

BIBLE MONITOR

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SEPTEMBER, 2018

NO. 9

"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.

GOD, IN THE GOSPEL OF HIS SON

God, in the Gospel of his Son,
Makes his eternal counsels known;
'Tis here his richest mercy shines,
And truth is drawn in fairest lines.

Wisdom its dictates here imparts,
To form our minds, to cheer our hearts,
Its influence makes the sinner live;
It bids the drooping saint revive.

Our raging passions it controls,
And comfort yields to contrite souls;
It brings a better world in view,
And guides us all our journey through.

May this blest volume ever lie
Close to my heart, and near my eye,
Till life's last hour my soul engage,
And be my chosen heritage.

—*Benjamin Beddome*

BIBLE STUDY

There are commands within the Bible that direct those desiring to follow God to study His Word. The Bible does not contain His Word but it is His Word. His Word is authoritative for our lives. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit He moved men to write the words He desired written. While those words reflect the personality and circumstance of the writer, they are the message God wants His people to heed. They are written for those who believe that He is and that He rewards them with every good and perfect gift.

His will has been delivered perfectly as the Spirit directed in its original form. Through the processes of translation and conveyance into other languages some of the meaning

may be muddled by the differences between languages and cultures. Although there may be some inexactness in translation, the primary message of His Word is very plain and easy to be understood. As long as readers and listeners do not try to modify His message through their own perceptions and presumptions, the message will survive the inconveniences of translation.

Although the canonical Bible was assembled over many hundreds of years, was authored by a number of authors who used at least three different languages and has been translated into thousands of languages, still the Bible remains God's Word and Will for modern as well as for ancient

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men. The message is centered upon the Grace, Mercy and Love of God for His created beings. While He created all forms of life at the beginning, only within humans did He place His spirit. In His perfect creation man was given not only the spirit of life, but also the spirit of relationship with Him. Man was made not only a physical being but was also a spiritual being.

Man could fellowship with God in his perfect form, but lost that ability after partaking of the forbidden fruit. Once man had lost his first estate with God, God has striven to reunite man with Himself. He wants fallen man to regain fellowship with Him. Therefore God has pursued man through His Grace, Mercy, and Love.

In the present we have been given the continuing opportunity to respond to His Grace and Mercy. So we might understand what He wills for us, He has shared with us His Word in today's common languages. That Word is not only an account of man's failure to maintain this heavenly relationship, it also shows what God has done to repair that broken relationship.

His redeeming opportunity for men cost Him a dear price.

He gave His only begotten Son as the perfect sacrifice for men to accept to restore the relationship that God has desired. Men may try various ways to please God and to win His favor, but none are capable of effectiveness except for this. The various sacrifices of the Old Testament were but a shadow of the perfect sacrifice that would later be offered. Jesus became that perfect and only sacrifice acceptable to the Father.

That sacrifice is available, but its effectiveness will be determined by each individual's response to God's offer. With the acceptance of the offer, comes a restored relationship, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and an ability to understand the Word that God has shared with His people.

Having His Word is not enough; it must be studied to find not only the larger themes of salvation and eternal life but also the smaller themes of daily living. We need to learn to keep our lives, physically and spiritually, in tune with God and as a witness to the surrounding culture. We need to learn God's point of view and adopt the same point of view of the surrounding world.

God favored us by giving us His Word; He wants us to not only read it, but to realize what He has revealed there for our benefit. The one who will labor to do so will be rewarded with an understanding that will shape a life conformed and submissive to Him. God wants us to know which adds depth to our following of Him.

There are many ways to gain a deeper understanding of His Word. The most valuable

aid to understand His Word is the Holy Spirit. The same Holy Spirit who inspired the men, who put these words to paper, also lives within each believer. As the Comforter, He will guide us in our study.

Are you reading the Word of God? Good. Are you studying His Word? Better. Are you applying the Word of God to your life? Best.

M. C. Cook

MONKEY SEE, MONKEY DO

John 13:15, "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you."

II Corinthians 10:12, "...but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

"So-And-So did it, why not me?" "All the girls are piercing their ears, why not me?" "All the boys are getting tattoos, why not me?" Back in the old days, Mother would answer by saying, "If your friends were jumping off a cliff, would you?" Everything we do, if we are Christian, we must consider the cost. Does what we are doing glorify God, or the flesh? Can we thank God for it?

Do others benefit from it? Does it satisfy spiritually? We must consider these questions before we do almost anything.

We were all young once. We had moments when we were not serious about anything. Many times we got dangerously close to the edge of that cliff that Mother talked about. We often find refuge in society, school friends, and sometimes rebelling against our parents.

We must carefully examine the life of Christ. He is, after all, our example. Was there ever any indication of pride, or jealousy, or rivalry, or hatred? Jesus was perfect in every way and the Bible shows us the perfect man.

So do we strive to be like each other, or do we strive to be like Christ?

Sweet are the promises, kind
is the word;
Dearer far than any message
man ever heard;
Pure was the mind of Christ,
sinless I see;
He the great example is, and
pattern for me.

Where he leads I'll follow,
Follow all the way,
Where he leads I'll follow,
Follow Jesus ev'ry day.

Sweet is the tender love
Jesus hath shown;
Sweeter far than any love that
mortals have known;
Kind to the erring one,
faithful is he;
He the great example is, and
pattern for me.

W. A. Ogden

Brethren Hymnal #713

Young folks idolize one another. They try to imitate

one another. They often find out only when it is too late that some of these characteristics are evil and must be avoided. They need good examples: Christians that they can look up to.

In I Corinthians 11:1 it is written, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." In the early Christian church those who did not know Christ in the flesh followed people like Paul until such time as the Holy Spirit became their teacher. Though promises are numerous in the scripture, people often need to see these promises in others. They become our examples.

John 14 tells how Jesus has prepared for us, not only in Heaven, but also here below. He has given us a Comforter. Luke 11:13 says, "...how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

HEAVEN IS REALLY ALL THAT MATTERS

Recently, books have been published on the subject of heaven. Even some movies have been put out on this

subject. For myself, I think it is a wonderful subject and I like talking about heaven.

The problem is I really do not

know that much about heaven. Jesus called it, "My Father's House." Some people have the idea that in this "House" they will have some kind of a mansion over the hilltop.

For me, if heaven turns out to be just a mansion over the hilltop, I am going to be a little bit disappointed. I do not want to live in a mansion. If that is all God has for me when I die, it is a little bit shabby.

Our problem is that we take the best of earth that we can think of and project it up into heaven and that is our idea of what heaven is all about. Earth is no comparison to heaven at all. If it were, why wouldn't heaven be called earth?

I glanced through some of the books depicting heaven and some testimonies of people claiming to have died and gone to heaven and I do not question their honesty although one book proved to be dishonest. My problem is that many of the descriptions of heaven are completely out of line with the Bible. There seems to be a certain fantasy element to their ideas.

Some people believe that when they die and go to heaven, they will become an angel. If

you have ever studied anything about what the Bible talks about angels you would dismiss that idea completely.

It is okay for people to write books about heaven and to make movies based on those books, but I prefer to get my information about heaven from the Bible. It was the apostle Paul who talked about his going to heaven and it was such a transforming experience he could not even describe it. Now if Paul, the most eloquent man in the New Testament, could not describe what he saw how can I trust people who are not on the same level as the apostle Paul?

I believe to appreciate heaven you need to know who created it and for whom it was created. If you cannot really wrap your heart around that truth, you will never begin to understand what heaven is all about.

It is just like prophecy. We have some prophecy gurus today who know more about the end times than Jesus claimed to know. I may sound a wee bit cynical, but I am not sure I can really trust them on that.

The same goes with this matter of heaven. Some people claim to have gone to heaven

and I do not doubt their sincerity because who in the world am I to judge someone on that regard. My only complaint is that what they tell me about heaven is not what I read in the Bible. The heaven they talk about is often contradictory to many things in the Bible.

For most people, even some Christians, heaven is not real. It is merely an imagination, superstition or fantasy of some sort. In fact, if heaven is what the Bible says it is, and I believe it is, many people would not be very comfortable in heaven.

Heaven, you see, was designed by God for God and He delights to share it with the redeemed. That is why Jesus said, "In my father's house..." God built this house on His own design and resources, and wants to share it with the believer.

Redemption is the garment needed to endure and enjoy heaven. If someone would happen to get into heaven, which is not possible, of course, without redemption, they would not be able to handle it. Heaven is not just for people to have fun. Heaven is the reward God gives to those who have been

redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

I feel a little despair when I hear of some celebrated sinners who had no time for God or God's people and are talked into heaven at their funeral. If they would ever go to heaven, it would be such a shock they would never get over it.

Heaven carries with it the holy character and nature of God. Anybody not prepared to experience that will not make it into heaven. Not everybody who talks about heaven will actually go there or would like it.

This is the great impetus of evangelism. As people are, they are headed for hell. We do not like to say this quite as bluntly but it is true. Our great job is to challenge people on this issue and show them that Jesus Christ is the only path to heaven.

If people could only understand what heaven was really all about, there would be a passion to prepare themselves to go there and enjoy the delicacies of God's nature for all eternity.

James L. Snyder
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PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

September 2018 Study Questions

September 2 – James 5:1-12

For what reason(s) should the rich weep and howl?

How have they gained their riches?

Are you prepared to proclaim a similar message?

What hope provides patience for believers in the midst of injustice?

What does it mean to establish your heart?

What fruit is produced by grumbling?

Who do we tend to complain about?

Why or why not does an oath improve your trustworthiness?

Commentary: Wealth is a fickle commentary upon our faithfulness. It is more likely to produce covetousness and unjust practices than to be used to honor and glorify God. (Luke 18:25) Wealth cannot save those who possess it from the judgment of God. (Matt. 16:26) James affirms that the treasures of this life will not last but is corrosive to those who have trusted in them. Unlike many who protest injustice, James exhorts the followers of Jesus to establish their hearts and hopes on the soon coming kingdom of Jesus. Developing preserving patience that endures and avoiding grumbling that invites discontent among the Brethren are twin efforts that cannot be separated. Christ is the root of every word we speak and is the sole basis for every Yes or No.

September 9 – James 5:13-20

What is James inferring about every condition of life?

How sick do you need to be before calling the elders?

What is the biggest obstacle to exposing our neediness?

Beside God to whom do you confess your sins?

What difference is there between you and Elijah?

Are you prepared to turn a sinner back to the truth?

What is most necessary for such a task?

Commentary: The book of James is not a schoolhouse for budding theologians. Rather, it is a fitness center for strengthening spiritual muscles. For every circumstance there is a spiritual exercise. Are you suffering, cheerful, sick, struggling with sin, or see someone wandering from the truth? Then pray, sing psalms, ask to be anointed, confess your sins, pray for one another, and turn a sinner from the error of his way. If we take our faith seriously allowing God's Spirit to work in and through us then the spiritual power of someone like Elijah can be evident even among the most ordinary of us who know Christ.

September 16 – I Peter 1:1-12

Are you aware that you have been elected and how do you know?

What work of the Holy Spirit takes place in you?

What illustration helps explain the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus?

What is the basis of your hope?

Are you starving for lentils or rejoicing over your inheritance?

Are you thankful for the benefits that come from trials?

Is the evidence of your faith a plaque on a wall or in the washing of dirty dishes?

Commentary: How do you encourage groups of Christians who are experiencing suffering for their faith in Christ? Peter reminds them that they are part of God's elect. Faith is not wishful thinking but is a living hope sustained by the power God, the very same power that raised Jesus from the dead. They are being sanctified by the work of the Holy Spirit and set apart for obedience. Thus trials, even grievous in nature, becomes a portrait of our joy in knowing Christ Jesus that desires to honor and glorify Him. And the best is yet to come as we receive the gift of eternal life.

September 23 – I Peter 1:13-25

What does "girding up the loins of your mind" convey to you?

By what means are you holy?

What is the basis of your hope that will carry you through the end of your life?

How does knowing your works will be judged impact your faith?

Is your faith something you have received or inherited?

What does “without blemish, without spot” infer?

How is your faith through Jesus?

How “unfeigned” is your love for the brethren?

How might you respond to someone whose “faith” is based on contemporary perspectives?

Commentary: Being a Christian is serious business. We represent Christ in all that we do. Therefore, our behavior must reflect His holiness, worthiness, and the gloriousness of His kingly rule over us. Who we are is based upon who He is. Apart from His life we are empty shells, without any lasting purpose, and our works have no eternal value. Only as we receive His sacrificial offering on our behalf and value it above all else can our lives be overflowing vessels of His grace and glory in which we find great reason for rejoicing. May His enduring word continue to deepen our understanding, excite our hopes, and bless the works He works through us.

September 30 – I Peter 2:1-12

What is the Lord teaching you to lay aside?

How well developed are your “spiritual taste buds”?

What do you imagine when you are called a “living stone”?

What spiritual sacrifices are you offering?

What is a sacrifice and why make one?

How do you describe disobedience?

If the nation of Israel is the shadow what is its fulfillment?

How do you abstain from fleshly lusts?

Commentary: Everything that Peter asks us to give up seems difficult at best and impossible too often. Our human nature rises up and wants its own selfish way, unless, we have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To taste something is to have a sensory experience with what is being tasted. Tasting the graciousness of the Lord must be as real to us as our favorite taste experience. It is not just a one time or end time tasting. Each day and each moment

His grace is present waiting to be tasted. Only such encounters with the living God can produce living stones. Only the taste of His grace can make us aware of who we are, what we are, whose we are and all that we are meant to be. It is all gain. Anything we have had to give up is just trash.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

FOLLOWING

Follow the Leader

Follow the Leader is a rather fun game, especially if you are the leader. We play it sometimes at school to review obeying directions and the concept of "following." I am always the leader, and I don't think I would enjoy following now, because I wouldn't want to copy some of the directions from a student-leader!

How am I at following Jesus, my leader? Today we sang, "Each step I take, my Savior goes before me, and with His loving hand, He leads the way." by W. Elmo Mercer. It is comforting to think that He is going before me and leading the way. I can trust Him to do it right and I can safely follow. I may not understand the path, but I can trust the Leader.

I also think of, "All the way my Savior leads me, what have I to ask beside? For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well." by Fanny Crosby. This

song means a lot in thinking of Jesus leading all the way and that He does all things well. As we went through some big changes at school a few years ago, this song took on new meaning for me. Now looking back, we can see how God led us and how He worked out those "scary" things and we felt very blessed.

Twister

Yes, Twister is another game that requires following directions. The spinner turns and you must put your left hand on yellow and right foot on green or whatever direction you are given. How long can you stay upright? The little girl I babysat recently thought I should play Twister with her and her siblings, but I didn't think it was a game for me to play now! I took care of the spinner and that sufficed.

I can relate this, too, to life.

How am I at following those directions that I am given? I am thinking of the directions God has given us in the Bible. No, I'm not going to need to put my right hand on blue, but I do need to know the Word and follow what God gives. He's not spinning a spinner to tell me what to do, but His word is settled and I can trust Him and His word to be steadfast and unchanging.

Simon Says

This is another fun game, but with the added dimension of only following directions that are given by "Simon." When we do this at school I watch my students to see who is thinking about the given commands while also remembering whether or not Simon gave the command. Thankfully, I don't have to think about that extra layer of God's

commands – He is not trying to trick me, and I have the Holy Spirit and God's word to guide and direct me.

Following directions is an area I evaluate for my students. Can this child listen to my directions and follow them? Can he follow directions promptly as well as correctly? Does he need extra reminders? Some children need accommodations in following directions – they will need just one step given at a time. They may need to do one thing, and then have the next directive repeated before they can do it. I am glad God is patient with me and works with me when I need accommodations.

"He leadeth me...His faithful follower I would be!" by Joseph H. Gilmore.

Sister Arlene Birt

HOW PAUL ATTAINED

Hayes Reed

The apostle Paul in all probability had the clearest and deepest understanding of the victorious life, given to any of the apostles. Paul had given up much to become a Christian. He was of the wealthy, intellectual, and superior sect of the Pharisees,

and some even believe he was a member of the Sanhedrin. Moses of old had a background of similar opportunity along with Paul but Moses "chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming

the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.”

There came a time in the life of Paul when those things only frustrated his desire to live a victorious life before his God. Paul tells us in his Philippian letter that “But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. And be found in him not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness, which is of God by faith: that I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting

those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:7-14.

Living a victorious Christian life means more than just being a church member. We must have Christ living within. “As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” In putting on Christ means, we have opened the door of our heart through faith in His saving blood through Christian baptism we obeyed the command of Christ and let Him come into our hearts.

We must be willing to give up self, sin and the things of the world, and allow ourselves to be hid with Christ. May we allow the words of Paul, as given in the Philippian letter to become a part of our very being through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we can live such lives that others can know that Christ is living within.

We should often ask ourselves this question, “If Christ should come today, would we be ready to meet Him?”

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

IS IT ENOUGH?

Paul R. Myers

This question "Is it enough?" is one which we hear in all walks of life. Children, when asked of their parents to perform some certain work, try to avoid doing it all. After doing a part assigned them, often will ask Mother or Father "Is that enough?" Employees are very conscious of this same thought, when they will strike in preference to doing "more than enough". The tragedy occurs, when we are too anxious about its answer in reference to our relationship with God. We too often and too readily ask "Is it enough?"

Is it enough just to send a card or bouquet to someone who is sick or a shut-in? No, that is not enough. Jesus said, "I was sick and ye visited me." When we visit the sick, encourage them, read from God's Word and have prayer for them, we not only are doing our duty towards them, but are visiting Christ also.

Is it enough just to keep the parts of God's Word which appeal to us? No, that is not enough, all Scripture is profitable for us. We are to keep, to observe and obey, all

the commandments of God. We have no authority to choose, what we want to keep and what we do not want to keep. God's command is to keep them all.

Is it enough to wish to pray for the hungry to be fed and the naked clothed? No, that is not enough, we are commanded not only to pray for them, but to feed them and clothe them. Again, Jesus teaches that when we do so to men, we do so to Him. When we do not do it to men, we do not do it to Christ.

Is it enough just to preach the Gospel at our home congregation? No, that is not enough. Jesus gave us the great commission in Matt. 19. He definitely lays upon us responsibility beyond our own locality. "Go" is just as much a command as any other in the Word.

Is it enough on our part to shun our enemies, thereby avoiding conflict? No, that is not enough. Jesus commands us to love them, pray for them and do all in our power to win them. Are we doing just that?

Is it enough to say we are believers? No, it is not enough,

but we are to be doers. We are to put into effect that which we say we believe. By so doing and then only, we are true witnesses of the Lord Jesus.

Is it enough just to give so much? No, that is not enough. We are to give according to our means, according as God has prospered us. We are to give liberally. We are not to give and then lament the fact. We are not to set up our minds against giving, for the cause of the Lord, because we are commanded to give.

To carry on the work of the church, mission, and so forth requires money, laborers who are worthy of their hire and the feeding of the hungry and the clothing of the naked. That is the work of the church and God's order of the day. We are not doing enough when the funds for carrying on of the work are depleted. We are not doing enough if work and opportunities present themselves and cannot be performed, because of the lack of funds.

If you are not giving in proportion to the manner in which God has blessed you, you are not doing enough. Jesus taught several parables regarding the use of our talents.

He taught them that we might gather their meaning and apply the teaching to our individual lives. Seldom did Jesus teach with the thought of getting the lesson across to the other fellow. He taught to get the lesson home to each one personally.

Is it enough to forgive an individual once or twice? No, once or twice is not enough. Jesus taught "until seventy times seven" or as many times as necessary, without limitation.

Is it enough to go and hear the minister speak? No, that is not enough, you should also pray for him. You should live true to your promise made the church, that you might spare your minister worry and anxiety over you.

Is it enough to go one mile to make or keep peace and unity? No, one mile is not far enough. Jesus commanded to go twain, or more than one. We are to do all in our power and ability for Christ and the church.

Is it enough to go to church services on Sunday morning, only? No, that is not enough. We are commanded to "neglect not the assembling of ourselves together."

The subject presents endless applications. The Bible

teaches that there is more chance, that one will do too little or less than enough rather than too much. As far as God is concerned, it is only when we have done our best, and earnestly have the desire in our

heart to do more, that He will add His grace that we might be saved.

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

YOU MUST MEET GOD

Henry Martin

Dear readers of the Monitor, greeting in Jesus' name.

The word says prepare to meet thy God. That was God's word to Israel long ago, and it is His word to every man today. (Amos 4:12)

God shall bring every work into judgment whether it be good or whether it be evil. (Eccl. 11:14)

He hath appointed a day in the which he will judge the world in righteousness. (Acts 17:31) The day when God shall judge the secrets of man by Jesus Christ. (Rom. 2:16)

We see that by this that every man must meet God whether good or evil, whether ministers, elders or lay members. Prepare to meet thy God. He is thy God. Now listen, He has made you, sustained you, cared for you, saved you from a thousand dangers, dealt with you most

patiently, never yet rewarded you according to your sins. He is your God. Your breath is in His hands.

We could not exist a moment without Him, but we have served ourselves, not Him, we may have forgotten Him. He has never forgotten us. We are dependent on him for everything, yes, absolutely everything, and yet sometimes we have treated Him as if we were independent of Him.

Is it not true that He is our God? We cannot get away from Him whether we be in a church or home or office. We may have not yet for one moment in all our life acknowledged Him. He loves us; yes He has so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son to save us by His suffering on the shameful cross. He has had the gospel preached to us again and again, we have been moved

by it many times to yield our whole soul to Him, but we have given way to the Devil. Your friends have plead with you, your parents have prayed and are praying for you, because He, your God, has impelled them to, and He wills you to be saved.

Now you must meet Him. You will have to meet Him as to the use you have made of all that He has given you. The opportunities, the privileges, the entreaties, the prayers, the time He has given, the health, your bodies, powers, your mind, your eyes, your ears, your hands, your feet and all the capabilities he endowed you with.

A man born an idiot has nothing to be held accountable for. But we were born with all the faculties which make man the masterpiece of God's creation. You will have to meet your Creator as to the use you have made of these things. We will have to meet God as to the use we have made of His gold and silver, and of His earth and His world. The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and they that dwell therein. (Psa. 24:1)

Now listen, ah! There is a day coming when God will settle all this trouble that comes from

man's greed. And every man will get his due, if he does not make it right before that day. You must meet God.

We cannot get away from Him; you can hide from others but not from God. You can mock man, but not God. There is only one way to meet God in peace, oh! that is what we want – to meet God in Peace. God has made full provision for that in the atonement which our blessed Savior made for all our sins according to the scripture (I Cor. 15:3) who gave Himself for our sins. (Gal. 1:4) Through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins.

(Acts 13:38) "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin." (I Jno 1:7) "He gave Himself a ransom for all." (I Tim. 2:26) Now if you will acknowledge yourself the very sinner that God's words say you are, and which you surely must know yourself to be if you are honest with yourself and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the one who, on the cross, made peace with God for you by the blood of His cross (Col. 1:20) you will have His word for it that you are saved and only thus will you be able to meet God in peace.

If you think that you can

make things right with God by changing your ways of life, by reformation, or any of those things, which are right only in the right place, you will never meet God in peace. God's way of peace is by the cross of Christ. It is His blood and that alone which has atoned for our sins. He took the sinner's place in judgment and death on the cross that the sinner who will come to Him, trust in Him, believe on Him might not be judged. Verily, verily, I say unto you he that heareth My word, and believe on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation or judgment. (Jno. 5:24)

If you will take Christ in this way you will be assured in your soul that on the ground of His suffering for your sin on the cross, you are at peace with God, you will meet God, not as one against you, but as your Father who is for you. Where will we spent eternity?

*Eternity! Where? Oh, eternity
where?
With redeemed ones in glory
Or friends in despair?
With one or the other –
Eternity where?*

Selected from the
June 1, 1938
issue of the Bible Monitor

PURPOSE OF THE HARVEST

Howard J. Surbey

We are often reminded of our harvests and of the bountiful way in which God has blessed us. Too often we fail to think of the purpose of all this harvest. Why has God so blessed us? Have we been so deserving of it? Why was it allowed to mature? What reason did God have for blessing us?

God has given us the vegetation for our food and health. "And God said, Behold,

I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat." Gen. 1:29. After the flood He also gave us beasts, fowl, and fish for our food and health. "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the

earth, and upon the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered. Every moving thing that liveth shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things." Gen. 9:2-3.

Still I wonder why God has given men all these blessings. "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." Rev. 4:11. Here the reason begins to dawn, God is pleased when the parts of His creation serve their purpose. Without the provisions God has made, man could not honor and glorify Him. Without the harvest man could not survive to serve Him.

"(Bring) every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." Isa. 43:7. When the multitudes worshiped Christ on His entry into Jerusalem and some asked that He rebuke them; He told them that if those held their peace the stones would cry out. God will have worship, glory and honor from all ages and He rightly deserves more than He ever will receive.

"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the

same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth; that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever." I Pet. 4:10-11.

Did you ever consider how far short of this scripture you are living day by day? The multitude of gifts that are showered upon us continually must make God wonder about when we are going to return them to Him. One way of returning to Him is to impart our blessings to others who need them. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren ye have done it unto me." It is required of us as we have received. Not only that much but also good stewards, caretakers, of the blessings that God has showered upon us. How many times a failure has been made by those taking care of the harvest, yes actually willfully destroying it for their own material gain, (to keep the price high).

God promised Abraham and the children of Israel that He would be their God to bless

them bountifully and protect them from all dangers if they only would be His people and serve Him. It is sad to read over their history and find how often and to what degree they disobeyed Him and even served other gods. Is our condition any better? As we look at our history over a period of years such as we read of them, can we boast of any better record?

We still have just as faithful a promise from our Heavenly Father and we have the accounts of those multitudes in the past for our teachers. "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." God is just as much concerned about us and His promises are just as sure for us as they were for the children of Israel. However, God requires just as full hearted and faithful service of us, according to His instructions, as He did of

those of the Old Testament age.

Now it depends on us whether or not the purpose of the harvest will be fulfilled or not. We should take warning from the degree and length of time that those have been punished under the first dispensation. "Of how much sorer (less) punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Heb. 10:29.

The Jews were led astray by following their neighbors (the world) instead of God's words. Are the followers of Christ going to be led astray by the same misunderstanding?

Selected from the
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FAITH

D. W. Hostettler

When the word of God is taught, it produces faith. The sinner is convicted of his sin and he is made to believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the word of God.

In Ephesians 2:8, it is said that we are saved through faith and in the same text we find "By grace are ye saved." In Romans 8:26, it is said that we are saved by hope. Again

Paul says, "Work out your soul salvation." Still another text says that whosoever calleth on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Unfortunately, many people have taken one of these texts and have run into the extreme with it. With some people, salvation is all faith; with others it is all hope; with others it is grace; some want to do it all by works; and a very common expression is "Only believe."

To take one of these texts and disregard all others is narrowness in the extreme. I want to be quite liberal here: it takes a combination of all of these forces to work out our salvation. Each writer of the New Testament put the emphasis on the subject he was dealing with, so when the text says that we are saved through faith, it is understood that these other virtues are applied in the process of working out of our salvation. The Jews had the Gospel preached to them but to no profit, because it was not mixed with faith. Unbelief is the sin that is running rampant through the country, and this sin will, without doubt, condemn more people in that great day of reckoning than all other sins. Atheism may be chartered

by the state of New York, but it will never be able to stamp Christianity out of the human heart and convert the American people to its creed of negations and absurdities. We still find ourselves doing as Jesus said in Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God," like Philip who told the eunuch to believe with all his heart, and as we are told in Mark 1:15, "Believe the gospel."

To have faith as stated above is to accept these commands just as they are. It means to put confidence in, to trust in, or put faith in them as in the reality of a fact, as in the integrity and veracity of another. It means that we put our trust in the veracity of these objectives; and this leads up to the habitual observance of truth.

The power of God unto salvation is vested in the Gospel as seen in Romans 1:16 and Ephesians 1:19. Paul further says that the preaching of the cross unto them that perish foolishness, but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. Faith lays hold of the Gospel which is the power of God to them that believe, and since the faith of the Son of God is a living evangelical faith, it is active and works by love. It leads the

individual to seize the means of grace. Paul says in Romans 5:2, "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." It is through faith in the Son of God that we can claim the grace of God. It is all folly to confess faith in the Christ and then reject part of His teaching as some do saying that some of the teachings of Christ are unessential, for in so doing the very means of grace are rejected. This leads up to Paul's teaching of the unity of faith in Ephesians 4:13.

In Ephesians 4:5 we read, "One Lord, one faith, one baptism." What is the one faith? Can one member believe that faith, repentance, and baptism (trine immersion) for the remission of sins are the conditions of pardon, while another believes that he is justified by faith and that baptism is rendered essential because of remission of sins, still another believes that secret oath bound orders are incompatible with Christianity, and another believes he can affiliate with secret orders. We still believe the established practices of the church in the principles of nonconformity

to the world in the matter of dress and worldly amusements while others disregard all these principles and follow the vain and sinful fashions of the world and games and plays of worldly amusements. Under such conditions how can we be brought into the unity of the faith, of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ?

The next verse says, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things which is the head even Christ."

The unity of the faith will bring us to Philippians 1:27, "...stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." And again, earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints. We should speak the same things, there should be no dissensions among us; we should be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. There must be eternal manifestations

of the faith. This is the teaching of James when he says, Shew me thy faith without works and I will shew you my faith by my works. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son, Isaac. I cannot see how there can be any justification of faith without an external manifestation. Unity in our faith and practice is the thing that will count for most.

Another interesting point is found in Hebrews 12:2, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith..." It is evident that if Christ is the author and finisher of our faith he will make the faith of all men the same. We cannot admit that Christ will make one faith for one man and another kind for another. He does not make one a Quaker and another a Calvinist. He does not make

one to believe all the gospel and obey it, and another to believe so he can set part of it aside.

The gospel tells us what Jesus said and did and if we believe the things that Jesus said and did just as it is in the book, our faith is the same. To allow Jesus to be finisher of our faith is to put into practice the things we believe, to begin with Christ and go with him all the way, stop with him when he stops or quit with him when he quits. People differ in practices, but the difference comes from some other source than Jesus Christ, for whatever Jesus meant then he means the same for us. When you are through reading this letter, turn to your Bible and read Acts 16:5, 1 Timothy 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:13, 14, 15 and 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Selected from the
March 1, 1928
issue of the Bible Monitor

OBITUARIES

MARY ANN MARTIN

Sister Mary Ann Martin, 97, of Pioneer, Ohio passed away surrounded by her family on May 18, 2018, at Hillside Country Living near Bryan, Ohio. She was born on August 16, 1920 to the late Emery and Minnie (Flory) Clapper. She was a graduate of Stryker High School, Fort Wayne International Business College and was formerly employed by W. C. Heller Co., in Montpelier, Ohio. On

July 18, 1943 Mary Ann married Stanley L. Martin in rural Bryan, Ohio and he preceded her in death on December 12, 2016.

She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and always put others above herself. She had a deep faith in God and was a life-long member of Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church in rural West Unity, Ohio. Mary Ann enjoyed gardening, flowers, birds, traveling and spending winter months in Florida.

She is survived by four children, Carol Coats of Sugar Land, Texas, Robert (Ruth) Martin, Shirley Martin and Sharon Martin, all of Pioneer, Ohio; eight grandchildren, Scott (Gretchen) Coats, Amy (Ray) Caywood, Melanie (Michael) Truong, Angela (Jon) Games, Shane (Erica) Martin, Cara (Brent) Sloan, Misty (Ethan) Strivers and Jason (Jenilea) Martin; twenty four great-grandchildren; two great-great grand-children; sister-in-law Maxine Martin of Archbold, Ohio; and brother-in-law, Sylvan Jodry of Lima, Ohio.

Mary Ann was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Stanley; son, Dr. Jerry Martin; sisters, Olive June Jodry and Donna Belle Clapper; several infant sisters; and one great-grandchild.

Funeral service was held on May 23, 2018 at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church with Brother Dennis St. John and Brother Harley Flory officiating. Interment was in the Floral Grove Cemetery, Pioneer, Ohio held by Brother Tom St. John

MAE I. AUNGST

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, we lost one of the greatest ladies ever, Mae Irene (Wolfe) Aungst. God gave her to us for 92 years and we were still not ready to give her back to Him. She loved Jesus with all her heart and every night, Mem would pray for her family members by name. Born on March 7, 1926 in Deturksville, Pennsylvania, she was a daughter of the late Walter S. Sr. and Clara A. (Berger) Wolfe.

Her husband, Dory, her eight children, twenty-eight grandchildren, fifty great-grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren were the most important things in this world to her. Mem was happiest when her house was full of lots of people and her table covered with food. She was known for her delicious food and amazing pies. Everywhere she went, Mem would run into a friend to visit

with. She had a unique sense of humor, making her the life of the party. Working with her siblings at Wolfe's Berries was a special time in her life, earning her the title of "The Strawberry Lady".

Mem's heart was broken with the deaths of her two sons, Larry and Lenny, her granddaughter, Stacie, and son-in-law Harvey. She endured cancer, the treatments, two broken hips, and still had the strength to walk again.

For the past three years, it was our privilege to care for Mem and give her back a little of the love she gave to us. Her beloved daughter Donna made sure that Mem was never alone and was able to stay in her favorite place, home.

She was not only our Mem; she was everybody's Mem! And we loved her dearly to the end and forever.

Mem's life can be summed up with two words: "SHE LOVED!"

Preceding her in death, in addition to her husband of sixty two years, two sons, granddaughter and son-in-law were two brothers, Ray Wolfe and Walter S. Wolfe, Jr.; two sisters, Esther Kutz and Dorothy Hoffman.

Surviving are five sons, Lloyd and wife Peggy Aungst, Dean and wife Cindy Aungst, David and wife Neide Aungst, Jeff and wife Kim Aungst, all of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania; Dale and wife Anita Aungst of Wolmeldorf, Pennsylvania; a daughter Donna Gogets of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania; a brother Kenneth Wolfe of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were held June 25, 2018 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Bethel, Pennsylvania with Brother David Aungst and Brother Dale Aungst officiating. Interment was in the Hetzel's Cemetery, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania.

KAREN L. KOHL

Karen L. Kohl, 59, of Jefferson Twp., passed away July 4, 2018 in her residence surrounded by her loving family.

Karen was married for twenty years to Robert S. Kohl.

Born in Modesto, California she was the daughter of Doyle and Sharon (Switzer) Litfin of Arizona.

Karen was a certified Nurse's Aide. She enjoyed sewing and raising chickens.

She loved her family very much, especially her grandchildren.

Additional survivors include her children, DeWayne Wolfe and wife Christy, of Reading, Pennsylvania, Grant Wolfe and wife Susanna of Bethel, Pennsylvania, Jirus Wolfe and wife Jennifer of Greeley, Colorado, and Karleen Fochet and husband Neil of Bethel, Pennsylvania; nine grandchildren; and siblings, Arlen, Karl and Craig Litfin.

Funeral services were held July 9, 2018 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church with Brother Kenny Wilkerson and Brother Justin Beck officiating. Interment was in the church cemetery.

2019 CASP PROJECT

Our third CASP Pilot Project is being planned for the month of February in 2019. We recently received confirmation that this project will take place at the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard, in North Carolina. As of this writing, the exact dates have not been finalized. This is the same location as our 2015 CASP Project.

This project is an opportunity for young men who are members of the Dunkard Brethren Church of draft age (18-25) to develop spiritual growth, grow in maturity, enjoy the satisfaction of service, and develop new, deeper, and lasting friendships with like-minded young brothers from across our Brotherhood. The cost is taking a month out of the volunteer's life from a job or whatever else he might be doing. The experience will be somewhat stretching, but rewarding. Usually it is when we get outside of our comfort zones that real growth occurs.

Along with the work projects, emphasis will be made throughout the time of service on outreach in the community, personal spiritual growth, times of Bible study and singing, recreation and other activities to promote spiritual development.

If any young men are interested in serving on this project, please have them let Bob Lehigh know at rlehighdb@gmail.com or 717-817-6025.

It is our understanding that the facility can only comfortably accommodate eight young men. Priority will be given to those who

respond first. Consideration will also be given to those who are older and therefore would no longer be eligible to serve when we have the next project in approximately two years.

At this time there are still a few openings for young men to sign up. Also we would appreciate hearing from anyone who would consider serving on staff for the four-week period.

Would you kindly help in the effort by praying for this project? We would appreciate the prayers and financial support of the Brotherhood. It is our goal to have the Brotherhood cover the costs associated with this project, including reimbursement for travel costs of getting to and from Brevard, North Carolina. Contributions for this project should be made as follows:

Dunkard Brethren Church-Relief Board

And sent to:

Ward Deaton, Secretary
808 Fountain Blvd.
Zillah, WA 98953

Please mention that your contribution is for the Dunkard Brethren CASP Pilot Project.

If you have questions (or if a young man has questions), feel free to get in touch with the Civilian Service Board member from your District or Bob Lehigh.

Thanks so much for your kind consideration and cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely in Christ,
Brother Bob Lehigh

NEWS ITEMS

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview, Missouri Congregation will hold a revival meeting, August 26, 2018 through September 2, 2018 with Brother Chad Meyers from Dallas Center, Iowa as our evangelist. Monday through Friday services at 7:00 P.M., Saturday at 11:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. with Lovefeast at 6:00 P.M. Sunday services are at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. Lunch is provided both days. Please pray for Brother Chad and also that these meetings will be a time

of encouragement and revival for those that hear. Everyone is welcome to be with us for these meetings.

Sister Jolene Andrews, Cor.

MOHLER'S CONGREGATION

Revival Meetings at Mohler's Congregation will begin September 12 through 16, 2018. Services begin each night at 7:30, Sunday morning at 9:30 with Sunday School and preaching to follow at 10:30. The last service will be at 2:00 P.M. Sunday. A lunch will be provided after morning service. Please pray for these meetings that they would be ruled by the Holy Spirit and that souls may allow Christ to rule their hearts. Each and every one is invited to this time of fellowship and Revival preaching. Please come and bring a friend.

Sister Ruth N. Miller, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will be holding their Harvest Meeting/Lovefeast starting Friday, September 28 through Sunday, September 30, 2018. Brother Nathan Meyers from the Dallas Center Congregation will be our speaker for the weekend. Services will start 7:30 P.M. on Friday. Examination service is at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon with the Lovefeast starting at 7:00 P.M. on Saturday evening. There will be morning worship at 7:30 A.M. Sunday morning and Worship at 9:30 A.M. The closing service will be at 2:00 P.M. Sunday afternoon. A covered dish dinner will be at noon. We invite you to come and share the weekend with us. Please pray for the services and for Brother Nathan.

Sister Susan Nines, Cor.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank everyone for the cards and best wishes for our 60th Anniversary. We truly appreciated hearing from each one of you. May God bless you for your love and thoughtfulness.

Brother Henry and Sister Betty Walker

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 7 – Submit to Others, But Always Fear God – I Peter 2:13-25

1. What does honor the King mean?

2. Who was the King at this time?

3. How can/do we become submissive to harsh masters?

Oct. 14 – Wives' Conduct, Conversation and Costume – I Peter 3:1-7

1. How does a wife win an unsaved or disobedient husband?

2. How can husbands honor their wives?

3. What are the keys to a good marriage?

Oct. 21 – Suffering for Well-Doing – I Pet. 3:8-22

1. How can we remain happy when we are suffering for righteousness sake?

2. How should we always be ready to give an answer about our faith?

Oct. 28 – Reflecting the Mind of Christ – I Pet. 4:1-11

1. How do we have the same mind as Christ?

2. What does it mean that charity shall cover the multitude of sins?

3. What are the Oracles of God?

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