

BIBLE MONITOR

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MAY, 2019

NO. 05

“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.

CHILDREN'S SONG OF PRAISE

Lord, a little band, and lowly,
We are come to sing to thee;
Thou art great, and high, and holy-
O how thankful should we be!

Fill our hearts with tho'ts of Jesus,
And of heav'n, where he is gone;
And let nothing ever please us
He would grieve to look upon.

For we know the Lord of glory
Always sees what children do,
And is writing now the story
Of our tho'ts and actions, too.

Let our sins be all forgiven;
Make us fear what e'er is wrong;
Lead us on our way to heaven,
There to sing a nobler song.

HALLOWED DAILY WORK

As we go about our daily labor, do we consider that work to be hallowed? The word “hallowed” is associated with holy, godly, set apart attributes. In the Lord’s Prayer, the word is used to address our Heavenly Father, can the same word be applied to our daily labors? Our daily activities should be “hallowed” by being holy, godly and set-apart for Him.

Work has been necessary since Adam and Eve’s fall in the Garden of Eden. This was one of the consequences of their sin. Both were given work to do, whether it was in cultivating the land, or in caring for the home and family. Before their fall, they had been assigned tasks that were not arduous and enjoyed blessed fellowship with God.

Hard, manual labor became the norm for both men and women

after the fall. Women have the experience of bearing children, often with pain and anxiety, as they place their own comfort, safety, and health in jeopardy. Sin brought the necessity of these types of labor.

As we journey through life toward our Heavenly dwelling, we tend to separate our worship activities from our daily activities. We consider the time set aside for worship and teaching to be separated of our daily lives. We designate a certain time when we will not be available for the ordinary duties of life. We spend our day of rest in fellowship and worship, usually at a designated location. We also may include visiting as a part of that time. We even may adopt rules concerning what we do or do not allow on that day.

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Hopefully our holy instincts are not limited to a period of twenty-four hours each week. We should consider all one hundred and sixty-eight hours of the week to be just as sacred as we do Sunday. The activities of those other one hundred and forty-four hours are to be as devoted to serving God as the hours spent in dedicated worship time. The activities we do may be quite different but they should all be performed as a godly witness.

The hours spent on the farm, in the factory, in the school, in the medical center, or in any other place should be lived as a means of worship. Opportunities for service are more likely to arise Monday through Saturday than on Sunday. Those six days should not just pass away without any effort of using them to honor and glorify God.

God is the Lord of the whole week not just Sunday even though it is designated as the Lord's Day. Humans would be a sorry lot if God was only interested in their physical, mental and spiritual welfare on that one day. We are recipients of His Grace and Mercy every day of the week. He should be the recipient of our worship, service and loyalty every day of the week. We cannot make

compartments within our lives that divide our activities into those that honor God and those that are for our own pleasure.

Do we tend to forget God when we turn the calendar over to Monday morning? After the blessings enjoyed on Sunday, do we forget to apply what we have learned and experienced to Monday? Is there some kind of disconnect between what we value on Sunday and how we live our lives the rest of the week? Have we been brainwashed by the enemy of our souls to believe that worshipping God on Sunday is what we owe Him, but the rest of the week we may do as we please? Some would think that it is impossible and unimportant to give God control all week.

The ordinary days of our lives are important to God. He has paid a high price for our souls and He wants them to be conformed to His will. The acceptance of Jesus as our Savior is the highest decision we will ever make. Even the lack of a decision is actually a decision to ignore His plea and plan for us. Once we do make that decision, we cannot rest upon our laurels of having done so. Our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Savior also acknowledges Him as the Lord of our lives. He not only

saves us from our sins but also saves us to serve Him. Before accepting Christ, we owed our allegiance to Satan and the world, now by the efficacy of His sacrifice we have a new allegiance. We owe our allegiance to God who calls us not only to worship but also to live for Him.

God desires His children to be honorable and holy examples in a sinful and self-willed world. He calls His children to be pilgrims in this world where they are aliens

to the surrounding society. He wants His children to worship Him not only in worship, teaching, and fellowship, but also in the daily tasks of life. He wants them to be as devoted to Him throughout the week as they profess to be on Sunday.

How many days of the week do you allow God to be the center of your life? Just on Sunday? Or every day?

M. C. Cook

ONLY ONE MOTHER

We can only have one Mother,
 Patient, kind and true;
 No other friend in all the world
 Will be so true to you.
 For all her loving kindness
 She asks nothing in return;
 If all the world deserts you,
 To Mother you can turn.

Many tears you've caused her
 When you were sad or ill,
 Many, many sleepless nights
 Tho' grown you cause her still.
 So every time you leave her,
 Or when e'er you come or go
 Give her a kind word and a kiss,
 'Tis what she craves you know.

We only have one Mother,
 None else can take her place;
 You can't tell how you'll need her
 Till you miss her loving face.

Be careful how you answer her,
Choose every word you say,
Remember she's your Mother
Tho now she's old and gray.

We can only have one Mother,
Oh take her to your heart;
You cannot tell how soon the time
When you and she must part.
Let her know you love her dearly,
Cheer and comfort her each day,
You can never get another
When she has passed away.

Selected from the
May 1, 1949
issue of the Bible Monitor

CAN TWO WALK TOGETHER EXCEPT THEY BE AGREED?

Amos 3:3

Please do not use the American political system, or any other political system for that matter, as an example for how the church should operate. All through the scriptures we have good examples of God leading His people and in the Book of Acts, we see the church governing in the name of Jesus.

When we look, (purely as an observer and not involved personally) we see how weak and convoluted the governments of the world are. The governments of Europe and North America were once founded on Biblical morality,

as well as basing the inner workings of government on concepts first set down in Judaism.

In this era, when elected officials try to initiate Christian morals they are severely resisted and disrespected. There was strength in living according to "the golden rule." "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Today's lack of Biblical understanding has left the Western world in confusion. Rejection of Christianity caused people to embrace false religion. Murder in multiple numbers has increased,

but instead of seeing the murders as a departure from God, they worry about semantics: "Was it or was it not terrorism?" or "Was it a hate crime?"

Today's "politics" worries about words, not THE WORD; what is politically correct, not what is truth. Pilate asked Jesus if He was a King. Jesus said, "...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38).

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but

by me." Praise God, He is the truth and He can abide in our hearts.

We cannot fellowship on any basis but through Jesus Christ and Him crucified. (I Corinthians 2:2). People who believe the same thing tend to fellowship together, but it must be more than how we baptize or how we dress, or what our meetinghouse looks like. We would say that these things are important, but Christ (and Him crucified) must be preeminent.

Have you not read in the scriptures, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." Hebrews 7:25

The Wonderful Cost

The Father of love who is seeking the lost,
 Creator, and gracious Redeemer of all,
 Has opened the way at a wonderful cost
 That all who are his may be saved from the fall.

With infinite sympathy, mercy and care
 For souls that are wand'ring in deserts of sin,
 He's seeking to rescue from woe and despair,
 And finding the helpless and gath'ring them in.

O heavenly Father, compassionate One,
 Thou'rt always rejoicing over sinners who come;
 To gain their redemption thou gavest thy Son,
 And now thou art waiting to welcome them home.

-William Beery
 Brethren Hymnal #18

Brother Lynn H. Miller
 Mohler's Congregation

THE PLANS OF MICE AND MEN

Perhaps, the only time society has had more confusion was at the tower of Babel. It seems we are coming perilously close to that in this generation.

This generation is the culture of confusion. Never have so many been so confused about so much. I blame it much on television. Particularly, the television ads that are trying to tell me what I need. And for the life of me I don't know how they know me well enough to recommend something to me that's going to make my life better.

This has been consistent throughout human history. Men have always exhibited an entrepreneurial spirit. For some reason man has a passion to always improve upon everything. In some regards, this is okay. Everything always can be improved upon. I think however, it has become a real obsession that is grounded in a restless spirit. Nobody really is satisfied with what is, but always looking for something more.

While the key factors at the tower of Babel was a confusion of language. One generation can barely understand the next generation.

Someone once texted me the letters IDK. I had no idea what

they were saying. I texted back and said what does IDK mean? They texted back to me, "I don't know." I texted them again and said can you tell me anybody who does know?

Language separates one generation from the next. Good old grandpa cannot understand anything his grandson is saying. It is gibberish as far as grandpa is concerned. And the other way around goes the same. The grandson has no idea what grandpa is saying.

This is surely the generation of confusion with no time to stop and think things through. As far as I am concerned, this is a neat trick of the enemy to get us so busy that we do not take time to "think on these things."

Throughout history, man has been most famous for his planning. Everything you see around us today started out as a plan in somebody's head. An idea came to him or her and they begin planning and soon the idea came together.

Behind all this planning lurks a spirit that is never satisfied. Always looking to make something better than it is right now. At times the things that really need improving are lost in the dust of the trivial.

This is seen in the technical world of computers. Just as soon as I get a good computer program I like, it is updated. It is impossible, from my point of view, to keep up with all these endless updates on computer programs.

Man has been a good planner down through the years since Cain planned to kill Abel. The problem with man's plans is that it includes everything but God. The epitome of stupidity is developing a world void of God. This seems to be what is happening today. We are a secular society and have voted God out of the whole scheme of things. This has been the plan of Satan all along.

All these plans of man have one characteristic. Instead of uniting people, greed sets in and begins to divide. The basic division is between "the haves" and "the have nots." And the distance between these two seems to be getting wider with each generation. Everybody has the same phrase on his or her lips, "I want what you have."

In contrast to man's plan is God's plan. God's plan will out last all of man's plans.

Man's plans are always in the context of time, which is why they always must be updated and upgraded periodically. Every

invention is developed for a time period. When Henry Ford first drove his model T, it was the finest automobile in the country, even the world. That fabulous model T does not compare to the latest automobile just off the factory line.

Man's plans are hindered by time. God knows no such encumbrance. God has a master plan embracing everything, both time and eternity. What God is planning supersedes elements of time. What God is planning has eternity in it.

God is never in a hurry because he knows the end from the beginning. Man, on the other hand, is always in a hurry because he is on a time schedule. He has a deadline and if he does not meet it, he is in serious trouble, or so he believes. God knows no such thing as a deadline. His timing is impeccable because it rises above the tick-tock of the clock. He is working and planning from the perspective of eternity.

This is why God's plans are always better. It is beneficial for me to spend some time discovering and understanding God's plan. God's plan always begins with Jesus Christ. As I begin to understand and know who the

Lord Jesus Christ is, God's master plan begins unfolding to me.

When man is in charge and when he is planning there is one additive that is prevailing. The more a man has the less he is satisfied.

When we come to God, there is something fully satisfying about knowing God. The more we know God the more we want to know Him and what He has to offer.

To discover God's plan is to bring a unifying aspect to my life.

God's plan is for me to be brought back into fellowship with Him through the Lord Jesus Christ. The enemy, no matter how hard he tries, can never thwart God's plan. God's plan has eternity all through it.

All the plans of mice and men fade into the shadow of the master plan of God.

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PROPHECY

Why are there so many prophecies in the Bible? One reason is because, "...the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (Rev. 19:10)

Jesus said, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27)

In His brief earthly life of fewer than thirty-four years, Christ completely fulfilled the entire list of Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself. If you are

inclined to suppose that these things "just happened" or that such a great number of events could have taken place by chance or coincidence, consider what is known as the scientific law of compound probability. If, by actual count, one man in a hundred is blind and one man in a thousand has lost a finger, the probability of finding one blind man who had lost a finger would be a multiple of these two, or one in one hundred thousand. Likewise, if you were to measure the chance that over three hundred differing prophecies would happen to converge on one man accurately, the law of probability would demand a sum calling for more zeroes than

there are letters in all words in an unabridged dictionary.

A prominent prophecy came to pass on May 14, 1948. Then Israel became a nation. Notice the following Scripture: "And I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the Lord God." (Amos

9:14-15). Apparently, many of Israel's enemies do not believe this prophecy. If they did, no doubt many of them would give up trying to drive Israel out of her land. The Bible is clear, Israel will remain in her land. (Read Ezekiel 39, 40; Zechariah 12, 13 and 14)

Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (John 7:38). These are important words. Do we believe all that Jesus said?

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THE FAITH OF A LITTLE CHILD

We walked alone in the forest
Little Danny and I,
And the thunder crashed above us,
And the storm-clouds hid the sky;
The lightning was wild and angry,
The wind gusts fierce and strong,
The trees bowed and shook around us
As we hurried our steps along.

I saw by the lightning flashes
That his face was frightened and white,
And his eyes were wide with wonder
At the terror of the night;
The owl called out in the darkness,
The crows sulked away in the pine,
I felt Danny's little hand tremble
As I held it close in mine.

“Are you afraid?” I asked him,
 “Are you going to cry?”
But the little fellow answered,
 “I’ll never cry, not I”;
He drew back his little shoulders,
 Bravely did he stand,
He said, “I’m afraid of nothing
 So long as you hold my hand.”

I thrilled at his childish trusting
 And I thought of the path I tread;
How the specters rise around me
 And the clouds are black o’er head;
How the shadows lie so thickly
 That the path I cannot see;
And I longed for a hand to hold to
 As Danny held to me.

Then I thought of my Heavenly Father,
 I thought of His watchful care;
That when I need Him by me
 I always find him there;
And I softly said, “Dear Father
 When the storms are raging wild,
Let me cling to Thy hand more closely
 With the faith of a little child.”

David W. Lehigh

Selected by

Sister Mildred Skiles. Used by permission

*Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on
request. Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.*

Bible Helps

P.O. Box 391

Hanover, PA 17331

A MAN CALLED LEGION

Rudy Cover

Mark 5:1-21; Luke 8:26-40

One time Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee with His disciples to a country called Gadera. They arrived at a place where there was a cemetery. As Jesus got out of the boat, a man met Him. He lived in the tombs that were cut out of the rock where people buried their dead. I don't suppose these tombs were all occupied or filled, so it was a place where this man could find shelter. The man was possessed with so many devils or evil spirits, so he acted like a crazy man. People had tried to bind him with chains and ropes, but he was so strong that he just pulled the chains off and broke the ropes into pieces. Nobody could tame him. He was a wild man; he walked in the mountains and among the tombs yelling and cutting himself with stones. He had torn all his clothes off and was naked.

If I were to meet a man like that, I suppose I would run away but Jesus didn't. What do you think the man did when he saw Jesus? The Bible says he saw Jesus when he was afar off and ran to Him and worshipped

Him. Jesus commanded the unclean spirit to come out of him. He cried with a loud voice, "What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God. Don't torment me." Jesus said, "What is your name?" He answered, "Legion, for we are many."

It's a little hard to understand who is talking – the devils, or the man, but by knowing how it all turned out we know the devils that were in the man were using him to talk for them. "Legion" means a great number. In the Roman army a legion was six thousand men.

There was a large herd of about two thousand pigs feeding nearby and the devils begged Jesus to let them enter the pigs. Jesus commanded them to go and the devils went into the pigs. How do you think the pigs liked that? They didn't. They took off like they were possessed (which they were) and ran down a steep place to the sea and were drowned.

There were men who were feeding the pigs. When they saw the pigs were drowned,

they went and told the owners what had happened. They came to Jesus from the city and the country and saw Legion sitting and clothed and in his right mind. The ones who were feeding the pigs told all about what had happened, and the men were afraid. They begged Jesus to go away. They were more concerned over the loss of their pigs than they were about how wonderful it was that Jesus had healed and clothed this Legion. Where did Jesus get clothes? We don't know, but Jesus can do anything. If Jesus could calm a storm, heal the sick, bring the dead to life and make the blind to see, I'm sure He could put clothes on a man by just speaking the word.

Legion wanted Jesus to take him along, but Jesus said, "Return to your own house and

show how great things God has done unto you." So he went and told everyone in the city of Decapolis what Jesus had done for him so that the people marveled. After a time, Jesus came again to the same place. Because of what Legion had said, the people gladly received Jesus and were all waiting for Him.

Has Jesus ever done anything for you? Everything we have, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the clothes we wear are all from God. Jesus can also cleanse you from sin and the power of the devil. Will you be a missionary for Jesus like Legion?

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

NO NEW DRESS FOR EASTER

Maxine E. Surbey

Rosemary dumped her school books on the kitchen table and sat in a chair nearby. "I think it is too bad I don't have a new dress to wear for Easter this Sunday. All the girls were telling about their new Easter dresses

as we walked home from school. Sally's is blue, Karen's is yellow, Nita's is lavender, and Brenda's is pink. They asked me what color my new dress was, and I told them I didn't have a new dress for Easter. They were shocked and

said that everyone always has a new outfit for Easter. It's not fair!"

Mother turned from the stove where she had just slipped in a tray of cookies. She looked at Rosemary's pouty face. "I suppose all the dresses in your closet are raggedy and full of holes?"

"Of course not, Mother." Rosemary giggled in spite of herself.

"Then I'm sure there are several dresses that would be suitable for you to wear on Easter. Easter should certainly mean more than a new outfit of clothes, Easter bunny baskets, egg hunts and Easter hats. Neither is it necessary to have things just because others have them.

Why don't you use the money that you would spend on a new dress and buy a plant or Easter Lily and give it to a shut-in like old Mrs. Hopkins, who is so crippled with arthritis. She will not be able to attend church on Easter Sunday and would appreciate a little cheer. It's always a good feeling to make someone happy.

I'm sorry my little girl is unhappy about not having a new dress for Easter, but it's really not important. What is important is to realize that Christ loved us so much that He died on the cross

for our sins, rose from the grave and will come again someday to take us back with Him, to live forever in His presence. Because He lives, we too shall live!"

"When will Christ come again?" asked Rosemary.

"We don't know when He will come. Not even the angels in Heaven know, but we do know that as He ascended to Heaven in the clouds, so will He come again in the clouds. We want to be watching and ready to meet Him when He does come. One way we can be ready to meet Him is to be kind and thoughtful of others. Jesus set us an example as He went about doing good."

Rosemary thought over what her mother had said. She got up and went to the phone to talk to her friends. After services, Easter Sunday, as a result of Rosemary's calling, a group of girls hurried up the steps of an old-fashioned house. Rosemary was carrying a potted Easter Lily, while the other girls each had a small bouquet of daffodils, jonquils and crocus.

When Nita knocked on the door, an elderly man with a shock of white hair opened the door. "Why, what have we here?" he exclaimed. "Come in! come in! Mother, we have company!" he

called over his shoulder. He led the girls into the living room, where his wife sat in her wheel chair. She greeted the girls with a smile. "What a pleasant surprise!" she said. "Get a vase for the flowers, Father."

"We came to sing for you since you didn't get to our Easter services. We thought you might enjoy hearing some Easter songs."

"I surely would!" she said. They sang, "Up From the Grave He Arose", "The Stone Rolled Away", "He Lives" and several others. "Your voices blended well and harmonized nicely. Thank you so much. We are so glad you

came." "Be sure to come again," said Mr. Hopkins as he let them out the door.

As the girls walked home, they discussed how much they had enjoyed singing for the elderly couple and decided to do more visiting in the future for the "shut-ins" in their community.

That evening as Rosemary got ready for bed, she tossed the Sunday dress into the clothes hamper, that she had worn that day. I had such a good time today and I didn't miss not having a new Easter dress to wear to church. It really wasn't important after all.

Selected by Shirley Frick

THE FIVE C'S OF CHRISTIAN COURTSHIP

Harold S. Martin

Next to your decision to receive Jesus Christ as your Saviour, and next to your resolution to crown Him the Lord of your life, comes the vital question of whom you shall marry. A wrong choice here can tragically wreck your entire life. On the other hand, the right choice here can promise that your future years will be a bit of heaven on earth.

There is perhaps nothing more normal and more natural than for young people of the

opposite sex to be attracted to each other. Boys and girls have a God-given built-in attraction for each other. Girls, for example, should never be ashamed of their desire for a husband and a home and children. Marriage is a natural and God-blessed experience, and therefore we want to think through a program of courtship that will bring about a happy marriage.

THE CHARACTER OF COURTSHIP

When we talk about

“courtship,” we refer to that period during which a young man or a young woman finds a companion for life. Courtship affords two young people an opportunity to study at close range the attitudes and conduct and true worth of their friends. It would certainly be foolish for people suddenly to marry, without ever having paid any attention to each other, or without being mutually attracted and happy together. Marriage is God-ordained; it is sacred; it is a lifetime proposition, and the Bible encourages young people to consider marriage. We read in Proverbs 18:22, “Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord.”

Surely God knows a few things about courtship, for it was God who established the institution of marriage, and it was God who joined the first man and the first woman in holy wedlock. And so, we look into His Book for guidance and instruction concerning courtship practices.

THE COMMENCEMENT OF COURTSHIP

When we speak of “commencement,” we speak of a beginning. The high school commencement at the end of the school year is not called “commencement” because it

marks the end of a grammar school training, but because it marks the beginning of new responsibilities in life. And so, when we speak of the commencement of courtship, we want to speak of a few matters that need to be considered at the beginning of courtship.

First, be a consecrated child of God – not just a church member, but a consecrated Christian. And by “Christian” we mean not merely one who attends church services, or one who treats his neighbors right, but one who has opened the door of his heart to the crucified Christ. A Christian is one who has come to know the miracle of regeneration and has become a new creation in Jesus Christ. Such a person has new aims and new ambitions in life. He knows that his body belongs to Jesus Christ.

Second, pray that God will lead you to the right person for your companion through life. The Bible teaches God’s people to pray about life’s affairs. We are commanded to pray for our daily bread and for our physical needs. Surely this second greatest step in life (selecting a life companion) should always be accompanied by much praying and waiting before God. Amazing as it

may seem, God is not so busy managing the affairs of this vast universe that He has no time to be concerned about whom you shall marry; He wants for you the very best in life; He will guide your choice and insure your happiness if you will only ask Him.

THE CHOICE OF COURTSHIP

The Bible is crystal clear in teaching that believers are never to even consider marriage with unbelievers under any circumstances whatsoever. From the very beginning, the God-fearing family of Seth was forbidden to intermix by marriage with the irreligious family of Cain. When God established the law in Israel, care was taken to forbid intermarriage with the heathen nations about them (Deuteronomy 7:5). The New Testament very clearly commands the same thing (2 Corinthians 6:14). Those who seek your hand in marriage may be generous, rich, well-trained, handsome, and industrious – but unless they are children of God by faith in Jesus Christ, you must not make them husbands and wives. Failure to observe this basic law of the Scriptures has caused shipwreck in thousands upon thousands of homes.

When a Christian marries a

non-Christian, he transgresses the law of God, and remember that “the way of the transgressor is hard.” How will you be able to raise an altar to God in your house if you marry an unbeliever? Will your unbelieving partner urge you to do it? How will your children be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord? You’ll teach them one thing, and their daddy will teach them the opposite. What are you going to do when you feel this opposition day after day? When you go to church services, he’ll go to a ball-game. When you read the Bible and engage in prayer, he reads the latest novel and turns on the TV. When you praise the Lord, he indulges in blasphemy. You tell your children one thing; he encourages them to do the opposite. The Bible says, “How can two walk together except they be agreed?”

And then too, it is never sound judgment to choose a mate merely because of a pretty face, or because of curly hair, or because of captivating brown eyes. The facial features of some girls might contradict all the laws of a beauty contest, and yet many of those same girls have the graces of soul and spirit that will keep them attractive

throughout their entire span of life. When a man's love for his wife is based merely on her youth and charm and beauty, that love doesn't last long because those qualities often soon fade away.

There are a lot of things in life far worse than being an old maid (or a bachelor), and one of the things which is worse than being an old maid, is to marry the wrong man. Never enter into the marriage relationship lightly. Always look for characteristics such as cheerfulness, patience, industry, and kindness – qualities that abide the test of time.

THE CONFUSIONS OF COURTSHIP

There are many dangers and pitfalls for young people during the years of courtship. The devil stands ready to lead you into sin and to spoil the happiness of your life. God has made the bodies of men and women so that they attract each other. Woven into the physical bodies of both boys and girls are certain natural sex functions. These are necessary for the reproduction of the human race, but sex experience is right only within the bounds of true and honorable marriage. The Bible says, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers

God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4). Sex indulgence outside the bounds of honorable and true marriage is naked, shameful, wicked sin.

The sin of fornication (illicit sex relations among the unmarried) never occurs between two ordinary decent young people who want to do right, except through the stages of kissing, necking, and petting. Kissing is the first act that paves the way and excites the passions to encourage the next step in the downward plunge that leads eventually to the sin of fornication. Necking (the act of embracing and caressing) is the second step in the path that leads to sex relationships. Petting (handling parts of the body) is the final step that leads to the shameful sin of fornication.

Step by step (if you start) you will push back the barriers of what you permit, until it is almost impossible to avoid the final step of fornication. When people trifle with the human body, aroused passions become stronger than the will, and the bodily passions often take control. Remember that this is as true about girls as it is about boys. It is just as true about good boys as it is about bad boys. The best Christian in

all the world (if he is not good enough to keep from necking and petting), may not be good enough to keep from fornication and adultery. And so, for the sake of your Creator, for the sake of your health, for the sake of your future, and for the sake of your soul – make a pledge early in life never to practice habits that will lead to illicit sex relations.

THE COMRADESHIP OF COURTSHIP

There are wholesome things to do and worthwhile places to go during your courtship days. It is important to always have something definitely planned for each date. It is when young people have nothing to do that, they begin habits that arouse evil desires. It is at such times when they begin kissing and necking and cuddling around in dark rooms and squirming in parked cars and go far beyond their first intentions and plans. One of the best safeguards to pure noble courtship is a well-planned date.

- a) Attend the services of the church together. There are the Sunday services, Bible studies, hymn sings, the prayer meeting, and other special services of the church.
- b) Read and pray together. Why

not agree to read a certain portion of the Bible at the same time each evening during the week? There's a special thrill that goes along with knowing that your Prince Charming is doing exactly the same thing you are doing at exactly the same time, even though you may be separated by many miles of space.

- c) Visit old folks and homes for the aging. It is really encouraging for older people to hear younger persons sing hymns and visit with them. The time passes more quickly for the older person and the experience will be a real blessing for both of you also.
- d) Maintain hobbies together. Every young person ought to have a hobby. For girls, there is sewing, textile painting, and gathering collections of various kinds. For boys, there is photography, woodworking, coin collecting, etc. Share each other's interests in these respective hobbies.
- e) Enjoy good music together. Not jazz or rock n' roll and popular music, but everybody likes to sing hymns around a piano. Perhaps it is old-fashioned, but there is something especially

wholesome about singing hymns together.

These have been a few things you can do to make your courtship purposeful and constructive. Note that we did not include activities such as dancing, attending the commercial movies, and frequenting the public bathing beaches. These enterprises are geared to appeal to those who walk after the flesh and not after the Spirit of God.

When two people stand before God and promise to cherish each other until death separates them, it is not hard to believe that the angels in heaven hush their songs

and grow silent in wonder as they listen to the holy vows, when two hearts and lives are joined in wedlock. Whatever your situation in life, we urge you to open the door of your heart and let Jesus come in. Surrender completely to His will for your life.

Selected

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Note: Additional copies of this tract sent free on request.

Ask for our sample packet of Bible Helps.

Bible Helps

P.O. Box 391

Hanover, PA 17331

COME AND LET US RETURN UNTO THE LORD

Viola Broadwater

Today we can travel through the country at a very rapid rate of speed, looking over the countryside and the work of the farmer. Our thoughts dwell on these words, "Come and let us return unto the Lord." Hosea 6:1. It seems there never was a time since Noah, that this passage needed to be observed more than in our present age.

We will acknowledge that all the inhabitants of the world are not Christians and perhaps never will be. However, there was a

time, when there were moral men and women in our land. What I mean by "moral" is: people who were honest and conscientious, who believed in a Supreme Being and believed the Bible to be the book of God, whether they were inwardly conformed to its character and principles or not; yet they were outwardly moral and God honored it to a certain extent, by sending them rain "on the just and unjust." He also honored them with long life and healthy bodies.

Where is this condition today? The fact is the whole land is away from God and walking after the gods of this world. We can notice a few plain facts in Deut. 28:1, 3-4, "And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God to observe and do all His commandments, which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth. Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of the ground." These are some of the many temporal blessings promised to the people of God, if they would keep His commandments.

Let us notice some of the curses and find out whether the people today are being blessed or cursed? Verse 15-17, 19, "If thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments and his statutes...cursed shalt thou be in the city and cursed shalt thou be in the field. Cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed thou shalt be when thou comest in and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out."

The farmers are questioning and finding fault with God because they fail to get enough rain or else get too much. Insects destroy their crops, but the reason is the whole land is away from God and has almost ceased to recognize Him as being the God of the universe. The people absolutely disregard all His commandments. There was a time when people had respect for the Most High, to keep from desecrating the Sabbath. But the so-called Christians of our day, open their places of business, attend theaters, circuses, ball games and every such thing on the Lord's day, utterly disregarding God's law. There was a time if a man had two living wives or a woman had two living husbands, they were not associated with by respectable people. Today adultery and fornication are common things among all classes, just as if the Bible did not speak against it, Rom. 7:3; I Cor. 7:39; I Cor. 5:9-11.

I say with the prophet, "Come and let us return unto the Lord." We see women who should live fifty or sixty years, dying at the age of twenty or thirty because of sinful living. Young men that should live many years for

God and their Country, through dissipation and wickedness of every kind, fail to live out half their days. There was a day when a saloon was looked upon with contempt, but now not only the ungodly and sinner but even church-members and ministers give the saloon keeper their license at the polls, and many even patronize them. I say again with the prophet, "Come and let us return unto the Lord."

The sinful man questions God and declares Him unjust, because He fails to descend from His throne to remove the

noose from around his neck and loose him from the burning chair. But I will tell you one and all, the fault is not in God but in the people, because the nations are away from God. I say again, "Come and let us return unto the Lord", and He will heal us. We will then have better Cities, better health, longer lives, no race prejudice, peace and happiness here and Heaven hereafter.

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

ONE FAITH

E. J. Reece
(Eph. 4:5)

This one faith we all need, and it is our privilege to have, do we need any other? This one faith we should earnestly contend for.

It comes by hearing God's word, it will cause us all to speak the same thing, that there will be no divisions among us, but we will be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Right faith and right practice always made the people of God. Wrong faith and wrong practice separated from God.

When God speaks man should exercise faith in the word spoken, just as Noah did when God commanded him to make the ark. The Lord told Noah just how, and thus did Noah according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

To do as God directs, we must be under the influence of the Holy Spirit, which will guide us into all truth.

Caleb followed the Lord fully, being under the influence of the good spirit, (Num. 14:24.) Just

so today if we are under the guidance of the good Spirit. He will guide us into all truth, not only a part, but all, and if we find ourselves walking in all the commands of the Lord, good. If not, it becomes a question as to what spirit we are under. Then it would be well to do as Paul directs in II Cor. 13:5, "Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves, know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ be in you, except ye be reprobates."

We need remember that God gives the Holy Spirit to them that obey Him. (Acts 5:32.) Part obedience ends in failure, in fact I think it has been well said that part obedience is no real obedience. It didn't work with King Saul, and God is no respecter of persons. But in every nation, he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him. Always right to obey and always wrong to disobey.

The one faith teaches to put off the old man, which is corrupt, and put on the new man, which is the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof. One Lord, one faith, one Lord to teach us what to believe, and He teaches one and all alike, only one ground

of faith. Other faiths come from other teachers. "One Faith" – why so many faiths today? Evidently, because so many not teaching the one faith of the gospel as given by the one teacher, Christ. Many accept what they hear without investigation, while the gospel may be preached in its purity as in the days of Christ and the apostles, but few submit to it.

Paul said the Athenians and strangers who were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing. (Acts 17:21.)

If we really want to know the true faith and practice do as the word says, look into the perfect law of liberty, and continue therein, being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer. This man shall be blessed in his deed. James further says but be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

I like to converse with people in regard to what they believe. Some can tell you, others cannot.

The apostle Peter says, "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you the reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

What got Israel off from the

true faith and practice in Paul's day is plainly manifested in our day. That is, being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish our own righteousness having not submitted ourselves to the righteousness of God. Much of the object of the preacher of today is to get the crowd, to entertain, to please the people, to gain publicity, and much people love to have it so. Seeking the friendship of the world they resort to worldly ways; getting up programs entirely foreign to Bible teaching; banqueting which the apostle Peter classes with abominable idolatries. They

not only do those things but think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you. (I Peter 4:3-4.)

Churches that once taught their members not to go to picnics, plays, moving picture shows, nor allow them in their houses of worship which should be a house of prayer and Biblical worship.

May God bless the faithful few; who are willing to learn what is right.

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

OBITUARIES

BEULAH D. WOLFE

Sister Beulah D. Wolfe, 77, of Bethel, Pennsylvania passed away March 8, 2019 at the home of her sister in Bethel, Pennsylvania.

Beulah a daughter of the late Thomas H. and Vallie I. (Daub) Wolfe, was born in Bethel, Pennsylvania. She is survived by two brothers, Clarence J. Wolfe, husband of Joyce, Fredericksburg, Pennsylvania and Verling H. Wolfe, husband of Fern, Bethel, Pennsylvania; two sisters, Linda L., wife of the late Russel Enders, Dauphin, Pennsylvania, Darlene A., wife of Ronald Webber, Bethel, Pennsylvania; a sister in law, Lillian Wolfe, Mt. Zion, Pennsylvania; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Wolfe; and a sister, Alice E., wife of the late Clayton Farnsworth.

She was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church.

She retired in 2012 from B. G.'s Grocery Store.

Services were held March 13, 2019 at Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church. Burial was in the Salem Reformed Church Cemetery, Bethel, Pennsylvania.

ELEANOR PARKER

Sister Eleanor Ruth Parker, 93, Wakarusa, Indiana died March 17, 2019 at Miller's Merry Manor, Wakarusa, Indiana. She was born March 7, 1926 in Middlebury, Indiana to George E. and Violet E. (Scott) Replogle. On April 7, 1946 she married William Edward Parker of West Milton, Ohio, and he died June 3, 2010.

Surviving are daughters, Clara (Jeff) Rohrer, Goshen, Indiana, Arlene (Juan) Pena, New Parris, Indiana, Darlene (Walt) Bruchey, Greenville, Ohio; sons, Don (Connie) Parker, Melbourne, Florida, Dave Parker (Tena Sommerville), Elkhart, Indiana; nine grandchildren, twenty great-grandchildren, eleven great-great-grandchildren; sister, Retha Corbin, Joliet, Illinois and a brother, Thomas W. (Alice) Replogle, Tipp City, Ohio. Preceding her in death are her parents, husband, William "Ed", brother George "Elgin" Replogle, sister, Nancy E. Schlafman, brother-in-law, Laverne Corbin and two great-grandsons.

Eleanor was a homemaker and a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Goshen, Indiana.

Funeral services were held March 23, 2019 at Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Home, Wakarusa, Indiana with Brother Terry Gunderman officiating. Burial was in the Union Center Cemetery.

MARY ALICE BEECHAM

Mary Alice Beecham, 91, of Goshen, Indiana died March 18, 2019 at her home.

She was born December 29, 1927 in Osceola, Indiana to Roy and Mary (Long) Swihart.

On December 20, 1953 she married Earchle M. Beecham in Jackson, Mississippi.

Survivors include a son, Bryan (Kathy) Beecham of Goshen, Indiana; two grandchildren, Bill (Hope) Ragsdale and Paulynn (Jonathon) Brock; seven great-grandchildren; two sisters, Elsie (Tom) Kauffman of Goshen, Indiana and Clara (Bud) Hammon of

Elkhart, Indiana; and two brothers, Roger (Mary Jane) Swihart of Quinter, Kansas and Bill Swihart of Elkhart, Indiana.

Along with her husband, she was preceded in death by a son, Jerry R. Beecham, and two brothers, Robert and Norman Swihart.

She was a secretary at Mehl & Mehl, Attorneys for Law, Goshen, Indiana for fifty years. She enjoyed attending Riverview Baptist Church, Elkhart, Indiana and spending time with grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mary Alice had many interests including, jigsaw and crossword puzzles, flower gardening, and going out to eat with friends.

Funeral services were held March 22, 2019 at Yoder-Culp Funeral Home by Brother Terry Gunderman with burial in the West Goshen Cemetery, Goshen, Indiana.

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) Bedding and towels will be provided.

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) They are RECOMMENDED on the Oregon Express Shuttle. (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 the Conference grounds 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. If possible, please have your lodging requests in by May 1, 2019.

Please let us know if you will be arriving after 7 pm on Friday,

June 7th. We need to have a count for the evening meal. If you will be coming on Saturday, please let us know the approximate time so we can adjust meal counts. If you are staying off site, please let us know which meals you will be eating on the Conference grounds.

Bedding and one set of towels per person will be furnished for the five days. There will be an option to have clean towels midway through the Conference.

There are limited rooms that have a bathroom in them. If you are willing to share a room with someone else, please let us know.

There are fourteen full service Recreational Vehicle hookups available on the Conference grounds.

We will need a signed medical release for everyone attending. Those under 18 years of age, who are attending without their parents, will need to have the release signed before coming to Conference. Contact us for the necessary forms when making reservations.

It will be cool in the late evenings, possibly upper 40's to low 50's. You will need to bring lightweight jackets, like sweaters or sweatshirts.

Oregon has a law that requires gas station employees to pump your gas. There is no self-service. Be aware of this and do not try to pump your own gas.

Since there are no ticket counters at any of the Hut Shuttle locations, advance reservations are required. If you miss your scheduled shuttle you can board the next one if you have your confirmation number. There is a charge for either of the shuttle services.

Please let us know if you are planning to use our transportation from Salem (whether you come by shuttle or Amtrak) to the Conference grounds. We are picking up only by appointment. The numbers to call for this service are: House #: 503-623-7395 Cell # Dennis: 503-931-2940; Norma: 503-559-1481; Email: normastamy@yahoo.com.

Travel Directions to Aldersgate Camps and Retreats:

From the North:

Exit from I-5 at Exit 252 (Kuebler Blvd), turn left at light, go east to stop light at Turner Road and turn right. Follow Turner Road 4 miles into Turner. Continue to follow the main road through Turner following the signs to Aumsville. You will cross Mill Creek on your way out of Turner. Entrance to Aldersgate is 500 feet on the left.

From the South:

Exit from I-5 at Exit 248 (Turner-Sunnyside Road). Turn right at stop sign. Go 4 miles east on Delaney Road into Turner. Turn right at the stop sign just after the railroad tracks. Follow the main road through Turner following the signs to Aumsville. You will cross Mill Creek on your way out of Turner. Entrance is 500 feet on the left.

Did you make your reservations?

The Lodging Committee

2019 GENERAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The first service at General Conference will be Morning Worship on Saturday morning at 7:00 A.M. Breakfast will be served following Morning Worship each morning Saturday through Wednesday. The first session of Standing Committee will convene at 9:00 A.M. on Saturday morning. The first preaching service will be 2:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon. The Sisters' Sharing Time will be held at 8:30 A.M. on Monday morning. Come and enjoy all the services during the General Conference.

CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Chambersburg Congregation plans Love-feast services Sunday, May 5, 2019. The Communion service will be at 6:30 P.M. Come worship with us and remember us in prayer.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2019

June 2 – The Chosen Choosing Whom They Will Serve – Joshua 24:1-33

1. What was the reason that Joshua called the people together?

2. Why in verse 19 does Joshua tell the people (Ye cannot serve the Lord)?

June 9 – Battlefield Motivation: Win a Wife – Judges 1:1-26

1. Who was leading the children of Israel after Joshua?

2. Why did they cut off the king's thumbs and great toes? Was there a reason?

June 16 – Father’s Day – Genesis 48

1. What blessing did Israel give Joseph’s sons? Were they physical or spiritual?

2. Why don’t we bless our children like they did back then? Or do we in a different way today?

June 23 – Truce’s in the Trenches Leads to 2nd Generation Faith – Judges 1:27-2:10

1. Why didn’t they drive all the people out? Would it affect them later?

2. Why did God want them to utterly destroy the people?

June 30 – Surrender to Culture = Surrender to Sin – Judges 2:11-3:14

1. How did Israel forget God in one generation?

2. Does God still use people around us to prove us as He did in verse 22?

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