

BIBLE MONITOR

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JANUARY, 2019

NO. 01

“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.

I'LL COUNT MY BLESSINGS

I lift my heart today in praise To him who loves me so,
Whose mercy crowneth all my days, And makes my cup overflow.
O have I loved him as I should For all his blessings free?
Praise God who giveth naught but good, For he is good to me!

I thank him for unclouded skies – For love beyond my ken –
That when my path in shadow lies, The sunshine comes again.
I thank him for the hopes fulfilled – For every answered plea,
That though life was not all I willed, My God is good to me.

I go to meet another year, With faith no doubt can dim,
God reigneth, and I will not fear, But trust my way with him.
Then if that way be bright or dark, Let peace unshaken be!
And let me, like the soaring lark, Sing God is good to me!

Chorus:

I'll count my blessings – count them o'er and o'er –
I'll tell my Father's goodness – I will love him more,
I'll count my blessings bountiful and free –
Yet I can never count them all – so good is God to me!

—Mrs. F. A. Breck

YOUR CHOICE

When a new year arrives, the old year is often pictured as a decrepit, elderly man who gives way to the energetic, young baby, picturing the new year. Hopefully with the changing of the calendar those things that are wrong and burdensome will be changed into what is right and delightful. This picture is repeated year after year as the hopes of a new year become the failures of the old year. This repetition reminds us of the necessity of the High Priest going into the Holy of Holies to offer sacrifice for the sins of himself and his people, every year on the Day of Atonement. People who depend on the flip of the calendar will always find failure when they ignore the Word of the Lord.

The yearly Day of Atonement has been replaced by the once-for-all atonement made by Jesus Christ on the cross, which God accepted as the total sacrifice for all the sins of mankind. The changing of the year on the world's calendar cannot bring the change of hearts, minds, and deeds of those who dwell in this world. Without the changing of men's hearts, there will be no improvement in the conditions in this world. Without a conversion from the mindset of Satanic, secular humanism, no change can be made in the course of this world's fatal trajectory.

Conversion does not come with the flipping of the calendar from one year to the next. That change does not happen through the best-intentioned

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resolutions. A choice needs to be made concerning Who is the foundation of a person's life. Will the foundation for a person's life be simply the relatively easy journey of fulfilling human nature or of choosing a counter-intuitive way that allows God to make over that person? That choice is not the usual, popular choice.

When God created humans in His image, the expectation was they would follow His direction in forming their life's choices. The fall in the Garden caused Adam and Eve to sin by disobeying God's dictum, which marred the image of God within them.

As generations have added sins upon sins to their repertoire of mis-performance they have continued to damage that image and distanced themselves from God. Once men had gotten away from honoring and obeying God, they created false belief systems. They began to worship idols of their own manufacture, later they began to worship themselves. They diminished God and promoted their own abilities and intellect. They used their God-given abilities to promote varied ideas about God, history and righteousness.

While this shift in people's relationship with God was going on, Satan slyly led them further and further away from God.

People became so self-sufficient that they believed they did not need to worship or acknowledge a Higher Power. They were satisfied that they were able to direct their own ways without outside direction through God's Word and Holy Spirit. Their standard for conduct and righteousness became their feelings. Whatever they decided was right was right.

The depraved world that we live in shows what failing to acknowledge God has accomplished. Men have constructed a world system that is determined by human strength, intellect, and standards of conduct. As each generation exceeds the ungodliness of prior generations, their moral condition has become murkier and murkier.

The correction of this immorality remains the same as God ordained at the creation of this world. The purging of sin requires a blood sacrifice. An animal was slain to provide the necessary cover for Adam and Eve's nakedness, which was their norm before their fall.

For those living under the Mosaic Law, there were various blood sacrifices to cover their sins. The Law pointed out their sin when they failed to keep it perfectly. Under the Law, God's Grace was evident when He accepted their imperfect sacrifices, which served to remind them of the future perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ.

For those living since the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, we can look back to that cross to see the perfect sacrifice given for us. Only by accepting God's perfect gift of the life-giving sacrifice of

Jesus can any have forgiveness for the sins, faults and rebellions of today's world.

The new year can not change our relationship with God, but our acceptance of God's sacrifice for us can change anyone who will make that necessary choice. When we are ready to give up ourselves and our exalted view of ourselves, we can put ourselves under God's direction, through His Word and Holy Spirit.

A new life is far better than a new year. Which will you choose?

M. C. Cook

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

Sunlight falls all around, but only produces growth where there are plants to receive it! The sun is always a welcome sight in the spring after seemingly endless months of cold, grey days. When we say the sun brightens our day, we mean it both literally and figuratively. Many studies have shown that sunlight directly affects one's mood. In short, it stimulates the brain's production of serotonin which is a hormone that increases mood. Sunshine makes us feel more alert and energetic. For

plants the sun is absolutely vital for life and the process by which the plant utilizes sunlight is simply amazing!

We probably all learned about photosynthesis when we were in school. It is the process plants use to convert light energy into chemical energy. This energy will then be used for plant growth. During photosynthesis light works with the green pigment called chlorophyll in plant leaves. This process is beneficial to both plants and people because the plant uses water and carbon

dioxide but gives off oxygen. Without this process life would cease.

Such is true of our spiritual lives as well. Our light is Jesus. In John 8:12 Jesus said, "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Without Christ, we walk in darkness. Without Christ, we wither and die. Without Christ, we cannot grow. Without Christ, we do not truly live. Just like the sun's light, Christ's love and light is shed abroad and made available to all. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to *all* men." (Titus 2:11, emphasis added). We don't deserve The Light, but Titus 3 tells us that because of His mercy He will save us if we let His light in. "For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of

the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3:3-7) The sun doesn't pick and choose which plants to offer its light. It is simply shed on the entire earth and available to all who will receive it.

Unfortunately, many do not choose the light. John 3:19-20 says, "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." A plant can suffer from lack of light caused by its environment. Other plants or structures may block the light that the plant needs to grow. We also can find ourselves surrounded with people or things that diminish and inhibit the Light from having its full effect on our lives.

At times a plant may be in a position that is difficult to receive light, such as a houseplant, but its surroundings reflect the sun's light making it possible for it to still receive its necessary

light. There are many who are living in darkness in the world about us. They have found themselves in places where the Light has been blocked out and shunned. This is why God calls us to be a reflection of His Light! Matthew 5:14-15 states, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light

unto all that are in the house." Jesus is the light, but we are to be a reflection of that light to the world so that others may see.

A plant that is established in the sunlight will be healthy and will grow and flourish. It will produce new leaves, new flowers, and new fruit. If you want to have a fruitful, meaningful, and abundant life, stay in the light!

Brother Marlin Carpenter

WHERE ARE OUR TEARS?

"Jesus wept." John 11:35

There is much mentioned in the Holy Scriptures on the subject of weeping. Jesus wept. Others wept, particularly those in mourning for lost loved ones. Weeping does not diminish the manliness of a man any more than it makes a woman less womanly. There are at least three places in scripture where Jesus wept, and at all three places they were manifested differently.

At the grave of His friend Lazarus, we know that Jesus wept. It displays His humanness. He was not indifferent to the plight of others. Their problems quickly became His. They knew each other so well in life, and even though Jesus knew all things He

marked this event, the death of His dear friend, with tears. He meant it in His heart, yet it was done to show the Jews "how He loved him!" (John 11:36) It is in the Gospel of John that God's love for man is best typified. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believed in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life."

From Lazarus we travel to Gethsemane, where Jesus endured a period of intense suffering. It speaks of the event in Hebrews 5, verses seven and eight, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him

that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; though he was a son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;" When Jesus was in Bethany with Lazarus He wept for others, in Gethsemane He wept for Himself. Jesus demonstrates here the conflict between God's divine will and the will of the Son of God bound in flesh. His years upon earth created an attachment with the earthly and He had to resign Himself to God's will. His tears show us that He did not harden Himself against God, but rather surrendered to God's will. At the end of His prayer at Gethsemane Jesus was at peace with God and with what He was about to do.

The third time Jesus wept was during the event many call Palm Sunday. Most of those in Jerusalem would have called this His most triumphant time: everyone loved Him and cast their garments in the road before Him. Many "Hosannas" (Glory to God in the Highest) were shouted, and the mood was unparalleled. But when He reached Mt. Olivet He looked down into the city of Jerusalem and stopped the procession. He then regarded the city and wept over it. Here

in the middle of His acceptance by the people, He thought of the souls of others. These were the tears of the Redeemer. He was not thinking of Himself and His Glory, but the souls of others. He saw their possible doom ahead. He saw their rebellion. His heart was broken for them, and His sacrifice for their souls was soon to come.

Jesus was our example for many things. He shows us how we must be concerned for two basic things. These things do not include "prosperity" or "para-normal activity" or a lot of the things people today are looking for.

We must have a concern for our own soul, and our relationship with Almighty God. We must resign ourselves to God's will and submit to Him.

After our soul is secure and we have peace with God, then we must turn our attention to the souls of others. Most times it will take prayer, fasting, and many tears. The Brethren have always been men of prayer. The revival meeting is a relatively new innovation but fasting and tears have always been with us.

Jesus wept for Lazarus, and for Jerusalem, and for Himself. Should we not weep for others?

Think about those who persecute us. Think about those who have run away from God. Let us weep for them. Jeremiah 9:1, "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" Psalm 126:6, "He that goeth forth and

weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

If our affections are set on things above and we have the right attitude toward those who we pray for, then, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)

Weep for the lost! Thy Saviour wept
O'er Salem's hapless doom;
He wept to think their day was past,
And their night of gloom.

Weep for the lost! The lost will weep
In that long night of woe,
On which no star of hope will rise
And tears in vain will flow.

Weep for the lost! Lord, make us weep
And toil with ceaseless care,
To save our friends, ere yet they pass
That point of deep despair.

*-Gregorian Chant
#192 Brethren Hymnal*

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

THE DYNAMITE OF DIVINE LOVE

The world is all-abuzz concerning the subject of "love." There are songs about love, movies about love, books about love, poems about love. I will be

the first one to say that I have not ventured into this sea of confusion concerning love.

It is my contention that the world only knows love on the

lowest level of humanity, more on the level of animal instinct. A love that really does not fully satisfy.

At the time, I can only think of one song that goes something like this, *“What the world needs now is love, sweet love; It’s the only thing that there’s just too little of...”*

Then there is another song, *“Love makes the world go ‘round.”* This may explain why so many people in the world are so dizzy.

The love they are talking about is rooted in the flesh. It may be good, it may be bad. I am sure everybody has a certain degree of love in them even if this love is of themselves. But this kind of love does not get us very far.

The love we were created to experience is the love of God. A hole exists in mankind that can only be filled by the love of God. It is too bad that not many people know this. It is too bad that people are searching and searching for something to fill that hole and they can never find it outside of Jesus Christ.

Now the love that comes from God is perfect. I know that word, “perfect” is a little clumsy at times, but it simply means that it has every thing it needs. When we apply it to God’s love, it simply means that God’s love is complete in and of itself and

needs nothing outside itself.

I believe to experience God’s love in its dynamic fullness is the ultimate goal of Christianity. We were not simply saved from our sins. That is the beginning for sure. But we were saved in order to experience the dynamic love of God in our daily life. A love that cannot compare with anything else. Nothing else in this world can even compete with God’s love.

This love can never be earned. If it could be earned, there would be qualifying aspects to it. How much would it cost? What do I do to earn it? What is the acceptable currency?

The thing I need to understand is that God’s amazing love is a gift from Him to me because He loves me that much. We sometimes fantasize about God’s love. We think about it in aspects that are applicable to our daily life and therefore we underestimate the power and potency of this love.

So many people have misconceptions of God’s love and try to explain God’s love from a human perspective. God’s love is incomparable with man’s love.

With God’s love, there is the idea of perfection. Man has a concept of perfection that is from his understanding. However, when we come to perfection from

God's point of view it is something altogether different.

Because of my relationship with Jesus Christ, I can experience the perfection of God's love. Now to me it is something that grows and grows each day as I walk with the Lord. God's love does not grow; rather my experience of God's love is what is growing.

The Bible clearly states, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." (Hebrews 13:8). This also includes the attributes of God and one of those attributes is love.

If only I could get my heart wrapped around this idea that God's greatest delight is to reveal to me and bestow upon me His love. If I can understand that, accept that, and begin to walk in the light of that, my life will take on a new perspective that I never had before. I will be walking in divine love.

When I am walking in divine love, nothing I encounter can compromise God's love in my life.

Along this line, I need to understand that perfect love cannot be divided. In other words, there is not one kind of God's love for Sunday and then another kind of God's love for Monday morning at the workplace. God's love in my life is the same yesterday and

today and forever. In addition, as I begin to experience this love I begin to open up my heart to understand and access who God really is and appreciate His love.

For example. Somebody will say, "There is no God." Perhaps for some with their perspective that is true. Perhaps they had never experienced God in His reality. Just because they have not experienced God does not mean that God does not exist. And this goes for God's love.

Many people will talk about God's love but is it being demonstrated in their life? That is the question. Experiencing the love of God is something that cannot be explained. The only thing I can do is experience that love of God in my life and let those around me see the difference it has made in my life.

I believe if you can explain your Christian life, it really is not anything God is doing in your life. There must be aspects of your life that rises above human explanation. And I think the premier one is divine love. I cannot explain it, but I can experience it in its fullness in my everyday life.

James L. Snyder
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PHIL'S PONDERINGS

“Press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus”

January 6 – Read Joshua 1:1-18

What promise has God made to you that can only be fulfilled by conquest?

How do the promises of God challenge and grow your faith?

Does faith require strength and courage?

What conditions may limit the full benefit of the promise made?

What circumstances cause you to fear and be dismayed?

What problem does Joshua address that had the potential for division or divisiveness?

Commentary: As Moses' successor it would not be surprising if Joshua was feeling overwhelmed by his new responsibilities. There is a tenderness on God's part as He speaks encouragement to Joshua's heart. God is going to fulfill their fondest hopes and dreams no matter how impossible or improbable it seems. God's presence insures the victory and strengthens the heart for battle. We may not think of ourselves as a Joshua. Yet, God's promises to us are just as sure and effective in encouraging and strengthening our faith. Be strong and of good courage.

January 13 – Read Joshua 2:1-24

How do you explain why the spies came to Rahab's house?

What motivated Rehab to help the spies?

Have you ever wished to be free of a reputation that no longer describes you?

Was Rahab's lies to the king justified?

How did God use fear to create hope in Rahab?

How does the emptiness of sin promote a desire for a fuller, meaningful life?

Was Rahab a traitor or heroine?

Commentary: God delights in breaking down the doors of our expectations in order to reveal His Glory. For those who take joy in His Glory belongs the transforming power of hope. A woman with

a past that defines her present seizes a hopeful future where others only see fear. Risking all that she has for the sake of her family and herself, she receives, by faith, a new life. What does that new life include? She becomes the future mother-in-law of Ruth and ancestral mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

January 20 – Read Joshua 3:1-17

How do you sanctify yourself?

What is the significance of the half mile separation between the ark and the people?

How does Joshua respond to God's exalting him as the leader of Israel?

What claim does Joshua make about God twice in three verses?

How does this claim connect to the backing up of the Jordan River?

Who among the people had seen the parting of the Red Sea?

Commentary: While there are similarities between the crossing of the Red Sea and the Jordan River, they represent two very different aspects of God's grace working in our lives. One is a passage by which we escape the clutches of sin and death. The other is an entry into the sanctifying work of grace by which we conquer those very same enemies. By faith we escape. By faith we obey and conquer. The Lord always goes before us and knows the way we have not yet traveled. We are witnesses of the Lord of all the earth. As such He is Lord of all our lives.

January 27 – Read Joshua 4:1-14

What memorials have you established in your mind that anchors your faith in God?

How do you share the stories of faith in your own life with your children?

What purpose does the memorial serve that Joshua built in the midst of the Jordan?

How are the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh different from the rest of the people?

What difference is there between the two explanations for the purpose of the twelve stones?

Commentary: Memorials have a way of reminding us that we are rooted in something deeper than the pressures of the moment. They help provide perspective about the present and insights into the faithfulness of God. Some memorials become more obvious during times of spiritual drought and help us to remain steadfast regardless of present circumstances. At any and all times they can become a teaching tool that helps younger believers to see the hand of God working from one generation to the next.

Brother Phil Franklin

A SOWER WENT FORTH TO SOW

Rudy Cover

Matt. 13:16-23; Mark 4:14-20; Luke 8:11-15

Did you ever see a man sowing seed in a field by hand? Farmers plant their fields with tractors and drills now, but when Jesus was here people didn't have farm machinery. When they planted their fields, they carried a bag of grain and scattered it over the ground by throwing the grain by hand as they walked along.

Jesus was sitting by the sea of Galilee and many people came to hear Him. The crowd was so big that Jesus went into a boat that was in the water and taught the people who stood on the shore. Many times, Jesus taught by illustrations. People in that day knew how the fields were planted and Jesus said, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow. Some seeds fell by the

wayside and the fowls came and ate them: Some fell upon stony places, where there was not much earth and right away they grew up because they were not planted very deep: But when the sun came up they were scorched because the sun dried out the ground and as they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns and they grew up and choked them: But other seed fell into good ground and produced fruit, some a hundred fold, some sixty and some thirty."

The disciples asked Jesus what He meant by teaching them about the sower sowing seed in a field. Jesus said, "The seed is the Word of God. Those that fell by the road or wayside are those

that hear; then the devil comes like the fowls and takes away the word out of their hearts so they won't believe and be saved. Those that are on stony ground immediately hear the word with gladness but because they have no root only endure for a short time; afterward when affliction and troubles come for the word's sake they are offended. Those which fell among thorns are those which have heard the word and start out good but they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life and never grow enough to bring forth fruit. But those that are sown on good ground are the ones that hear the word and receive it and bring forth fruit with patience."

Jesus taught the truth. There will be many people who will not appreciate God's Word as they should and will be like the seed the birds ate, or the ones on

stony ground or the ones that were choked with thorns. There will also be those who are like the seed that fell on good ground and will hear God's Word and live by it. They will not be deceived by the devil. They will produce fruit for Jesus by doing good for others. What kind of ground do you want to be? I hope it is the good ground that produced fruit.

Jesus is the sower that sowed the seed and the seed is the Word of God. It is up to us to have a place in our hearts for God's Word, so it will grow and cause us to live good lives and produce fruit for Jesus. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Ethel Beck

Another year is dawning, Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting, Another year with Thee.

Will it be a happy year for you, dear reader? That may depend on our attitude toward life and our relationship with Christ Jesus. "Abide in me, and I in you.

As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me." John 15:4.

As we approach this new

year we wonder about many things. What does it hold for us in joy or sorrow? In the political world there is much confusion. Some people felt they had things planned just how they should come out. But their efforts failed. Only God can bring order and peace to such a state of affairs.

God knows best in keeping future happenings from our knowledge. We know not even what another day will bring. If people would know what this year would bring, they would worry, fear and fret and some would lose their minds.

We are told of war, disaster and severe trials facing us in the near future. People are expecting terrible things to happen. It is high time for our nation to seek God and repent of their sins. Lest sudden destruction come upon us and it be too late.

As Christians we should not face the new year with fear, anxiety and worry. If we do so, we will not be at our best to face the real problems that come. We need to go forth in the strength of the Lord. Our own strength will fail.

There are many scriptures that tell us not to fear or be afraid

of man, or the elements or the things that will come to pass.

“And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring. Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth; for the powers of heaven shall be shaken, and then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:25-28. This will be a happy time for Christians. May we keep looking up.

We are told to trust God and have such confidence in Him that we will cast all care upon Him. “Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.” I Pet. 5:7. Jesus said, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matt. 11:28. Let us commit this year and all our future, to the Lord and let Him bring to pass, His will for us. “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and He will bring it to pass.” Psa. 37:5. By doing so, we can rest in

Him, knowing all will be for the best. Leaving the future in His hands, we will take each day as it comes, beginning it with God. As we go about our work may we do all things as unto Him and for His glory.

There are so many things to take our thoughts off the spiritual things. Especially if we work for worldly people. In our rooms we need mottos with scripture verses to remind us of God's presence and our duty to Him, while at our work. When we are outside, all the beautiful and wonderful things of nature remind us of God's works. Our thoughts are lifted upward. If we memorize scripture verses, they will be a great help to us. When we are weak or troubled, the right verse will come into our minds to help us. May we store more of the precious Word of God in our hearts through this year. The year will be a happier one if we commit all to God and resolve to keep our thoughts on spiritual things and the beautiful things of life. Then there will be less chance of evil thoughts creeping in.

Perhaps we can be a better light to the world than we have been in the past. This year may

we find more opportunity to witness for our Lord. Sometimes we leave opportunities go by, then later wish we had spoken to certain ones about their soul's welfare. Our neglect may mean they will perish. How sad that would be. We feel free to talk to people about their health, family, business or crops, why not about their souls? What can give greater joy than to help a soul to God? This not only brings joy on earth, but also in heaven. It brings eternal benefits. May we each one as a child of God experience the joy of helping souls to seek God, this coming year. The time may be short, we must work speedily. May this be such a busy year in the Lord's service we will have no room for doubts, fear, worry and anxiety. God will carry out His plan for all nations even though He leaves them continue in sin for a while. As things get worse on this earth it will make us long for His coming. May we all be prepared to meet Him in peace.

May each one have a happy and prosperous year in the Lord.

Selected from the
January I, 1949 issue
of the Bible Monitor

NEW YEAR MEDITATIONS

L. W. Beery

“My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: mine eyes shall no more see good.” (Job 7:6-7.) This statement came from the lips of a man “whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.” (Job 1:1.) It is evident from his expressions that he was doing some serious thinking. He was meditating upon life and the experiences that it was bringing to him. All of us who are Bible readers are aware of the conditions that caused Job to make these disconsolate remarks. He was being sorely tried by Satan. The enemy of his soul was doing all in his power to bring about the downfall of this righteous man and cause him to turn against his Maker. His children and great earthly possessions had been taken from him, great affliction of the body was upon him, the companion of his bosom turned against him and tried to get him to “curse God, and die,” and his near friends were chiding him grievously. Because of this

he could not refrain from crying out in the anguish of his spirit, and the bitterness of his soul. In spite of this we are told, “In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.” (Job 1:22.)

There are none of us that have ever passed through what Job did yet we do all have our sorrows and tribulations. Especially is this true of those who fear God, eschew evil and try to live upright lives. The same Satan that tempted Job so sorely is doing all in his power to bring about the downfall of God-fearing people in the day in which we live. No doubt most of those who read these lines have passed through some very trying times in the past year. In these hours of grief and great distress we are made to think seriously and meditate upon life and what we are experiencing. No doubt most of us have had hours when we could not refrain from crying out in anguish because of the hopelessness which enveloped us at the time, yet through the mercies of God, His sustaining grace, His keeping power, we were able through the avenue of prayer

to come through victorious and maintain our integrity in the sight of God and man. If this has been our experience, we cannot but close this dying year with rejoicing. These tribulations, these hours of grief, these agonizing experiences that all but crush us are but the refiner's fire to purge out the dross and make us better qualified for our Master's service. Praise God who is able to save us to the uttermost who come unto Him through Jesus Christ our Lord!

In line with the meditations of Job it is indeed startling how swiftly our days are passing by. So soon, the year of our Lord nineteen hundred thirty-eight has passed beyond our realm and its records are sealed unto the day of judgment. These hours, these days, these years are precious, and will some day reveal before a just God what we have been. This judgment day which is so swiftly approaching is one of the inevitable realities that we must make provision for if we would have a clear conscience and be able to face the future with hope and joyful expectations. Life is indeed too uncertain and the dangers of an eternity of torment and woe too real to delay making peace with our God.

Delay not, delay not, O sinner,
draw near,
The waters of life are now flowing
for thee;
No price is demanded, the Savior
is here;
Redemption is purchased,
salvation is free.

Delay not, delay not, O sinner,
to come,
For mercy still lingers and calls
thee today;
Her voice is not heard in the vale
of the tomb;
Her message unheeded will soon
pass away.

Delay not, delay not, the Spirit of
Grace,
Long grieved and resisted, may
take his sad flight,
And leave thee in darkness to
finish thy race,
To sink in the gloom of eternity's
night.

Delay not, delay not, the hour is
at hand,
The earth shall dissolve, and the
heavens shall fade;
The dead small and great, in the
judgment shall stand,
What power then, O sinner, will
lend thee its aid?

The old year is gone, and

we cannot change the past; but there is a New Year before us and if the Lord grants us life we can, with His help, profit by the experiences of the past. With every opportunity there comes responsibility, let us be men of God and bear what ever the load may be. "Must Jesus bear the cross alone?" With every temptation there is provided a way of escape, let us seek it and

overcome the tempter. For every sacrifice that we make there is a reward in this life and if we are faithful in the service of our Lord an eternity of unspeakable bliss is awaiting us. Only in Christ our Lord can it be a Happy New Year.

Selected from the
January 1, 1939
issue of the Bible Monitor

JESUS OUR CREATOR, OUR GOD

Howard J. Surbey

"Through the tender mercy of our God: whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet in the way of peace." Luke 1:78-79. We have just passed the time of commemorating the birth of Jesus. Even among disobedience and lack of respect, multitudes have believed in the birth of this babe. No doubt multitudes even believe, that He is their Saviour and look forward to His coming again.

We want to take our readers farther on into Spiritual life than this. The belief in the account of Christ's birth is only the beginning. He came as no other

child ever came into being, with God as His Father "through the tender mercy of our God". He came as a babe, yes, that we might learn to know and accept Him. He came as "the dayspring from on high" as the breaking of Spiritual day, not in the darkness of sin or the darkness of the old law. He came as our eternal God, the Word which reveals God to us, our King of Glory. He is our Lord and our Saviour.

Can we accept Him as more than the Babe of Bethlehem? Can we accept Him as the Son of God? Can we accept Him as Lord of Lords and King of Kings? Can we accept Him as our Savior and our God? Can we accept Him as the One who

revealed all of God's Will unto us? Is He our one and only God and we will not look unto any other? Do we accept His Words as our law and our life? "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth." Rom. 1:16. Am I believing and preaching His Gospel, as the power which will lead me to my eternal destiny?

Jesus came in the flesh, in the form of man, that man might be able to accept, understand and worship Him, because He came and lived as one among them. He came not only to be adored as a babe but to be worshipped as our God, our Redeemer. We feel it is easily possible to model, imitate and make obeisance without actually adoring or worshipping Him. If we accept the account of His birth, as our Lord and Savior, we will forever strive for His life to be completed in our lives, that we may be heirs and joint-heirs with Him in Glory.

He came to give us the True Light and to guide our feet in the way of peace. Do we accept His Light, His words and examples as a guide to our life? Do we accept His Light, His words and examples as a guide to our

life? Do we accept His Light, His words and examples to guide us in the way of Peace? Why has man not found the way of peace? The answer is simple, because man has not followed Christ's Words and Ways, that peace might be established and maintained. If we accept Him as our Lord and Savior, we will strive to be instruments of peace and salvation to others. We will strive to displace those conditions, which foster discord and prevent harmony, with those which establish and maintain peace and goodwill.

God sent His only Son down to this sinful earth, because He so loved the world (human beings). Christ sacrificed so much that is justly due a King, in order that He might show His love for us. He suffered and died for our sin, because He loved us. How much more pleasant and profitable would life be, if all of us would allow the spirit of love, to control our every word, every act and every thought? Error, hatred and gossip are sure ways of encouraging sin, rather than peace. Forgiveness, confession and harmony bring joy, comfort and eventually Eternal life.

If we are made to rejoice

for and adore this Babe, only once a year and then only as a babe, we are making mockery of God's plan of salvation. If we truly meditate upon all the particulars surrounding His miraculous Birth, we must be made to believe that He always was God and always will be God, only coming to earth as man that we might better understand His message. Dare we say, if one does not accept Christ, as their Lord and Master for life, in all seasons and ages and ways of life, we have not accepted Him as the Babe of Bethlehem? Is He my Lord? How often do I worship Him? How much do I

love Him? To what extent am I willing to serve Him? How often do I commune with Him in prayer? How often do I forsake Him or deny Him?

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." Phil. 3:20-21.

Selected from the
January 15, 1959
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE LIBRARY OF HEAVEN

B. F. Masterson

"And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away."

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened; which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were according to their works." (Rev. 20:11-12.)

John was persecuted, cast on the Isle of Patmos, for the Word

of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ, where God lifted him up that he might see through the window of heaven. A good man put down by wicked hands but lifted by God, where he could see the seat of Government that rules the spiritual and physical worlds, the great white throne and the King of Kings upon it, executing judgment; and dead, small and great standing before Him.

I am impressed with the

books John saw. It must have been an innumerable collection. And since a collection of books constitute a library, it gives us the idea of a library in heaven.

The inference is that it was located at the seat of government. I was much impressed when visiting the Congressional Library in Washington, D. C. Its extensiveness, its unique arrangement, the rapidity of the books being distributed to the Halls of Congress. If such an extensive institution is required in connection with the seat of government to rule the United States, what must be the extent of the library connected with the seat of government that rules the universe.

All institutions have a history, when founded, etc., but when this was established is beyond the conception of the human mind. "In thy book all my members were written which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." (Ps. 139:16.) Unlike other libraries, it is not opened to the public until the collection is complete. "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end." The number of volumes it contains, they are innumerable, the volume of His councils, His

purposes, His fixed laws that govern the world are numberless. Think of all the libraries in the world, if consolidated, what an immense institution it would be! For instance, the public society of school libraries in the United States showed between five and six thousand, containing forty-four and a half million volumes, besides six million of pamphlets. Four libraries in Germany contain each over a million. The national library in France contains over two and a half million. The British Museum in London over one and a half million, besides all the other libraries, public and private in the world; and volumes written and destroyed in past ages are on the shelves. All these do not compose the greater part; all the sermons and lectures delivered, and church history are on record there; the unwritten outnumber the volumes printed from manuscripts. Every person passing through this world is a contributor. Counting each year of our life a volume, I have nearly eighty-one on the shelves there. If some were asked to write an article for the church paper, they would excuse themselves as not being literary qualified. But know you not that you for your contribution – are dictating each day, matter some

you would have erased, if possible – but what is written is written.

How are these volumes obtained? The recording angel is operating a radio so powerful that the vibrations caused by our conduct, words and thoughts come instantly in touch with the sensitive instrument at the central station. A truth that man recently discovered. The inventions of man helps unfold the mysteries of the beyond.

“Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thoughts afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it all together. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it.” (Ps. 139:2-4, 6.)

Each one is contributing to this library, and as to what his future destiny will be depends on the nature of his production. “... and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” (Rev. 20:12.)

The standard by which our works are tested are not set up by man, which are many and largely made up of ideas and

options, instead of facts, and no two agree. Jesus says: “The word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” He says, furthermore: “Thy word is truth.” Man’s ideas and opinions change, the truth never. It is unchangeable; as eternal as God himself, although no man can be saved by his works. If he has believed in Christ, the sincerity of his faith will be proved by his works.

Another book was opened, which is the book of life, by virtue of the blood of Christ. All who are born into the world are inscribed in the book of life; when they arrive at the age of the knowledge of good and evil and choose the evil, the names of such will be blotted out. “Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” (Ps. 69:28.)

“He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life...” (Rev. 3:5.) By repentance toward God and faith in Christ, their names will again be inscribed in the book of God’s Kingdom, on the page white and fair.

The library in heaven will be opened to the public when the collection is complete: “Ten

thousand times ten thousand stood before him: The Judgment was set, and the books were opened.”

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward ever man according to his works.” (Matt. 16:27.)

This will be the day of all days, a time of anxiety. Many will be the claims to an entrance and will be disappointed. Many will say in that day: Lord, Lord, have we not done so and so in thy name? – and then will I profess unto them: I never knew you, and so forth. (Matt. 7.)

Notwithstanding the great works, their claims were not well taken, not being founded on truth, error will not stand. If one’s production is founded on the truth, it will stand eternally, because the truth is indestructible, and the author is saved standing on it. Error cannot stand, and the one resting on it will go down with it as a matter of course.

I was converted when about twenty-one years old. About twelve years I lived in innocency. Those volumes were white by virtue of Christ’s atoning blood. They were also washed and made white by faith. “Sin has left a crimson stain, but He

washed it white as snow.” But they are a blank. No service for Him recorded on its pages. What a pity that one will put off conversion until he is up in years! Although his many sin-stained volumes are washed and made white by faith, in the blood of the Lamb, but they are a blank and he has only a few years left wherein he can serve the Lord and make a record.

But it is so sad to think that so many put off repentance until too late, and then have to face their crimson-stained volumes before the great White throne and hear the sentence: “Depart.” “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.” (Acts 3:19.)

Let us look at the contrast between the wicked and the just: “...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.” (II Thess. 1:7-9.)

On the other hand: “When He

shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe....” (II Thess. 1:10.)

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” (Dan. 12:3.)

Thus, will the Library of Heaven be cleansed and remain in the City of God for the benefit of those who came through great tribulations and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. And when we walk the golden streets, arm and arm, and talk together of the victories achieved

through Christ against the flesh and Satan, referring to the books wherein our battles are recorded – O, that will be glory for us. “Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?” (Ps. 56:8.)

“...a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.” (Mal 3:16.)

It won't be long till some of us will have our volumes completed, and we will be gathered to glory in the morning of joy.

Selected from the
January 15, 1929
issue of the Bible Monitor

Special Session Summary

On November 8, 2018, the Standing Committee of the Dunkard Brethren Church met in a called Special Session. 21 Elders were present for this meeting. From 8 am until 4 pm, with necessary breaks, the topic of discussion was concerning the best application of the doctrine of the headship covering.

The discussion was premised on the Biblical doctrine as primarily delivered by the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 11: 1-16. This was

not a discussion concerning the need or correctness of the sisters wearing a headship covering. The discussion concerned the application of the doctrine in symbolic and physical terms which would fulfill the commandment to cover their heads.

The symbolism, of submission to husbands and fathers and ultimately of submission to Jesus and His Father, is shown through the physical manifestation of the inner attitude. This parallels the

doctrine of feet-washing which symbolizes service and humility. What type of covering is needed to fulfill God's desire when the sisters cover their heads and their hair? The covering should be identifiable and an adequate covering; it should be modest, appropriate and able to cover types of hair that are not easily managed for the wearing of a cap style covering.

The traditional cap style covering has been the preference of the Brethren, but some types of hair cannot easily be prepared for wearing it. The flowing veiling preferred by some was reviewed as a possible alternative or of equal applicability.

The meeting was cordial, frank, and supportive. All were free to express themselves without fear of denunciation. This discussion was held to allow the statement of various possibilities for application of the basic doctrine.

Standing Committee is charged with caring for the needs of the whole church. It does not have legislative power. That power belongs only to General Conference when it acts upon queries vetted at the local and District level.

We believe after this discus-

sion that there is no lack of support for the doctrine across the Brotherhood or in the Standing Committee. We believe there needs to be deeper discussion, study, prayer and eventually some action through individual congregations, Districts, and General Conference to address the appropriate application. We especially should seek the input of the sisters who will be participating in the practice.

This statement is offered as a short report of our discussion. No decisions or pronouncements were made other than to encourage members to prayerfully, carefully, and in love to examine this issue and after adequate and reasonable discussion to prepare for some action by General Conference.

May God give us steady, studious minds, controlled emotions and heart-felt love for each other as we discuss and pray about this issue.

Elder Dennis St. John,
Moderator

Elder Kevin Funk,
Reading Clerk

Elder Mark Andrews,
Writing Clerk, Standing Committee

Elder Milton Cook,
Writing Clerk, General Conference

NEWS ITEMS

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of you who prayed for me during my recent hospitalization and surgeries. Cards and phone calls were appreciated. May God bless you all.

Sister Ruth N. Miller
Mohlers Congregation

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A CHALLENGE TO READ YOUR BIBLES

As I awoke on January 1, 2018 a new thought came into my mind. I need to read the Bible through in one year. I had done this previously, but it had been many years since the last time I had done so. While I had not been neglectful in reading the Bible, most of my study focused on particular passages or books of the Bible. I had not been reading very broadly and was beginning to feel something lacking in my day to day study.

I feel very fortunate that before the day was over, I had discovered a Bible reading plan

that suited me. I felt even more fortunate when several weeks later I discovered that I had that plan in a Bible app on my phone. That made it even easier to keep track of my progress and where I was currently reading.

There are lots of Bible reading plans available. You may have one in your Bible. Some begin in Genesis and end in Revelation. Other plans have multiple places you will read from each day with some from the Old Testament and some from the New Testament. Whatever appeals to you that

encourages you to read the Word consistently on a day by day basis you should use.

Why should we read the Bible daily especially when our lives seem so full of responsibilities and our time to read so limited? That very question ought to imply an answer. Our lives are full, and we need God's truth and grace to guide each step of the way. We live in a culture where the knowledge of God is continually eroding away. Our faith is challenged nearly any direction we turn. The need for us to be rooted and grounded in God's Word has never been greater than at this very time in our lives.

But reading our Bibles is not just another responsibility that we can check off as having accomplished each day. Reading our Bibles is also about listening. It is listening to God speak His Word into our hearts. It is growing in our awareness that the God of the universe wants to display His glory in our very lives. It is recognizing our human limitations and His infinite power. It is seeing the promises that He makes to us

for the upbuilding of our faith. It is the establishment of His future kingdom in the here and now of our daily lives. The reasons for reading are as the multitude of the stars and as personal as God knowing precisely what we need each day.

The intent of the Bible Study Board is to encourage and challenge all of us to be diligent in our daily reading of the Bible. Committing to read through the Bible in a year's time can be one expression of that diligence. The goal is growing our relationship with God as we read and study His Word. It is developing a sensitivity to hear His voice speaking to our hearts, both to understand and to obey His Word. It is learning to enjoy Him above all things. Join with me in immersing ourselves in His Word as we walk daily with Him, discovering His will, His character, and His saving grace in our lives.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board

Brother Phil Franklin,
Chairman

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2019

February 3 – The Circumcising of the Next Generation – Josh. 5:1-15

1. Why didn't they circumcise as the males were born?

2. Why did God want them circumcised before they could enter?

February 10 – The Lord Gives Jericho to Israel – Josh. 6:1-27

1. Why seven days and seven times around Jericho?

2. What were the accursed things?

3. How did they know what were the accursed things?

February 17 – The Sin of Achan – Josh. 7:1-26

1. Can we have accursed things today? If so, what are some?

2. Why did they destroy all of Achan's family?

3. Can one sin in the family affect our families today? Causing generational sin?

February 24 – Ai is Conquered – Josh. 8:1-29

1. Why did the Lord need all the people of war instead of just a couple thousand?

2. Why did they destroy all the cities instead of saving them to use later?

3. Why could they keep the spoils of Ai and not of Jericho?

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