the ground. These people would be very uncomfortable if the Holy Spirit took over the service on any given Sunday. They are in charge, and what they want to happen is going to happen. Their agenda is what is important, and they are going to work toward that agenda and point people in that direction.

Those Who Confuse Worship With Entertainment

I might as well get right to the point and include the area of singing here. The singing portion of church services – which some call worship – has spun out of control today. Our singing is on par with the world and the concerts the world puts on. As such, it fails to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Those who think singing a hymn is entertainment surely will not be happy in a Spirit-filled church. I have had people tell me that singing a hymn is a form of entertainment. If it is, I will sing no more hymns as long as I live. However, I know differently.

Those who believe singing

hymns is entertainment have not the first idea of what worship is all about. Worship is never about the person worshiping, but rather the Person we are worshiping. Is our singing today in the local congregation for our pleasure or is it to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ?

I believe that is the hardest question to answer, and yet I believe it needs to be answered. People who are convinced that singing is entertainment will never last in a Spirit-filled church.

When I sing, “Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,” I am worshiping God Almighty. To even suggest that that is a form of entertainment borders on blasphemy.

Those before the throne cry day and night without ceasing, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty” (Revelation 4:8). If that is entertainment, then I am an entertainer; but I assure you, it is not. First and foremost, I am a worshiper. The church must worship, and worship and entertainment are at opposite ends of the table.

Spirit-filled worship will make some people very unhappy and uncomfortable, but Spirit-filled worship is what we need in our churches today. There is more

healing joy in five minutes of true worship than in five nights of reveling. No one ever worshiped God and then committed suicide as a result of a hangover. Many a man has killed himself because he burnt himself out trying to have fun. Many a young woman goes out, throwing herself into having fun, and before she is twenty-five years old she is worn out.

Cultural Christians

There is another category to cover before I finish this chapter. Those who embrace religion for cultural value will certainly not be happy in a Spirit-filled church.

The church can become the center of the culture of a neighborhood. They want concerts, book reviews, picnics, and all sorts of things. This kind of thing happens frequently. But they really do not want a move of the Holy Spirit in their midst.

The local church becomes a place to better yourself, upgrade your business, or find a husband or wife acceptable in the community. These kinds of people will never feel at home in the church with the Holy Spirit in charge. They have completely different agendas.

If you look at these categories closely, you will discover very few people who would be happy and content in a Spirit-filled church. Perhaps that is why the evangelical church today is on a downswing. Those focusing on the work of the Holy Spirit are not going to have the crowds they once had. Those who do have the crowds usually are those offering the people what they want so they will come.

Editor's note: This is chapter 11 of A. W. Tozer's "Alive In The Spirit. Used by permission.

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

The new Secretary of the General Mission Board is Brother Justin Beck, 480 Schubert Rd, Bethel, PA 19507. Send all donations for the Board to him. Make all checks payable to the General Mission Board.

RELIEF BOARD

The Relief Board has reorganized. The new chairman is Brother Duane Priest. The new Secretary of the Relief Board is Brother Ward Deaton, 808 Fountain Blvd, Zillah, WA 98953. Send all donations to him. Make all checks payable to the Relief Board. Brother Rodney Kimmell continues as the Treasurer.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation plans to hold their annual revival meetings beginning Sunday, August 12, 2018 through Sunday August 19, 2018. Bro. Gerry Priest of the Chambersburg Congregation will be our evangelist. There will be services each evening at 7:30. On Saturday, August 18 services will begin at 11:00 A.M., followed by lunch at the church. Examination service will convene at 2:00 P.M. with Lovefeast to be held that evening. The meetings will close on Sunday. We invite anyone who can, to come and enjoy the fellowship and be challenged to grow in your walk with the Lord. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication..." Acts 1:14

Sister Ruth Clark, Cor.

CORNERSTONE, OHIO

We are looking forward to having Bro. Dallas Flory from New Life Congregation in Washington at CornerStone for a season of revival. They will be each evening at 7:00 P.M., Wednesday August 29, 2018 and ending on Sunday, September 2, 2018. There will be a carry-in lunch on Sunday. Please pray for Bro. Dallas as he prepares to deliver God's Word to us. Pray for each of us, as hearers, to prepare our hearts to receive it.

Sister Karen Blocher, Cor.

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If you are interested in receiving the Bible Monitor in digital form rather than as a printed copy, please email the Editor at miltoncook1943@gmail.com to set it up. The price remains \$ 5.00 a year to cover publication expenses.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2018

Sept. 2 – Be Patient – James 5:1-12

1. What sin is James condemning in the first six verses?

2. To whom is James speaking in these verses?

3. As he begins speaking to the brethren in verse 7 what purpose or purposes has his judgment served?

Sept. 9 – Fervent Prayer – James 5:13-20

1. When is prayer of greatest benefit?

2. What common side effect does suffering, sickness, and sin often create?

3. Why is Elijah such a good example to the audience James writes to?

Sept. 16 – A Lively Hope – I Peter 1:1-12

1. What is the difference between a “living hope” and a “dead hope”?

2. How is our faith sustained?

3. How do trials benefit your faith?

Sept. 23 – Holy Behavior – I Peter 1:13-25

1. What does your hope rest upon?

2. How will God judge your work?

3. What is a martyr and was Jesus a martyr?

Sept. 30 – Living Stones – I Peter 2:1-12

1. How do you lay aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking?

2. What can you give as an example of tasting the graciousness of the Lord?

3. Are you aware of your priestly calling and offering up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ?

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