

# 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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## THY FOOTSTEPS, LORD

Thy footsteps, Lord, with joy, we trace,  
And mark the conquests of thy grace;  
Complete the work thou hast begun,  
And let thy will on earth be done.

O, show thyself the Prince of peace,  
Command the din of war to cease;  
O, bid contending nations rest,  
And love pervade each human breast.

Then peace shall lift her balmy wing,  
Glad plenty laugh, the valleys sing;  
Reviving commerce lift her head,  
And want, and woe, and hate be fled.

Thou good, and wise, and righteous Lord,  
All move subservient to thy word;  
O, soon let ev'ry nation prove  
The perfect joy of Christian love.

—*Selected*

## ANGRY CHRISTIANS

Throughout the New Testament, believers are admonished to be at peace with their neighbors, family and fellow believers. Christians can establish peace with fellow believers by sharing their mutual peace with God. The greatest need of everyone is to enter into peace with God through the sin-bearing sacrifice of His Son. God is not hiding from the people of this Earth; He is actively seeking them and extending His salvation toward them.

Sin puts people at variance with our holy God because He hates sin. No person can devise a remedy for this condition. No person can be good enough to deserve the forgiveness or grace that God has offered the people of this world. Men have

sought many types of offerings and activities to placate God, but they have failed in their mission. Instead God, Himself, has extended the offer of salvation to lost souls by offering His Son on the cross as the propitiation for their sins. They need to accept that God is adamant in His pursuit of them and is willing to accept His own sacrifice for their sins.

The result of accepting God's proffered terms is eternal salvation, a place in His family as a child of God, and an abiding peace in their hearts. No longer being at odds with God brings faith and dependence upon Him which gives them confidence in Him. They find a peace that passes understanding. That peace should be a dominant part

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of their converted lives. They should be sharing their peace with others. Having peace with God and having peace within should produce peace with other people, no matter how cantankerous they are.

Peace amid the stresses of life is uncommon among people. There are many activities that stir people to forgo the peace that they might have. Instead as political or social activities becomes their focus, they lose their peace and pursue retribution and anger against those with whom they disagree. Jesus never was very concerned about the surrounding political scene. Although He lived under the domination of the hated Roman Empire, His only response was to counsel paying the taxes asked of Him and reminding Pilate that only by God's permission was he able to bring judgment against Him.

Political and social changes of recent times have been so opposed to the norms of Christian belief and lifestyle that many have allowed their fears to mold their lives into anger against others. Rather than being at peace with whatever God permits, they have decided to use the methods of the world

to oppose the forces against them. They have become angry towards those with whom they disagree. They want to use political force, instead of the forces of love and peace that Jesus advocated and practiced when He met opposition.

Believers have not responded to the fast and furious changes coming against them with grace and mercy. Instead their own anger has been unleashed upon many groups of people, who may be different in appearance or philosophy. Often the Word of God is used to condemn when it should be used to convince and bring conviction into lives beset by many strange and ungodly forces. Christians have become as angry as those who promote errant political viewpoints.

When Christians use the tactics of the world, they have forgotten how to be like Jesus. He set a different standard of conduct and empathy than practiced today. Jesus was opposed by forces stronger than what exist today. He faced the full onslaught of Satan's tremendous power. He faced the power of the Jewish leadership. He faced Pilate the local representative of the

Roman Empire. We do not see Him responding in anger and bitter oratory. We see Him responding without denying His Heavenly Father nor His own calling as the Savior. When physically attacked He yielded Himself to man's worst abuse.

When the Romans and Jews rid themselves of Him, they actually promoted the very purpose for which His Father had sent Him. When Satan thought He had victory over Jesus and God, He was actually defeated. He was defeated by Jesus, who gained a costly victory over Satan by taking away the Devil's greatest weapon, sin, and defeating its

purpose by bearing it Himself. He alienated Himself from His Holy Father by doing so, but His Father accepted the price paid to cover the sins of guilty men. He paid the penalty for sin by bringing God's grace and mercy to fallen mankind.

He was not angry. He shared grace and mercy. The world in which we live needs the same kind of grace and mercy. He is depending upon us to share that grace and mercy, in not only words but in deeds.

How are you dealing with the world? With anger and hatred, or with grace and mercy?

M. C. Cook

## THE FINE ART OF REJOICING

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is probably the most familiar Psalm in the whole Bible. If you have gone to Sunday school at all you have learned this Psalm. Sometimes, when something is as familiar as this, we miss some of the important facets of it.

I believe one of the most significant aspects of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is that in verse one it says that we have everything we need. If the Lord is my shepherd, I have everything that I need.

The key comes to this, is the Lord really my shepherd? Am I really part of His flock?

Once I establish the fact that He indeed is my shepherd and I am indeed part of His flock, then the rest of that Psalm brings me to a great point of rejoicing. If I have everything that I need why do I need to worry?

Rejoicing seems to be quite an art these days. Everybody seems to be exquisite when it comes to griping and

complaining about anything and everything. It is hard to even watch the news without seeing all the griping going on across our country.

You would think watching some of these news programs, that there is nothing really good in our country. Sometimes I begin to think that there is nothing really good in my life. I sometimes believe the bad news.

I must come to the point of rejoicing. And what I rejoice in, or rather who I rejoice in, defines who I am as a Christian.

Mediating on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm brings me to a certain conclusion which is, the shepherd has a vested interest in His flock. If I am part of His flock, He has a vested interest in me personally. At times I do not understand the deeply significant aspect of this relationship.

I am of value to the shepherd. That is hard for me to comprehend. I mean something to the shepherd, and I am worth something to the shepherd.

When I am with the shepherd and in the middle of the flock, I am oblivious to the danger that is all around. Just like Job in the Old Testament, I do not realize that God has a hedge around

me, and the devil cannot touch me.

If I begin to contemplate this, the spirit of rejoicing begins to develop within my very soul. Because I mean something to God, I can trust Him to take care of His property.

The basis of my rejoicing is to truly understand where I stand with God, the good Shepherd. Once I begin to understand this, I then can forget about everything else and concentrate on rejoicing in my shepherd.

Along with this comes the idea that I have everything I need to be everything God desires me to be. I do not need to beat myself down because I cannot measure up to something. Usually what I am trying to measure up to is something artificial. But when I become fascinated with this relationship I have with God, or rather that He has with me, my life begins a symphony of rejoicing.

Because of this I do not have to worry about the circumstances I am in. Anybody can rejoice when everything is going fine or going according to their expectations. But it takes a real man or woman of faith to

rejoice in God when everything seems to be exploding.

Sometimes I believe God allows me to go through the valley of the shadow of death for me to understand that that has nothing whatsoever to do with defining who I am in His sight. If I understand how God sees me, nothing else really matters.

If God is my shepherd, He provides me everything that I need. His provisions are more than adequate.

If I am lacking in some area, maybe it is because that is where God does not want me to be. Maybe I am lacking because I am off track as far as God is concerned. What I need to do is make sure I am where God wants me to be. I know this is a daily challenge because the enemy tries to confuse me in this regard.

I do not have to concentrate

on the enemy if my concentration is focused on the Shepherd. Yes, the enemy is all around me. Yes, the circumstances are very negative. But if my focus is on the Shepherd none of those things really matter. I can rejoice not in my circumstances because they fluctuate, but rather in the Lord Jesus Christ who is my Shepherd.

My focus should not be on what I do not have but rather on the abundance in my life. Because it is in that abundance that I find the provisions of Christ my good Shepherd. That is the direction God wants me to go. If I keep on the pathway that He is opening up for me, I will have everything that I need to be everything He has called me to be.

James L. Snyder  
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## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we *“study to shew ourselves approved unto God...”*

August 2019 Study Questions

### August 4 – Judges 6:25-7:8

How does God grow Gideon's faith?

What altars have you needed to tear down in order for your faith to grow?

Was it a lack of faith or merely prudent to tear down the altar at night?

How does Gideon's father's logic reveal the lack of faith in the followers of Baal?

Is it weakness or strength in our faith when we use a fleece?

Are you more confident with many or few?

**Commentary:** Faith in Jesus Christ challenges the idolatry in every age. Non-conformity penetrates to the core of false worship in our modern society. Fame, success, entertainment, political correctness, morality, wealth, power and patriotism are but a few examples where our faith must challenge the contemporary values of our age. And it must begin in our own hearts and minds. But ours is an all-conquering faith meant to threaten and knock down the very gates of hell. And God asks us, even when we are few in number, to trust that He is more than able to accomplish all things through His all-powerful son, Jesus Christ.

### **August 11 – Judges 7:9-8:9**

Does God's Word seem, at times, ineffective to stimulate the faith you need to obey?

What circumstances does God use to strengthen your faith in Him?

If you were one of the 300 with Gideon what would sustain you in this suicide mission?

What happens to you when you panic?

Why are the Ephraimites upset with Gideon?

How does Gideon respond to them?

Why are the men of Succoth and Penuel so unwilling to help Gideon?

**Commentary:** God speaks directly to Gideon. How wonderful it would be to have immediate conversation with the Lord. Yet Gideon seems to need additional encouragement in order to respond obediently. This time he gains added confidence by overhearing conversation between Midianite soldiers. Fear still had some hold on Gideon that God was willing to help him overcome. Sometimes we trip ourselves up by berating our lack of faith. Gideon seems to have accepted his deficiency and asked God to fill up what was lacking in his faith. So, let us learn to enter boldly into the throne of

grace, not because we are so bold, but because of the One who supplies the mercy, grace, and help we always need.

### **August 18 – Judges 8:10-35**

What are some possible reasons that Zebah and Zalmunnah felt secure?

How does Gideon rout the still formidable army of the Midianites?

How do you explain Gideon's dealings with the cities of Succoth and Penuel?

What is an ephod?

What do Gideon's shortcomings teach us?

**Commentary:** Gideon is a dynamic leader. Not many willingly follow a leader against enormous obstacles. His faith in God was richly rewarded and certainly must have been infectious. However, his legacy leaves us disappointed. He points the people of Israel away from himself and to the Lord. Yet, he settles for a means of personal wealth that encourages apostasy. While there is peace in Israel for the rest of his life spiritual fervor for the Lord wanes and Israel falls back into idolatry. Gideon's life should teach us that leaders are never perfect people. They are as subject to temptations as we are. Focusing on protecting the status quo seldom prepares us for the spiritual challenges that the future will bring our way.

### **August 25 – I Cor. 9:1-27**

Considering verses 1-11 how should we respond to the material needs of those in the free ministry?

Considering verses 12-18 how should those in the free ministry understand their calling?

What word or phrase best captures the meaning of this chapter?

In what direction is our society oriented that is the opposite of this phrase?

What is Paul's highest priority?

What do you surrender for the sake of the Gospel?

**Commentary:** Few of us find great joy in surrendering those things we think we have a right to. Whether it is our opinion, our way of doing things, or the advantages that everyone else has, we do not easily give them up. Time and again we must be reminded that



Jesus calls us to give up everything for His sake. Compared with eternity all those things mentioned above and many more are in Paul's words, "...loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ." Phil. 3:8.

Brother Phil Franklin

## HEART TROUBLE

"Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty." Hosea 10:2

"And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." Matthew 12:25

When the two sides of the heart work independently of each other, death will occur rapidly. God made the heart to work in a particular way, and all parts must work together. Israel divided its allegiance between God and Baal, and Israel became worthless and God gave them up to Babylon.

When a church is divided into cliques, or parties, or opinions, or by leaders, it becomes ineffective, heretical, and people leave.

If a Christian desires to do anything other than bring honor and glory to God, he is divided

and an idolater and all becomes vanity. No one will ever find Christ with a divided heart. It must be all or nothing. You cannot serve God and mammon. If a minister seeks fame or power for himself and not for God, it may certainly fool people, but God will weigh it in the balances.

A broken heart is a blessing, but a divided heart is fatal. Psalm 34:18, "The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit." A broken heart is one that has lost its reason to exist. A heart which has discovered that sin is destroying it and that it is doomed for hell need only look to the Saviour, Jesus Christ, for rest.

A divided heart is one not satisfied with Jesus. Perhaps heretical teaching has crept in, or maybe the person was never converted and is trying to be all things to all people at the same time.

Be sure your sins will find you out. Heed the words of Mark 12:32-34, "And the scribe said unto him (Jesus), Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding, and with all the

soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the Kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question."

'Tis done - the great transaction's done;  
I am my Lord's and He is mine;  
He drew me and I followed on,  
Charmed to confess the voice divine.

Now rest, my long-divided heart!  
Fixed on this blissful center, rest;  
Nor ever from thy Lord depart,  
With Him of every good possessed.

*-Philip Doddridge 1755*

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
Mohler's Congregation

## LEVI'S GREAT FEAST

Rudy Cover  
Luke 5:27-32

Levi, who was also called Matthew, was a tax collector. He worked for the Roman government and collected taxes from the Jews. Many tax collectors were dishonest and charged more than they should and kept part of it for themselves. The Jews hated the tax collectors. There were

many honest tax collectors and I'm sure that Matthew was.

At least, Jesus wanted him to be a disciple. Matthew was at his place of collecting taxes when Jesus met him and said, "Follow me." What do you think Matthew did? The Bible says, "He left all, rose up and followed Jesus."

After this Matthew made a great feast in his own house. Jesus was there and Matthew had invited a large number of people among whom were many tax collectors, men who were in the same occupation as Matthew. They were his friends and men he knew well. He may have invited them so that they, too, could know Jesus.

The Pharisees and scribes heard about this feast of Matthew's and complained to the disciples of Jesus, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus heard them and answered, "They that are whole need not a Physician, but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

The Pharisees and scribes thought they were too good to eat or associate with sinners or tax collectors. Aren't you glad that Jesus wasn't like that? Jesus came to help us. He wants us to go to Heaven and He came to teach us how.

The Apostle Paul says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Those

Pharisees and scribes who wanted to appear so good were probably the worst sinners of the lot. Jesus called them hypocrites. A hypocrite is one who has a form of Godliness but denies the power thereof.

These men were supposed to be the religious leaders of their day, but they thought they were too good to accept Jesus as their Saviour. They wanted someone who was rich and could free them from the Romans. Jesus cared nothing for this. He came to save souls.

Would you like to have been at Matthew's feast, to see Jesus and hear Him speak? I'm sure that if we had been there, we would want to follow Jesus too.

Jesus still speaks to us and says, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Selected from the  
January 1, 1980  
issue of the Bible Monitor

## DANIEL'S GLOVES

I sat with two friends in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town square. The food and the company were both especially good that day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying, a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food." My heart sank.

I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief.

We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call FOR some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of

God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square."

Then with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the church, going through his sack.

I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him; yet wanting to drive on. The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park. I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked.

"Not really," he replied, "just resting."

"Have you eaten today?"

"Oh, I ate something early this morning."

"Would you like to have lunch with me?"

"Do you have some work I could do for you?"

"No work," I replied, "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."

"Sure," he replied with a smile.

As he began to gather his

things, I asked some surface questions. "Where you headed?"

"St. Louis."

"Where you from?"

"Oh, all over; mostly Florida."

"How long you been walking?"

"Fourteen years," came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his thirty-eight years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never-Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona... He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought.

He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert but revival services, and in those services, he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

"Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some fourteen years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked.

"Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles, that's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads.

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked: "What's it like?"

"What?"

"To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?"

"Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn't make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people's concepts of other folks like me.

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside

the door, he paused, he turned to me and said, "Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I've prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in."

I felt as if we were on holy ground. "Could you use another Bible?" I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. "I've read through it fourteen times," he said.

"I'm not sure we've got one of those, but let's stop by our church and see." I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

"Where are you headed from here?" I asked.

"Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon."

"Are you hoping to hire on there for a while?"

"No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that's where I'm going next."

He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission. I drove him back

to the town square where we'd met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

"Would you sign my autograph book?" he asked. "I like to keep messages from folks I meet."

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, "I know the plans I have for you, declared the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you; Plans to give you a future and a hope."

"Thanks, man," he said. "I know we just met and we're really just strangers, but I love you."

"I know," I said, "I love you, too. The Lord is good!"

"Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?" I asked.

"A long time," he replied.

And so, on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, "See you in the New Jerusalem."

"I'll be there!" was my reply.

He began his journey again.

He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, "When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?"

"You bet," I shouted back, "God bless."

"God bless." And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them...a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay

warm that night without them.

Then I remembered his words: "If you see something that makes you think of me will you pray for me?"

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will...

"I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again."

Author Unknown

Selected by  
Sister Mildred Skiles

## **"FORBID HIM NOT"**

Grant Mahan

It was not long before his crucifixion that on the way one day John told his Master that they had forbidden a man to cast out devils, because "he followeth not with us." And the heading of our article was the answer of the Lord.

All through the centuries since Jesus returned to his Father, his followers have had the

question of their attitude toward those who differed from them, to take into consideration. And the question has been answered in a number of ways, varying from the methods of the Inquisition to the easy tolerance of the present day among most of those who profess to be disciples of the Christ.

It is an important matter for

us, for on our actions depends much of our influence. If we are too tolerant, we lead others to think that almost anything will do in service: and if we are too strict, we repel and make our religion appear what Christ never intended it to be.

After much experience in many places for years it has seemed to me that there is but one way in which we can settle the matter in the spirit of him whom we profess to follow. He has given us definite commandments, and in his great commission he tells us to teach "them all things whatsoever I have commanded you." I cannot imagine Jesus telling his disciples to teach the world any unnecessary commandment. Even for a man to tell his servant something he did not mean for him to obey, seems foolish to us. Now, then, can we get it into our heads that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Savior, the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, would come to earth, live as he did, suffer as he did, die as he did, and yet have nothing higher to do than tell his followers things which he did not mean or expect them to obey?

I cannot have such a

conception as that of my Lord. I cannot love and try to obey a being who would do that way. How can anyone think such things of him whom he professes to worship? It is beyond me. And yet the world is full of good people who do believe just that. It is as to our attitude toward such persons that we must consider. These are some of the questions that must be met, especially by those who are so situated that they can seldom attend their own services.

And for myself I have settled the matter thus: I can worship with those who do not believe as I do; I can talk to them of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God; and without being offensive I can urge them to take the Word of God and not the word of man if they wish to be safe. This, it seems to me, is what we should do. We cannot reach people unless we go where they are; we cannot tell them our belief without being with them at such times. And we cannot get them to believe there is anything in our profession unless we try faithfully to live it out in our lives with them.

But I cannot partake of any ordinance of the Lord's house in a way different from the way which my Lord gave us the example. I am not judging the other man.



One is the Master of him and of me, even Christ; and each of us must give his answer. The other man will not be condemned for any lack of mine, and I shall not be blessed for any virtue of his. We stand or fall by what we have done.

The reason is that I cannot have faith in any way but that given by our Teacher. And to do a thing for Christ while having no faith in it would be sin. I must do what I believe to be right with the Lord when I am worshiping him. To do otherwise would be mockery, and not worship.

So then, if a man, or a body of men, does a good work in the name of Jesus, we cannot forbid them, we cannot but work with them if there is no other way open in which we can work effectively for him. We do not know in how many ways glory may be brought to God's name; but for each of us there is just the way in which we are led. When Jesus was here, he spoke of having other sheep than the few who were with him. We have the New Testament and we are told in it that the words which Jesus spoke are the ones which shall judge us. We have enough to do to keep ourselves in the right way, and there is no call for us to judge each other. One

is our Master, even Christ. We must not seek to identify the glory of God with the gaining of fresh converts to our own particular church. And we must not stand idle because our own particular body does not happen to have work going on near us.

Jesus said that if we loved him, we would keep his commandments; and he said again, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." We have much to be thankful for and much for which we shall have to render an account. Three things are important: work, watch, pray. And another is faith. "Ye believe in God, believe also in me." We were born into a land in which the Bible is open, where we can follow our own belief: most of us have been blessed with Christian parents and associates. These things are a part of the talent entrusted to us. And we must not forget that all must be accounted for. We have more than the Chinese, and we need not expect to be held accountable for no more than he is; for it is not in that way that our Lord settles with his people.

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

## PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

Harold S. Martin

The message you are about to read is based on a brief text found in the Bible. God says, "Therefore thus will I do unto thee O Israel; and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12). This verse states an eternal principle with God. The words are an invitation and a warning to every generation---Prepare to Meet Thy God.

Nearly seventy years ago, the largest railroad Company in our country, saw the danger and death that so often resulted from the collision of their steel locomotives with cars and trucks at railroad crossings. And so, the Company offered a prize of \$2500 to the person who would suggest the three best words to be used as warning words at railroad crossings. The person wise enough and fortunate enough to win the prize offered three words which you have often seen: **Stop, Look, Listen**. Each of these three words cost \$833, but the words are of no avail whatever for the safety of persons crossing railroads, unless they are obeyed. What good is the word "stop" if people don't stop?

What protection does the word "look" offer if one doesn't look? What warning does the word "listen" give if we don't listen? And just so you can come in contact with lots of teaching about preparing for Heaven, and still go to Hell, unless you prepare.

### NOTE THE SIMPLICITY OF THE WORDS

Every word of the text is extremely simple. The Bible says, "Prepare to meet thy God." To "prepare" simply means to "get ready" — get ready for death, get ready for the judgment, get ready for the coming of the Lord. The Scriptures are saying that men are not ready to meet God when they are born into the world. God says that every person is born in iniquity. This means that our sins must be covered in order to meet God in peace. And the Bible is clear in declaring the fact that nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can remove sin. 1 John 1:7 says "The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The word "prepare" is very simple. It is not a mystery to anyone. The words of the text are

not a problem in mathematics. Everyone knows exactly what they mean. "Prepare to meet thy God" means "get ready to meet God" - that's as clear as a path of tar scattered across a field of snow. And yet these extremely simple words are seemingly misunderstood. People get ready to marry. Some get ready to go on vacation trips. Most get their children ready for the first year in school. Many get ready for old age by taking out pensions. In fact, most people get ready for everything and anything - except for the most important thing in this life and in eternity — and that is to meet God. Friend – listen to these simple words of the Bible – "Get ready to meet your God."

#### THE CERTAINTY OF MEETING GOD

There is one thing certain – all must meet God. The rich and the poor, the old and the young, the learned and the unlearned – all will meet God. You may have canceled lots of appointments here in this life, but there is one date you are going to keep. You'll have to face the God who made you. The Scripture says, "So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12).

You might die suddenly and be ushered into the presence of God without any advance notice. An old preacher in Scotland who was rather eccentric, went to the shop of a man in his community one day. The shopkeeper says, "I was busy in my shop, when right into the midst of my work – in stepped the preacher without knocking and with out giving a word of announcement." The preacher said, "Did you expect me?" "No sir, I didn't," the shopkeeper replied. The preacher paused a moment, and then said grimly, "What if I had been death?" – and then he turned and departed as quickly as he came. The shopkeeper (when telling this experience) says it caused him to stop and think, and as a result of the incident, he turned to the Lord Jesus in repentance and faith.

For the Christian to meet God will be a thrilling experience. The Apostle Paul, near the close of his life, said, "I am now ready to be offered and the time of my departure is at hand" (2 Timothy 4:6). Death came shortly after he had uttered those words. But for the unbeliever to meet God, will be a frightening experience. The Bible says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living

God” (Hebrews 10:31). And again, “The Lord is longsuffering and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgressions,” but by no means will he “clear the guilty” (Numbers 14:18). If you resist God’s love and refuse His salvation and despise His warnings – the day you stand before Him will be a dreadful day.

### THE ABSURDITY OF PROCRASTINATION

Every one of us has offended God many times. God’s justice demands that we be punished for our sins, but God’s love has provided a remedy. That remedy is the death of God’s own Son. Isaiah says, “The Lord hath laid upon him the iniquity of us all.” And in order that Christ’s death becomes effective as an atonement **for our sins**, we must receive Him into our hearts. The tendency however is to procrastinate. To “procrastinate” means to “put off until later.” The Bible tells how Paul preached to Felix (the Roman governor of Judea) about God’s plan of salvation, and Felix answered, “Go thy way for this time, when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee” (Acts 14:25).

Any of us might die before

10:30 tonight – and such a statement is not an attempt to be funny either! We never know when our moment of death is coming, but when God calls our number, we’re going to go. Some people have the idea that they are going to wait until the eleventh hour before they give their hearts to the Lord. But most people who plan to wait until the eleventh hour, die at ten-thirty. They never get it done. It’s always a dangerous thing to procrastinate. The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to say just when the hands will stop, at late, or early hour.

### THE FOLLY OF REJECTING CHRIST

Salvation is a gift. It is not something that can be earned. The Bible says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life” (Romans 6:23). Sin is pictured as a master who pays wages. And the awful wages of sin are separation of body and soul from the presence of God forever. But if “the wages of sin is death” – we would be rather inclined to think that the second part of the verse should read, “the wages of holiness is life.”

But it simply says, “The gift of God is eternal life.”

Eternal life is a gift. God absolutely refuses to sell salvation. On the last page of your Bible you will find this final invitation: “And the spirit and the bride say, Come; and let him that heareth say come; and let him that is athirst come; and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17). Salvation is the free gift of God. Many are hoping that by works, and good deeds, and ceremonies, and lots of church activity – they’ll be prepared for this meeting with God. But the Bible says we are saved “not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy” (Titus 3:5). No man can ever stand up and say, “I’ve done so and so, and God owes me salvation.” Good works are extremely important in the life of the Christian, but they’ll never atone for one’s sins. We are saved through faith in Jesus who came to the earth shed His blood on Calvary and took our sins upon himself. By this act, He secured pardon for our sins. This is a favor that God did for us – and God offers this salvation as a gift to you.

I am sure that you are aware of the fact that a gift is not a

gift unless it is accepted, and that a pardon is not a pardon if it is refused. One of the strangest cases in American history, centered around a man named George Wilson. He was sentenced by a U. S. Court in Philadelphia (back in 1830) to be hanged for robbing the mails, and for murder. Andrew Jackson was president of the U. S. and at the request of many of George Wilson’s friends (three weeks before he was to be hanged), Andrew Jackson issued a pardon for Wilson. But Wilson startled the world by refusing to accept the pardon and insisted that he be hanged according to the court’s decision. George Wilson declared the pardon was no pardon unless he accepted it. This was a point in law never raised before, because whenever a pardon was issued previously, it was always joyfully accepted. Should the sheriff accept the court’s decision and hang Wilson, or should he accept the Presidential pardon and release him? Since the law was silent on the point, President Jackson called on the Supreme Court to decide the issue at once. The decision read like this: “A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon

its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under the sentence of death, would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must hang." And George Wilson was hanged.

Most people would agree that Wilson was a fool for refusing to accept the pardon, and yet many of these same people daily reject the pardon which God has provided for them. If you are unsaved today – you are a sinner under the sentence of sin and condemned to die eternally in the outer darkness of Hell. But today God is offering a pardon! He is saying that you don't need to die, because Jesus died for you. It is hardly to be supposed that any person in his right mind

would reject the pardon of God's love which Jesus purchased on Calvary – but if you do reject that offer, it is no pardon. Then you will have to bear your own punishment and pay the penalty for sin yourself.

God in His Word pleads, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ...repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 16:31; 2:38). Won't you do it today?

**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 GOOD CONSCIENCE

Howard Surbey

"For if I by grace be a partaker, why am I evil spoken of for that for which I give thanks? Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God. Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine

own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved." I Cor. 10:30-33.

Conscience is self-knowledge of right or wrong; power or principle within a person which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of his actions. Our conscience determines our relations with God and with man. A good conscience

knows nothing wrong, against ourselves, either with God or with man. However, such a conscience can still be wrong, if we have not openly sought true instruction from God and man. God's Word and the guidance of the Holy Spirit must always be first in the instruction of a good conscience. The proven laws of man and common decency come next in molding our conscience.

God's Word must always be the basis, on which to form a good conscience. However, to know what is right for ourselves does not release us from walking in love and forbearance, with those who feel that it is wrong for them to do what we see no harm in doing. The apostle Paul gave us a principle which sacrifices one's liberty, in order to be at peace with his fellow man. "Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." I Cor. 8:13. Paul would in no way disobey his Lord, but he would sacrifice anything personal to win his brother.

Conscience is the hidden voice which guides our actions, "Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dis-

honesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." 2 Cor. 4:1-2. Our conscience convicts us of our own shortcomings and mistakes, "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Acts 2:37. The early apostles knew how to use their good conscience as a guide to the problems of life, "Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29.

Sin, even in the smallest form, will sear and defile our conscience to a certain extent. Through submitting unto God's Word, cautious experience and prayerful consideration we can maintain a good conscience. "Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled." Titus 1:15. We need to be very careful that sin and unbelief does not sear or callous our conscience, so it is no more sensitive to that which is not according to God's Holy Will.

How can one develop a good conscience, at all times? "Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." Acts 24:16. Do we have an open mind towards God's Will and even towards the feelings of others? Are we willing to serve, or do we wish always to be served? "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Heb. 9:14. "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

Psa.51:3. To know which way to turn, in the moments of life, is the difference between living and suffering. What greater prayer can we offer, in order to maintain a good conscience than that of the Psalmist, "Let the words of my mouth and the mediation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psa. 19:14. One is pretty far gone in an evil way, when he serves the devil conscientiously.

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

## THE LOST CHRIST

J. F. Britton

"And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing

them, and asking questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? Behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, how is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his



mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." (Lu. 2:43-52.)

Thus, we see that the story of the lost Christ is shrouded in sadness, sorrow and grief, because it discloses to us, the last one on earth that would be suspected of losing Christ. Let us think of Mary, the mother of Christ, with her experience before Christ was born, and after his birth. How she kept all those strange and wonderful things that had come to her, "and pondered them in her heart."

We are more than convinced that Mary's very life, soul and mind was interwoven in this unusual and remarkable child; that she had given birth to. But alas, she lost him. The question quickly arises, where? Oh, where did she lose him? Think of that mother going a whole day's journey homeward from Jerusalem before she missed her boy. They "supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey: and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him." And after three days of painful anxiety, sorrow and grief, she

found her boy right in the temple. Thus, we see that folks do not have to go out into the wilds of the world nor into the slums of dissipation and immorality to lose their Christ, Mary lost her Christ right in the temple or church.

The reader should note with great concern and seriousness the danger of supposition. Mary supposed her boy was among her best friends, but alas, supposition spelled sorrow and grief to that dear mother's heart, as it is doing in these latter days. Thousands of people are going through life and into eternity upon the uncertainties of supposition. The reader should also note the five-day delay in getting back home besides all her trouble, expense, sorrow and grief. Mary is not the only one that has lost their Christ through supposition. Samson lost his strength while he was asleep in the lap of a sinful woman, he supposed that he was self-sufficient. Judas lost his Christ right in the Love Feast service, "And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, and after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, that thou doest do quickly." (Jno. 13:26-27.) It is heart-rending and sad to think how Satan can get around the Lord's

table and enter into the hearts of his disciples. The Laodicean Church lost their Christ through supposition. They supposed, as they were rich and self-sufficient in their attainments and abilities, they had need of nothing. Listen to the burning message of the Lord to the Laodicean Church, "And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write: These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God: I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would that thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." (Rev. 3:14-16.) And so, the pathetic story of the lost Christ goes. Eternity alone will reveal the eternal consequences of those who lost their Christ through delusion and deception of supposition.

In the fourth chapter of I Samuel we have a sad and lamentable record, "saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken." As we look into the modern church, and see the conditions of worldliness and immorality, are we not forced to the conclusion, that the glory of the church, which is Christ, and his Gospel has departed.

Last, but not least, as we think how it was possible for Mary to go a whole day's journey and not think or look after her boy, Jesus, seems to be almost incredible, but she did. And how lamentable it is, as we think of those who once stood for a whole Christ and a full Gospel, in all its saving virtues and requisitions. But they have become so entangled and modernized in the world's systems and materialism, that they have lost their vital relation with their Lord. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come. If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance: seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." (Heb. 6:4-6.) Therefore, it is a blessed thing, when new-born souls can sing, "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine," but it is ten thousand times more blessed if they never lose him.

Selected from the  
August 1, 1929  
issue of the Bible Monitor

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## NEWS ITEMS

### MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

Brother Harley Flory's new address is Hillside Country Living, Room 32, 09876 County Road 16, Bryan, Ohio, 43506. His phone number is 616-340-4710.

### DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION CHANGE

The new contact person for the Pine Grove Congregation is Paul Noecker, 74 Natures Road, Pine Grove, PA, 17963. His phone number is 570-527-7879.

### BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation will be holding their revival meetings starting August 4, 2019 through August 11, 2019 with Bro. Fred Pifer from the Dallas Center Congregation. May we remember Bro. Fred as he prepares for these meetings. Sunday evening, August 4, the services will start at 6:00 P.M. Throughout the week services will start at 7:30 P.M. Sunday, August 11, there will be a meal prepared in the basement for all, with the last service at 2:00 P.M. All are welcome to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

### CORNERSTONE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the CornerStone Congregation is looking forward to Revival Meetings, August 14-18, 2019. Brother Judah Bauman, Newmanstown, Pennsylvania will deliver the messages for us. Evening services through the week begin at 7:00 P.M., Sunday school at 9:30 A.M. and Worship at 10:30 A.M. There will be a fellowship meal on Sunday. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts of each of us. Pray for Bro. Judah as he prepares the messages the Lord wants him to deliver. All are welcome and a hearty invitation goes out.

Sister Karen Blocher, Cor.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER****Sept. 1 – Abimelech. Son, King and Brother – Judges 9:1-29**

1. What political intrigue is set in motion upon the death of Gideon?

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2. What is Abimelech's power base and who are his political enemies?

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3. What cultural influence in Israel is revealed with Abimelech being pronounced king?

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**Sept. 8 – Wickedness Rendered – Judges 9:30-57**

1. How many contemporary examples can you name that mimic the behavior and attitudes in the events described in these verses?

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2. What rebuke did Jesus give Peter that these verses exemplify?

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3. What other spiritual principles do you see at work in these verses?

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**Sept. 15 – Vexed and Oppressed – Judges 10:1-18**

1. Where is Gilead and what is a Gileadite?

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2. Is there any comfort in God's judgment?

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3. What strength comes from renewal and revival?

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**Sept. 22 – Jephthah, Head and Captain – Judges 11:1-22**

1. How many ways can you look at Jephthah's life and see some prefiguring of Christ?

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2. What is the primary disagreement that the king of Ammon has with Israel?

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3. On what historical basis does Jephthah disagree with the king of Ammon?

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**Sept. 29 – Jephthah’s Vow – Judges 11:23-40**

1. What logical spiritual reasoning does Jephthah present to contradict the king of Ammon’s claims?

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2. What is the last piece of Jephthah’s reasoning in refuting the king of Ammon’s claims?

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3. Do good intentions and spiritual zeal compensate for the lack of spiritual maturity?

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