

BIBLE MONITOR

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OCTOBER, 2018

NO. 10

"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.

IS THIS THE KIND RETURN?

Is this the kind return?
Are these the thanks we owe,
Thus to abuse eternal love,
Whence all our blessings flow?

On us he bids the sun
Shed his reviving rays;
For us the skies their circles run,
To lengthen out our days.

Turn, turn us, mighty God,
And mould our souls afresh;
Break, sov'reign grace these hearts of stone,
And give us hearts of flesh.

Let past ingratitude
Provoke our weeping eyes,
And hourly, as new mercies fall,
Let hourly thanks arise.

—Isaac Watts

MONITORING THE HEART

In the not very distant past, Doctors wishing to know what was happening in the hearts of their patients could do certain tests in their offices or labs. These tests could give a good picture at that very moment. When Doctors wanted to know what was happening at other times they had to rely on the patients' verbal, non-technical reports.

More recently heart monitors were developed that patients could wear for a certain period of time. These monitors were the size of a purse with exposed wires leading to the patients' chest area where the measuring was done. They were very inconvenient to carry day and night. These monitors enabled the doctors to know

more concerning their patients' heart issues.

Now, these monitors are just a few square inches plus their wires and electrodes. They are totally hidden from the view of others; even the person wearing the device may nearly forget that it is present. From this small device the doctors and technicians can learn much.

Other medical devices have had a similar decrease in their size and inconvenience. With the lack of stress concerning the device itself, a more accurate report can be made of patients' conditions. These miniature devices are able to collect and share a great amount of information. The invisible becomes known through these devices.

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These devices are able to discern our physical and mental conditions which are not readily apparent by a physical examination or interview. Unfortunately there are no similar devices available that can diagnose our spiritual health.

We are interested in our physical health; are we as interested in our spiritual health? Monitoring our spiritual health requires different types of tools. These tools are not physical devices.

To monitor our spiritual health, we need to have a heart and mind willing to accept certain standards. These standards are found in God's Word. The Bible sets the high standards of spiritual health and activity which should be found within those who acknowledge God as their Creator, Christ as their Savior, and Holy Spirit as their indwelling guide into the ways pleasing to God.

To evaluate these standards and our compliance with them, we must be willing to be honest with ourselves and others. As we examine ourselves we must apply the standards that are set in God's Word. We cannot examine ourselves by the standards of this present,

natural world. God has set higher standards of conduct, attitude and activity than the world expects of those who serve only self, sin and Satan.

It can be very difficult to be honest with God or ourselves concerning our lives as measured by His standards. It is easy to excuse ourselves. We want to give special recognition to our own situation so we can excuse ourselves. We may want to depend upon our feelings or emotions. We may feel very righteous or worthy of passing our examination. In the physical realm, people may feel well, but a monitor may detect significant problems. We may feel that we are obedient, faithful, and in servant mode, when we are actually in rebellion against God. We must be very careful not to accuse or excuse ourselves from the tough standards that God has established.

God has not established His standards to make the spiritual life difficult; they are established to put us in the place of service and faith that will actually benefit us spiritually. When these standards are acknowledged and followed, they will not only benefit us but also bring honor and glory to God. When our lives

fulfill God's plan for us, we can witness before a lost and dying world. These standards are set for our spiritual well-being, for God's worship and as a way of reaching the lost around us.

It is common to engage in self-examination before participating in a Lovefeast service a few times a year, but we must daily examine ourselves to monitor where we stand in relation to God's will for our lives. Recognizing the seriousness of approaching the communion service, we are warned of the seriousness of God's established standards.

He wants us to have a part in that service but He wants us to realize that it is a commemoration of Jesus' body and blood.

Besides these special services, we need an everyday commitment to serving and obeying God as our Heavenly Father. We need a daily commitment to be in a place of devotion and service.

If a monitoring device were available that would show our true spiritual condition, what report would come from our devices?

M. C. Cook

CONSECRATE YOURSELVES

"Consecrate yourselves to day to the Lord." Exodus 32:2a

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

-Frances Ridley Havergal

In Galatians 5, verses 22 and 23, we are told about the fruit of the Spirit. When the Spirit of God enters a man and abides in him, certain things, good things, begin to show themselves. These things are called fruit. They start out small and they grow. Soon, everyone can see them, and smell them, and after

a while, taste them. Just as God smelled the incense and it was good, our fruit's fragrance will attract others, allowing people to come and taste.

The characteristics of God's Spirit begin with a meekness and a quietness not ever seen before in the person. These are outward signs of an inward manifestation. People will notice a difference.

They will also notice if there is no difference. You will hear things like, "A lot of good getting

baptized did for Brother X. He is just as mean as he ever was.”

Salvation brings about change in the human condition. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Consecrate yourselves unto Him.

Christianity is not just joining a church, or teaching a class,

or dressing a certain way. It is courage under fire, victory under persecution, joy in the midst of struggle, yielding to God’s will, and many other attributes of the Holy Spirit changing a man.

Consecrating ourselves to God means that we must yield ourselves constantly to His every command. Let us look at a few words of an old hymn from 1709 written by Isaac Watts:

My God, how endless is Thy love!
Thy gifts are every evening new;
And morning mercies from above
Gently distil like early dew.

Thou spread’st the curtains of the night,
Great Guardian of my sleeping hours;
Thy sovereign word restores the light
And quickens all my drowsy powers.

I yield my powers to Thy command:
To Thee I consecrate my days;
Perpetual blessings from Thine hand
Demand perpetual songs of praise.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler’s Congregation

LIKE NOTHING WE’VE EVER SEEN BEFORE

A favorite topic of mine has to do with heaven. I like reading books about heaven and reading what the Bible has to say about heaven. Quite a few books have been published

along this line and some are beneficial.

Some people write books sharing their “visit to heaven.” I find it fascinating, but I do not find too much of it in harmony

with the Bible and with books published on the doctrine of heaven.

If I can spend eternity in heaven, I want to know a little bit about it now. That is going to be my home and I want to get as prepared as I can for it.

When my wife and I prepare to go on vacation, it takes a lot of preparation. The preparation is dependent upon the destination. If we are going to the beach, that is one preparation. If we are going to the mountains involving a cabin, that is quite a different preparation.

I can prepare for heaven if I understand what heaven is all about. I must confess: some of these testimony books are not that helpful to me. The heavenly pictures are out of line with the Scriptures.

I think everybody has a description of heaven, but little is really based upon truth. Some of the descriptions of heaven I have read do not entice me to want to go there. It sounds fine, but it does not create any interest in me.

If heaven is floating on a cloud playing a harp, I am not sure I am that interested.

I must admit that every description we have of heaven

is limited by language and personal comprehension. We describe something "as like something else." However, everything beautiful in this world fades in comparison to what we have in store in heaven.

Certainly, there are places of exquisite beauty in this world. Nothing can compare to a beautiful mountain scene. But all of the beauty in this world put together comes nowhere near the beauty we will experience in heaven. The beauty we have down here is limited. The beauty we will experience in heaven is without any limitation whatsoever.

Our comprehension and appreciation down here is limited. When we get to heaven, we will have unlimited ability to experience and appreciate God's heaven.

I enjoy going to an art museum occasionally. I am not too excited about what they call "modern art." I do like to look at and admire the work of the Masters. Just to see the intricacies of their skill on a canvas. Even though I cannot replicate these great masterpieces, I can appreciate them. My ability to appreciate them, however, is quite limited.

I probably am missing much of what the artist put into that painting. If I could sit down with the artist, talk about that painting, and have him give me information that inspired him to do that painting, I am sure I would appreciate that painting a lot more.

The same goes with heaven. If I could just sit down with the One who created heaven and talk to Him about heaven and His inspiration in creating heaven, I would come to a point of appreciating heaven a lot more. The good news is: I can do that. I can go to my Bible, open it up and invite the Holy Spirit to reveal to me the intricacies of what God has in store for me. As I allow the Holy Spirit to do that in my life, my appreciation and anticipation of heaven begins to grow deeper and deeper in my heart.

Although I can appreciate what some man or woman has to say or write about heaven, it is limited in just about every regard. I can come to God and allow Him to reveal to me the inspiration that brought heaven to be. As I begin to understand that God created heaven, so that He could bring me into

heaven and fellowship with me throughout all eternity.

That simply means when I am in heaven there is actually no limitation to my ability to enjoy and appreciate what God has for me. My ability to enjoy and appreciate God is completely without limitation; after all, I have been redeemed.

I must confess I do not quite understand all of that. I do not understand how my appreciation will be limitless when in an environment that has no limitation. I do not understand that, but then there is so much about God I really do not understand.

The more I get to know God the more I understand there is to know about God. That only feeds my hunger for more of God. The more I learn about heaven the more I understand I do not know about heaven, which feeds my appetite to know more about that place we call heaven.

I cannot wait until my eyes feast on the delicacies of heaven in all of its glory.

James L. Snyder
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“YOU ARE CELEBRATING SATAN’S HOLIDAY”

Len Wertz

It is not long until people all over the world will be celebrating Halloween. It concerns me that very few conservative Christians take a stand against this satanic holiday...the day witches celebrate in the occult.

There are eight major festivals that the occult celebrates each year. They include both solstices and equinoxes, in February (announcing spring), in April (welcoming summer), in August (heralding the fall harvest) and in October (awaiting winter). The major witchcraft festival is October 31...HALLOWEEN.

This is not child’s play. It is an abomination in the eyes of God. Because witchcraft has gained a sort of acceptability today, no one seems too concerned. In fact, the Internal Revenue Service has even given a tax exempt status to the “Church of Wicca”...the official church of witchcraft.

The witch of Halloween is evil and should be considered dangerous. Her cloak really reminds us that this holiday is a “festival of the dead.”

In the Middle Ages, witches would rub an ointment on

themselves that confused the mind and another that speeded up the pulse. Still another ointment, containing bat blood and unguent, among other things, was used that numbed the feet giving them a feeling of flying. Thus they are pictured flying on a broom today.

The earliest celebrations of Halloween began among the Celts, Scotland, Wales and France. They celebrated the “Vigil of Samhain” in honor of their god, Samhain, lord of the dead. Halloween took on its evil significance with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats and demons. These pagans believed that evil spirits lurked about as the “sun god” grew pale and Samhain grew strong. They would light bonfires on the hillsides to scare away the evil spirits of those who had died the year before. They sacrificed people and animals and wore terrifying costumes. They also believed that when these spirits came to their houses, if not treated, they would trick them.

Halloween was a time of divinations and remains that even to this day. Dunking for

apples was even a part of their desire to have “eternal youth” and to assure their receipt of the love of another.

The Jack-O-Lanterns came from England and were called Corpse Candles. They were thought to be signals from the souls of men lost at sea. They supposedly wanted their bodies buried and if a bone or two could be found, the ghost would be laid to rest and the Corpse Candle put out. Even others believed that these Jack-O-Lanterns were the souls of sinners condemned to walk the earth until the end of time.

The costumes of Halloween have to do with devils, witches, ghosts and goblins. These costumes were worn originally to scare off the real demons.

The Owl was considered a deity by the ancient Romans. The Europeans of the Middle Ages feared their eyes and call. They were considered servants of Satan and witches.

Black cats have had a place of deity for thousands of years. They were considered sacred in Egypt. They were dreaded as human beings changed into animals by evil powers. They are used by the Occult members today in their sacrifices and are

considered mediums for satanic communication.

The bat, especially the blood drinking vampire, is a symbol of darkness to the occultist. And what is a Halloween party without bats?

Masks are considered by Occultists, to be protection against supernatural dangers and are worn in certain ritual situations. The wearer of the mask is usually a partaker of the power of the divinity or spirit which the mask symbolizes. Do Christians wear Halloween masks? Just our children, right, because we think it is cute and the thing to do because all of the rest of the world is doing it.

The ghost has always been considered a demon spirit which has been unleashed by Satan himself to live in our environment. It was representative of the worship of the dead and the occult.

Even “haunted houses” are dangerous for us to be a part of. Many communities have these places for you to visit during this season. In reality, they represent places where demons live. Satan is making reality seem like the ridiculous to dupe people.

II Corinthians 6:15-17 asks

us, "What concord hath Christ with Belial?" Halloween and the Christians are on opposite sides of the spectrum of life. We are God's. Even schools, today, promote Halloween vigorously, when in reality it is a satanic religion...which has supposedly been eliminated by education. It would appear that it depends on whether the religion is of God or of Satan. Don't celebrate at school or anywhere else. "... Come out from among them, and be ye separate." It is not just fun and games. It is serious business.

I suggest that we ask

the Lord's forgiveness for participation in this holiday in the past and make a fresh start in representing Him to this black and lost world. It is time for those on the Lord's side to stand up and be counted. We may have innocently participated in these things in the past because we had not been properly educated as to their dangers. With knowledge comes responsibility. Let us be responsible Christians.

Selected by Shirley Frick
From the October 15, 1990
issue of the Bible Monitor

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

October 2018 Study Questions

October 7 – I Peter 2:13-25

Does submission to civil authorities mean you agree with them?

What are the reasons for submission to government?

What influences does politics have on our lives and our attitudes toward those in authority?

What is your response to suffering when someone else is really to blame?

What is your aim toward those who have hurt you?

Who is to blame for Jesus' crucifixion?

What was Jesus' aim in suffering and dying for you?

Commentary: It is evident by what Peter writes that early Christians struggled with governing authorities for reasons similar to our

own. How we do relate to those in authority over us, whether kings or bosses, reveals much about our Christian character. We are not ambivalent in the face of corruption or injustice. But our response to evil and tyranny must be overcoming evil with good. The weapons of our warfare include suffering persecution, even death, for Christ's sake. No one had more reason to use overwhelming force to subdue His enemies. But Jesus chose to bear our sins on the cross, trusting in the power of reconciling love and forgiveness, as His means to win our hearts. As His disciples we walk the same path He walked, trusting as He did, in the righteous judgment of our God.

October 14 – I Peter 3:1-7

What purpose does Peter attribute to a wife's submission to her husband?

How does Peter define adornment?

What is one of the advantages of this sort of beauty?

How do you explain Peter's injunction for wives to have fear in verse 2 and not be afraid in verse 6?

How understanding are you of your wife?

What equality do husbands and wives share in?

How does the lack of knowledge hinder your prayers?

Commentary: Submission in areas of our life having plenty of opportunity for conflict is a form of evangelism. Marriage seldom thrives where relationships are defined by how much power one has over the other. Winning the battle is often the quickest way to lose the war. Peter redefines how the war can be won. In the process, a wife can discover what real beauty is that increases rather than fades with age. A husband learns what real love is about when he honors his wife rather than making demands upon her. Dwelling in unity of spirit and purpose allows new depths of courage to develop in the wife with which to face the obstacles of life.

October 21 – I Peter 3:8-22

What happens in you when someone says something hurtful and harsh?

How do you explain the life you've been called to?

What in your life demonstrates pursuing peace?

What sustains our confidence while doing good?

What point is Peter making in verse 13 (Rom. 8:34)

In what context is verse 15 anchored?

What saved Noah and his family?

Do the baptismal waters save us?

Commentary: We are called to be different by the One who is the only One who can make us different. The only way to be different is to be like Him. This we cannot do in our own strength but only by coming to the end of ourselves and coming again and again and again to the beginning of His strength. The future may hold for us persecution such as those to whom Peter wrote. He offered both comfort and challenge that we need to hear and respond as deeply in our hearts as we are able. So let us turn away from every manifestation of evil that will hinder our being of one mind, pursuing peace in every arena of our lives, with our confidence in the One whose eyes and ears are wide open to us.

October 28 – I Peter 4:1-11

What does the “*therefore*” in verse 1 refer back to?

What mindset are you to be armed with?

What causes us to cease from sin?

What does ceasing from sin look like practically?

What does verse 5 teach you?

Who are the dead spoken of in verse 6?

In what ways does the end of all things motivate our walk with the Lord?

Commentary: Suffering for our faith in Christ seems foreign to most of our experience. Yet Peter speaks of it as a frequent companion to those to whom he wrote. We would do well to consider the sufferings of Christ both on our behalf for our salvation as well as preparation for any suffering we may experience. Such preparation allows us to know where our real source of strength lies. In the midst of suffering when we are at our weakest and most needy our

confidence will be in our Good Shepherd in whose presence we need not fear evil. His comfort produces joy such as the apostles experienced in their suffering for Him. (Acts 5:40, 41) As we rely more and more on His strength the temptations associated with sin lose their hold upon us as we receive all that God is for us in Christ Jesus.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

WHAT HAS THE CHURCH DONE WITH GOD'S MESSAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

The church is God's purchased possession. The blood of His Son paid the price. By the Word and the Spirit she is sanctified and equipped for service. Christ is the head of the church. The church is His body, existing because of Him. Therefore Christ is still incarnate in the world, through the church. The doctrines taught, by Himself in person, are to be expounded by His espoused. The spirit of compassion exemplified in the Christ, is to be exemplified by His body of believing members. They are to enroll as ambassadors in Christ's stead, beseeching a lost world to be reconciled to God. As His followers, we are to be busy transacting the King's business.

The New Testament contains the good news of salvation for a sin-cursed world. Universal

sin, justification by grace through faith, regeneration of the soul to a new life in Christ Jesus, adoption into new family relations, sanctification by the Word of Truth and Spirit of Wisdom, to perfect a people for His glory, are doctrines from God. Those who have been made partakers of the divine nature are declared, by the same message, to be witnesses of these things. Those who have been forgiven much are constrained to love much and love is the dynamo that furnishes the power for service. The church has written a varied history, Spirit-filled and guided, she has arisen on the waves of opposition to accomplish great things for God. Worldly-minded she sank beneath the dignity of the Christian church and failed to reflect the image of the head.

During the first century the church was intense in her desire, to proclaim the remarkable message. The advocates prayed, fasted and witnessed to promote this revolutionizing doctrine. Filled with hope and joy, they were overflowing with anxiety that others might be likewise abounding in all the fullness of God.

As might have been expected, Satan launched his heaviest artillery against this heavenly institution. Human slaughter was his delight. However, human blood spilled in behalf of the cause the apostles had espoused, only proved to be a fertilizer which was productive of greater progress. "The blood of martyrs became the seed of the church." In a few years Judea, Samaria, Asia Minor and parts of Europe were aglow with the light of divine truth. The Devil, finding himself defeated in his plan to destroy the work of Christianizing the world, conceived the idea of taking the church into his arms. By feigning friendship he hoped to get her under his fostering care. How well he succeeded history records. This was a sad day for Christian religion. When the church was directed by the

State, she lost her influence upon society. Any compromise with the Devil means loss. It results finally in hiding the light under a bushel and losing the saltiness of the salt. The bride of Christ has only one guide, who can keep her in the path of right and present her faultless on that memorable wedding day. God sent the Holy Spirit for that purpose and a woeful time is ushered in, for both the church and the world, when the church is led by any other power.

It is fair to say, however, that through the centuries of State rule, Spanish inquisition and the Dark Ages; a few followed the Star of promise and kept the fire of consecration burning in their hearts. Now and then persons could be found who believed and asserted that we ought to obey God rather than men. The Holy Spirit was kindling strong conviction in hearts that finally broke into a flame of protest against the corruption of the age. For four hundred years men like: Wycliffe, Huss, Erasmus, Luther and others, equally as bold, opposed the authority of popery and started a wave of opposition that was irresistible.

Thus it will be observed

that in the beginning of our activities as a present church organization, the religious world was in a state of chaos. Traditions of men had found their way into church creeds. These were taught to be equally as binding, as the inspired Word upon the followers of Christ. These innovations, as is always the case, became nauseating to the more spiritual of the people and with an open Bible they rebelled against the Roman church. During this reformation period different schools were founded, each representing what they thought to be the real interpretation of the heavenly Father's Will. However the majority of these schools retained in part, some of the objectionable features that caused the religious struggle.

During this era of heated discussions and unsettled ideas, a large number of people separated themselves from all church organizations and endeavored to live a Christian life independently. A few of these Separatists, as they were called, saw the folly of such a course. They realized the need of an external organization, to more fully propagate the doctrines of Jesus and successfully carry on

the work inaugurated by Himself and delegated to His followers, the evangelization of the world.

Accordingly in 1708, eight of these honest simple-hearted people bonded themselves together, after careful meditation, prayer and fasting, to start an organization founded upon no other creed than the New Testament. The Word and the Holy Spirit guided them to the water, where they were all baptized by triune immersion, the mode authorized by Christ in Matt. 28:19-20 and practiced by the apostles, Acts 2:38. Their great desire to unfurl a banner upon which was inscribed: "The Gospel is the power of God, unto salvation, to every one that believeth" is the only apology that need be offered for this action. They were zealous in their belief and anxious that all men would join them, in the propagation of the Gospel as understood by themselves. Yet they maintained that membership in the church of Jesus Christ was to be had on the ground of faith, love and obedience, rather than on the material platform of compulsion, which many of the reform organizations were practicing. For several hundred years prior to this date, almost

all thought of evangelization was dropped. Finding orthodox ground upon religious questions was the all-absorbing question. In the midst of the babel, that then ensued, this little band of meek, yet zealous followers of Christ proclaimed that the New Testament was a message from heaven, embodying social principles and religious doctrines that should be adopted by the church unaltered and un-amended.

The Gospel to these reformers of the Reformation was an exceeding precious document. It was their life and life's pleasures. Promotion of lucrative ambitions was of secondary importance. Their conversation was about heaven, from whence they looked for the Lord Jesus. They carried their religion into their business relations. The burning question was to exemplify in their lives the highest principles of Christianity. Hence, an avocation served

only as a means to carry forward "the vocation whereunto they were called."

Missionary enterprise as applied today, was among this people an infant if born at all, nevertheless, these humble followers believed in making disciples as they went. What is more, they did not need to be coaxed by committees, nor driven by threatening bombs from the pulpit, to accomplish this God-given work. The wonderful activity manifested by the early church was not outward show, nor gushing sentimentality, but a spontaneous illumination fed by the oxygen of love and fire of the Holy Ghost and kindled by the brands of persecution. I dare say the church has not since recorded such an average of enthusiasm to propagate truth, as these worthies maintained.

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

TWO SERMONS AT SOUTH FULTON

Transcribed by Sister Elta K. Blythe

Sermon of Brother Roy Swihart:

To speak the Word of God,
I need the help of the Word of
God, the Bible, Psa. 116:1-19.

We can appreciate a God who
has ears that are not heavy
and an arm that is not short. He
inclined His ear because the

Psalmist came to Him, seeking His presence and His guidance. David had trouble and sorrow, in this condition he asked for deliverance and mercy. God delivered his feet from falling.

We have been in this same condition, turmoil and loss of rest. David found help and we can too. The soul that sinneth shall die. We need to be delivered from this sinful state. We all have sinned and come short, yet God loved us while we were His enemies. We hear His words and believe that we pass from death to life. He delivered mine eyes from tears. Anything that is contrary to the Will of God brings tears and sorrow to our life and loss of communion with God. Sin has a devastating effect in our life. "Deliver me from tears" there are different kinds of tears. A Christian sorrows for his shortcomings, but he has One he can go to, anchor his soul and find what he cannot find in himself.

We are taught that we are saved by grace. God plans that we fill our life with good works. We once fell from this grace and now we are brought back by the Cross, by the intercessor. Christ is interceding for us at this moment. He was tempted

in all points as we are and so He is a faithful High Priest. He interceded for Peter. Peter wept tears of sorrow. He prayed for Peter and prays for us. John 17. He prays for all who follow Him now. He prays not for us to be taken out of the world, but that we may be kept from the evil of it.

Our walking together proves to the world that we have love one to another and that we are His disciples. We are lights in the world, in a crooked and perverse nation. I am thankful that we can have a peaceful relation with God. Blessed is he whose sins are covered. We then can expect to have blessed happiness, because sin brings sorrow. Blessed is he to whom sin is not imputed. There are problems in life but we can find help. David said, "I acknowledge my sin." He was distressed but he laid his sin at the cross and found peace. He tells us to find peace the same way.

The Psalmist gives us such encouragement that a flood of sin will not encompass us. The blessedness of forgiveness. He will subdue our iniquities and cast all sins into the depths of the sea, Micah 7:19. This is the goodness of God. There

is no peace when things are contrary to the Will of God. Peter wept tears of grief and remorse when he denied Christ, yet it was Peter who could say to us, "Whom having not seen ye love, in whom though now ye see Him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with unspeakable joy and full of glory." Paul called himself "chiefest of sinners" yet of great glory. How could Peter and Paul do this? Because God forgave their sins.

We are dead in sins, but quickened together we have our trespasses forgiven. The Holy Spirit lives in our heart and mind and directs our life. I am thankful for the provision that God made for each of us. Jesus prayed for the soldiers at the Cross, "forgive them for they know not what they do." Those tears in the garden were not for Jesus, they were for us and we should appreciate this intercession.

The prodigal son did not know truth until he came to himself. May we come to God also. During the life of Jesus He came into contract with many classes and conditions of

people. He saw something good in all of them, the fishermen, the tax collector, the tent maker. One soul is worth more than the whole world. In some way we can help someone find salvation. God sent Jesus to seek and save. Now we can seek the depths of good in others. We can be a blessing to those we associate with.

We must give up those things that hinder our love. The fruits of the Spirit of love are: tenderness, kindness, joy, peace and longsuffering, Gal. 5:22. The works of the flesh need to be subdued. This is getting to the root of the flesh, such works are: adultery, uncleanness, idolatry, hatred, strife, drunkenness and such like, Gal. 5:19-21. Paul says, "Christ liveth in me" which is the secret of Christian life. We cannot see it but we see its results. I am thankful that God gave us praise, honor, thanksgiving and encouragement, that we will not be ashamed of Him or His Word. We pray everyone will realize they may come and take of the water of life freely.

— Second sermon by Brother Harry Gunderman: —

It is always a pleasure to worship with you. We feel we

receive more blessings than we are able to give out. We are

told we come here to strengthen you, but we feel we are the ones made stronger by our visits here.

Text, Food for thought, Psa. 12:4. Our tongue is a powerful thing. Strong words do not make expressions of love. Our lips are our own, but they do not always express love. The love we have one to another will determine our happiness especially if we practice the instruction found in Psa. 119:9. Taking heed to God's Word and taking heed how we speak. Solomon tells us that wisdom strengthens wise men, more than ten mighty men which are in a city. He says there is not a just man on earth that sinneth not. The injustice may not always be done with the lips, our work or by the law of the land. If we have not committed sins by any of these methods, it may be committed by omission.

We might repent of all evil or dishonesty we have done, but if we have not done that which we should have done, we sin. We ought to repent, not only of what we should not have done, but also repent for not doing the things we should have done. The sin of omission is just as bad as the sin of commission. If you do not remember anything else

I say, I pray you will remember about the sin of omission. We do not repent often enough for the sin of omission. In Matt. 23:23-28 Jesus taught how extremely serious the sin of omission is. He called the Scribes and Pharisees hypocrites and blind guides. He said, Woe unto you for omitting the weightier matters of the law "judgment, mercy and faith." Jesus tells us we are to give tithes and gifts and not to leave mercy and faith undone. David prayed that God will create in him a clean heart and to renew a right spirit within him, Psa. 51:10. One little word, love: it is so natural that we think we have loved others enough. A husband and wife saw their marriage in trouble. They had enough love left for each other to reason and counsel about their future. They decided to plant a tree together. If it grew they would live together. If it died they would separate. The little spark of love grew as they watered their tree, watching it take life and grow.

Let our love grow as we water our tree of life. If we stay with the Saviour we will stay with one another. The Bible teaches us to not let the sun go down on our wrath. Water the tree with

kindness to one another that it may not die. In Acts 17:16-23, the Epicurean philosophers called Paul a babbler and a setter forth of strange gods, but they wanted him to tell them about this strange God. Paul told them he thought they were too superstitious in all things. As I passed by and beheld your devotions I found an altar with this inscription, To the unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you. Declaring Jesus to those people in idolatrous Athens was part of the work God gave Paul to do, after his conversion as he said "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?"

I believe we all, even those who have labored nearly a lifetime, still need to say to God "What wilt thou have me do?" Many are lost, why? Because they do not search for the truth. Modern man listens to philosophers. Philosophy sometimes gives us food for thought, but carrying it beyond God's Word becomes dangerous. Philosophers explain that Jesus was just a good man. They deny His Virgin birth and deny that Joseph was a righteous man.

Man boasts about "lips

that are our own." I am not speaking against knowledge and education, but be careful where you seek it. 2 Peter 2:1, warns of false prophets among the people, even denying the Lord that bought them. It seems that this deceitfulness would soon be over. Are there not followers, for any speaker and teacher of almost anything? When I was a boy I was trying to follow the footsteps of my stepfather in a corn field, to avoid the sticky mud. Seeing me trying to step in his tracks, he thought he would make a bit of fun by taking longer steps. Unfortunately he made a mis-step and dislocated his ankle, thus disabling himself. My stepping in his footprints caused him to suffer. This gave me a lesson that convinced me that we should not walk so close to another that we might cause them to do something they otherwise would not do.

We all have someone we look up to and admire very much. When they suffer we suffer. We often hear the expression, "I did not get a thing out of that sermon". If you do not get the ministers message, you should have gained some good from the Scripture that he read. "Study to shew thyself

approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15.

We are made to realize Noah's faithfulness. He loved the Word or he could not have endured one hundred-twenty years of building the Ark. He did exactly what God told him to do. Noah could have said, "We'll pitch it just on the outside". That was not enough, for God had said on the inside too. Or Noah could have said, "We need a window on each side". I believe that God did not want Noah to see the suffering of dying people. Many must have come to the Ark, for Noah was their neighbor. He might have been tempted to open a window to let a neighbor in, by doing this he would have been lost also. Little things, that we think are insignificant, may mean life or death to us spiritually.

Lot had to choose. He lost some of the best things in his life because of the small things, which the wicked city of Sodom thought were not necessary. Remember the lesson of Jonah when he neglected to go to Nineveh. The lesson for us is: Do not neglect to do what God tells us. If every leader

of every religious organization would preach repentance, we would never need to fear the destruction of America. God scattered His people but He did not forget them. His arm is stretched out to preserve the Jewish people on their way to Jerusalem. Prophecy is being fulfilled. The temple of Judah will be built. I do not know whether it will take one year or fifty years, but it will be built just as Noah built the Ark. I believe Judah will again have a place to worship.

The Jews are gathering rapidly back to their homeland. Germany (Gomer) once persecuted and killed more Jews than any other Country. According to the Bible Gomer (Germany) will one day fight for Judah. All the Jews will be brought from the four corners of the earth to become one great nation, because God is with them. There is a difference between Israel and Judah. Israel was scattered, Judah stayed close. Prophecy was fulfilled in the six-day war between Israel and Egypt. Zech. 8:7-8, God saved His people from the East country and from the West country.

The love of God for His people is great. He promised

that they would number as the stars and as the sands of the sea. He shows His love for the Jews in America by His blessings. Gentiles waste the things by which the Jews become wealthy. God desires His people to come back with much goods. God is still remembering His people, redeeming His people, redeeming them. He blesses them because He loves them. I wish you and I could realize that we have the same hope as sons and daughters. We are going through troublesome times because we have our own way. We may be filled with good works and be denying the power thereof. With all our efforts we may yet greet Jesus with empty

hands. No wonder there will be weeping and wailing.

Those good works must be coupled with the love of Jesus. Let us labor in the Lord's service. Let us want to do His work with a heart of love. God does not expect us to do more than He gives us talent for. I often wonder what the napkin was, which hid the talent, selfishness, greed, dishonesty or some other vice? "Let us press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Phil. 3:14. When Jesus sees us through this life we will reign forever in peace and joy.

Selected from the
October 1, 1968
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE GIFT

The gift of encouragement
Should be given each day-
 Pass it out freely
 And in gentle ways.
There's no need for ribbons
 To make it look grand-
Just the simple encouragement
 Of a kind, helping hand.

-Joan Stephen

Selected by Mildred Skiles

OBITUARIES

RUTH M. SPEICHER

Sister Ruth M. (Spitler) Frantz Speicher, 96, of Troy, Ohio, formerly of Phillipsburg, Ohio, passed away August 1, 2018, at Brookdale of Troy. She was born August 26, 1921, in Darke County, to the late Harold and Mary Catherine (Flory) Spitler. She married Harold Frantz; he preceded her in death in 1966. She later married G. Wesley Speicher; he preceded her in death in 2011.

Mom will be missed and remembered by her son and daughter-in-law, Stan and Myrna Frantz of Covington, Ohio; son-in-law, Albert Haney of Englewood, Ohio; daughter-in-law, Wilma Wyrick of Cincinnati, Ohio; twelve grandchildren; forty six great-grandchildren; and eight great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Sharon Haney; son, George Frantz; and siblings, Evelyn Honeyman, Lloyd Spitler, Floyd Spitler, Phyllis Spitler, June Pill, and Donna Curtis and two great-grandsons.

Ruth was a 1939 graduate of Monroe High School in Darke County and was a member of the CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church. She enjoyed gardening and crocheting.

Services were held on August 4, 2018 at CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church, Covington, Ohio, with Bro. Phil Gish and Bro. Stephen Blocher officiating. Burial followed at Miami Memorial Park, Covington, Ohio, with Bro. Bart Hoblit officiating.

May our loss be her eternal gain.

The Family

PATRICK WRAY

Patrick Alan Wray, age 66, was called home to be with his Lord on the morning of August 12, 2018. Pat was born in Wabash County, Indiana on February 28, 1952 to Eldon and Darlyene Wray of North Manchester, Indiana. Pat was married to Karen Fingerle on July 5, 1970 at her parent's home. Pat and Karen were both baptized into the German Baptist Brethren Church and later were received into the CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Congregation in Covington, Ohio, where they currently attended.

Pat is survived by his wife, Karen, of 48 years, two sons and one daughter: Doug Wray and wife Joyce of Greenville, Ohio; Bry-

an Wray of Greenville, Ohio, Carma Wray of Peru, Indiana; Heidi Hoffman and husband Corey of Greenville, Ohio and sixteen grandchildren. Pat is also survived by two brothers and one sister: Mike Wray and wife, Donna; Greg Wray and wife Martine; and Ramma Winters and husband, Danny. He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, an infant sister, one sister-in-law, and infant brother-in-law, and his mother and father-in-law.

After they were married, Pat and Karen lived in Goshen, Indiana, where Pat served two years at Elkhart General Hospital. In 1973 they moved to Ripon, California and lived there for twenty years. Pat and Karen then moved to Greenville, Ohio in 1994 to be closer to their family.

Pat had many jobs in his life. In California, he worked for B&B Trucking, he worked for his brother, Greg, as a mechanic for several years, and then he worked at H&W Construction until they moved to Ohio. In Ohio, he went to work for Clifton Excavation for several years. After leaving Clifton's, he worked at Brubaker Grain.

Pat had many health problems, due to a 480-volt burn accident he had in 2000. He had two heart surgeries, a back surgery and two hernia surgeries that did not go well. He was left with much pain, which he endured until his death. Pat was on disability for over ten years and unable to work, which was a trial for him since he loved his work.

Pat was faithful until the end, even though each day was a challenge for him. He looked to the Lord for his strength and took one day at a time. He enjoyed his children and grandchildren and loved them so much. He was a wonderful husband, dad, and grandpa. He was a wonderful example to all. Our loss is Heaven's eternal gain. We look forward to the reunion we will have on that blessed resurrection day, when we can all be together again.

The family wishes to express their deepest appreciation for the help, support, and prayers from church family, family, and friends over the years of Pat's declining health and during this difficult time.

Services were held at CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church on August 17, 2018. Bro Phil Gish brought the message, with Bro. David Rice, opening and Bro. Bart Hoblit, closing. Burial was at the Miller Cemetery with Bro. Gale Turner officiating.

The Family

LAVERNE SOWERS

Sister LaVerne (Early) Smootz Sowers, 92, widow of Charles W. Sowers, of Churchville, Virginia, died August 21, 2018 at King's Daughters' Community Health and Rehab Center.

She was born July 11, 1926 in Weyers Cave, Virginia, a daughter of the late Ray B. and Thelma (Hawkins) Early.

Prior to retirement, she was employed by Mack Vending. LaVerne was a member of the Dayton Dunkard Brethren Church and a past member of Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren from 1939 until 1966. She was also a member of the XYZ's Senior Citizen Group at Salem Lutheran Church and the Home Demonstration Club in Weyers Cave and Mt. Crawford for twenty three years.

Family members include a son and daughter-in-law, Carroll A. and Dianne Smootz of Churchville, Virginia; four sisters, Gwendolyn Spitzer, Wilma Lee Stuart, Mildred Kauffman, Hope Sayre; three grandchildren; three great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and five step-daughters.

In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her first husband, Virgil T. Smootz; a daughter, Connie Smootz Hevener; three brothers, Verlyn, Darrell, and Garnet Early; and two sisters, Doris Early and Carolyn Swecker.

A funeral service was held on August 23, 2018 at the Henry Funeral Home Chapel by Pastor Daniel House. Burial was in the Eastlawn Memorial Gardens in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

NEWS ITEMS

The West Fulton Congregation will hold their fall meetings, October 10-14, 2018 with Brother Luke Deaton from Zillah, Washington as our evangelist. Services are at 7:30 each evening. Sunday services are 9:30 A.M. with a final service at 2:00 P.M. A potluck dinner will be at noon.

We invite you to come and attend these services with us. Please pray for Brother Luke as he prepares for these services.

Sister Joy Reed, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation is planning to hold their Fall Lovefeast, the weekend of October 26-28. There will a preaching service Friday Evening at 7 P.M. The Lovefeast Service on Saturday will begin with the Examination Service at 5 P.M., with the Lovefeast service to follow. There will be morning worship followed by breakfast on Sunday morning at 8 A.M. Sunday School will begin at 9:30 with preaching to follow. Dinner will be served after the service. All are welcome to attend this weekend of worship, service, and fellowship.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDIO RECORDINGS

Audio Recordings from 2018 General Conference are now available online: <http://www.dunkardbrethrenchurch.com/Conference-Sessions.html>

We hope this will serve your needs. If you need help making CD's, check with the sound technician of your local congregation. If you can't find someone locally to help you, get in touch with me and we'll mail you a set.

On behalf of the Audio/Visual Committee

Brother Adam Lehigh

aslehigh@gmail.com

717-825-6889

2019 CASP PROJECT

Our third CASP Pilot Project is being planned for February 4 through March 1, 2019. This project will take place at the Pisgah National Forest near Brevard, North Carolina. This is the same location as our 2015 CASP Project.

This project offers 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 stretch-

ing, 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 for the Brotherhood to 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

2018 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2018 Leadership Conference is scheduled for November 9–11, 2018 at Dallas Center, Iowa. The sessions for Dunkard Brethren officials will begin at 8:00 A.M., Friday morning, continuing through Saturday, with the closing public session on Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. There will also be public sessions on Friday and Saturday evenings. Supper will be served for all who wish to partake on both Friday and Saturday evenings as well as Sunday noon.

There will be organized activities for the Sisters during the day on Friday and Saturday. There will also be Young People's activities in the evenings.

Those planning to attend from a distance are reminded to contact Sister Mary Sue Moss for reservations and lodging.

2475 240th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063
(Call or text) 515-979-7086
(Email) mossjms@gmail.com

Even if you arrange lodging on your own, please contact Sister Mary Sue so those preparing the meals will have an accurate count.

The Dallas Center church house is located at 23209 Quinlan Avenue, which is three/fourths of a mile north of the junction of Quinlan Avenue with Highway 44 on the west edge of the Dallas Center business district. Dallas Center is located on route 44, which can be accessed from I-80 by route 169 (Adel exit) or from I-80/I-35 by route 141 to the (Grimes exit).

The Dallas Center Congregation looks forward to this opportunity of serving you during this time of Spiritual growth and fellowship.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Nov. 4 – Bearing Reproach for Christ – I Peter 4:12-19

1. What does it mean to be reproached for the name of Christ?

2. What should be our response to suffering as a Christian?

Nov. 11 – Feeding and Encouraging the Flock – I Peter 5:1-14

1. What are ways for the flock to be fed?

2. How do we clothe ourselves with humility?

Nov. 18 – Thanksgiving – I Chronicles 16:7-36

1. How can we make known His deeds?

2. What does it mean to show forth from day to day His salvation?
How do we do this?

Nov. 25 – Diligently Add to Your Faith – II Peter 1:1-11

1. What are some of the things that pertain unto life and godliness?

2. What things is verse 9 referring to? How can we gain them if we are lacking?

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