

BIBLE MONITOR

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OCTOBER, 2019

NO. 10

“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LORD, LEAD THE WAY

Lord, lead the way the Savior went,
By lane and cell obscure,
And let our treasure still be spent,
Like his, upon the poor.

Like him, thro' scenes of deep distress,
Who bore the world's sad weight,
We, in their gloomy loneliness,
Would seek the desolate.

For thou hast placed us side by side,
In this wide world of ill,
And, that thy foll'wers may be tried,
The poor are with us still.

Small are the off'rings we can make;
Yet thou hast taught us, Lord,
If given for the Savior's sake,
They lose not their reward.

—*William Crosswell*

SERVICE

Christians have received the greatest gift in the world – salvation through Jesus Christ. For many that seems to be the end of the relationship. There is little interest in Bible study, giving, sharing the Word, or serving Him and others. It seems many have secured His gift for their own enjoyment and eternal well-being. They have no further thought of how their decision to accept His sacrifice should influence or set the pattern for their lives.

Jesus was the ultimate price God could pay for His creation. He has an intense interest in the individuals who accept His offer of forgiveness, a new relationship, and an eternal Heavenly home. The very name of Christian shows

those bearing the name should in their lives imitate Him. They are little “Christs”. As earthly images of Christ, they are to mold their lives to display Jesus.

Jesus is not only God of very God, the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, the Savior, He is the greatest of servants. He served by fulfilling the will of His Father. He became God’s sacrificial Lamb. Besides His service on the cross, in the tomb, and through the Resurrection, He served this earth in His human form.

Throughout the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John appear various examples of His service to the needy, the sickly, the dead, and the Spiritually wounded and dying. There were at least three times He revived the dead. He provided material

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resources for others. He healed various diseases, disabilities, and discomforts. He also provided relief for those facing God's judgment by providing for their spiritual needs. He warned the disinterested, the disturbed, and the downright dangerous about their choices in life. He warned the common people, the political leaders and the Spiritual leaders concerning their misdirected choices in their lives.

He also called His followers to lives of greater service. He sent His disciples to the cities He would not be visiting so they could hear about Him. He commanded people to be aware of their lives after receiving His healing, reviving, and blessing. He wanted them to share what they knew through their words, lives and actions.

He wanted His followers to serve Him by serving their neighbors. Their neighbors were not always those who lived near them, but their families, friends and even strangers who had a spiritual need. Many Spiritual needs require willingness to provide physical help.

Service has many forms. It can be given within the family, the community, the nation or around the world. Service can

be as simple as a ministry of prayer by being faithful in daily prayer for the special needs of others. Prayer may be a higher form of service than more visible activities. Other types of service may be rendered by those who have been called to teaching and preaching ministries. They can serve others by making them more fully acquainted with the Word of God or to better understand how to implement the Word of God into their daily lives. Preaching the Word is the public sharing of the Word, ministry may include private times of counseling, comforting, and confrontation. Through evangelism and missionary effort, others serve by sharing the Gospel of Christ.

Beyond the public aspects of service there are multitudes of ways that Christians can serve. Some who would shun any public display of their faith, beyond participating in the local congregation, serve by being encouragers, of the young, the old, the sick, the disabled, and the ones who struggle. By their words and actions, they come along side those who need a kind word, a financial boost, a Spiritual lesson.

Others serve by acts of giving, kindness and provision.

This should be the mind-set of Christians, because they have received so much, they should be willing to give even more of their time, talents, and efforts. They may have skills to build, provide, or instruct. They can give to others individually or through the community. Some serve through their abilities to provide medical aid, whether in an institution or privately. Others serve by teaching through the introduction of God's world view in their instruction.

Service is an extension of Christ's service to us. As His blood-bought children, we should have a mind to serve rather than to be served. Service is not an attempt to bribe God with our good works. Service is His Spirit working in our lives. He paid the original price, but He wants us to be the dividend of His investment.

With so many ways to serve, how have you chosen to serve?

M. C. Cook

WORSHIP

Brethren, we have met to worship
 And adore the Lord our God:
 Will you pray with all your power
 While we try to preach the Word?

All is vain unless the Spirit
 Of the Holy One comes down.
 Brethren, pray, and holy manna
 Will be showered all around.

—*Brethren Hymnal #666*

Perhaps the greatest time in the week of a Christian is our public worship. Many of us travel many miles to join ourselves together in adoration of our God. We gather quietly and purposefully in silence. Time leading up to the beginning of

service is spent in prayer and quiet conversation.

At the prescribed time the song leader walks to the front of the congregation and chooses a number from the hymnal. The singing is congregational: everyone lifting their voices in

praise to God. Our purpose is to honor and glorify God, not to build up the ego of individual singers or small groups. Singing is also meant to prepare the heart for deeper worship and to leave everyday cares of the people of God behind.

After reading a portion of scripture as introduction to the Sunday School lesson, everyone who is able kneels for prayer. The Sunday School lesson is meant to edify and unite the saints in the Word of God.

Afterwards the congregation enjoys another season of singing which helps prepare them for the opening devotions and preaching. To preach the Word is to take a portion of scripture and exhort (or vigorously persuade) the audience of its truthfulness, comparing scripture with scripture, thereby bringing together the truths of God's Word. Who can refute the truth of God? This is how Jesus taught. This is how the prophets taught. In the beginning, God.

Sixty years ago, growing up

in the world, we were reminded of God every day. We took for granted that He existed. This is not the way it is today. We must preach God's Word. Worship is more important today than ever.

The world's emphasis today is on self. What do I want? How do I want to satisfy myself? Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." If we look to God, all selfishness melts away. In order to be saved, we put ourselves in God's hands and our desires change. Our life becomes, as it tells in Galatians 2:20, "Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." So, we, as children of God, worship Him because it is our desire to do so not because of fear. "Loving Him who first loved us." (John 4:19)

After the preaching there is prayer and more singing. Dismissal is not a showy time, but rather full of expectation. Most people remain for a while and talk. Often a meal is prepared in the interest of those who have far to go.

Blest hour when mortal man retires
To hold communion with his God,
To send to heav'n his warm desires,
And listen to the sacred Word.

Blest hour when earthly cares resign
 Their empire o'er his anxious breast,
 While all around the calm divine
 Proclaims the holy day of rest.

Blest hour when God himself draws nigh,
 Well pleased his people's voice to hear,
 To hush the penitential sigh,
 And wipe away the mourner's tear.

Blest hour, for where the Lord resorts
 Foretastes of future bliss are giv'n,
 And mortals find his earthly courts
 The house of God, the gate of heav'n.

-*Thomas Raffles*
 Brethren Hymnal #24

Brother Lynn H. Miller
 Mohler's Congregation

THE TRUE FOCUS OF GOD'S LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST

Sometimes I struggle with the truth that Jesus Christ is indeed God. Not that I do not believe it, It is just hard for me to comprehend Jesus Christ as being God in the flesh.

When I see how he was treated by mankind and how there was no resistance on his part, I am often puzzled. I sometimes think of that hymn that says,

*"He could have called ten thousand angels
 To destroy the world and set Him free.
 He could have called ten thousand angels,
 But He died alone, for you and me."*

When I begin to think about Jesus as God, I begin to get a

whole new perspective of what God's love is all about. It is

one thing to think about love and God's love for me is not some philosophical or even theological concept. Mostly, people buy into that today.

I certainly am not against theology: I believe it needs emphasizing in the church today. But to understand God's love I need to go beyond mere technical understanding. I need to see that in Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, is a manifestation of God's love. God's love is not the same as man's love.

When God created everything, he finished it by saying "it is good." That is, it met with God's approval and what else is needed. What God created, he created for himself and created it up to his standard of perfection.

Sin, of course, came into the picture. Sin is simply rebelling against the authority of God. That of course started in the Garden of Eden with Satan who tried to turn all creation against God, the Creator.

His success was terminated at the cross. When Jesus died on the cross, he destroyed what Satan was trying to do. Therefore, the love of God flows into the regenerate heart of a man or a woman.

True love cannot be defined apart from a vital, international relationship with God. That was the purpose of the cross which was verified by his resurrection three days later.

God's love is expressed to the whole world but can only be experienced in Jesus Christ. That was his purpose in coming. That was his purpose in dying. That was his purpose in rising the third day victorious over sin and death.

Looking at all of this we need to come to this wonderful observation that God is not an absentee Creator. He is involved with his creation moment by moment. Yes, sin has a temporary domination on the whole world today, but a time is coming when all that will be wiped off the face of the earth. Only God fully comprehends the purpose behind his creation. And as we come to know him, we begin to appreciate that purpose.

God loves all his creation. And his joy is to redeem his creation from depravity so that they can enjoy fellowship with him. The best qualities of God are reflected through his people.

When Jesus rode into

Jerusalem on that donkey nobody knew what was happening. Not even the disciples who had worked with Jesus for three plus years. They had a different perspective of what was going on. When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he did so with the intention of redeeming fallen humanity. The purpose of that redemption was so that men and women can once again experience the love of God.

One of the tragedies in our world today are people who have never experienced the love of God. Some people believe that for some reason, whatever it is, they are not worthy to experience God's love. Then they experience the unexpected. They encounter God and his forgiving grace. It is the forgiving grace of God that demonstrates his love for us and defines who we are in God's sight.

Many people cannot forgive themselves because they do not understand that God has a plan in place to forgive

them. Once we experience the forgiving grace of God and we are able to forgive ourselves, we then have the wonderful experience of being able to forgive other people.

What could be more marvelous than coming to that point of forgiving someone that does not deserve our forgiveness, but we give it to them anyway?

The root of that is in or own experience with God. We do not deserve his forgiveness, but we receive it anyway. That is why Jesus died on the cross. That is why I do not have to die on the cross, because Jesus did it all for me. The only thing God wants me to do is repent and accept his forgiveness. Then our life takes on a dimension never before thought possible.

The true focus of God's love is seen in me experiencing undeserved forgiveness from him.

James L. Snyder
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PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

October 2019 Study Questions

October 6 – Judges 12:1-15

What role does a threat play when relationships experience conflict?

How did Jephthah respond to threat?

How did Ephraim view Jephthah and the Gileadites?

What are the root issues behind Ephraim's actions?

How do you or others respond to accents that hinder communication?

Commentary: It should not surprise us when others speak ill of us. Whether it is at work, school, neighbors, family, or any other setting following Christ will bring division. Jephthah appears to be an outstanding leader willing to be led by God's Spirit. Yet he could not escape the envy of those who saw themselves as superior because of their tribal lineage. Jephthah's defense for his actions was his willingness to trust in the Lord. May that be sufficient for ourselves as well.

October 13 – Judges 13:1-25

What clued Manoah's wife into believing she was in the presence of a Man of God?

What was required of Manoah's wife?

Why did Manoah pray as he did?

Why did the Man of God appear to Manoah's wife again instead of Manoah?

Did the Angel of the Lord tell Manoah anything new?

How did Manoah and his wife experience the same thing differently?

Commentary: It seems odd that Samson's mother is never named. She is a pivotal character in this chapter and far more spiritually sensitive than her husband. It is to her the Angel of the Lord appears the first time with the message of a son to come. Upon her is laid the Nazarite vow in preparation for the birth of her son. She is the one who better understands the blessing they receive. While the fame of her son will make him one of the more well-known biblical characters her spiritual receptiveness and perceptiveness is far more to be desired.

October 20 – Judges 14:1-20

Where is the town of Timnah?

What is your first impression of Samson's mother and father as parents?

In the course of this chapter how many different ways does Samson act disobediently?

How is God choosing to use Samson?

What positive character trait does Samson demonstrate?

Commentary: Samson creates a lot of problems for us. He appears to be a very spoiled child in a man's body. He has learned to ignore his parents wishes and demands their cooperation in appeasing his own appetites. As a result, our estimation of his parents is not very high. His Nazarite vow, other than not cutting his hair, seems to have disappeared from his life. Yet twice in this chapter we read that the "Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily." How do we reconcile such discrepancies? Perhaps we need to realize that our own sins appear just as blatant in God's eyes as Samson's do to ours. And in His graciousness to us through Christ Jesus he still calls us as sons and daughters.

October 27 – Judges 15:1-20

What is the problem between Samson and his father-in-law that men frequently suffer from?

Who does Samson feel cheated by?

Who do the Philistines blame for Samson's behavior?

What is ironic about how Samson's wife and father-in-law are killed?

How does the response of the men of Judah affect your opinion of Samson?

For what reason does Samson become a judge of Israel?

Commentary: Samson is a troublemaker. You and I probably prefer that he not be our next-door neighbor. Samson just seems to not know how to get along with the Philistines. Wait!! Aren't the Philistines the ones who have the military advantage over Israel? Are they not the source of so many behaviors that should bring shame to every God-fearing Israelite? Are they not like the dominant culture that we live in that assaults our eyes and ears and spits in the face of our faith and hopes? While we have good reason to suspect Samson's integrity, he understands by faith that there can be no peaceful co-existence with the Philistines. We are at war and we must have a warrior mentality with the world that can seduce us just as easily as it did Samson in the weaknesses of his and our flesh.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

SHE TOUCHED THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT

Rudy Cover

Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-49

Jesus can do anything. He is the greatest person who was ever born. He is the Son of God. He made the earth: every flower, every tree, every bird, every fish, all the animals – even the little bugs and butterflies. Jesus made them all.

There was a woman who lived near the town of Capernaum

who had a disease for twelve years. She couldn't stop bleeding. She had been to many doctors for help and had spent all her money, but no one could heal her. In fact, she was getting worse and worse. She had nothing to hope for, so she became very discouraged. She would just keep getting weaker until she died.

Somehow this woman heard about Jesus. Yes, Jesus had healed many sick people. There didn't seem to be anything He couldn't do. But where could she find Him? Everyday she hoped that sometime, she would see Jesus.

One wonderful day Jesus came to Capernaum. Maybe someone told the woman or maybe she just happened to be in town when Jesus came along. That day she saw a crowd of people. Jesus was coming down the street. But would He have time for her? There were so many people around Him, it looked impossible for her to ever get close.

The woman was determined to see Jesus. As she worked her way through the crowd around Him, she finally saw the Master. He was walking and talking with those close to Him and the woman didn't see how she could ever get His attention. She knew Jesus could heal her. She said to herself, "If I but touch His clothes, I shall be whole." She pushed through the people and finally reaching ahead, was just able to touch the hem of His garment. Instantly she was healed of her disease! Twelve years she had been miserable, but now she was made completely whole.

How good it was to be well again!

As soon as she was healed of her plague, Jesus turned around and said, "Who touched me?" Peter said, "Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee and why do you say, 'Who touched me?'" Jesus said, "Somebody has touched me for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me."

Jesus knew who had touched Him, but He wanted the woman to tell what happened. When the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling and falling down before Him, she told all the people why she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately.

Jesus, the greatest, the highest, the holiest, the Son of God, said to her, "Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith has made you whole: Go in peace."

Jesus can make you whole too. He can forgive you and take your sins away. If you put your trust in Him, Jesus can give you a new life. He can make you clean and pure. You can say, "I have been near to Jesus; I have touched the hem of His garment."

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

CHRISTIAN IDEALS

Howard J. Surbey

“Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the Word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.” Phil. 2:12-16.

An ideal is a picture in the mind, of what makes towards perfection. Notice our text is addressed to “beloved”, those who have accepted and are trying to follow Christ’s plan of salvation, as He delivered it to this earth. Because of the presence of sin upon the earth and our labors among sinful things, it is only possible to live a life acceptable unto God through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus our Lord. Notice that

we should follow our ideals not only when others see us, but in their absence, a consistent life at all times.

We must work out our own salvation, not that of another’s nor another person for us. Whatever we work at we usually wonder, who is the boss? and just how shall we work, in understandable details? Definitely we must work out our salvation as God said and revealed unto us through His prophets. God’s Word has given us the details. His Son delivered them, explained them, taught us how to do them. Christ’s disciples further explain them, give us example and show us how they fit into the problems of daily living. In order to follow these examples as delivered unto us, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we must labor humbly and submissively in love.

Our text does not say that we cannot meditate upon, reason and discuss His Holy Word, that we may form our ideals. But we cannot murmur and complain about their details, nor dispute one with another as to their need

and value. By our living from day to day, God and the world knows whether we are lights, as the sons and daughters of God should be. We should go forth as lights, holding forth the word of life. "In him (Christ) was life; and the life was the light of men, and the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not." John 1:4-5. Those who are dark in sin will not understand us today, even if we are fully living God's Word. Did you ever stop and think, just how much brighter professed Christians should be, than those who do not try to faithfully serve Christ?

"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thy self." Matt.22:37-39. God is love and we cannot be the sons of God unless we have love abounding in our heart. In the light of this Scripture, how much room is left for love of the world, of that which appeals to our carnal nature? We must confess daily that God is doing so much for us, and yet He so loved us that He gave His only begotten

Son, as a sacrifice for our sins. Do we "so" love God and if so, how do we do it?

That great sermon on the Mount, as found in Matt. 5, 6, 7 gives us many Christian ideals. A student of the Bible has said, "If we really lived these three chapters only, we would not come far short of Christ's Kingdom". We might say that Matt. 28:18-20 gives us a summary of all Christian ideals. Certainly, we can neither go nor teach, unless we know and experience it ourselves. Just what percent of my talents are used to help carry out this great commission? Matt. 13:3-9 gives some of the problems encountered in carrying out Christian ideals, it is similar to natural seed sown on the earth. However, if we properly push forth, we can attain to our cherished ideals.

The attaining unto the goal of our Christian ideals is obtained, only after various steps in Christian growth. We must have faith in that which we are striving for. We must strive lawfully – push forth our life according to God's Word. We are so blessed that Christ gave us our directions and even proved their value by His own examples. We cannot

attain unto Christian ideals if we are burdened down with the cares and trials of this world, we must come out from the world, forsake its enticements and grasp for that which fulfills Christian ideals, 2 Cor. 6:14-17. We must push forth and make a determined effort, if we ever expect to reach Christian ideals. We must bear our cross and not look for flowery beds of ease, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 9:23. Some efforts which will certainly help us to bear our cross are, searching the Scriptures regularly, encouraging one another, teach by example and word especially those who are near and dear to us. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16.

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

A TRIP OR JOURNEY

Sarah E. Yontz

Just recently my daughter and family, and myself, took a trip through some of the eastern states. I was reminded of our life's journey; first was a decision then a determination followed by a preparation. For many days articles were laid aside, things only that were needed for fear of excess baggage that would be a hindrance, so we on life's journey must only take needful things with us, love, kindness, obedience to God, and like Heb. 12:1 to lay aside anything that might be a weight and keep us

from making good time. We only had one week for our trip, just so spiritually we only have one life, it is very uncertain. May not be a week, so how necessary we avail ourselves to every opportunity.

In our preparation we had a small kit, with ointments, camphor, etc., in case of accident. On life's highway we often meet with occasions which cause deep wounds, hard to heal, we must use God's love, kindness, a forgiving spirit which He willingly bestows if we only ask Him. He will heal the broken

hearts, revive our low spirits and encourage us as we continue on in our journey.

Again, how diligently we sought out the road number on our map by which we traveled. Why? That we might not go wrong. A few times we lost our number, but we did not continue going on, we turned around, went back to where we lost sight of it and went on. How important that we studied our map, just so only more important that we study God's map, the word of God, and in case we err by the way just repent or turn around go back and make our wrongs right and travel on happily. How foolish, had we realized we were on the wrong road but just kept going thinking maybe sometime we would get on the right road; just so spiritually speaking, to go on, on the wrong downward road regardless of the warnings and teaching will only land us in destruction unless we turn and get on the upward way.

When we were in Gettysburg, a guide accompanied us, he being with us in person, made it all very interesting as he knew so well all the details, at the proper time he left us, and we must use our map. Just so with Christ, at one time he was

with His followers in person and could tell them all the details He and His Father would have them know. He too, left at the proper time and we are some of the group who have the map or Bible to direct us on our journey.

When we were on Tuscarora Summit, Pennsylvania, 2,240 feet elevation, it brought to my mind of living above the world, but we were soon down on the level again. Sometimes we experience mountain top experiences but remember when on the mountain top the valley is just ahead.

The automobile was carefully checked over before we left home. We inspected our clothing that they were clean and respectable, must have gasoline and oil to start with and would stop at a filling station when ever the gas would run low and get a new supply, without it the car would have been powerless. Just so with our lives we should with God's help check up on ourselves (not the other fellow), see our robes are pure and spotless, our hearts, filled with the oil of God's love from whence comes the power, and if we realize we are running low, pull up to the church which should be a filling station, get

a new supply at the hour of worship, from God through His ministerial servants and the blessed fellowship with those of like precious faith.

These are some of my thoughts, you may have many more, nevertheless we all have a limited time to make our life's journey, and we are fallible creatures subject to mistakes, consequently our machine (our self) must constantly be repaired that we may make the run on time. We climb the mountain

of time we will meet with the storms and conditions that makes traveling difficult, but may we be steadfast, keep our eye on the conductor, Jesus Christ, to run our frail barque safely to our eternal home where we will meet Him, our loved one and friends in God's depot at the end of life's journey or life's road.

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

FOUR VITAL REQUISITES

J. F. Britton

In I Cor. 16:13, the Apostle Paul, by Divine authority presents or sets forth four vital and imperative requisites that are essential in every Christian life. These four requisites read as follows: "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."

What a wonderful volume of meaning there is expressed in those four Divine requisites. They virtually embody all of the major duties of the Christian's ritual.

In order that the reader may grasp or comprehend the

vital significance of those four requisites, we will try to analyze them. Hence, we will consider requisite one: "Watch". Jesus said, "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." (Matt. 25:13.) And again Jesus said, "Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is...Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping, and what I say

unto you I say unto all, **Watch.**" (Mark 13:33-37.) Luke 21:36, we read, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man." And as God has given us our eyes to see and to look with, these Scriptures prove beyond all refutation that requisite one: "Watch", is inseparable and indispensable in the Christian's Creed.

Day after day, we are forcibly reminded of the vital necessity of watching. At least ninety per cent of the horrible wrecks and bad accidents are the results of someone neglecting to watch as he should have done. With the great flow of reckless traffic on our highways, one needs a firm grip on the steering wheel, and his eyes ever watching the traffic going to and fro, the crossings and the various signals, in order that he may reach his destination in safety. So, it is on our Spiritual Highway. There are many dangers to be watched: our daily habits, words and conduct need watching, because the satanic emissaries are ever on the alert to assault us, or to allure us into

some snare or trap, so that we will be defeated on our way to the City of Our God.

Requisite two: "Stand fast in the faith." This denotes firmness, stability and a determination that knows no failure.

Requisite three: "Quit you like men." This demands an impeccable character that lives above reproach.

Requisite four: "Be strong" calls for that high standard of spirituality and virtue, which implies and denotes faith, love and fidelity to God's Word.

Hence these four requisites are active dynamics that enable us to walk with God. Therefore, it is plain and logical that our salvation will be determined by the disposition that we make of these four requisites. Hence, it stands to reason, and is psychologically true, that all four of these requisites must be incorporated in our lives, that we may be qualified to "Enter in through the gates into the city" of our God.

It will not be enough for us to appropriate one, two or three of these requisites, it will take all four of them to qualify us. For, "Blessed are they that

do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life." Rev. 22:14.

Then in his language and sentiment of the poet, let us earnestly pray:

“Oh, for a heart to love my God!
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels the blood,
So freely shed for me.

A heart resigned, submissive meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne,
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone.”

Amen.

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

IS CONSCIENCE A SAFE GUIDE?

W. E. Shelton

After a diligent search of the Word of God, I am forced to give a negative answer, because facts are not destroyed by conscience, because if they were, a man might take a dose of strychnine, under the impression it was quinine, and it would be non-poisonous to him, it would be a waste of time to discuss this subject, if it wasn't a fact that so

many people are being taught to believe that conscience is a safe guide, perhaps not taught in just so many words, but the same impression, or the same idea is presented, when one is taught that it makes no difference what you believe, or what church you join, it's perfectly safe, just so you are honest about it. If it makes no difference what you

believe just so you are honest, then conscience would be a safe guide, and that's not all. One could be saved for honestly believing a lie as well as the truth. If such a theory is true, we would be forced to admit that honest ignorance is just as safe as accepting and obeying God's word in full. God is no respecter of persons; to accept such view, is to say that the heathen is just as safe as the humblest Christian, provided they are sincere in what they do. With such teaching would it not admit that Catholicism was just as safe as the true religion of Jesus Christ? If such doctrine is true in fact, then why not universal in application. If any religious teaching is subjected to the critical test of God's word, and found wrong, then those who accept it as true are mistaken, makes no difference what their conscience is in the matter. To accept a thing as being true does not make it so. There is a vast difference in faith and opinion. One might believe that the North American Indian is of Abraham's extraction, but that opinion does not make it so.

To ignore a mistake would not blot it out. We should know the facts in religion better than in any

field of human activity, because in it, eternal life is involved. Oh, but someone will say, what about a man that is honestly mistaken? To this I will say, this question belongs to God, and not to man, because clemency is a divine prerogative and God has the right to exercise it, but it makes no difference what God may do in such cases, the Law must be preached and practiced to justify approval. God's law does not allow us to offer salvation except on terms that he has specified, and what right does man have to be more liberal on the terms of salvation than God has, and say go to the church of your choice? If such by the mercy of God might be so, he has not authorized us to say so. It's a dangerous thing to point people to their conscience, or opinion in religious matters. If such ideas were mentioned in the Bible, don't you know people would take advantage of it, by neglecting to read and inform themselves, and is it not presumptuous for man to teach things that God himself has not mentioned? If honest ignorance is a safe guide, then would it not be wise to call in all the preachers and let them drift into heathenism?

After considerable reasoning,

let's examine some Scriptures, and see if we are right. I am not surprised to find people careless in religious matters, who argue that it makes no difference what you believe, or what church you join just so you are honest about it. But if we accept the Bible, we can hardly be excused in taking such a position. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death. (Prov. 14:12.) Everyday life abounds with instances in proof of this fact.

Christ before his death told his apostles what their future would be. Here are his words: "They shall put you out of the synagogue; yea, the hour cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service". (John 16:2.) Paul, persecuting the church, and consenting to the death of Stephen, is a clear example. Paul's conduct was not service unto God. He was mistaken. In 1st Cor. 8:7-12, Paul speaks of those who have weak consciences. If there are weak consciences, then there can be strong ones.

In Heb. 10:22, he speaks of an evil conscience. Surely no one would think an evil conscience a safe guide. In 1st Cor. 8:17, Paul speaks of the conscience

being defiled. This could not be if conscience was a safe guide.

In I Tim. 4:1-2, he describes some as being seared with a hot iron, and in 1 Pet. 3:16-21, Peter makes mention of a good conscience, after taking into consideration these Scriptures, we can readily see that the conscience is susceptible to a change, and cannot be safe only when good or right. It must be properly educated by the truth. When properly educated it will demand obedience to God's word, and that will be the answer to the demands of conscience. In 1 Pet. 3:21, he says that baptism is the answer of a good conscience. In other words, it answers the demands of a conscience properly enlightened by the New Testament scriptures. Salvation is promised to them that believe and are baptized, and if we accept the record as true, our conscience cannot demand less than baptism as a condition of pardon. We are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). Baptism is for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38). When these Scriptural requirements are met then we certainly have the answer of a good conscience. If baptism is the answer of a good conscience, then we must

have scriptural baptism in order to have the proper answer. It's possible that people can be satisfied in religious matters and be wrong, because if not properly enlightened, it will demand the wrong thing, perhaps be satisfied but mistaken. I wonder where the idea originated from that whatever satisfies your conscience is baptism, and will perform the act any way you want

it? The plan of salvation is fully described in the New Testament, and it makes no difference what our conscience tells us, the scriptural requirements must be met to be saved. Keep this in mind, facts are not destroyed by conscience.

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

2019 CASP PROJECT

Conservative Anabaptist Service Program

This program operates under CAM and provides alternative places of employment for conscientious objectors to serve should the U. S. government activate a military draft. CASP has pilot projects in place where draft-age men work just as if there would be a draft. In 2017, one hundred forty-six volunteers served on fourteen rebuilding and forestry projects. The goal of CASP is to provide ethical and moral work environments for alternative service workers.

Following are reports from five young River Brethren men who volunteered with CASP this winter.

I never realized how short a month could be until I got home from CASP.

As I think about what made it so good, I realize that it was spending time with great friends and working with the Rangers in the mountains. I enjoyed repairing trails and bridges, as well as cleaning old historic buildings with the flying squirrels and snake skins. Even painting in the activity center made rainy days productive.

Some of the fun things we did were hikes in the Pisgah National Park, where we spent the month, volleyball, board games, and of course, sliding rock, a

natural water slide. We also had enjoyable times talking together about the things of God. Fred and Diane Pifer did a good job being project coordinators. The job foreman, Jacob, and his wife, Rhoda, helped us get the projects done. And we definitely gave the cooks a full-time job. If you ever have a chance to go on a CASP project, don't turn it down.

Amos I Bricker

The month with CASP was a great experience for me. Not only did I learn to know the other ASWs, but the staff and Rangers as well. There was a lot of rain during the month and that added some challenges, for us, and the Rangers. Everyone kept a good attitude through it and kept everything going smoothly, a real blessing!

We did a lot of work on trails and bridges when the weather was decent. When it rained, we painted in the Discovery Center, or other inside work. Four days were spent chipping brush at the Ranger Station, three picnic areas, and the Cradle of Forestry, which is where we stayed. That's just a few of the things we did. We had a great variety of work which kept it fun and interesting!

I enjoyed making some new friends and being with "old" friends. I appreciated the spiritual atmosphere. We had discipleship class three times a week along with Sunday services. I'm grateful for the teaching on nonresistance. It helped to build and strengthen my convictions.

Highlights for off work hours were; going down sliding rock, visiting the awesome waterfalls at Dupont State Park, playing v-ball, climbing Frying Pan fire tower (the wind was incredible!), and driving on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

I enjoyed the month immensely and I highly recommend it!

Taylor Wingert

I didn't know what to expect for the month of February, but my experience was definitely much better than I imagined. Our team felt like a family – doing everything together every day. I thoroughly appreciated the leadership and the spiritual atmosphere that we had. It certainly was a spiritual growing time. The discipleship evenings every other night were very meaningful.

I really enjoyed the nice variety of work. Some of our projects were painting in the Discovery Center, chipping branches, building a heavy-duty foot bridge, replacing the planking on a ninety-foot long bridge, and building a retaining wall for a mountainside trail. The Rangers were very friendly and appreciative of our work. They also seemed impressed with our witness.

On two Saturdays we went hiking and saw some amazing waterfalls. Sliding Rock, a big smooth rock in the river that creates a natural water slide, was an experience we'll never forget. The water was thirty-seven degrees when our group slid down and splashed into the pool below.

I want to thank all the staff (including the dedicated cooks who made excellent food) and the CASP leadership for making such a worthwhile experience possible.

Josiah Hershberger

I really enjoyed the CASP project at Pisgah National Forest. It was better than I had expected. We had a good time working with the Rangers and making new friends. All of the

staff did an excellent job in providing for us physically and spiritually.

Some of the highlights I enjoyed were going down Sliding Rock and climbing the Fire Tower. The CASP project was a stretching experience, but it was good for me. If anyone has the opportunity to go on a CASP project, I would recommend it.

Malcolm Niswander

This past CASP project was a good time for relationship building, hard work and good fun. The few expectations I had were met or exceeded. I enjoyed working with the Rangers, doing whatever they had for us. It was fun for me to work hard with the other young men. The food was good, although over-indulgence may have been encouraged by the cooks. I appreciated the times of devotions and study. The lessons were strengthening, inspiring and convicting. The atmosphere of the month was good for Spiritual growth. I appreciated the amount of openness that we had as we got to know each other. The best part for me was the late-night discussions.

It was good to be reminded that our daily life is an example of what we believe. Whether we believe in non-resistance or not is evidenced by our daily responses to life. As I think back on the project, I'm not sure I would have changed anything. I am glad I chose to be a part of the program and will consider doing it again.

Christian A. Strickler

Selected by
Sister Mary Kay Bulman

Editor's note: *The above statements by the young men from the Old Order River Brethren concerning their service during February on the Dunkard Brethren CASP Project in North Carolina were first published in the "Golden Chain" newsletter and are used with their permission. We appreciate the service of these young men and the food and financial contributions made toward the project by the Old Order River Brethren. May the lessons learned be for a lifetime.*

CASP OBSERVATIONS

I was privileged to attend the CASP Board and Annual Meeting on August 13 and 14, 2019 at Christian Aid Ministries Headquarters. The meetings were full of information concerning both the stability of CASP and governmental actions affecting Alternative Service.

In both meetings, James Yoder, a CAM Board member addressed some recent developments involving CAM, especially in Haiti. He was limited in what he could share because of legal, privacy, and spiritual concerns. CAM has

shifted some of their spiritual activities to other Conservative Anabaptist ministries serving in Haiti. Because of the country's political instability, even the United States government is unable to make a full investigation, necessary to reach a final settlement. The effect of this situation should be minimal on the CASP program. CAM has named an Interim director of CASP, Phil Mast.

During the open meeting on the 14th, there was a good representation of the constituency groups, plus

several observers from other groups considering joining CASP, plus family members.

Lynn Diller, who served as Moderator at this meeting also made a presentation on “The Differences Between Pacifism and Non-Resistance”. He pointed out that Pacifism is a political, philosophical searching for peace, but not a true searching for the peace of God in all areas of life. Their definition of peace is a national absence of armed warfare but has no basis for a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Craig Brown, the Director of Operations for the Selective Service System, spoke about the process of appealing for Alternative Service in case a draft were to be reinstated. A person appealing for service in Alternative Service should be processed at the same speed as those who will go into the military service. The appeal for Alternative Service will involve appearing before a local Draft Board. No members of these draft boards can be retired military.

Mr. Brown also spoke about what might serve as the basis of that board’s decision on whether to grant a person the opportunity to serve in Alternative Service.

Not only will the appellant be judged on what he says before board, but they will also look at his actions in his daily life and his postings on social media. This behooves our young men being very careful about what they do in their communities and what they share on social media. If their postings glorify, war, weapons and bravado, they may have a problem in the future convincing a draft board of their sincerity in seeking Alternative Service rather than the Military.

In the afternoon, Steve Barney, who is one of the members of the National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service, shared about the work of the Commission and also quizzed a panel of CASP representatives concerning the development of the CASP program. This Commission was established in late 2016 to study several areas of disagreement that arose in Congress. The group was charged with investigating these areas of disagreement and to make a report to Congress in the spring of 2020. During the past few years, they have held meetings from coast-to-coast to give opportunity for

those interested in commenting on the various items under discussion. They have held other public meetings in the Washington D.C. area.

Among the items under discussion is the registration of young women as well as men for a future draft. Another item is the possibility of dissolving the Selective Service System. Yet another is mandatory national service by every young person. They have collected the input of many groups and individuals on these and other questions. The Commission has a desire to see all ages of people in this country to contribute to their communities' and national good through heart-felt service.

It will be interesting to know the recommendations they give to Congress. Also, it will be interesting to see the actual legislation that Congress will enact as a result of their recommendations.

Mr. Barney spoke about the importance of service of each person living in this country. He asked questions about the

CASP program. He seemed pleased that the program was established to give action to the beliefs of those who formed it. He also answered some questions and commented on various positions particularly as it pertained to young women being called into service on the same basis as young men.

Mr. Barney and Mr. Brown stayed after the meeting to interact with those who chose to speak to them. The meeting was a full one. We are thankful for the opportunity supplied by the CASP program to prepare for the possibility of a draft in the future. We are thankful we were able to interact with and appeal to officers of our national government.

Continue to uphold our national and local leaders in prayer. We know that God is well able to shape and shift the decisions of these very powerful men. May we be faithful to the teaching of His Word and the leading of His Spirit.

Brother Milton Cook

NEWS ITEMS

2019 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2019 Leadership Conference will be held at the CornerStone Congregation, near Covington, Ohio on November 8 – 10, 2019. The sessions will convene at 8:30 A.M. on Friday and Saturday mornings. There will be alternate activities for the Sisters on both days. The Sunday public morning service will commence with Sunday School at 9:30 A.M., followed by the worship service at 10:30 A.M. The public evening services on Friday and Saturday evenings will begin at 7:00 P.M.

Evening meals will be served Friday and Saturday evenings at 5:30 P.M. There will be a meal served on Sunday after the worship service. All are welcome to enjoy these meals.

Lodging reservations should be made with Sister Bev Ann Bowman at 937-417-4881 (call or text) or by email at: bannbowman@gmail.com.

Directions to the meeting house of the CornerStone Congregation: The address is 5430 Greenville Falls-Clayton Road. Those traveling on I-70 exit onto North I-75. At the junction with Route 36, exit to West 36 and proceed through Covington to the junction with the Greenville Falls-Clayton Road, turn left to the church. Those traveling on Route 48 go to Covington and turn onto Route West 36 and proceed as above. Those traveling on Route 127 should exit onto East 36 near Greenville and proceed to the junction with the Greenville Falls-Clayton Road, turn right to the church.

We are looking forward to hosting all who will attend the 2019 Leadership Conference.

The CornerStone Congregation

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Revival meetings with Bro. Dallas Flory are scheduled at the Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation, October 15 to 20, 2019. Evening services are at 7:30 P.M. Sunday, October 20 is Lovefeast day, with services at 9:30 A.M., 2:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. We invite your presence and prayers at these meetings!

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will be holding their Harvest Meeting/Lovefeast starting Friday, October 18 through Sunday, October 20, 2019. Brother Keith Snyder from the Lititz Congregation will be our speaker for the weekend. Services will start at 7:30 P.M. on Friday. Examination service at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday afternoon with the Lovefeast starting at 7:00 P.M. on Saturday evening. There will be morning worship at 7:30 A.M. Sunday morning and Worship at 9:30 A.M. The closing service will be at 2:00 P.M. Sunday afternoon. A covered dish dinner will be at noon. We invite you to come and share the weekend with us. Please pray for the services and for Brother Keith.

Sister Susan Nines, Cor.

THANK YOU

We thank everyone who, whether through the mail or online, contacted us during the time surrounding our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Your kindness, thoughtfulness, and encouragement were very much appreciated. We are mostly thankful for your continuing prayers as we continue the journey before us. May God bless.

Brother Milton and Sister Marilyn Cook

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER
2019****Nov. 3 – The Binding, Blinding and Grinding of Sin – Judges 16:1-22**

1. Did Delilah love Samson?
-
-

2. We know Samson's strength. What was his weakness?
-
-

Nov. 10 – The Folly of “Doing Right in Our Own Eyes” – Judges 16:23-17:13

1. Can we do more by our death than life? Should we do more by life?

2. Is it possible that we can be like Micah in thinking that “the Lord will do me good” because we have someone or something godly in our life?

Nov. 17 – An Errant Tribe and a Proudful Priest – Judges 18:1-26

1. It appears by the statement in verse 14, “Now consider what ye have to do,” that the right thing would be done. Was it?

2. Was it right for the Levite to be a priest over Micah’s house, the tribe of Dan, or not at all?

Nov. 24 – Thanksgiving – Luke 7:36-50

1. How should a prophet respond to a sinner? How should we respond?

2. Are we like this woman? Do we love much?

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