

BIBLE MONITOR

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NOVEMBER, 2019

NO. 11

“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.

GREAT GOD AS SEASONS DISAPPEAR

Great God, as seasons disappear,
And changes mark the rolling year;
As time with rapid pinions flies,
May ev'ry season make us wise.

Our harvest months have o'er us rolled,
And filled our fields with waving gold;
Our tables spread; our garners stored!
Where are our hearts to praise the Lord?

The solemn harvest comes apace,
The closing day of life and grace;
Time of decision, awful hour!
Around it led no tempests low'r!

Prepare us, Lord, by grace divine,
Like stars in heav'n to rise and shine;
Then shall our happy souls above
Reap the full harvest of thy love!

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKSGIVING

During the Thanksgiving season, we often compile lists of the blessings that we have enjoyed from our God. He has shared with us abundantly; we need to remember those blessings. Our physical and temporal blessings should be received with thankfulness, without forgetting spiritual blessings. It ends up that we can never make an all-inclusive list, since our minds are boggled by the immensity of both that task and of His power to continuously give. His giving is not limited to what we can think of and write down, since He has done much for us that we do not fully understand or appreciate.

His blessings may be very basic, including life itself, as well as relationships, not only with Him, but also with others. He

has not only given us life, but he has provided the atmosphere that sustains our life with every breath. Beyond life and breathing He has given us the blessings that make our lives worthwhile and enjoyable. Our lives are more than the time we spend between our births and deaths. Our lives provide opportunities to serve Him and to serve those around us.

Considering the breadth of His giving and the fulfillment of our needs, how should we express our thankfulness? Although words seem inadequate to express the depth of our feelings, we should not neglect using them. We should never forget to express our thanks. A simple “thank you” may be the best expression.

The most important reaction

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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.

to His giving is to accept what He has offered. God in His wisdom and power provides various gifts and abilities for us. He knows what we need to be fully equipped in this life. He provides exactly what we need. Realizing He has provided for our benefit we should appreciate and accept it. Remember He has created us to fulfill His pleasure, so we should accept what He offers so we can fulfill His desire. Accepting what He gives will add pleasure and glory to Him and ultimately benefit us.

Thanksgiving is often best expressed through thanksgiving. Our lives should express our joy and thankfulness as we dedicate our lives to serving God through serving others. This expression of service can never purchase our soul's salvation or His favor.

Our service is an imitation of Jesus' desire to serve His Father. Jesus often deflected praise for His service to His Father. His aim was to obey His Father. His level of dedication in fulfilling His Father's will included: His willingness to experience the suffering on the cross. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He committed Himself to the ultimate task that His Father had given Him while on Earth. Jesus not

only bore the intense suffering of the crucifixion, but even more the separation from His Father while bearing the sins of mankind. God could not bear to look upon the burden of sin that Jesus bore. We are thankful that He accepted that sacrifice for our sins.

We can never replicate Jesus' service. We can only imitate His giving nature. We can serve others as a testimony of His ultimate service. Our service can help and encourage those who struggle. While our goal should be their conversion, we can serve by providing what is needed at that time. Our service may be physical deeds, spiritual encouragement, or community advancement. The service may be through the church, other not-for-profit organizations or by individual effort.

Our service might not even include physical labor. Some serve by praying with or about people and their situations. Others serve by giving godly counsel, sharing God's Word as it applies to a particular situation. Others serve by their faithfulness. They may not have a public calling or official position but they are known for being faithful in their attendance of worship services, for being supportive of chosen leadership,

for being present when needed, for being knowledgeable of the Word of God, for working with others, and for giving financially when there is a need. They are faithful to the teachings of the Word and the practices that fulfill those teachings.

Thankfulness is not common in today's world. Many have been blessed but never acknowledge it. They have lost their humility before God. Thankfulness comes

with appreciation of God. When we become self-sufficient, we lose our need for God and become spiritually bankrupt. Without God we have lost all.

Having received not only physical, but also spiritual, life from God we should be of all people the most thankful. Being thankful, we should be the servants of all.

M. C. Cook

REST IN CHRIST

Matt. 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

How do you know that you are a Christian? There are many possible answers to this question and all of them legitimate. In a recent conversation with some of our young adults one answered, "Because it is hard." That may not be an answer most of us would respond with on first thought. But it reflects the sense of difficulty that accompanies our lives as we walk in faith with Christ.

We are not perfect. We still

make poor choices. Temptations sometimes abound. Relationships flounder. We misunderstand and are misunderstood. Accusations from without and within can cause us to despair. Responding with faith, love, and forgiveness to any and all situations is elusive especially in the first moments of trial. How we yearn for this life of faith to be easier. Jesus warned us that it is a difficult path to walk. But it is the only path that leads to genuine and supernatural life.

So, it is both natural and usual that we feel the difficulty of following Christ faithfully. G. K. Chesterton, a British pundit during the first third of the twentieth century, once made this observation. "Christianity has

not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult and not tried.” Chesterton is saying that there is nothing superficial about Christianity. It challenges every part of our being. Its depths and heights are never fully discovered. Living as a Christian is not for the faint of heart. It is not for the timid and those incapable of making any lasting commitment. So those who give up do so despite their tentative awareness that their heart is changing. Rather, they falter because they do not want to surrender their whole being.

I suspect that all of us who take our faith in Christ seriously recognize how inadequate we are in following Christ as being totally committed to His will. We see glaring inconsistencies in our character and vulnerabilities to temptation and sin. Thus, as we follow Christ, we are accompanied by our failures that can lead us to feeling burdened and loaded down. Therefore, these next verses are especially needful of us to hear.

Matt. 11:28-30, “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke

is easy, and my burden is light.”

This sounds quite different from what we’ve attempted to describe above. At the same time, it speaks to our condition as faltering and imperfect disciples with great force. Being a Christian can feel like a burden too heavy to carry. We need help. Desperately!! Jesus promises us rest from our burdens.

He offers His yoke to us so that we are no longer carrying the load on our own. He offers us counsel as to all the resources that are available through Him. He is not a difficult taskmaster who lets us know how often we fail and who’s to blame. Though a King He wants to serve us by demonstrating His power in our lives. He is not afraid to associate Himself with us though we have failed Him often. He is constantly available to us for every need that we have for He knows how truly needy we are. His promises meet our deepest need so that we find ourselves in a state of restful readiness. Our hopes, our confidence, and our strength are all intertwined with His unconquerable will that is eternal and everlasting. Despite any outward circumstances we can proclaim with Paul, “If God be for us, who can be against

us?" (Rom. 8:31) Our feeble steps through the transforming power of Christ in us enables us to, "...run with patience the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1c)

How we view this life of faith in Christ hinges upon where we look and what we hear. If I see this life of faith as what I have done or failed in doing, if I hear only voices that remind me of my faults, then this life of faith in Christ will seem bleak, difficult, and

overwhelming. It will be hard at the very best. But if I am, "looking unto Jesus" (Hebrews 12:2), if I am listening to Jesus, "learn of me" (Matt. 11:29), then all that I may do, no matter how improbable, become possible because, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Phil. 4:13) His yoke is easy. His burden is light.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

REST

"Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

When we come to Jesus, He gives us rest. When we search out the old ways, we can also find rest for our souls. There is no real rest apart from the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. No earthly thing provides it: not health, wealth, honor, or fame.

If we walk therein, it is the "good way" that will bring rest. The way of believing God's Word as a little child will bring rest to

our understanding. The way of trusting our lives to God will rest our mind. The way of obedience to God's commands will bring rest to our soul. The way of pardon by Christ's sacrifice will rest our conscience. The good way of communion with Christ will give rest to our heart and allow us to commune with fellow believers.

We receive satisfaction in walking this way, but not "self-satisfaction". We become content, but not complacent. We feel safe, but not free to sin.

If you truly believe in Jesus, perfect rest shall come. Romans 5:1 tells us, "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God." There shall be no doubt that His way is good, and

that it brings honor and glory to God. Resting in Jesus creates a tremendous satisfaction. Commune with Him closely, and daily. Enjoy His presence and delight in His being.

Is there rest in religion, or in cults, or in secret societies? Jesus is not a religion, but a person. He is not a cult, but the giver of salvation. His love is no secret and must be proclaimed from the housetops. False teaching is everywhere. Some say that only 144,000 will be saved. But the Bible says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

We invite all that labor and

Lead us, O Father, to Thy heavenly rest,
 However rough and steep the path may be,
 Through joy or sorrow, as thou deemest best,
 Until our lives are perfected in thee.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
 Mohler's Congregation

THE FINE ART OF WAITING ON GOD

Every Thanksgiving morning our house is filled with the aroma of the Thanksgiving turkey roasting in the oven. The smell activates my appetite as

all that are heavy laden with sin, or the cares of this world, to try Jesus. Just see if this claim is true or not. Many thousands have proclaimed it. This writer has proclaimed it. Our testimony is true. Many have walked this path before us. It is an old path. We follow in the footsteps of countless witnesses for Christ. Their path is clear. The Jews would not walk this way, and were carried away into Babylon, yet the invitation today is for them as well as for us.

It is the good way, but it is not an easy way. Only the fool would ask for that. It is free, but not cheap. This good way cost God His only Son. When we walk therein, remember the cost, and that our walk is being recorded in heaven.

nothing else can. Waiting for Thanksgiving dinner is one of the most difficult things I ever do.

Eventually, after what seems like an awfully long time, the

Thanksgiving dinner is ready, and we are all sitting around the table drooling over the spread before us. Nothing is finer, at least in our home, than Thanksgiving dinner with all the family gathered around the table. It is something well worth waiting for, although at the beginning of the day it does not seem like it is ever going to happen.

This is true of my spiritual life. I have not yet mastered the fine art of waiting on anything, especially on God. I suppose it is because I live in the ever present "Now". In examining this, I realize this attitude is that of the immature.

I find in my walk with God I have trouble waiting on God and allowing Him to do His work, His way, in His time. If only God would listen to me and jump when I snap my fingers, wouldn't this be a wonderful world.

Sometimes I wonder how frustrated God gets, even though I know He does not get frustrated, with all the eager helpers He has around Him. Everybody wanting to help God out and nobody willing to wait on God for Him to do it His way.

Why, I have the answer to other people's problems. I know what they should be doing, and

I am not too shy in letting them know the right way to go. The problem is, I am an expert on other people's problems, but I cannot seem to solve my own problems.

I suppose it comes to all of us Christians who want to help people out of their problems. My problem is that I really do not understand the root of problems. Sure, I can see the results of some of these problems and try to resolve them. It is very hard to understand what the root cause is of a problem.

If you have a tree in trouble and the leaves are dying you do not treat the leaves, rather you get to the root of the problem of that tree. And, in most cases, it takes an expert to understand what is wrong and how to fix it.

I have discovered many people seem to have the same kind of problem with their roots, for each one is completely different. I do not claim to understand this. What helps one person may only aggravate another person's problem. Then this frustrates me, and I blame them for not doing what they are supposed to do.

This boils down to one basic problem. That problem is the difficulty of really waiting upon

God and allowing Him to do what He wants to do when He wants to do it and how He wants to do it. I suppose all of us suffer from this God-complex. It all started when Lucifer said, "I will be like the Most High."

But there is an art, if I can call it that, of waiting on God.

When you look at a wonderful painting, you know that behind the painting is an artist who has mastered the art of painting. So, it is as we come to God. Behind everything that God does is a saint who has mastered the art of waiting upon God.

I must confess that this does not come naturally or easy. It is a rough road to travel to get to this point of really waiting upon God. The key element to waiting on God is trust. Do we really trust God? We say we do, but our actions reveal another story.

At the core of this is an impulsion to "do" something. We feel that because we are Christians, we have the answer, and are obligated to do something even if we do not know what we are doing. The problem here is that we assume we have all the facts and further assume we can fix the problem. But sometimes, make that, most of the time, we do not have the

resources to fix anything.

The art of waiting upon God is simply cultivating a daily attitude of trust. That comes from giving myself sufficient time each day in the Word of God. The more I immerse myself in the Scriptures the more I begin to understand God and the more I can trust Him with all the issues of life.

The art of waiting upon God is also understanding my relationship with Him. As I begin to know God and understand my relationship with Him and He with me I begin to see the way to simply wait upon God for certain answers to certain problems. Perhaps the work of the Holy Spirit is to give me a sense of discernment to know when I am to work and when I am to wait patiently upon God to do His work.

To interfere with God's work is the greatest crime in Christendom today. If I really know who I am in Christ, I then am willing to let God be God and rejoice in everything He does. Waiting upon God simply trusts Him with the affairs of my life, all of them.

James L. Snyder
324 Bahia Circle
Ocala, FL 34472

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

November 2019 Study Questions

November 3 – Judges 16:1-22

Why did Samson go to Gaza, a city of the Philistines, to find a harlot?

What happened to those waiting at the gate for Samson?

How do you think they felt in the morning?

What does the writer of Judges not tell us about Samson that seems surprising?

What do we learn about Samson when he tells Delilah the source of his strength?

How do you describe Samson?

Commentary: Samson is bigger than life and he does things in a big way. Though he may have snuck off to Gaza to hide his intentions the Gazites quickly notice his presence. Hoping to surprise and kill him as he left town, they are the ones who end up surprised and sheepish as Samson carries the gates of their city to a hill near Hebron many miles away. But Samson meets his match when he falls in love with Delilah. She pouts and cries and complains that he doesn't really love her (Judges 14:16-17) until he finally reveals to her the source of his strength. Her beauty and charms blind him to her treachery. He pays the price for letting his heart be blinded when his physical eyesight is taken from him.

November 10 – Judges 16:23-31

Where was Samson taken to prison?

What purpose does the lad serve in the minds of the Philistines?

What does the “short view” of present circumstances reveal to the Philistines?

How does the “long view” of present circumstances reveal to the Philistines?

How does Samson know about the two pillars that support the temple?

What eyewitnesses may have provided the information as to Samson's last moments alive?

Commentary: How can we connect with Samson in a way that we learn something from him? Judges reveals his sexual misconduct but makes no comment upon it. His spirituality seems suspect. But it does attribute most of Samson's exploits to the Spirit of the Lord coming upon him. It closes Samson's life with his prayer to God for strength one last time and recognizes his judging Israel for twenty years. So, Samson is no idolater vacillating between the God of Israel and the god of the Philistines. One thing we can learn is that God's gifts to us do not save us from our weaknesses. Our human tendency is to trust in ourselves and ignore, cover up, or minimize our weaknesses in comparison to our strengths. God is not fooled. The blindness of our hearts that sin causes too often results in harm to ourselves, to others, and to God's glory in our lives.

November 17 – Judges 17:1-18:1-26

For continuity of thought I have combined Judges 17 and 18 together

What are the first things you learn about Micah?

How do you describe Micah and his mother's spirituality?

How does the writer of Judges explain Micah's choices?

What benefit did the Levite bring to Micah's home?

What commonality do the Danites share with the Levite?

What bit of irony connects the beginning of Chapter 17 with the end of Chapter 18?

How secure is Micah's faith?

Commentary: The appearance of religious trappings (a Levitical priest, idols of silver, an ephod, and more) does not secure the presence and blessing of God. How shocking the worship of God can become when it

is based on our own wisdom. The contradictions between God's revelation and human preferences abound. A faith that has no root results in the rootlessness of those who profess it. Micah, the Levite, the Danites, and even the silver idols are easily stolen, persuaded by better offers, or left with nothing that brings hope. So, whether it is idols made by our own hands or cities built in our own strength they are empty of any lasting security that only the Lord can give.

November 24 – Luke 7:36-50

If you were one of the participants in this scenario whom would you choose to be?

Why was this woman crying?

What did this woman see that Simon and the others present didn't see?

Have you heard and do you believe that your sins are forgiven?

What makes faith saving faith?

Why do you love Jesus?

Commentary: Have you ever walked into someone's home where you knew that your very presence would at least be troubling to those present? Surely this woman needed great courage to walk uninvited into Simon's house. She came prepared to anoint Jesus' feet with the fragrant oil. But she hadn't anticipated that Simon would thoughtlessly neglect the hospitality commonly given to guests of having water with which to wash their feet. The thought of not being able to anoint his feet overwhelmed her to tears. With those tears came the opportunity to serve Jesus by using her tears and her hair to wash his feet. Her tears of sorrow became tears of joy that she could provide such a menial service for Jesus. To kiss his feet was an act of worship, given freely, without embarrassment or any thought of return. Oh, that we all could love Jesus as much.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

“AND HE SHALL CAUSE THE BLIND TO SEE”

Rudy Cover

Matt. 9:27-34

It was an exciting time. Jesus had just raised the dead daughter of Jairus to life. Everybody was talking about Jesus. His fame went throughout the land. Nothing seemed impossible for Him to do. The people followed Him wherever He went. Never had anyone seen a man like Jesus.

As Jesus left the house of Jairus, two blind men followed Him crying and saying, “Thou Son of David have mercy on us.” It had been prophesied that the Messiah would be of David’s family. This prophecy was well known, and those blind men were saying that Jesus was the Messiah. No one else could possibly do the miracles Jesus had done. The blind men had faith in Jesus, and they wanted to see so bad. It’s no joke to be blind.

Jesus didn’t seem to pay any attention to the blind men and went to a house where He was probably going to spend the night. The two blind men didn’t give up. They followed Jesus right into the house. Jesus said to them, “Do you believe I am able to make you see?” The blind men said, “Yes Lord.” Then Jesus touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith be it unto you.” And

their eyes were opened, and they could see! I think they had a lot of faith in Jesus, don’t you? How wonderful to see the people around them, the sky, the flowers, the green grass, the birds. There was so much to look at but best of all, they could see Jesus.

Jesus told them not to tell anyone, but when they left, they spread abroad His fame in all that country. They just couldn’t keep still. The greatest thing in their lives had happened to them. They were blind but now they could see!

Would you like to see Jesus? When we get to Heaven there will be many beautiful things to see: the New Jerusalem, the streets of gold, the tree of life, the river of water of life, the throne of God, the Holy Angels, but first of all I think we would want to see Jesus.

Jesus can cause us to see too. Without Jesus we would be blind to the good things in life. We wouldn’t know how to love, help or be concerned about others. Jesus can make a good person out of you, if you only believe in Him. He can make the blind to see.

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

THANKFUL FOR LITTLE THINGS

Maxine E. Surbey

“What are you going to do today?” asked Mary as she greeted her friend, Arlene.

“I was planning on going over to Esther’s house to do some sewing. We wanted to make some new dresses in time for Christmas and the time will soon be gone. Now Mother wants me to stay home and watch my baby brother, Vernon, while she goes shopping for groceries. He has been so fussy, and she doesn’t want to take him with her.”

“That’s too bad you couldn’t do as planned. Maybe we could play games together while you watch him, until your Mother gets back.”

Soon the girls were settled in the living room while baby Vernon was playing happily with his blocks on the floor.

The girls were so interested in their game that they didn’t see Vernon crawling towards their mother’s sewing room. Suddenly they heard a sharp cry! The girls rushed into the room where they saw the baby surrounded by spools of thread, scissors and pin cushions. A large needle was stuck in his thumb and he was screaming in pain!

Arlene rushed to the medicine

cabinet and quickly applied Merthiolate after she pulled the needle out. When Mother came into the house with her arms filled with grocery bags, she asked the girls, “Why is Vernon crying?”

“He upset your sewing basket and got a sharp needle stuck in his thumb. I’m so glad he didn’t stick the needle in his eye.”

“Yes, indeed!” said Mother. “There is always something to be thankful for if we would only realize it. I’m so thankful that my daughter was willing to give up her plans for the afternoon to help her Mother.”

“Thanksgiving Day is nearing and there is always something to be thankful for in just every day ordinary happenings, around where we work and where we play. Obeying your parents and doing the little jobs and tasks or chores at home is pleasing to the Heavenly Father, too.”

A thankful heart is a blessing not only to us, but to others as well.

“Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.” Col. 3:17.

Selected by Shirley Frick

THANKSGIVING

I would pass him at the dawn of the morning on my way to work, and again as the evening shadows fell across the homeward course.

I looked forward to seeing him. It would supply a "lift" for the day and help for the load ahead. And seeing him again after the load had been dealt with and the day was finishing seemed like a benediction.

He was the old man who sat in the rocking chair on the porch of the big house which was number 12 on the lane. Many years were behind him. His hair was as white as the exterior of the house. When he would spot me day after day, there would always be that cheery smile, the wave of the hand and the warm greeting.

But not this morning. It was so different, and the sight of him caused me to freeze in numbed surprise. Something tragic seemed to have clouded him. The smile was wiped away, to be replaced with an expression which indicated that he suffered some bitter disappointment – sorrow drew long lines on a tired face. Did I detect in those eyes the trace of tears which fell upon the paper in his trembling hand?

It was a long time before he

noticed me, and as I mounted the porch and eased into an adjoining chair, I could see that it was a letter.

"Yes – it's from my boy, far away –" he explained with words so soft, so heavy with sorrow as to be almost beyond hearing. "He writes and always tells what he wants – and needs –" The poor man seemed to be groping for words.

Suddenly the paper dropped from his hands and fluttered onto the porch. He lowered that white head into his hands. "Oh, but it hurts – it hurts – he never tells me that he thinks of me – never a word of thanks for all that I have done in years past. I want to give him things, of course, but couldn't there be just one word?"

I left the old man at number 12 alone with his grief and bitter disappointment, but that experience comes back to me with renewed sharpness and conviction upon the occasion of each Thanksgiving Day. We would condemn that son, but are we entirely clear of condemnation in this respect?

Do we express thanks as we should to those who do for us? Or do we just ask?

Think again of that poor old man at number 12, with the bowed head and the tear-filled eyes. Might he not be a reflection of the blessed Lord who gave His all and is continually supplying, as He thinks of us who bear His name but who

remember Him so lightly?

-American Tract Society
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of Truth, by Herald & Banner Press
Selected by
Sister Mildred Skiles

THE LORD REIGNETH

L. W. Beery

As another Thanksgiving Day approaches our attention is called to many things in this year 1939 for which we have great reason to rejoice and praise our God. It is true that war with all its horrors is in progress among some of the nations of the earth, and our own nation is faced with many problems as a result of it that are trying indeed. It is also true that there is much injustice, vulgarity, immorality, vice and sin of every description abounding on every hand. Then too, the condition of professed Christendom is so deplorable. There is so much apostasy, so much compromising with, and fellowshiping with sin on the part of those who should be a light to the world, and a power to lift men out of these besetting sins that are dragging men down to perdition. Because of these facts that are confronting us the future looks dark indeed.

In spite of these discouraging

matters however, we all have much to be thankful for. Especially is this true of the faithful Christian believers who by careful consistent living are maintaining their integrity in this world of sin. As a nation, we are a favored people. Although conditions are not at all what we think they should be in the light of scriptural teachings, the Lord is blessing us wonderfully. We have had a bountiful harvest; sufficient to provide food and raiment for every citizen of our own land and thousands in other lands. What have we as a nation done to deserve such a bountiful outpouring of the necessities of life? Is it an evidence of a merciful, a kind and a loving Heavenly Father?

Then too, we should be thankful that we as a nation are not living under rigorous restraint like some of our fellowmen of other nations. We still have a land of freedom to think, speak,

write and live according to our conscientious convictions. We as Christian people can worship and serve our God in accordance with the teachings of the New Testament without being interfered with by the civil authorities. In the light of what is being done to Christian people in other lands is this not a privilege which we should recognize and praise God for?

In view of what we are confronted with in these perilous days there is a thought given us in the Psalms of David that should give us particular delight. We have recorded in I Chron. 16, a psalm of Thanksgiving given by David in which he makes this expression: "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice: and let men say among the nations, the Lord reigneth." The thing that prompted David to offer this psalm was the goodness and mercy of God to the Israelite people. He speaks of his wondrous works, his care and protection over them, his faithfulness to them in the covenant that he made with them and rejoice greatly that his mercy endures forever. The main truth back of all this gladness and joy on the part of David was the fact that "the Lord reigneth." This fact was enough to satisfy him and give him hope for the future. It is sufficient to satisfy God's people

now and as long as time shall last.

We are living in a day when men's hearts are lifted up with pride and they think they are running this old world as they please, but they are sadly mistaken. It is just as true today as it was in the time of David, there is a God in the heavens, an all-powerful sovereign, who is ruling and reigning, and controlling all the affairs of the earth in spite of what men do. To ignore this fact is but folly that bespeaks a depraved intelligence.

It is true with Christian people today as it was with David, we are prompted to offer thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for his remembrance of us in supplying us with the necessities of life, for his care and protection over us amidst all the troubles and dangers of life, and especially for his faithfulness to us in the covenant that he has made with us through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even unto this sinful generation, and as long as the earth shall stand, the mercy of the Lord endures and they that seek it through the Christ shall never seek it in vain. Praise God, the Lord reigneth, let the heavens be glad and let the earth rejoice.

Selected from the
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WHY GIVE THANKS

Howard J. Surbey

“That they should seek the Lord if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.” Acts 17:27-28. “God is not far from every one of us”, how close do you want to be to God? How far do you want to get from civilization? How far dare you venture from food? How far dare you venture from water? How far dare you venture from God?

“For we are also his offspring” without question we should know that our soul is the direct offspring of God. God is a spirit and our soul is a spirit. We are not to think of God, as an image of something made of gold, silver, stone or wood. We are not an image of something made by man. We are more than an image, we are life, soul, and heir of God. We might study some of the various things which God has created and concluded that it is marvelously made. Man is more so than anything we

might study; man is fearfully and wonderfully made. Man is the highest of God's creation, in fact so much higher than anything else, that God gave man rule and dominion over all His creation.

“In Him we live”, dear Reader, how long do you want to try to live without God? Can you even enumerate what all it takes, for you to live? How would you go about supplying each of these things, necessary to barely live? “And move”, did you ever sit down saying, “I am so tired that I can hardly move”? Just how would you come to feel any better, without God? How far could you move without God? “And have our being”, how much of your being, here, there and everywhere; just how much would you be without God? Your being is your very self, that which comes from God, that which distinguishes us from animals.

Regardless of how little you know about yourself, you must conclude that it is wonderful. It is high, it is great, it is holy; how much I need to be thankful that I am great? No that I at

least am as good as you are. I am so wonderfully made that I cannot be thankful enough for it. Just consider the little that it takes to keep one's self going. How thankful I must be that I have that little bit of that, which sustains life? Then how thankful I should be that I am living, that I am well enough to know and enjoy life. Just how can I praise God enough that I have health?

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Cor. 5:10. We will receive according to the things done in the body. We spend only a very short part of eternity in the body, but our entire future depends upon what we do and how we serve and praise God, that little time while in the body. We are given the mental faculties to say, yes or no; to praise and thank or to curse God. The good is on record and the bad is on record, what is my record?

As God looks down upon me, does He think of a thankful, appreciative, reverent individual? Even the little we may be able to do for others

how much joy comes to us with the knowledge that they are thankful and appreciative. With the innumerable important things which God does for us, which He knows are essential to our very existence, how pleasing it must be to know that at least some individuals are thankful. Is there anyone who does not have one thing to be thankful for? Dare we say there is not one, who does not have so many things to be thankful for that they have not time to enumerate them?

“And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in your richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in the word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” Col.3:14-17.

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

THE WICKER BASKET

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia with his young grandson.

Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could.

One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you, but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water."

The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.

The Grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again.....the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his Grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water

in a basket" and he went to get a bucket instead.

The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water, I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough" and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his Grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached the Grandfather the basket was again empty. Out of breath he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So, you think it is useless?" the old man said, "Look at the basket!" The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean!

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

Moral of the wicker basket story:

Take time to read a portion of God's Word each and every day. It

will affect you for good even if you don't retain all of it. Keep reading, keep spreading the Gospel, even if it is only one verse at a time. Take time to dwell on a verse for several days and take time to be quiet and listen to God's still, small voice speak to you.

God's love is like the ocean, you can see its beginning, but you can't see its end. God is more concerned about my heart retaining the good things of God!

Author unknown

Submitted by Shirley Frick

FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE

E. J. Reece

"It has been well said that faith sees the positive occurrence of foretold events, and fulfilments of promises beforehand," and the poet has beautifully expressed faith, and as we sometimes sing, "Faith is the brightest evidence of things beyond our sight; it pierces through the vale of sense and dwells in heavenly light."

Love unites him who has faith to him who has promised. Faith and love prompt obedience to the conditions, prescribed in the gospel, which will secure the reward. Jesus has plainly said, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them he it is that loveth me; and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him." "Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it, that thou

will manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world. Jesus answered and said unto him, if a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." So, it is plain to see from Bible teaching that faith accepts and love obeys.

I am glad that the scriptures speak of two kinds of faiths, of a dead, and a living faith, and if we read, we may know which kind we have. We have many Bible characters who were said to be men of faith, and of a living faith, and they demonstrated their faith by acts of obedience, which the living faith will do. Men who have faith act, they will do something. It led Noah to build the ark. It made Abraham willing to offer his son, Isaac, as a burnt offering. Noah and

Abraham were told something to do and acted according to the commandment. They with many others that the Bible speaks of demonstrated their faith by obeying. Just the same in love, a way to manifest love, and Jesus has told us how, see John 14:21-23.

In John 3:16 we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God loved the world and made it manifest.

The apostle John says: "God is love. In this was manifested the love of God because that God sent his only begotten son into the world, that we might live through him." (I John 4:8-9.) We know that God loved the human family, we know it, simply by what he did for them.

And the only true test of love to Jesus, is when one does his commandments. One time in conversing with a man who seemed to be quite well read, a professor of Christianity, being questioned in regard to many of the plain commandments, which he admitted were commands to be observed; but he did not do them. Yet he said, he cherished a hope of being

saved. I asked him on what was his hope based? He said the apostle John says, "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren." I asked him how he knew that he loved the brethren, which question he did not answer, only said he knew he did. I referred him to I John 5:2, where the apostle tells how we may know that we love the brethren. John says, "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep His commandments."

When the lawyer asked Jesus which is the greatest commandment of the law? 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 thyself."

Where such love abounds people will be found obeying from the heart the form of doctrine that God has delivered to them. Being made then free from sin, and became the servants of righteousness, "For the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness and righteousness

and truth, proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.” (Eph. 5:9-10.)

Jesus in John 4:15 says, “If ye love me keep my commandments,” then verse 23 says, “If a man love me he will keep my words.”

Jesus speaks thus of those who do not keep his sayings, “He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings. (John 14:24.) Of such he further speaks, “But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.” (John 5:42.) Yea the Lord knows his people, and that by their faith, love and obedience.

We may possess many good traits, which will do us no good, if we have not that love that prompts obedience to God’s word. Paul says, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not love, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal, and though I have all faith, so I could remove mountains, and have not love, I am nothing and though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not love, it profiteth me nothing.”

Just a few remarks on some of the above traits: Speaking

with the tongues of men and angels; some people are easily carried away with eloquence, and oratorical display, and what good is there in it more than to entertain, and to boost self. Having the gift of prophecy, and to understand all mysteries, and all knowledge and all faith, and not reduced to deeds or action, what benefit.

Even feeding the poor to the neglect of obeying the other commands, what profit?

“Love suffereth long, and is kind; love envieth not; vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.”

Well could Paul say, “And above all these things put on love which is the bond of perfectness.” Right faith and love make Christians. How important we look well to our going, as to what kind of faith we are in possession of whether it is a dead or living faith, the word will tell; it is our privilege to know, also of love, whether it is perfect and unfeigned, there are different kinds; so in religion, a pure and a vain. A big difference in the two, remember.

The apostle Peter in teaching those who were born again of the incorruptible seed by the word of God which liveth and abideth forever, says to add to their faith virtue and to virtue knowledge; to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. And further concludes by saying,

“Wherefore the rather brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things ye shall never fall.”

May we all have that faith and love that will prompt us to know and do his will is my prayer.

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

OBITUARIES

REBECCA STALTER

Rebecca Marie (Blocher) Stalter, age 60, passed away peacefully, Sunday evening, August 25, 2019 at her home surrounded by her family. She was born February 6, 1959 in Modesto, California to Earl and Dorothy (Andrews) Blocher. When she was six months old, the family moved to the Greenville, Ohio area. At age sixteen, she committed her life to the Lord at the Dunkard Brethren Church of Englewood, Ohio. Around age seventeen, they spent a year in Modesto, California to care for her Grandpa Blocher until his death. While there, she graduated from Oakdale High School and then returned to Greenville, Ohio.

She married Ralph L. Stalter on July 4, 1987. They enjoyed thirty-two years of marriage. She was a member of Twin Oaks Old Brethren Church of Wakarusa, Indiana. She was a homemaker and enjoyed sewing baby blankets and little girl dresses. She was always willing to lend a hand to someone in need.

She is survived by her husband, Ralph, of Nappanee, Indiana, two daughters, Diana (Marcus) Royer of Elkhart, Indiana, Marletta (Abe) Bowser of Harrison, Arkansas, two sons, Myron (Ellie) Stalter, Bremen, Indiana and Marvin Stalter of Nappanee, Indiana; six granddaughters, Larissa, Rosalynn, Angela, Lynelle, Danae, and

Whitney; two sisters, Bernice (Kenny) Fosberg, of Medway, Ohio, Ruth (Roger) Keeny, of Fawn Grove, Pennsylvania; two brothers, Steve (Karen) Blocher, of Bradford, Ohio and Craig Blocher, of Greenville, Ohio; brother-in-law Jan (Mary Ellen) Heisey of Taylorsville, Mississippi; Mother-in-law, Dana (Wyse) Stalter, Wakarusa, Indiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Freda (Jan) Heisey; and father-in-law Larry Stalter.

Her last words to her family were, "Don't cry children, there's a better home coming."

Dean Jones and Shane Oberholzer had the Service on August 29 at the Yellow Creek Old Brethren Church, using some of her last words, "I want you all there", and James 4:14, "For what is your life?" Some of the songs sung were numbers 69,494, 452, 463, 376, 443, and 457, out of our little black hymnbook. Tom Royer had the graveside service and the songs at the graveside were 484, 499, and 100. "There'll Be A Light For Me At The River" and "Where The Roses Never Fade." "I'll live again" was read.

Where The Roses Never Fade

I am going to a city where the streets with gold are laid,
Where the tree of life is blooming, and the roses never fade.
In this world we have our troubles, Satan's snares we must evade;
We'll be free from all temptation where the roses never fade.
Loved ones gone to be with Jesus, In their robes of white arrayed,
Now are waiting for my coming where the roses never fade.
Here they bloom but for a season, Soon their beauty is decayed;
I am going to a city where the roses never fade.

I'll Live Again

If some morning I am gone from this vale of tears,
I'm going home to live again.
I am going on a trip when I say goodbye,
I'll live again over on the other side.
I've a mansion over there built in beauty rare;
I'm going home to live again.

When they lay me in the grave don't you weep for me,
I'll live again over on the other side.
I'll live again over on the golden strand.
I'll sing and shout with the mighty angel band,
You'll see me rise beyond the starry skies.
I'll live again over on the other side.

We would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, love and support the past four months. Please continue to pray for us.

The Family

KATHLEEN B. KEENY

Kathleen B. "Kathy" (Hilty) Keeny, 65, of Glen Rock, Pennsylvania died September 13, 2019. She was the wife of Fred E. Keeny, with whom she celebrated a forty-third Wedding Anniversary on November 22, 2018.

Kathy was born on August 14, 1954 in York, Pennsylvania and was a daughter of the late Clarence D. and Esther K. (Weaver) Hilty.

She was a 1974 graduate of York Vo-Tech and had attended Susquehannock High School. She was the former owner of the Pretty Pickens Gift Shop at the Shrewsbury Farmers Markets, Glen Rock, Pennsylvania, operating it for many years.

She was a member of the Conservative Brethren Church in Millbach, Pennsylvania and the Susquehanna Valley Region Model A Restorers Club.

Besides her husband she leaves a daughter, Heather D. Kreider and her husband Jason; a son, Jared A. Keeny and his wife Shelly; nineteen grandchildren; and brothers and sisters, Nancy Salen, David Hilty, John Hilty, Maxine Berger, Mervin Hilty and Sandra Lichtenberger. She was predeceased by a daughter, Bethany Keeney and a brother, Paul C. Hilty.

Funeral services were held on September 18, 2019 at the Grace United Methodist Church, New Freedom Pennsylvania. Donald Clapper and David Dennis had charge of the services. Burial was in the Bower's Church Cemetery, New Freedom, Pennsylvania.

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

NOTICE TO ELDERS

By call of the Moderator, Standing Committee will convene in a special session during Leadership Conference on Friday, November 8, as soon as possible after the last session of that day. Elders who did not attend General Conference should have completed credentials to present to the Credentials Committee.

Officers of Standing Committee

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2019

Dec. 1 – Sin Continues in the Camp - Judges 18:27-19:21

1. The Danites took the idols of Micah and set them up. They justified their actions by saying that the house of God was far away in Shiloh and they needed a local place to worship. What do we justify in our lives that is just sin?

2. How and why did a man of God unite himself to a concubine wife? Do men and women of God still join with the wrong people? What are some ways to protect ourselves from having this happen to us? What if you are already committed to this kind of marriage?

3. Was the old man a type of the savior in the last part of the lesson? How can we be aware of the surroundings we find ourselves in?

Dec. 8 – Sinking in the Depths of Sin – Judges 19:22-20:17

1. What was the attitude of the Levite and the old man toward God's righteousness? What lessons can we learn from their cowardice?

2. Were all the men of the city involved in the abominable act? If not, why did no one immediately stand against them? Why would they not listen (vs. 13) and hand over the men responsible? Do we?

3. The other tribes of Israel were outraged with the Benjamites when they discovered what had happened. What was their reaction and was this okay for Old Testament believers? What about us today?

Dec. 15 – The High Cost of Purging Sin – Judges 20:18-48

1. Why was the tribe of Judah called to lead this cleansing? How does that point to us as New Testament believers?

2. Why were the children of Israel told by the Lord to go up against Benjamin twice, with failing results? What are we to glean from this?

3. The price of rebellion is great. How many men were killed in this lesson? What are the reasons for the mass casualties? While we wouldn't think of literally killing our brothers today, if we haven't learned to treat others with mercy, grace, repentance and forgiveness, are we any better from a spiritual standpoint?

Dec. 22 – The Birth of Christ – Matthew 2:1-15

1. Why was Herod the king troubled when he heard about the wise men seeking the One born to be King of the Jews? Why didn't Herod already know about this prophesied event?

2. What is the significance of the gold, frankincense and myrrh? Who might the wise men have been? How many were there? Does it seem that they knew the One True God and His Word even though they most likely weren't Jews? Often in the nativity scenes we see the Maji, angels, shepherds and animals at the manger. Were they all there together?

3. Did Mary and Joseph arrive the same day that Jesus was born? What day was He born? Is it wrong to set aside a specific day to remember His birth? After all, Jesus is the greatest gift ever given!

Dec. 29 – Care and Re-establishment for Errant Brother—Judges 21:1-25

1. Why is it so important that the Benjamites have wives provided for them, rather than allowing that tribe to become extinct? What should we learn from this idea of not letting any people groups totally fail?

2. Non-conventional ways are used to procure wives for the Benjamites. This method may not have been God's perfect way to provide, but He allowed it. What are some unusual ways the Lord has supplied needs in your life?

3. The final verse seems to sum up the state of the children of Israel during this time in that "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." Morally, will we be any different if the Lord isn't first and foremost in our lives? Why?

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