

# BIBLE MONITOR

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“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

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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.

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## TRUE HAPPINESS

How happy is the Christian's state  
His sins are all forgiven,  
A cheering ray confirms the grace,  
And lifts his hopes to heaven.  
Though in the rugged path of life,  
He heaves the pensive sigh,  
Yet, trusting in his God, he finds  
Delivering grace is nigh.

If to prevent his wandering steps,  
He feels the chastening rod,  
The gentle stroke shall bring him back  
To his forgiving God.  
And when the welcome message comes  
To call his soul away,  
His soul in rapture shall ascend  
To everlasting day.

—*Selected*

## FULFILLED DREAMS

What do you dream about in your quiet moments? What do you want your legacy to be? Do you desire popularity, power, and possessions? Do your temporal goals motivate and energize you. Are these goals the passion of your life? Do you think and work to attain these dreams? Do you have dreams that involve the betterment of the lives of other people or the promotion and advancement of your local community?

People desire to improve their lives through not only physical labor but also through education and technology. They invest in education, technology, and service to fulfill their dreams. They are willing to work long hours, bear financial burdens and attain the abilities needed

to be successful in their pursuit of their dreams.

People can be so involved in fulfilling their dream that they neglect other important facets of their lives. They will endanger their physical and mental health for the sake of their pursuit. They may become so totally involved with pursuing their definition of success that they lose touch with their families and friends. They may become unreasonable in their demands not only of themselves but also their families and friends. They have a one-track mind in accomplishing their endeavor successfully.

The greatest danger they have is losing their spiritual focus. They see their goal as superior to the moral and ethical guidelines

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that should direct their lives and practices. The goal becomes all-encompassing in their mind's desire for success. They do not perceive the need of love and concern for their loved ones and sacrifice their friendships upon the altar of success. They are unable to relate to those who do not have a similar, singular pursuit of success.

Do Christians have any dreams that motivate them? Some would say that reaching Heaven's pearly gates would fulfill their dream. That certainly is a worthwhile goal during a sometimes-troublesome journey through this world. However, arriving in Heaven is not a reward for service during that journey, rather it is a promotion to fuller service throughout eternity around God's throne. Service in Heaven will be enjoyable and without the complications of earthly service. There will be no physical impairments, mental fogginess, or distractions that are prominent in the earthly journey. In Heaven everyone's service will be appreciated. The will of God will be self-evident so no effort will be wasted on lesser accomplishments.

While Heaven serves as an encouragement for whole-

hearted service in this life, there needs to be deeper desires in the heart and mind of the believer. Serving God should be the purpose of each one. He does not want His service to be a burdensome duty rather it should be a joyful, deep-seated desire governing their life. There should be a dream to be the servant who will gladden the heart of God.

God's servant will be willing to serve when asked, whether it is in public or in some private, unseen service that cannot be publicized. This service should use that person's talents or to challenge them in developing other talents. The desire to serve should recognize what places of service could be most helpful to others. Perhaps, counsel from other leaders should be sought in pursuing a method of service that varies greatly from the usual ways of regular service. Service that is given only to fulfill the giver's desire for recognition will not be the service that is most blessed. Service without recognition can be difficult, but that service is seen by God and He will bless it.

The desire to serve within the Christian's heart and mind should become their passion.

A passion controls a person to the extent that they will not be distracted from their service. Serving God includes activities that accompany worship, praise and prayer, as well as activities that help, promote, and serve others if they are Biblical, moral, and spiritually uplifting. Christian service cannot be diverted to serving self or unholy impulses.

Christians often have secular dreams as well as spiritual desires. They are often successful in these pursuits because they value others and are willing to help them. They

do not waste their resources pursuing unholy activities, so their resources can be invested in service. As they succeed in their temporal pursuits, they accumulate extra resources to invest in worthwhile Christian causes.

Do you have the passion necessary to serve God through worship and praise and serving others in their temporal and spiritual needs?

May God bless you as you dream His dreams.

M. C. Cook

## **A BURDEN FOR UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**

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

Recently, I have spent some time learning and thinking about unreached people groups. For most of us believers, the word “unreached” is a familiar term. Yet we may be unaware of the true meaning of “unreached people.”

Some may think this simply means, all “lost” individuals who haven’t trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation. However, “unreached people groups” are those who have never heard or have limited access to hearing the Gospel message.

*“How then shall they call on him whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the*

*feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"* Romans 10:14-15

How shall they hear? Many faithful missionaries labor to

Share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ. In ministries, there are 5.5 million full-time Christian workers! But out of this vast number, how many bring the Gospel to remote and unreached people groups?

#### Full-Time Christian Workers

##### Serving around the World

(75.9%) 4.19 million workers in the reached areas  
 (23.7%) 1.3 million workers in the unevangelized areas  
 (0.37%) 10,500 workers in unreached areas

In reality, 95% of Christian workers labor in areas with a significant percentage of Christians. This leaves a challenging task for the 0.37% of workers to share the Gospel with 42.2% of the world's population!

"If ten men are carrying a log, nine of them on the little end and one at the heavy end and you want to help – which end will you lift on?" – William Whiting Borden

Regarding the financial aspect, the statistics are equally

staggering. A large percentage of missionary resources go to humanitarian work. Only a small amount remains for sharing the Gospel and church planting. Less than one penny of every dollar is directed at unreached people groups.

As one person has expressed, *"the percentages of man-power and money, focused on unreached people groups are almost undetectable, they are so small. The amount of resources that fall off the Christian table for unreached people groups is more comparable with the number of skin cells you lose over a month's time: something hardly worth calling a sacrifice of the body."* (used with permission)

*"...freely ye have received, freely give."* Matt. 10:8

Recently, while considering the unreached people groups, the word "priority" came to mind. But wait, shouldn't we have a burden for all people groups near and far, reached and unreached? Absolutely. Yet, entire tribal people groups are marching toward hell, without the message of hope and salvation in Jesus.

The medical field trains professionals to respond to catastrophic events using

“triage.” The triage process categorizes victims based on their degree of injuries. Life threatening and serious injuries have higher priority than minor ones. So, are we to assume the less injured are not important? Not at all. The goal is to provide quality care to all; yet emphasize life threatening cases. Likewise, the dear souls of unreached people groups must be near the top of our priority list.

I would like to challenge each of us to reflect on the following questions. And to search out God’s Word and seek out Our Heavenly Father’s direction. May we be good and faithful stewards with the time

and resources He has given us, to reach a dying world with His love!

Do the Unreached People Groups have a place on my priority list?

Is God calling me to help spread the Gospel to the 42.2%?

Am I willing to be spent, for the furtherance of the Gospel

### References:

Joshuaproject.net (used with permission)

The travelingteam.org (used with permission)

William Whiting Borden quote (in public domain)

Sister Melissa Lorenz

## THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY

John 8:1-11

As our lesson opens, we find Jesus at the Mount of Olives. Just for a little review, in chapter seven (verse 32) the Pharisees sent officers to arrest Jesus. By verse 45, the Pharisees are frustrated that the officers had not brought Him. Read the latter part of that chapter and we read of a debate concerning Jesus, after which every man went to his own home. However, Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. We

know from scripture that He went there often – sometimes alone, sometimes with the disciples. (Luke 21:37, John 18:2). At the base of Mount Olivet is the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus prayed to the Father just before His crucifixion. It is from that slope where Christ wept over the city of Jerusalem, and one day He will come again and stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zechariah 14:4).

Luke 21:37 tells us that Jesus, by day, was teaching in the temple and at night abode in the mount called the mount of Olives. Now, in John chapter 8, Jesus came again into the temple early in the morning and was teaching the people. Suddenly, a commotion interrupts Jesus' instruction. A group of Pharisees enter with "a woman taken in adultery" (verses 3-4). She didn't come willingly – she was taken – so the woman is perhaps struggling to get free while the brave Pharisees are pushing, pulling, dragging her into the temple. Finally, she is thrust into the midst of the crowd that had gathered around our Lord.

She is probably disheveled, her hair is a mess, frightened, intimidated, humiliated, embarrassed, and ashamed. The crowd looks on. Perhaps some of those who are there to hear Jesus' words are acquainted with this sinner and are shocked by her presence and accusations against her.

Now, let us make no mistake: Adultery is a terrible sin. Two persons – a man and a woman – promise to love each other and remain faithful till death. Adultery is a breaking of that covenant.

The act of adultery violates the sanctity of the marriage bed. (Hebrews 13:4a). People are deeply hurt by the unfaithfulness of their marriage partner.

God's word is clear, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Exodus 20:14). Please also refer to Leviticus 20:10. In the New Testament, the latter part of that verse in Hebrews, it is written, "Whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4b).

According to the Old Testament law, both the man and the woman are to be stoned for this sin – which leads to some questions that probably have been asked many, many times before:

Question 1: "Where is the man involved in this act of adultery?" Why wasn't he taken as well? The sole purpose of the Pharisees bringing the woman to Jesus in the first place was to find a way to destroy Him (verse 6). She was a pawn in their quest to get rid of Him. The Pharisees were not seeking justice, they were seeking to rid themselves of Jesus! In their purpose to find Jesus in violation of the Law, they broke the Law in not bringing the man also.

Question 2: "How did they

find her in the very act?" Please look up Luke 20:20. The chief priests and scribes actually sent spies which would feign – or pretend to be – just, honorable men that they might take hold of His words so that they might deliver Him to the power and authority of the governor. They actually had men spying out for any way at all to find fault with Him. Their plan, in part, was to get Him in trouble with the Roman government.

The Pharisees were trying to trip Him with His own words. If Jesus would have said not to stone her, He would have been speaking against the Law of Moses. Another example of that can be found in the book of Acts. Stephen was accused of that very thing at the time of his stoning (Acts 6:13).

On the other hand, if our Lord would have said to stone her, He would have been in trouble with the Roman authorities who had taken the power of capital punishment away from the Jews (John 18:31).

As the scenes unfold in our lesson, the rulers repeatedly seek an answer from Jesus. After all they figured that they had Him in a trap. Regardless of how He answers, He's done.

He stoops to write on the ground with His finger! What? What is He doing now?! The Pharisees are getting frustrated!

Which leads us to a third question: What did He write? The answer to that has probably been discussed thousands of times as well. One speaker on this verse thought that perhaps He wrote the names of the men standing around desiring to stone the woman, along with the names of the sins of which they were guilty. The Bible doesn't say, so we can only speculate.

The answer is simple and to the point. Let him who is without sin, first cast a stone at her. Wow! They weren't expecting an answer like that one!

Now the Pharisees and scribes instigated this encounter with Jesus, but I can imagine others taking up their cause to see justice meted out upon the adulteress. Perhaps men were gathered around ready to cast their stones.

The Bible says that at the words of Jesus, they were all convicted by their own conscience and began to walk away beginning with the eldest. You see, the same One who said not to commit adultery also said to honor thy father and



mother, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet, remember the Sabbath to keep it holy, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not have other gods before me, thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. They were guilty too. The eldest walked away first because they had more to remember.

Funny thing about memory. Sometimes a person cannot remember what they had for supper the night before, or where they had put the car keys just an hour ago, but they can recall events that happened years before. If the truth were known, how many of those same persons would be in the same predicament – facing the sentence of stoning! As they all walked away, perhaps one could hear the dropping of stones upon the ground.

“Woman where are thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee?” The adulteress looks around and sees no one left that desired to condemn her. “No man Lord.” “Neither do I condemn thee...” They must have been the most precious words ever spoken to her. She knew she was guilty. The only one who had the true

authority to condemn her didn't.

Jesus isn't condemning. Jesus knows the heart of man (John 2:25). He knew she was a sinner. It's a plague that has infected and affected mankind ever since the Fall. To condemn is to pass sentence and carry out the penalty of the offense. He showed mercy.

However, Jesus also is not compromising or condoning. “... go and sin no more.” The mercy and forgiveness shown here or to anyone, is never a license to continue in sin. It wasn't then and it isn't now! When we are saved by grace through faith, the righteousness of God is imputed unto us (Romans 4). But imputed righteousness demands personal holiness (Romans 5:20 through chapter 6).

Jesus is compassionate. His interaction with the woman reveals this very truth. How many of us have ever needed the compassion of Jesus? Something happened in the heart of that woman that day. She addressed Jesus as Lord (verse 11). How many of the religious rulers ever addressed Jesus in that manner? With such grace bestowed upon her, she became His disciple. I like

to think she was with the others who were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost and was filled with the Holy Spirit!

Let us not kid ourselves. Our conservative churches are not immune from the sin of adultery or any other sin. Sin must be dealt with when found within the church. Just a reminder. The purpose of church discipline is the restoration of the offender – restoring broken relationships that have been affected by this or any other sin (Galatians 6:1).

This may take time and patience as trusted people work together to rebuild what was damaged. Are the sins of gossip, slander, judgement, and the refusing to forgive any less offensive to God than this sin of adultery?

May God be glorified, the Church edified, as we contemplate these things. Amen.

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## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Death. Abandonment. Lost job. Painful circumstances. Cancer. Complicated relationship. Difficult times. Unwelcome suffering seems to rear its ugly head in each of our lives.

A flower fades. The grass withers. Leaves dry and curl then glide to the ground. Nature suffers with us. The beauty of nature, however, is that it also gives us hope.

Fall is always an especially encouraging time for me. I suppose growing up on a farm is what initially instilled the joy of harvest within me. Now, as a gardener, there is nothing more

satisfying than seeing all the hard work of spring and summer finally pay off at fall harvest. There was ground preparation, seeding and planting, watering, weeding, trimming, mulching, and on the list goes.

Often during the intense heat of summer, when the towering weeds seem to look down on us and laugh their evil laugh, and the vegetable plants look up at us crying their “chlorophylled” hearts out for a drink of water, I just want – to use a colloquial expression – to throw in the towel.

Sometimes the labor of gardening appears overwhelming,

but Proverbs 20:4 encourages us that it is worth it in the end. "The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing." So, when fall's bounty fills the bushel baskets to overflowing, I see the fruits of my labor and my love for gardening is rejuvenated.

Another lesson we gain from nature is the interdependence we see in the symbiotic relationship of a peony and the ant, of a bee and an unpollinated flower, of a squirrel and an oak tree. People often depend on the help of others as well. Whether it is an encouraging word, lending a hand to our elderly neighbor, or aiding the less fortunate, we can all find a way to reach out to others.

There seems to be an ever-increasing demand for food assistance and according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one in eight households in America experiences hunger or potential risk of hunger. That is a lot of people in our very own communities that stand in need of our help! Nothing brings greater self-satisfaction or pleases God more than

when we help our fellow man.

The Israelites were given instruction in Leviticus 23 to leave some grain around the edges of their fields for the poor when they harvested. Deuteronomy 24:19 says, "When thou cuttest down thine harvest in thy field, and hast forgot a sheaf in the field, thou shalt not go again to fetch it: it shall be for the stranger, for the fatherless, and for the widow: that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hands."

I am also reminded of the young boy in John 6 who gave his bread and fish to Jesus so that the multitude of 5,000 could be fed. His meager portions may not have seemed like much, but it became an abundant blessing when given to the Master! Even if you don't have much to give away, the blessing on someone else's life may be far greater than you will ever know. In difficult times the best we can do is reach out to the suffering and ease their burden. After all, as the gospel song says, "Nothing's quite as good 'til you give it away"!

Brother Marlin Carpenter

## THE ECSTATIC JOY OF OBEDIENCE

Often, obedience is presented in the light of drudgery, something I must do. Rarely do we see it pictured as something that is joyful and exciting.

If you want to compare obedience to disobedience, there certainly is nothing joyful about disobedience. It is disobedience that brings all the trouble into our life. Sometimes, the trouble is delayed in coming, but sooner or later it will come. In the meantime, we take great delight in our disobedience.

When it comes to obedience, it is not that difficult to obey somebody that you love. All would agree that out of obedience flows love. The old hymn puts it this way, "Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

Even in marriage ceremonies, we have the phrase "honor and obey." I think the two really go together. Whoever I honor, I certainly am going to obey. And my obedience reflects who I really honor.

In the Old Testament some of the Israelites, particularly the Pharisees, make a drudgery

out of obedience. The list of things they needed to obey got longer with each generation. By the time Jesus arrived on the scene, it was so long it choked the average Israelite.

I think it can be boiled down to something like this. Love is based upon obedience and out of that obedience comes fruit. The fruit of my life is what really defines me as a person. Some people, however, are pretty close to being a rotten apple.

From my Christian perspective, my love for God is complete. When I come to the word of God, I nourish my soul upon it because of my love for God. The more I love God the more I commit myself to the Word of God and the more I commit myself to the word of God the more I love God. Out of that love for God flows a stream of obedience that nourishes my entire life into fruitfulness.

Every invention that has changed the culture has been the fruit of someone who was committed to what they were doing and more obedient to the very end. Take Thomas Edison, for example; the fruit of his labor was inventions that have really blessed our world in

which we live. He loved what he was doing and out of that love flowed obedience to finish the job at hand.

They tell us that it took 10,000 experiments to really produce what turned out to be the light bulb. Talk about obedience!

In order to finish a task, there must be an element of obedience to it. No matter what it is. The degree of obedience determines how far we will really go with something.

When it comes to the spiritual realm, there is another aspect we need to keep in mind. God has a life for us He has created that will bring joy unspeakable and full of glory into our life, but to get there we need to be obedient. That obedience must be one hundred percent.

Some people can follow for a short time, but then they get exhausted and "peter out". Anybody can start a race; it is the champion that really finishes the race. In order to finish, that runner must commit to full obedience in running that race.

Everything in my life is a result of obedience to something or someone. When

it comes to the Christian life, my obedience to God is reflected in the quality of my life.

I often wonder why so many Christians struggle in their Christian life. They struggle about the silliest and minutest things. They struggle with legalism and all that is associated with that.

There comes a time when we need to put things behind us and just determine in our heart and mind that we are going to serve God. As Gideon of old said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And the only thing that enabled him and his family to do that was their utter and complete obedience to God.

Therefore, love and obedience go together. You cannot have one without the other and both are nourished by the other. I am not going to obey someone I do not love, and I am not going to love someone I cannot obey.

We see this so often in marriages. Why some people get married is beyond understanding. And of course, it does not last very long. They cannot be obedient to their marriage vows because somewhere along the line their

love has been compromised.

The same goes for Christians. They cannot keep their vow of serving God because somewhere along the line their love for God has been compromised by the world. We need to

get back and renew our vow of love which will produce obedience in our daily Christian walk.

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## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

March 2019 Study Questions

### March 3 – Read Joshua 8:30-9:27

What is the purpose behind the instructions concerning the construction of the altar?

How did this service benefit Israel?

Who were some of the strangers in the meeting?

What unintended consequence did Israel face as a result of their victories?

How do the Gibeonites use a similar strategy that Israel employed in their victory at Ai?

What did Israel lack in their agreement with the Gibeonites?

**Commentary:** Great victory followed by re-consecration can still lead to spiritual carelessness. Our confidence rests upon what we have done in the past and we presume that we are good enough for the present. Israel lacked wisdom in deliberating with the Gibeonites. Satan is far more crafty and loves to lull us into false contentment in our relationship with the Lord. We are called to battle every day. Let us not neglect to put on the whole armor of God.

### March 10 – Read Joshua 10:1-10:21

How does fear affect your decision making?

What message do you think these five kings had in mind by attacking Gibeon?

Why didn't Israel let Gibeon fend for itself since they had deceived Israel?

What sort of message did Israel convey by coming to the aid of the Gibeonites?

What sort of message did God convey to Gibeon as a result of the battle?

**Commentary:** How do we demonstrate the faithfulness of God to those who don't know Him? One way is being faithful to others in real need even if our relationship with them isn't the best. Showing genuine concern and needed help to those with whom there may be some lingering animosity or distrust can lead to better relationships and opportunities to share our faith. God wants us to build bridges that create hope and bears fruit in meeting real needs, both immediate and eternal.

### **March 17 – Read Joshua 10:22-43**

What strongholds of sin need conquering in your life?

Where is mercy a hindrance in the life of a believer?

What makes Joshua an ideal leader in conquering the Promised Land?

What New Testament chapter would you compare him to?

If you had to define your spiritual life what category would you place yourself in: a wanderer or a conqueror?

**Commentary:** How do we apply the blood spilling methodology associated with the conquering of the Promised Land to our Christian lives? The arts of carnal warfare are foreign to our understanding. But we need to be totally committed to defeating those things that keep us from experiencing victory through Jesus Christ. Sin needs to be killed. Not just once but daily. The feet that are shod with the gospel of peace must stand on the neck of the sin that so easily besets us. The promise of a deeper relationship with Christ is ours if we will fight for it.

### **March 24 – Read Joshua 11:1-23**

Why do you think King Jabin of Hazor thought he could defeat Israel when others had failed?

From a military standpoint what disadvantage did all these armies have against Israel?

How did Joshua exploit this weakness?

What has the Lord commanded you this day that remains to be done?

**Commentary:** The kings who banded together saw their strength in the vast number of their armies. What they didn't see was their lack of coordination, familiarity with each other that creates cohesion, the ease with which any chain of command could be disrupted, and how quickly a mass of soldiers could become a panicked mass of fleeing men. But aren't we also tempted to judge our strength by how many are in our congregations. Two thousand years ago a small but dedicated group of believers began to turn the world upside down with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Let us enter the battle already knowing God's promised outcome.

### **March 31 – Read Joshua 13:1-33**

What remains to be conquered in your life?

What kind of expectations have proven false as you have experienced victory in your life?

How were the tribes going to drive out the inhabitants of their inheritance with Joshua no longer able to lead them in battle?

What was God's promise to Israel?

**Commentary:** Losing vibrant leadership is always a difficult time. A deep trust for and confidence in certain leaders is not easily transferred to others or new leadership. But God's promises are just as real and His faithfulness to us never ends. New situations and circumstances can promote a deeper confidence in God and lessen our natural inclination to rely upon ourselves and others in order to see His hand at work.

## **WHAT IS YOUR VOCATION?**

"I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words." Hebrews 13:22

The epistles written by the disciples in the New Testament serve many purposes. In them, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is

presented in its fullness. The saints are edified and built up in the faith. Likewise, the church scattered abroad is encouraged to live for God and tell others of His goodness. The writer of Hebrews here is telling the church to listen patiently and



bear with the message being given unto them.

In this age in which the enemies of Christianity are working overtime to kill and destroy us, and in an age of apathy and complacency in America, we must do what is necessary to take the Love of Christ to the world we live in. In the past we took our ministry to pagans in foreign lands. Today, the pagans have brought their religion to us in our land, often violently.

Are we willing to die for Christ? The pagan religions are willing to die for their beliefs, and to take many of us with them. There is only one way to compete with such radicalism, and that is with the love of Jesus. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...” What a wonderful Gift! If the pagans give their lives for false religion (which they think is true), then how devoted are we?

Amongst Christian vocations there is the ministry, deaconship, evangelism, teaching, missionaries, and many do more than one. All things pertaining to the furtherance of the gospel are important, right down to sweeping the floor. But many can do more. Do you know your

Christian vocation? As this is being written, there are only about four or five regular writers contributing to the Bible Monitor, and that includes the editor. While we enjoy reading writers from days gone by, because we need the admonition of those with more experience, we thrill to read articles by new writers, as well as people we know and love.

Being able to articulate the Gospel on the printed page is not for everyone, but there are many who are able. There is not much competition in this field. But we need to impress upon people the importance of this work, and how that with the help of the Holy Ghost, much can be accomplished in little time. Face to face we only can reach a few a week, but the printed word has tremendous possibilities. Your work on the page can last as long as the paper and ink last. An article in the Monitor can reach many hundreds, even thousands over time.

Once this writer received a letter from a young man in Nigeria. He had read a tract of ours that was ten years old at the time. The work continues long after it is written, and this is very appealing, yet very challenging. My Question: Who will be the next

to accept the challenge to write?

*Who'll be the next to follow Jesus?*

*Who'll be the next to praise His name?*

*Who'll swell the chorus of free redemption-Sing, hallelujah! Praise the lamb?*

*Who'll be the next to follow Jesus?*

*Who'll write the words folks need to see?*

*Sharing the gospel with ink and paper-A message for our posterity.*

What must you have in order to write? God needs your

availability, not your ability. A sincere desire to introduce others to God's Word is essential. If you are a child of God and a servant of Christ and have a love for the souls of mankind, you have what God needs. These things coupled with a message from God and schooling from the Holy Ghost will bring new writers into the fold.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
Mohler's Congregation

## THE PEARL WITHOUT PRICE

Rudy Cover

Matthew 13:45-46

Have you ever seen a large pearl? Pearls are usually very small but once in awhile there is a great big one. Pearls are many different colors. Most are found in oysters and are started by a grain of sand that has accidentally lodged between the shell and the oyster. The oyster has the ability to coat the little grain of sand with a substance called "mother of pearl." As the years go by, the pearl keeps getting larger, but it takes many years for an oyster to make a real large pearl. Pearls are very costly, and an extra-large pearl of a rare color and luster is almost priceless.

One time Jesus gave an illustration about the Kingdom of Heaven. He said it was like a pearl merchant hunting valuable pearls. This merchant knew all about pearls. That was his business. He bought and sold pearls. I suppose he had pearls by the hundreds. One day while shopping for pearls he found one that was larger and more beautiful than any he had ever seen. He looked it over carefully and it was perfect. He wanted that pearl above anything, but the price was very high. The man who was selling it knew about pearls too. Jesus said it

was a pearl of great price. The merchant didn't have enough money to buy it, but he was determined to get that pearl. Do you know what he did? He sold all that he had and bought it. I suppose it means that he not only sold all the pearls that he had but also his house, his business or any other property he may have owned. Why do you suppose he was willing to pay so much? It was because he knew that he had never seen another pearl so large, perfect or so beautiful. A pearl like that was priceless. He was sure he would never have another opportunity like it. It was a pearl of great price!

Jesus said the Kingdom of Heaven is like this man seeking goodly pearls. Jesus is the King of the Kingdom. Have you found Jesus? He's worth everything that you have in this life. Jesus promises to give you eternal life – that means after this life you will never die or get sick or be unhappy. We cannot begin to pay for Heaven, but Jesus is willing to give it to us if we will give our life to Him. It's the best bargain you'll ever find. Jesus is that Pearl of Great Price!

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

## **DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT MURMURINGS AND DISPUTINGS**

Maxine Surbey  
Phil. 2:14

"Brian, Darrell, hurry and get dressed. Father wants your help in the barn this morning!" called Mother from the kitchen doorway.

"This was the morning Uncle John was going to take us fishing. Now we won't get the chores done in time to go with him!" said Brian disgustedly as he put on his shoes and socks.

"It's raining, anyway, so maybe Uncle John will put off the

fishing trip till later in the week," answered Darrell as he finished buttoning his shirt.

The boys bounded down the steps and out the kitchen door. "I'll race you to the barn," called Darrell.

"That's not fair, you had a head start," cried Brian. Nevertheless both boys raced to the barn in record time.

"I'll feed the chickens while

you milk Betsy,” said Darrell.

“You always pick the easiest jobs! You fed the chickens yesterday. It’s my turn today,” complained Brian, who grabbed the pail of grain and headed for the chicken house.

Finally, the chores were completed and the family was seated around the breakfast table. After Father asked the blessing, Mother passed the bacon and eggs. “I wanted pancakes this morning! We had eggs, yesterday, Mother. Besides my egg is too brown,” mumbled Brian.

Mother looked up with a grieved expression. Father gave Brian a stern look. “One more complaint from you and you will leave the table! How thankful we should be that we have plenty of food to eat. There are so many poor people in different parts of the world who would be mighty glad for just a few bites of the food you are complaining about. Apologize to your Mother and try harder to have a thankful heart for all the good things God has given us.”

Brian shifted uneasily in his seat. “I’m sorry, Mother,” he said.

“Well have pancakes some morning soon,” promised Mother. She cleared the table and then answered the phone.

“That was Uncle John who called. He said he was unavoidably detained at the office today, so the fishing trip is postponed until tomorrow.”

“I’m so disappointed! I wanted to go fishing today. It’s hard to wait until tomorrow,” replied Brian.

Father looked at the boy’s downcast face as he reached for his straw hat. “Boys, there is too much bickering and complaining. I have several little jobs for you to do today. See if you can work together in a pleasant manner. Work can be enjoyed if you have the right attitude. The hours will pass quickly. The Bible says, ‘Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.’ Ec. 9:10. Learn to enjoy both work and play. Being thankful and having a happy heart means much. The Bible says, ‘Do all things without murmuring and disputing.’ Phil. 2:14.”

Mother turned from her dishwashing and said with a twinkle in her eye, “Uncle John said to pack a lunch for you boys. Shall I fix an egg sandwich for you, Brian?”

Brian grinned. “I’ll eat it if you fix it, Mother, but I would much rather have ham or bacon.” Mother smiled as she hung up the dish towel to dry. “We’ll see,” she said.

Selected by Shirley Frick

## UNITY – TO BEST GLORIFY GOD

Howard J. Surbey

“Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.” Rom. 15:5-7. We wish to draw some thoughts from the first sixteen verses of this chapter.

Certainly, our Heavenly Father is a God of patience and consolation. We cannot read very far in the Old Testament until we find the absolute truth of this statement in God’s dealings with His people. We receive much patience and consolation from our good parents, but even that is not to be compared with that which we receive at all times from God. “Like-minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus” this language would not compel us to be like-minded and in unity with one who is a drunkard, one who uses tobacco or dope, one who steals, one who uses foul language or any of the weaknesses of the flesh. But we should be like-minded toward

those who live according to our Lord and Saviour. We need to use great care, that we are not partial to one or the other in the faith.

How wonderful this Christian life could be, if we each could “with one mind and one mouth glorify God?” I feel certain if we have the humility that we should have, realizing God’s greatness and our weakness, it would be much simpler to worship together in unity. It is quite interesting and very remarkable, the way Jesus was able to receive so many people, yes, so many vastly different people. Do we have the spirit of Christ, or are we better able to discern and understand individual’s faults and weaknesses? “But thou, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.” Psa. 86:15.

“Neither pray I for these alone but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” John 17:20-21. At this time Christ

was praying especially for His apostles, who were to record for us the many events and teachings, as found in the New Testament. What spiritual power the churches would have if we all would obey this prayer. That we all would be one, in purpose, attitude, method, and love for one another, as Christ and God are for each other. Yes, if we could direct and control ourselves to this end, I feel certain that a great percent of the world would believe in Christ.

“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement.” I Cor. 1:10. Why is it that we as professors of Christ’s church do not obey these New Testament teachings? Is it any wonder that Christ said, “Ye are yet carnal.” True unity and love in us will: fashion the heart, open the understanding, soften and sweeten the affection and create a spirit of the love of God, in each of us. “Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for

railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.” I Pet. 3:8-12.

May we notice a few thoughts from the chapter, which our text is taken from, Rom. 15. Verse one, do any of us want to admit that we are not strong in the faith? If not, we should sympathize with one another, be concerned about one another and minister strength to one another. We should be eager and zealous for Christ, yearning, and laboring that we all may obey Him. “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.” Matt. 16:24.

Verse two, we should not seek our own will but rather that the body of Christ might be edified. “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just: but I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” John 5:30. “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceable with all men.” Rom. 12:16-18.

Verse seven. Can we grasp the concern Jesus had for each of us the sacrifice and suffering He was willing to endure, that our sins might be forgiven and that we might be shown the many things which please God and those which displease Him? In this light, as followers of Christ, what concern and brotherly love should we have for one another? How much of our individual carnal desires should we sacrifice for unity, that God might be glorified? V. 11. Is our praise and thankfulness perfect before God?

Verse fourteen gives a big step towards Christian unity. That we may be "full of goodness, filled with (Gospel) knowledge and able to admonish one another. Naturally we must have ourselves under Gospel control first.

It is only through God's grace that we are what we are. "I beseech you, therefore, brethren,

by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. For whom did Paul labor and suffer, almost night and day, that he might finish his work? Christ sent us another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, that we might be led in the way of Truth. Does the Holy Spirit work in unity with God and Christ? Will the Holy Spirit help those who do not work in unity: with one another, with Christ and with God's Word? "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless." II Pet. 3:13-14.

Selected from the  
March 1, 1959  
issue of the Bible Monitor

## **"THE HIGHEST PEAK"**

B. F. Masterson

In the Epistle to the Romans, Paul leads the sinner out of the valley of sin and degradation to the peak of justification; then to the peak of sanctification;

and still higher, to the peak of glorification, and reaches the summit in the twelfth chapter, the first verse, where he says: "I beseech you therefore, brethren,

by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." He wants us to see our Spiritual Searchlight on the swivel of the word "therefore" in the text and turn it towards the valley of degradation from whence we came, in the first and second chapters where are described all manner of sins, and the final verdict that all are sinners and that the whole world is guilty before God. No wonder Paul felt himself under obligation to bring to man the gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation, which led us out of this valley of darkness, and set us on the peak of justification through faith in Him, who was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification: "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ." (Rom. 5:1). He is scaling a higher peak by counting the old sinful man to be dead and yielding the new life unto God by union with Christ in his death and resurrection. Set apart to a newness of life, which is sanctification. (Chap. 6). And the overcoming of the lower nature by the higher, and this one is delivered from this wretched body

of sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord. (7:24-25).

But he has reached still a higher peak when he said: "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." (8:1). The whole chapter is contrasted between the spiritually-minded and the carnally-minded. To be carnally-minded is death, but to be spiritually-minded is life and peace. (8:6). This is the mountain peak of glorification. "Moreover, whom he did predestinate, them he also called; whom he called them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified." (8:30).

But Paul will lead us to a still higher pinnacle, by omitting the ninth, tenth and eleventh chapters (which are parenthetical and should be studied separately) and connect the eighth with the twelfth chapter, which makes good sense when he says: "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God!" He wants us to set the spiritual searchlight on the swivel of the word "therefore" (which means, "because of") and turn it back over the trail that we may see how God has found us in the depth of sin, and led us to higher ground



of justification; and still higher to a plain of sanctification; and still higher to glorification; and still higher, if anything, that we might view the display of God's mercies in our deliverance from sin. How "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock and established my goings." (Ps. 40:2).

Because of this wonderful display of mercy toward an unworthy recipient of God's grace, Paul says: "I appeal to you therefore that you present your body a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

Why this stupendous claim upon me, that I should turn over to God all my physical powers: And furthermore, claim that it is my reasonable service? I must again turn on the searchlight, "For God has revealed them unto us by His spirit, for the spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God. Now, we have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."

Have I forgotten the misery, remorse and regret in the valley of sin and degradation from which He has delivered me? And

the glorious experiences of the mountain top, glimpses of the heavenly light, for which I would not exchange for all the material things? Yes, it is my reasonable service to "yield myself unto God, as those that are alive from the dead."

This summit also implies the thought of turning the searchlight forward that we might have a vision of service. This being the highest peak of the mountain range of the Roman letter, we have a plain view on all sides. Being transformed by the renewing of our minds, we would not be conformed to this old world with all the allurements. "Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new." (2 Cor. 5:17).

After scaling these mountain peaks of experience, we would not turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, but looking forward – yea, "pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus", thereby proving what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God, seeing clearly the relationship we sustain to those of like precious faith, and our conduct towards those that are without, to the government under which we live, as well as how to respect our neighbors.

The epistle to the Romans is the greatest of all. It is the fifth gospel. Paul calls it his gospel (Rom. 2:16, 16:25), consequently it is the gospel according to St. Paul.

In the four gospels we have biography, prophesy and history, but the epistle to the Romans is the door through which we enter to a secret meeting place with the Holy Spirit, to learn from Him the things which Jesus would have told His disciples but found them unable to bear it. Jesus said, "I have yet many things to

say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." The many things were revealed to Paul through the spirit, who took the things of Christ and showed them unto him. (John 16:14). He will also show it to us, if the God of this world has not blinded our minds, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto us. (2 Cor. 4:4).

Selected from the  
March 1, 1930  
issue of the Bible Monitor

## OBITUARY

### ROBERT L. GEORGE

Robert L. George age 84 passed away on January 1, 2019 at the Osteopathic Hospital in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Joyce Blocher Moore George of Millersburg, Pennsylvania, his stepson Jared (Tammy) Moore of Elizabethville, Pennsylvania and his stepdaughter Gloria (Brian) Keeney of Red Lion, Pennsylvania, and eight grandchildren: Kaleb, Emilee, Nickolas, Brandon, Jacob and Owen Moore and Nicole and Katelyn Keeney. Our family greatly rejoices that Bob gave his heart to Jesus. He attended Emmanuel Wesleyan Church in Gratz, Pennsylvania. "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Titus 2:13

Submitted by Joyce George

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## NEWS ITEMS

### 2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Lord willing, the 2019 General Conference of the Dunkard Brethren Church will be held June 8-12, 2019 at Aldersgate Christian Camp in Turner, Oregon. ([www.aldersgateretreat.com](http://www.aldersgateretreat.com)) Bedding and towels will be provided. If you are willing to share a room with someone else, please let us know.

The closest airport will be Portland, Oregon (approx. 70 mi. from Conference). There are two commercial shuttle services from the Portland Airport to Salem (10 miles from conference). RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED on the Hut Shuttle. ([www.hutshuttle.com](http://www.hutshuttle.com)) They are RECOMMENDED on the Oregon Express Shuttle. ([www.oregonexpressshuttle.com](http://www.oregonexpressshuttle.com)) These shuttles have different rates and schedules, so look at both to see which one will work the best for you. There is Amtrak service to Salem. (10 miles from conference). We will run our own shuttle from conference to those three locations in Salem as needed.

Lodging reservations should be sent to Dennis and Norma Jean Stamy, 1539 SE Miller Ave., Dallas, OR 97338. Phone: 503-623-7395. E-mail [normastamy@yahoo.com](mailto:normastamy@yahoo.com). If possible, please have your lodging requests in by May 1, 2019. Further information and directions will be published later. Thank you.

The Lodging Committee

### NOTICE

All queries, reports and any other business for the 2019 General Conference need to be in the hands of the General Conference Writing Clerk by April 22, 2019. Thank you.

Brother Milton Cook  
1138 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Beaumont, CA 92223  
951-845-6231  
[mcookdb@gmail.com](mailto:mcookdb@gmail.com)

**BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA**

From March 17 through March 24, the Bethel Congregation will be holding their Spring revivals with Bro. Brant Jamison from the West Fulton, Ohio Congregation. May we remember Bro. Brant as he prepares for these meetings. The meetings on Sunday evening March 17 will start at 6:00 P.M. During the week services will start at 7:30 P.M. Sunday March 24, there will be a meal prepared in the basement for all and then the closing of the revivals will be at 2:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the sermons and fellowship with us.

Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

**CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

Lord willing, the Chambersburg Dunkard Brethren Church will be holding weekend meetings from March 22 to 24, 2019. Bro. David Rice of the CornerStone Congregation has consented to speak on the subject of Apologetics. Services on Friday and Saturday evening will begin at 7:30 P.M. The final service will be held Sunday morning beginning at 9:30 A.M. with a fellowship meal following the service. The address for the church is 2175 Lincoln Way E, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania 17201. We invite you to worship with us. Please remember Brother David as he prepares for the meetings.

Brother Vern Champ

**PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO**

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will be holding their spring revival meetings, March 24 through 31. Bro. Len Wertz from the Quinter Congregation will be our evangelist. Evening services will begin at 7:30 P.M. We will be having a 2:00 P.M. Examination Service on Saturday, March 30, followed by our Lovefeast at 7:00 P.M. The conclusion of our meetings will be on Sunday at 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to attend. Please pray for Bro. Len as he prepares for these meetings.

Sister Susan Nines, Cor.

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2019

### April 7 – Caleb’s Inheritance – Joshua 14 & 15:13-19

1. Why did only nine and one of the half tribes receive an inheritance on this side of the Jordan?

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2. Why is it such a big deal for me, like Caleb, to wholeheartedly follow the Lord? (Num. 14:24 & Deut. 1:34-35)

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3. At eighty-five, Caleb was what one might consider an older man, ready for retirement. Was this what he had in mind when he asked for and was given his inheritance? What are some of the things Caleb accomplished in his older age?

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### April 14 – The Inheritance of Ephraim and Manasseh – Joshua 16 & 17

1. What did both Ephraim and Manasseh fail to do and why?

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2. As is often the case when we don’t follow instructions and something goes wrong, we start to complain and blame. Who is blamed and what are the complaints of these two tribes?

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3. What does Joshua tell them they stand to gain? What do they need to do to, according to the Lord, to experience this blessing?

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**April 21 – The Resurrection – I Corinthians 15:1-32**

1. What are some of the different evidences Paul lays out for the Resurrection?

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2. How many eyewitnesses saw the risen Christ? Is there evidence for the Resurrection outside of Scripture?

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3. Our resurrection is directly tied to Christ's. If Christ did not raise, then...? (vs. 12-19). Since Christ did rise, then...? (vs. 20-28)

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**April 28 – “Go, walk through the land...” – Joshua 18 & 19:49-51**

1. Why did the seven tribes delay going in to take possession of the land?

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2. Throughout the dispersal of the land, why are the Levites always excluded from a portion?

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3. What did Joshua receive and what are several reasons that he was last to be given his inheritance?

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