

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. XCVII

SEPTEMBER, 2019

NO. 09

“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.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SHINING SHORE

My days are gliding swiftly by,
And I a pilgrim stranger,
Would not detain them as they fly-
Those hours of toil and danger.

We'll gird our loins, my brethren dear,
Our heav'nly home discerning;
Our absent Lord has left us word,
Let ev'ry lamp be burning.

Should coming days be cold and dark,
We need not cease our singing;
That perfect rest naught can molest
Where golden harps are ringing.

Let sorrow's rudest tempest blow,
Each chord on earth to sever,
Our King says come, and there's our home,
Forever! O forever!

—*David Nelson*

ETERNAL OPTIMISTS

Christians are eternal optimists in an eternally pessimistic world. Christians have a hope that overcomes the negatives of a world controlled and doomed by Satan. A look at the surrounding social, political, economic, and moral systems of the natural world contains little that produces optimism. This age can look forward to the same end as those who in the past forgot their allegiance toward God. The end forecast for this world will be terrible and destructive, leading to an eternal separation from God. There is no optimism in the hearts of those who are in bondage to Satan. No wonder events produce pessimism in the hearts and minds of those who have chosen to ignore, ridicule, and disobey God.

Pessimism is born in the divisions that plague men. When men have lost touch with God, they become divided seeking to promote their own, humanistic ideals. Each group discriminates against others. Choosing to be their own gods they have rejected God's Word, leadership and inspiration in their lives. Their highest goals are to prosper in power, possessions and positions. They have no moral guide. Right may be determined by might, by popularity, or by emotion.

The law of the land is shaped more by opinion, emotion, and perverseness than by God's righteous, holy and moral teachings. The law of the land, while established by God's will for order and decency among

THE BIBLE MONITOR SEPTEMBER, 2019

Published monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 10575 West Main Road, North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$5.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223. (951) 845-6231

KEN BROCK, Assistant Editor, 20845 County Rd H50, West Unity, OH 43570.

PAUL SKILES Associate Editor, 6561 Mountain Hawk Loop NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144

KEVIN FUNK, Associate Editor; 24107 N Avenue, Dallas Center, IA 50063.

the unbelieving, is not of higher value than God's Word. The Christian's allegiance to God is above any other family, social or political consideration. The Christian obeys the law of the land providing it does not counter the revealed Word of God.

Considering the pessimism of the surrounding culture, it is unexpected that Christians can remain optimistic. When wars, disasters, diseases, and disunity abound, Christians can exercise and expand their faith to live above the surrounding troubles and look forward to a totally different ending than the world is rushing towards. It is not from their natural goodness, ability, or intelligence that this optimism springs forth. It comes from what God has accomplished for them.

Formerly, Satan had control over them as he continues to control the world's culture. At some point in their lives, whether through the good influence of their families and friends or through their despair produced by lives that were holy unfulfilled, spiritually sterile, or morally bankrupt, they were challenged by the Holy Spirit to get right with their Heavenly Father. When they responded to His appeal, they realized their emptiness

and need for God's provided remedy. They realized they were living contrary to God's will. The cure for their malady was Jesus Christ. By allowing His death on Calvary's cross to be their propitiation, they acknowledged their sin and God's provision for their salvation. When they depended upon Jesus, they entered a new relationship with their Heavenly Father.

As a part of God's family, they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit who provided leadership in their lives. As the inspiration of God's Word, He shares with them through the reading and hearing of the Word, giving direction to their lives. As they mature in Christ, learning more about God, Jesus and His Spirit, they are prepared to meet the challenges that an unfriendly world brings against them. As they experience the confusions, intimidations, ridicules, and outright oppositions of Satan's worldly system, they find their confidence in God and His Word, not in the world. They realize Satan's promises, pleasures and possessions are false hopes that bring destruction and dishonor to their lives. They may feel the brunt of Satan's power against them, but they know the power of God is so much greater.

Knowing that God's power outstrips the power of Satan, they find in tough situations a sense of peace and optimism. The peace they have established with God through faith will bring not only peace within their own lives but will produce peace between them and their opponents. They can have a peace that is beyond normal understanding.

Peace can bring a sense of optimism. In the world's difficult situations, it is hard to find any ray of optimism. A Christian can be optimistic in all situations. He

knows it is God's will for him to be faithful. He knows that whatever the physical outcome of the situation the believer has safety. In the darkest times he can be optimistic because he knows the end of the world's story. He knows that Jesus is coming back to glorify His Father's believing children.

Can you be optimistic during the immorality and the failure of the world's system? If not, then change your pessimism into optimism through Jesus Christ.

M. C. Cook

WHAT ARE THE LIMITS OF LOVE?

An old saying goes, "Love is blind." I am not sure where this came from or what it really means, but I take it to suggest that love does not really see the whole picture.

I have seen some young women married to a strapping, fierce looking man. You wonder what she saw in him and what she saw probably was not what you or I would see in him. She saw beyond the outer roughness and saw something nobody else could see. Why else would she have married him?

I guess when people are in love, they have a different

perspective on the relationship.

Another saying goes, "You can't judge a book by its cover." And yet, we all do. It is the cover that gets us to buy the book. And if the cover is not enticing, we go on to the next book.

I think when it comes to love, the person who is "in love" is operating from a different world. In that relationship has developed certain perspectives that somebody on the outside would never see.

If I could come up with a new saying it would be, "You cannot judge the bride by her groom."

Bringing all of this over into

the Christian realm, we see that God does not judge us by our past if we have repented and sought His forgiveness. God's love pierces the hard shell of humanity and gets to the real heart of the matter. Our outside may be rough and ragged, but it is the heart that has been affected by the love of God.

It is hard to understand what this "heart" is. And certainly, it is not the physical heart that beats and sends blood pulsating throughout our body. But it is that essence in my life that responds to the love of God. When God touches my heart with His love, it comes into play.

The question is, how much does God really love us?

I believe every person needs to ponder this and come to some conclusion.

The young man who falls in love with the young woman will go to extreme lengths to reach her and to win her love. Who knows how far that person will go in this regard?

What are the limits with God's love? How far will He really go?

I think to begin with, we need to look at Calvary. I quite honestly do not understand the cross. I do not understand Jesus

dying on the cross being the Son of God. It is all a mystery to me and yet I have embraced it.

When we think of our human love, we know that it does have limitations. We will go so far, and no further. There is a line in the sand, as they say, and we will not cross that line.

But when we come to God's love, it has no limitations. This is an aspect hard for us to understand. We often try to judge God by our standards. And nothing could be more wrong than that.

God's love for us can never be compromised by anything that we do. Now the problem is, experiencing that love in our own lives. It is there for us without limitation, but we need to be able to receive it and allow God to shed His love abroad in our heart.

The more I get to understand God and what He is all about, the more I begin to understand the infinite dimensions of His love. Just when I think I have come to the edge of His love I see there is a lot more to come. It is just like those who are trying to look into outer space. They get some equipment that takes them so far and then somebody develops another piece of equipment and

when they get there, they see that there is so much more to go. Man has yet to come to the end of space. Every time he thinks he has, there is something more just ahead.

If I try to understand God's love from the human perspective, I am going to miss a lot.

What I need to grasp is the fact that God's love is available to me but can only be processed into my life through the Lord Jesus Christ. The more I open my heart and life to Christ the more I am able to experience this unbounded love of God.

As much as we can experience the love of God now, in heaven there will be such a dimension of God's love that we can experience that we could never understand from earth's perspective.

God's love is not a stretch of the imagination; rather, it is a

stretch of God's character and nature. God's love reflects the character and nature of God into our life.

Times come when my relationship with God is tarnished. Like the church itself at Ephesus I sometimes "lose my first love." As I seek restoration, I begin to understand that nothing I can do can ever compromise what God can do in my life. God's working in my life is not contingent upon me or my understanding. Rather, it is contingent upon the character and nature of God. After all, it is God's love shed abroad in my heart.

If I let Him do His work in my life without hindering, I will begin to experience the fullness of His love.

James L. Snyder
324 Bahia Circle
Ocala, FL 34472

EVERY MAN HIS WORK

"For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch." Mark 13:34

An old preacher needed a new tractor, so he went to the local John Deere dealer to check

out the new models. One, in particular, attracted him, and the salesperson began a glowingly wonderful report concerning this tractor, how it could be used for practically any type of job, anytime of the day, for an indefinite period. It was economical to run and easy on the environment. After listening

to this rather inflated description the preacher said, "I could use a few church members like that."

The man taking a far journey in the scripture above gave commandment to his servants and everyone knew what he had to do. There was no argument. There was no conflict. Everyone owed their living to the traveler and obeyed him without question.

Each of us in the kingdom of God has a work to do. We are not all gifted with the same talents, so God gives us tasks that we are able to perform. Ofttimes people think that the task given to another belongs to them, but let us take heed to the scripture, "Every man his work." Whether our task is big or small we must be faithful. If we are faithful over small things, he will give us bigger things to do.

In Acts, chapter six it is recorded that the church had grown, and people were complaining because the widows were being neglected and the disciples could not leave the Word of God to feed them.

The church chose seven men "of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom" to do this work. We know that the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost and the same quality was necessary in the Deacon's office. Do not think

for one minute that your job is insignificant or unimportant.

Stephen, one of the seven, preached one of the greatest messages ever heard and gave his life doing so. He was chosen to "serve tables," yet his testimony will be remembered forever. The key to all this is the concept of being full of the Holy Ghost. When God lives in you, His will becomes your will.

John the Baptist had the Holy Ghost and was in full obedience to God's will. Jesus was full of the Holy Ghost and did God's will from the heart. He struggled with it in Gethsemane, but in the end, it was "not my will, but thine be done."

If we are chosen to do some thing for the Lord and do it happily to the honor and glory of God, then one day we will hear Him say, "Well done good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord. (Matthew 25:23)

There is no night in heaven;
In that blest world above.
Work never can bring weariness,
For work itself is love.

-John Wesley

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

September 2019 Study Questions

September 1 – Judges 9:1-19

What sort of campaign slogan can you come up with for Abimelech?

What power do governments depend upon in order to legitimize their authority?

To what does Jotham liken Abimelech?

What is the root of his question to the men of Shechem?

What simple biblical precept is the source of Jotham's judgment?

Commentary: “*Might makes right.*” This is the self-justifying slogan of nearly every campaign for power in the history of man. Whoever has the most power has the right to do as they please. Abimelech saw a problem. Seventy leaders become an unwieldy way to govern. He offered himself as the solution with the built-in advantage that he was part of their own family. Once he had their approval, he simply legitimized his power by killing off the competition. Having the power gave him the right to murder his competition. While our own contemporary governing is a far more civil affair the basic assumption is that the power to rule is the means to effecting what is right. At least in our own eyes.

September 8 – Judges 9:30-57

What injustice was the cause of the ill will felt by the people of Shechem toward Abimelech?

What inspired Gaal and his brothers?

Who is Zebul and what role does he play?

What spiritual dynamics are at work in the events described in this passage?

What is the end result of these dynamics?

Commentary: We may wonder what is so important about this passage. There seems to be little of spiritual import nor much made of God's activity in these events. Yet it does give us another glimpse of man's nature without God. Left to their own devices men seek

revenge, lust for power, thirst for violence, and even more wickedness is on full display. All these are contrary to God. The ultimate result is the wages of sin, with death being the final result. Once more we are shown our need for a savior.

September 15 – Judges 10:1-18

What draws you away from the Lord?

What is the dual pronged nature of sin, which Israel confesses itself as being guilty?

How does God get Israel's attention?

Are you content with God's judgment and punishment in your life?

What battle awaits you that requires your faith and trust in the Lord?

Commentary: Faith must be fought for with great vigilance. Israel's cycle of forsaking the Lord, enduring the loss of blessing, the consequences of enslaving sin, and repentance of sin are not without their parallels in our own lives. The more we fight for the faith that frees us to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the quicker we become in recognizing the subtle and deceitful nature of sin. Our confidence in winning such battles lies completely in our faith in the One who has already conquered death, hell, and the grave.

September 22 – Judges 11:1-22

How do the circumstances of your birth influence how others regard you?

What brief description do we have of Jephthah's character?

What do Jephthah and Jesus have in common?

Why were vain or worthless men attracted to Jephthah?

Why were the elders of Gilead attracted to him?

How do you evaluate his character?

Commentary: Valor is a word often associated with courage in the face of danger, especially in battle. Although Jephthah had been rejected by his family and forced to flee his home, his exploits as a leader of men caught the attention of the elders in Gilead. Perhaps he was more than a raider (bandit) but someone whose skills were developed through winning small skirmishes with the enemies of Gilead exciting hope in his former kinsmen. Furthermore,

he shows a knowledge of God's dealings with Israel and uses that knowledge to refute the claims of the king of Ammon. It becomes very easy to misjudge someone on the basis of things they have no control over and perceive them as a threat to our own wellbeing.

September 29 – Judges 11:23-40

On what level does Jephthah reason with the king of Ammon?

How do you describe, "the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah?"

Was Jephthah's vow and indication of the strength or weakness of his faith?

What did he expect to come out his door?

What is the difference between what he meant to give and what he had to give to fulfill his vow?

How was Jephthah's vow fulfilled?

Commentary: That the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah tells us the most about what kind of man Jephthah had become. Yet, we also see that no matter how deeply moved we are by God's Spirit, God does not always save us from ourselves. When we try to impress God with our holiness, He is more likely to show us how needy we are. It should also remind us that no matter how much we may be impressed with someone else's godliness we should not be surprised that they still have feet of clay.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

A DEAD GIRL LIVES AGAIN!

Rudy Cover

Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:22-43; Luke 8:41-58

A man named Jairus had a wonderful experience when Jesus was here. While Jesus was talking to the people and teaching them, Jairus came

and fell down at Jesus' feet and worshipped Him. Jairus said to Jesus, "My little girl is so sick I'm afraid she may die; even now she may be already dead; but

come and lay your hands on her and she shall live.”

The daughter of Jairus was twelve years old. She was an only daughter, possibly the only child that Jairus and his wife had. Luke says he had one only daughter. I'm sure her parents loved her very much. She was a good girl and was a joy to her father and mother. Now she was sick. Jairus thought that during the time it took him to find Jesus that she might have died.

Jesus started out for the home of Jairus and His disciples went along. On the way Jesus was pressed on every side as He walked through the crowd of people. He even stopped and healed a woman on the way. Jairus was almost frantic. It was taking such a long time. Could his little girl still be alive?

As they came near, a servant of Jairus said to him, “Your daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.” This was bad news indeed, for Jairus. He had been expecting it but hoped that Jesus would arrive in time to heal his daughter. Now, it seemed that he had nothing to hope for. What would life be without his little girl. How could he ever get along without her? Jairus was a ruler of the Jews

but he had no power to restore his daughter to life again.

As soon as Jesus heard that the daughter was dead, He said unto Jairus, “Be not afraid, only believe.” As they came to the ruler's house there were those who were mourning the death of the little girl. In those days the mourners were paid for weeping and wailing and carrying on when someone died. I suppose these people heard that the little girl was sick and about to die, so they were waiting for the chance to mourn and earn some money. When Jesus came into the house, He said unto them, “Why make ye this ado, and weep? The little girl is not dead but is asleep.” The mourners just laughed at Jesus because they knew that the girl was dead for sure.

Jesus made all the mourners stay out of the room where the dead girl lay. Then He took Jairus and his wife and Peter, James and John and went in. Jesus went to where the dead girl lay, took her by the hand and said, “Little girl, I say unto thee, arise.” Immediately the girl sat up and got out of bed and walked. She was alive again! She wasn't sick anymore! Jesus said, “Give her something to eat.”

Can you imagine how happy Jairus and the girl's mother were? Could it be true that their lovely daughter that had died was walking and talking and in perfect health? Jesus had done what people thought was impossible. He had made a dead girl live again!

Do you know that Jesus can do more than this? He can make you alive too – not just alive so that you will die again. If you

truly believe in Jesus and live for Him, after you die Jesus will give you a new body that will live forever. You will never grow old, or get tired or get sick, or feel bad – never, never anymore. Living for Jesus is the greatest thing that can happen. He can make you live again.

Selected from the
January 15, 1980
issue of the Bible Monitor

WHY USE SLANG?

Maxine E. Surbey

"Golly, it's hot, Mom! Can we have some lemonade?" asked Keith as he came bounding up the steps, wiping the sweat from his face. "We've been hoeing in the garden all afternoon." Cheryl and Ivan followed Keith and sat down on the porch steps.

"Gosh, it's good to sit in the cool shade," said Cheryl as she fanned herself with her sunbonnet.

"Yes," said Mother, "I realized you would be hot and thirsty, so I made some lemonade for you ahead of time." She gave each of the children a glass of the refreshing drink.

"Gee, this really hits the spot!" exclaimed Ivan as he took

a satisfying drink from his glass.

"Oh, darn! I spilled some lemonade on my shirt!" cried Keith. "I hope it won't cause a stain and will wash out."

Aunt Mary gently swung back and forth on the porch swing. The children's mother was busy sewing in a rocker nearby.

"Children," said Aunt Mary, as she watched the children enjoying their drink. "Do you realize that you have used swear words in your conversation this afternoon?"

"Whatever do you mean, Aunt Mary?" asked Keith. "You know we don't believe in swearing."

"I'm glad you realize that swearing is wrong, yet you all three took the name of God in vain, just now."

"Tell us what you mean," said Cheryl in a puzzled voice.

Aunt Mary answered, "We don't realize the seriousness resulting from our careless conversation. We use slang expressions which are really diminutives and are derived from awesome names. We would be shocked to hear anyone in our family say, 'Oh, God, it's hot,' or 'God, it feels good to sit in the cool shade,' or 'Jesus, this really hits the spot,' or 'damnation, I spilled some lemonade.' Yet, the slang words, 'Golly' and 'Gosh' are both diminutives of the word God. 'Gee' is a diminutive of the name, Jesus. 'Darn' is derived from the word damnation. These slang expressions are actually taking the name of God in vain."

"How awful!" exclaimed Cheryl as she stood up to take her empty glass to the kitchen. "We hear those expressions

all the time at school and think nothing of it."

"How easy it is for us to be careless in our speech, yet the Bible says, 'But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.'" Matt. 12:36

"It's serious business then, but people don't know that these words are really swear words if they aren't taught," said Keith.

"Yes, the next time you hear these slang expressions, tell your friends what they really mean. Honor the name of the Lord and His Son at all times. Being careful of our speech is pleasing to God."

Mother laid aside her sewing to get supper. "I think we should all memorize Psalm 19:14, **"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, My strength and My Redeemer."**

Selected by Shirley Frick

A LIVING OR A LIFE

Reuben Shroyer

“That they may lay hold on the life which is life indeed.” (1 Tim. 6:19).

Of times when folks want to know what trade or profession one follows, they ask what do you do for a living. That means that men think of life as a period of time in which people must exert themselves in an effort to meet expenses which are incident to human existence. The matter of food, clothes and rent occupies about 90 percent of the time of the people of this world.

It seems as though thousands have forgotten the words of Jesus who lived the real life and said: “The life is more than meat and the body more than raiment.” We feel it strange thousands of earth’s population should fret and worry and struggle for nothing more than the meat which perisheth, that they should partake of the bread of anxious care for the preservation of the tabernacle which will be torn down tomorrow, while they give so little thought to the temple which will yet be young when the stars are dead.

I chanced to read of a young man who had developed remarkable ability in window display work. He had put himself through school by trimming windows for local merchants. When he finished his college work John Wannamaker offered the young man \$10,000.00 per year to take charge of his work in Philadelphia. The young man turned the offer down and set out to prepare himself for the ministry. It was expressed by some he made a mistake. But later on, while visited by a prominent Judge, the Judge declared that when he got into his little stuffy room, he felt like a little blubbering schoolboy in the presence of a King. That thing which the Judge spoke was life, life indeed. That young man was not in this world to make money, he was here to make a life. Here was a man who if it was so designed would probably live his allotment of three score and ten and come to the close of life’s earthly day with empty hands leaving no estate. Wall street would never know that such a man lived. But he leaves behind him ten thousand waves

which riding on the restless seas of time carry hope and joy and blessing to all the storm tossed mariners who follow him and he would take out of this life infinitely more than all the fabulous millions of time could purchase. A life indeed.

Dear reader, if you would stroll with me in the power house of the Derber Machine Company at Canton, Ohio, and watch the mighty fly wheel turn over and over, around and around, getting nowhere, apparently doing nothing that anyone can see, yet in every story of that wonderful factory, perhaps hundreds of machines with almost human fingers are shaping the delicate mechanism which rivals the planetary system in its accuracy.

Today we watch man going the weary rounds of his humdrum life. He piles up no gold, he makes no laws. But if we had eyes to see it, he is vitally connected with many human machines which are sending light into many darkened hearts, bringing gladness and cheer into their lives. The pay envelope is only the merest incident in the life of such a man.

There is a sphere in which a cup of cold water is worth more than acres of gold. I cannot bring

myself to believe that God ever created man or woman with no higher end in view than that they might be a toy or a plaything to tinkle the soulless thing which we call society.

In a general way, there are just three classes of people in the world. The people who make a living, the people who make a life, and the people who make neither a living nor a life. There never has been a bigger parasite fastened on the neck of government than the idle rich. People whose soft white hands and flabby arms have never served this world; they have never made a living. It has been given to them. They have never made a life, for life is a thing which can be produced only on the anvil of service. There are men who live and die without any purpose which lies beyond themselves.

There are women by the thousands who have meant nothing more to this world than to serve as a living model for some dressmaker. While they lived, they have never gotten within a thousand miles of the life which is life indeed. The most beautiful sight that ever held the attention of mortal man is the bent form and horny hand

of parents who have not a cent between them and the grave but who have labored to give to this old world worthy useful children.

So many people seem to live in forgetfulness of the fact that some day the lives of this present will be called up for review.

For the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. And thousands who are now living with no motive beyond the present years who labor today that they may eat tomorrow, will find that their lives have been wood, hay and stubble. And shall fall in the testing. Oh, that men would learn to count time by heart throbs. They would enjoy the life which is life indeed. The great question which one day will be asked of every man and woman is not what have you? but what are you?

Through the days of opportunity have you been living the life, which is productive of character, the only life which is life indeed? Thousands are sitting idle these days waiting on circumstances to change, for something to turn up which will force them into the world and make them a part of the great pulsating light and help them build their fortunes and character when at the same time

the means towards such a life is lying by their side.

By all means, dear brother and sister, especially our young folks, I beg of you lay hold upon it and yourself by God's grace you can put into operation the forces which shall make you truly live. Heaven's heights lie just beyond the vision of earthly labors and shall be gained only by those who are strong enough to overcome. Would you know the thought that is to me the acme of all joy, both for the life that now is and that which is to come?

Its human aspect may be seen in the action of a soldier boy who in the world's dreadful war seemed happy when he was assigned a hard place and dangerous duties. When questioned by a comrade why he did so, replied: I want to do all so that if I ever get home I can look into my Father's face and say: Father, both in camp and on the battle field, I have always been a soldier.

Oh, Brethren, let me not falter in the heat of the day. Let me not loiter in the fields of ease, let me not hide before the guns of ridicule and criticism, but let me really live through every hour of this mortal conflict that one day at eventide I can

look into the face of my dear heavenly Father and say, Father through that mighty struggle I never failed to be a soldier and then the joy to hear him say: Well done, good and faithful

servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord.

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

GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE BIBLE

Howard Surbey

“Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word.” Psa. 119:98-101. In the days of Jeremiah, false prophets pretended that God had spoken to them, words which contradicted God’s faithful prophet. Many contradictions are being spread over the land today, in the name of religion. We can be thankful that the Spirit of God is back of every word in the Bible, whereby each of us may build our soul’s salvation. Thus, God’s Word is authentic, and we need only to study and meditate upon it, to know whether the way men

teach is true or not.

Jesus said in John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” Christ is our spiritual bread of life, the only food for our souls. Are we starved and dwarfed professors, because we do not continually feed upon His Word? Men and women who resist the truth and want the Word to mean something different from that which the Spirit delivered unto us through His apostles, cannot receive the light of the glorious Gospel or enjoy sweet fellowship with the Lord. “How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?” John 6:44. “But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe

not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Cor. 4:3-4.

God speaks to us through the law, which was established unto the faithful, during the Old Testament and is completed through Christ in the New Testament. God sent prophet after prophet to warn the people to strictly obey the law. God sent apostles and teachers to urge us to carefully obey the New Testament teachers. Will we suffer the same lack of faith and obedience, such as the children of Israel did? "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." 1 Cor. 14:37. We are wonderfully blessed, that God has so well preserved His Holy Word down through the ages, unto this generation. How do we show our appreciation unto our Lord? God speaks to you, will each of us be ready when He calls?

The Holy Bible is God's Word to humanity. Its truth endureth forever, such as no other book will. It is the law book, which the great Judge will use on the day of judgment. Christ prayed for His followers, "I pray not that thou shouldst

take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." John 17:15-17. Do we know His Word? Will He know us when He comes? It all depends upon how we use our time and our talents, while here upon the earth. "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." John 12:48.

The Holy Bible is not a dead book, in it we live and move and have our being. Upon its understanding and observance, depends whether we will spend eternity in the bliss of Heaven or in the damnation of Hell. It will cleanse us of all sin, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." John 15:3. Are we satisfied to live in the darkness of sin? "The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." Psa. 19:8. The nations of the world are spending millions to purify the natural things of life, so that men's natural lives will not be contaminated. "Thy

Word is very pure; therefore, thy servant loveth it." Psa. 119:140.

Let us meditate upon the thoughts some noted men give us concerning God's Word: A lifeboat may have a tasteful bend and beautiful decorations, but these are not the qualities for which I prize it; it was my salvation from the howling sea. So, the interest which a regenerate soul takes in the Bible, is founded on a personal application to the heart of the saving truth which it contains.

The Bible differs from all other books in its perpetual freshness. This characteristic will be recognized only by those who know the Book, in that intimate way which comes from living with it, as with a member of one's family. I mention this first because it is one of the first unique properties of the Bible, which impressed me after I began to believe in Christ. It is a very remarkable fact that the Bible never becomes exhausted, never acquires a monotonous trend, never diminishes in its power of responsiveness to the quickened soul who comes to it. It is indeed a fountain of living water. The fountain is the same, but the water is always fresh and always refreshing. We

can compare this to nothing but many times that which we find in a living companion, whom we love and to whom we go for help and fellowship. New conditions evoke new responses and so it is with the Bible. As a living book, it adapts itself to the new phases of our experience and the new conditions in which we find ourselves. From the most familiar passage there comes again and again a new message: just as our familiar friend or companion will have something new to say, as changed conditions and new situations require it from time to time.

Do we value the fellowship of one who is wise and true and loving? Then we shall prize the words which He speaks to us. What a treasure we have in the Holy Book of God. We need to prepare our hearts to hear and obey, what God speaks to us through His Word.

The Bible has been my guide in perplexity, and my comfort in trouble. It has roused me when declining and animated me in languor. Other writings may be good, but they want certainty and force. The Bible carries its own credentials along with it and has proven spirit and life to my soul. In other writings I

hear the voice of a stranger or servant. In the Bible I hear the language of my Father and my Friend. Other books contain only the picture of bread or food. The Bible presents me with real

manna and feeds me with the bread of life.

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

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Harold S. Martin

The nearest thing to heaven on earth is the Christian family and home, where husband and wife, parents and children, live together in love and peace, devoted to God and to each other. By way of contrast, the nearest thing to hell on earth is the ungodly home, broken by sin and iniquity, where parents quarrel and bicker and separate, and where children are given over to the forces of wickedness to be brought up with scarcely any training at all.

The word "home" likely takes your mind back across the years, and for some the mind goes across hundreds of miles of space – to the spot which will be forever hallowed in your memories among all places on earth. You are reminded of the place where you grew up as a boy, or as a girl, playing around the yard with brothers and sisters and neighbor children,

and where you sat around the old range stove on a winter evening with your mother and dad and the rest of the family. There are several things about that old home-place which are not true about any other spot on earth, as far as you are concerned.

In this message we want to see what the Bible says about the duties of the various members of the family to each other and to the Lord.

DUTIES OF WIVES TO THEIR HUSBANDS

The Christian wife is to be subject to her husband. Ephesians 5:22-23 says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church."

Marriage is not a 50-50 proposition. The husband and

the wife are not to be jointly in the place of headship. Our Lord plainly says, "The husband is the head of the wife." This does not mean that the wife is less important in the home than the husband or that she is to be a slave of the husband, but it does mean that she is to submit to the leadership role of her husband. The only exception would be if he asks her to violate clear scriptural teachings (Acts 5:29).

The Lord commands husbands to love their wives, and if the husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church, she will have no difficulty with being subject to him. When problems arise (and they will arise), they should be carefully discussed together. A vote should be taken. If both agree – good. But in the case of a tie (the wife votes one way and the husband votes the other), then the husband should cast the deciding vote. The husband should assume the final leadership in the home.

The wife is to respect and admire her husband. Ephesians 5:33 says, "Let every one of you (husbands) so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."

The wife should respect her husband. This seems to be true

even for the wife who has an unsaved husband (1 Peter 3:1). What kind of life are you living before your husband? Does he see in you true Christian living? Are you cheerful, loving, loyal, and obedient? Some wives drive their husbands away from Christ because they don't respect them. Instead of being cheerful and obedient, they are noted for preaching and nagging. Nothing breaks the spirit of a man more quickly than a nagging wife.

The Christian wife is to be a keeper at home. Titus 2:4-5 says, "Teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home."

The home is to be the sphere of the woman's influence. There are too many families that have such a high standard of living that mother has to work away from home to help pay the bills. Then in the evening, when happy family activities should take place, mother's energy is all spent, and pressing duties don't permit her that happy fellowship. There may be some exceptions, but generally speaking, the father is to be the breadwinner and the mother is to be the keeper at home.

DUTIES OF HUSBANDS TO THEIR WIVES

The husband is to honor and respect his wife. We are

instructed in 1 Corinthians 7:3, "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence."

The husband is to show due courtesies to his wife. It is pathetic to see how some young men can play the part of a gentlemen, be courteous, gracious, and show respect to young ladies when they are courting them – and then after marriage, they come home and scold and nag and become sullen and bitter. The Christian husband is to remember that it is no easy thing for his wife to keep house, care for the children, and experience the vexing things that come along with the daily duties of home life. Let the husband render to his wife due courtesies.

The husband is to consider her physical frailty. 1 Peter 3:7 admonishes, "Husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel."

The husband is to keep in mind that his wife is generally speaking physically more frail than he. Each husband should be careful not to create additional unnecessary work for his wife.

And yet when some husbands leave the house in the morning, it seems like a hurricane had gone through, and when they come home at night it looks as if they brought half the mud from the riverbed in on the carpet! If we husbands would close our doors and hang up our clothes, we may have more pleasant wives.

The husband is to truly love his wife. Colossians 3:19 says, "Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

The husband is to demonstrate true affection for his wife. He should tell her that he loves her, and he is to treat her with the same love and gentleness and kindness he showed her while he was courting her. How long is it, husbands, since you remembered her with those little tokens of love (a box of candy or a bouquet of flowers) which you were eager to shower upon her during courtship days? If you have been neglecting this duty – go to your wife, apologize for your thoughtlessness, take out your family Bible, read the record of your marriage, and brighten up that old love! If husbands and wives would work as hard to keep each other as they once did to catch each other, most

domestic home problems would be forever solved. The spirit of courtship needs to be continued throughout married life.

DUTIES OF CHILDREN TO THEIR PARENTS

Children should honor their parents. God says in Ephesians 6:2, "Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."

It is the duty of every child to respect and honor his parents. If you are inclined to be ashamed of them, remember that they cared for you when you were altogether unable to care for yourself. We sometimes forget that our mothers endangered their lives for our sakes; we are ungrateful for the weary toil of our fathers; we fail to appreciate the many sleepless nights that they went through in order that we might be comfortable. Each of us owes his parents honor and respect and courtesy.

Children should accept instruction from parents. We read in Proverbs 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."

That admonition is very simple. Children can easily understand it. It is wise to heed the

instructions of parents because the advice and mandates which Christian parents give are generally intended for the welfare of the child.

Children should diligently obey their parents. Children are instructed in Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

One of the most beautiful Scriptures regarding the childhood of Jesus is the one which says, "He went down to Nazareth and was subject unto them." If Jesus, the eternal Son of God, was subject to family authority, then certainly every child ought to obey his parents. One of the saddest New Testament Scriptures is the one that says, in the last days children shall be "disobedient to parents." A child should never call his dad "the old man" and his mother, "the old lady." Children – treat your parents as you'll wish you had treated them when you say your last good-bye to them and when you take that last look at mother and daddy as they lie before you in their caskets.

DUTIES OF PARENTS TO THEIR CHILDREN

Parents should teach their

children. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "And these words which I command thee this day shall be in thine heart; and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

Bear in mind that every child is born into this world with a sinful nature, and that the cute cooing baby in his cradle will soon demonstrate that he has a will of his own. He will lustily scream if he doesn't get his own way. Thus, every child needs to be taught diligently. Reading and quoting the Bible in your home should be just as natural as talking about the weather. Teach them the way of salvation. Read to them from wholesome literature. Memorize Bible verses with them. It is amazing how much truth a child's mind can absorb.

Parents should be good examples for their children. The passage in Deuteronomy 6:6 says, "And these words...shall be in thine heart, and thou shalt teach them."

The Word of God must first be in the parents' hearts! Children are great imitators. We have all seen little girls wearing

the clothes of older persons. They want to be like mother. The best way to "train up a child in the way he should go" is to go that way yourself. Most children want to be the kind of man or woman their mother and dad is.

Parents should discipline their children. Proverbs 29:15 says "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."

The New Testament says that children shall be brought up in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4). The word for "nurture" is actually "scourging." Some don't use the rod, but if you want to ruin your children, just dance to the tune of their every desire and you can be assured that the job of ruination will soon be complete. I have seen children throw themselves on the floor and kick and scream and insist on getting their own way, and the parents said, "Let them alone, they must express themselves!" God have mercy on parents who fail to discipline and admonish their children. The Bible tells of God's judgment on one family because the father (who was a good man engaged in the service of the Lord) failed to discipline his sons (1 Samuel 3:13).

May God help us to live “at home” so sweetly, so tenderly, and so lovingly – that the memories we make within our homes may be music in the heart, sweeter than the songs that angels sing, and may our family circles be unbroken in the world to come.

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

TRUST NOT THE LYING WORDS

Glenn A. Cripe

“Trust ye not in lying words.”
Jer. 7:4.

Lying words are not so scarce today as one might think. Every newspaper has long articles on events of the day, and it is almost impossible in certain instances to place confidence in the truths of the material pertaining to prohibition. Then there are street peddlers of patent medicines and similar articles. Their pills will cure almost every ailment under heaven and those that it will not cure they will relieve, their liniment is good for any ache, bruise or pain that one may ever have. Lying words meet us when we go to town to trade, they meet us when we travel along the highway staring at us from the signs along the way. In every walk of life, we meet them.

One of the most peculiar things about these lying words is the fact

that we believe them sometimes and quite often when it is very apparent that they are lying words. If you think this is not true just think back in your own life and see if you have not at some not very far distant time bought some article that has been misrepresented to you by the salesman. Or possibly you have made a friend who has deceived you. The deception could have been readily seen in most instances if you would have only been as observant as you should.

The prophet in this particular instance is talking to a people who are being deceived by lying words, and the deception is not about some cure all medicine or a small trinket or even a horse or farm, but it does concern the thing that is most dear to man and that is his soul's welfare.

They were believers. They believed in the true God and

went up to his temple to worship. I believe they were as sincere in their religious life as most of the professing Christian world is in this present age. I think they were almost as active in their worship as the people of today are. Although they were only required to go to the temple to worship but a few times a year they probably entered this place about as often as many Christians do today even though they can meet every week and sometimes several times in a week.

These people were placing their soul's welfare in the fact that they did go up to the temple to worship. It was the temple of the Lord, the place where God had met their parents in days long past. At the altar of this temple Solomon had brought sacrifices of thousands in number and God had seen and heard with forgiving eye and ear. God had blessed his people abundantly in times past when they came up to this house to worship. So, they reasoned within themselves that He would hear themselves in the same way.

Today many a man and woman belong to a certain denomination because their father and mother belonged to it. In the past it has had great and strong leaders who were respected and

looked up to as men of God. In the past they were blessed and prospered, and numbers came flocking into the church. Indeed, there has been every evidence to prove that the church has been approved by God and so they remain in that church saying that this has been the church of God.

However, with all this evidence in favor of the trust they were placing in their temple worship the man of God came forth and intimated that they were placing their trust in lying words.

What? It is possible that they can be wrong. It is true that God has met their fathers in this temple, and can it be that He will not meet them there?

The next verse gives them to understand that there is more to salvation than mere temple worship. They must live lives that He can approve so they will receive the salvation they were expecting. In this particular instance they must repent. They must change their ways and doings. In addition to coming to the temple there must be a life of justice and righteousness. This might also be the message of the prophet today to those who trust only in their church membership and their belief in God and Jesus Christ for their salvation.

It is sad enough when we believe the lies of others but when we lie to ourselves and then try to believe those lies it is almost beyond our comprehension. That is exactly what those people did. Through a process of false reasoning they allowed themselves to believe they were saved when they were not. I would say I believe that today there are thousands and hundreds of thousands who try to do exactly the same thing these people of

Judea did, and I further believe their process of reasoning is the same and that they will be lost if they do not repent and amend their ways and doings.

It would be interesting to trace the reasoning of these people, but it is more profitable for us to take the lesson that is given and apply it to ourselves.

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

OUR PRAYER

Charles E. Lehigh

Our Lord, who art high and holy,
And great and powerful and strong,
We pray Thee to hear our prayer,
And keep us from asking wrong.

Forgive us our sins and errors;
They are many in Thy sight:
And help us from this hour on
To live our lives aright.

We thank Thee for the blessings
Thou art showering on our head.
That Thou hast kept our lives till now
Though our lives through danger led.

We thank Thee for food and raiment,
We thank Thee for strength and health,
We thank Thee for grace to serve Thee,
We ask not for fame or wealth.

We thank Thee for friends and neighbors,
 We thank Thee for loved ones, dear,
 That when our lives are troubled
 They help us to bear it here.

We need Thy help and guidance.
 Without Thee we would fall.
 Then grant us strength to serve Thee;
 Yes, grant more strength to all.

Lord, guide our faltering footsteps
 Till we reach fair heaven above.
 And let us ever live with Thee
 In the blessings of Thy love.

Amen

—Selected

NEWS ITEMS

CORNERSTONE, OHIO

Please note that the CornerStone Congregation has a new call-in number. We no longer have a conversational phone line.

Call-in number is 712-832-8330

Conference I.D. number is 703-3019#

Please mute your phone when listening in.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Lord willing the West Fulton Congregation will be holding their revival meetings, September 8-15, 2019. Brother Chad Meyers from the Dallas Center Congregation will be our evangelist. Please remember Brother Chad and his family in your prayers. The first Sunday services are at 9:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Each evening services will be at 7:30 P.M. and the last Sunday's services will be at 9:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. A potluck dinner is planned for both Sundays.

All are welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Joy Reed, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER**October 6 – Shibboleth; Knowing the Lord’s Language – Judges 12:1-15**

1. Why is the tribe of Ephraim upset with Jephthah?

2. How does he respond to their accusations?

3. How did the words of Ephraim both reveal their character and their identity?

October 13 – Samson; All the Right Beginnings – Judges 13:1-25

1. What prophetic parallels do you see between Samson and Jesus’ birth stories?

2. Did the Angel of the Lord answer Manoah’s questions?

3. What was Manoah’s biggest problem?

October 20 – Getting too Cozy with the Enemy – Judges 14:1-20

1. What is your first impression of Samson?

2. How does God's sovereignty and man's carnality connect in Samson?

3. What lessons can we learn from Samson's first marriage?

October 27 – Letting in Little Foxes Results in Destruction – Judges 15:1-20

1. Who pays the biggest price for Samson's mischief with the foxes?

2. What do we learn about Judah in this chapter?

3. For what purposes is God using Samson?

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fred Pifer, Chairman
17354 240th Street
Adel, Iowa 50003

Tom St. John, Secretary
20380 County Road R
Alvordton, OH 43501

Dennis St. John, Treasurer
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Robert Carpenter, Chairman
6150 E 775 S
Peru, IN 46970

Justin Beck, Secretary
480 Schubert Road
Bethel, PA 19507

Dennis Myers, Treasurer
23999 268th Lane,
Adel, IA 50003

Verling Wolfe
451 Schubert Road
Bethel, PA 19507

Milton Cook
1138 East 12th St
Beaumont, CA 92223

Ronald Marks
1813 North 136th Ave.
Hart, MI 49420

Robert Lichtenberger
2195 Hanthorne Road
Indian Valley, ID 83632

Paul Skiles
6561 Mountain Hawk Loop NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

David Rice, Chairman
575 South Dayton-Brandt Rd
New Carlisle, OH 45344

Kevin Funk, Secretary
24107 N Avenue
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlin Marks, Treasurer
429 Summit Drive
Red Lion, PA 17356

Dennis Myers
23999 268th Lane
Adel, IA 50003

Bart Hoblit
2846 Gettysburg Pittsburg Rd
Arcanum, OH 45304

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

Philip Franklin, Chairman
1520 Brannon Ave
Modesto, CA 95350

Ken Brock, Secretary
20845 County Road H-50
West Unity, OH 43570

Brant Jamison
14970 SH 120
Lyons, OH 43533

Jason Carpenter
HCR 79 Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Gerry Priest
20207 Marsh Haven Lane
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RELIEF BOARD

Duane Priest, Chairman
51 Hillside Ave
Manheim, PA 17545
(717) 446-1756

Ward Deaton, Secretary
808 Fountain Blvd
Zillah, WA 98953
(509) 829-5442

Rodney Kimmel, Treasurer
6625 E 100 S
Flora, IN 46929
(765) 491-8598

Tom Hawbaker
PO Box 352
Pleasanton, KS 66075
515-745-0174

Kurt Rolle
52398 Byreley Road
Bradford, OH 45308
(937) 448-2217

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Jason Carpenter, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Dale Meyers, Chairman
23753 F Avenue
Redfield, IA 50233

Rick St. John, Secretary
2578 County Rd 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Johnathan Edgecomb, Treasurer
14302 NW 2100 Rd,
Garnett, KS 66032

Nelson Hawbaker
27268 270th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Brian Kegerreis
90 Orchard Lane
Bernville, PA 19506

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Merle Sweitzer, Chairman
13227 Fishel Road
Felton, PA 17322

Jonathan Pifer, Treasurer
22025 Midland Trail
Minburn, IA 50167

Jeremiah Johnson, Secretary
1773 North 136th Avenue
Hart, MI 49420

Andy Lichtenberger
484 Shed Road
Newville, PA 17241

Alan Meyers
17614 R Avenue,
Minburn, IA 50167

All contributions to the various boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Dunkard Brethren Church
10575 West Main Road
North East, PA 16428

Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit # 227