

BIBLE MONITOR

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MAY, 2020

NO. 05

“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

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

THY GRACIOUS POWER

Jehovah God! thy gracious pow'r
On ev'ry hand we see;
Oh, may the blessings of each hour
Lead all our tho'ts to thee.
Thy pow'r is in the ocean deeps,
And reaches to the skies;
Thine eye of mercy never sleeps,
Thy goodness never dies.

From morn till noon, till latest eve,
The hand of God we see;
And all the blessings we receive,
Cease less proceed from thee.
In all the varying scenes of time,
On thee our hopes depend;
In ev'ry age, in ev'ry clime,
Our Father and our Friend.

—John Thompson

WHOOOPS! WE ARE NOT IN CONTROL

People often revel in their power, position and possessions, which are much sought after and often worshipped. The political world seeks power, desiring to design the social and governmental fabric of nations. Others aspire to high positions. They want to be noticed for their learning, ability, and notoriety. Others flaunt their possessions. They enjoy the using and showing magnificent machines, houses and valuable trinkets. Their possessions testify of their financial prowess and management. These trappings of society are often looked at by those, who lack them, with a great deal of envy and desire. They may be inspired by these things, or they may become so jealous that they acquire these things by

devious or violent means.

While highly valued by society, they may be set-against by the One who has the power, position and possessions that are far beyond the world's greatest. He uses many means to establish His superiority. He uses the power of nature to destroy and reshape the earth and men's structures. He asserts His standing not only as the Almighty but also as the Creator He is the owner of the earth and its little and large things. His wealth exceeds the riches of the most affluent in this world.

He possesses the means to disrupt the riches, power and possessions of men. He uses microscopic germs to bring the whole world to a near standstill.

THE BIBLE MONITOR MAY, 2020

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Governments are perplexed in knowing how to react. Businesses are bankrupted by the disarrangement of normal, financial markets. The gathering of wealth is in disarray as disease spreads throughout the world. The most powerful are made weak as His disruption becomes a whirlwind. The most prominent cannot defend against the disease any more than the poorest. Medicines and machines do not work their usual magic. Society is disrupted as normal activity ceases.

Whether this present condition is the result of some man's miscalculation or the judgment of God, it should cause each one to acknowledge men's lack of ability to control this situation. Hopefully it will impress upon the minds and hearts of men that there is a God and He is in total control. He wishes to awaken men to their utter incompetence.

How He will bring deliverance from the situation we do not know. He may use men to design medications or therapies that will overcome the disease. He could miraculously bring a sudden cessation of the disease. Whatever means

He uses it will be according to His wisdom not the learning or power of men. He uses holy and unholy men to deliver the world from this disruption.

If He does not bring it under control, how should men respond towards Him? They should acknowledge that He is good and knows what is best. If there is no cure, we will be forced to choose how we respond. Will we be angry with God because of His judgment of the world? Will we be willing to humble ourselves and acknowledge our trust in Him? With or without the present disruption, we are challenged to choose how we respond to Him. Will we acknowledge His power, provision and protection?

He provides not only our physical and social well-being, but He has provided for our Spiritual health. Our Spiritual health is a blessing greater than the multitude of blessings in the physical world.

Eternity is beyond the understanding of man's limited wit and knowledge. We struggle with the idea of time before this world was created and time after this world disappears. Eternity accounts for all that time, measured by means far

different than what we call time. His provision for our eternal life cost Him a dear price.

The price He paid was through the death, burial and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. He created man upon the earth to bring pleasure to Himself. Men through the sin of Adam and Eve, and their own consequent, individual sins, failed in the assigned task. Instead of pleasing God, they made themselves the object of their own worship. They desired power, position and

possessions. They defied God in their beliefs and living. The only viable way to bring men back to Him was the sacrifice of His Son as their sin-bearer. As recipients of that merciful grace, they could be redeemed to take their place in the family of God.

God has provided for the salvation of our souls and our reunion with Him. During the present crisis, are you willing to trust Him for His best outcome for you?

M. C. Cook

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we "study to shew ourselves approved unto God..."

May 2020 Study Questions

May 3 – Luke 11:29-54

Why does Jesus consider "asking for a sign" the work of an evil generation?

What is the sign of Jonah?

What does Jesus mean when He speaks of a good eye or bad eye?

Why didn't Jesus wash before sitting down to eat?

What was the emotional atmosphere around the table of the Pharisee?

What was Jesus' primary purpose in the things He said to those at the table?

How willing are you to hear the hard truth about your life?

Commentary: The multitudes had grown in size. Jesus' fame had spread farther afield. Success seems to be His for the taking. But Jesus knows that while His fame is a mile wide it's only an inch thick. People are curious and eager to see the next spectacular thing He will do. But instead of tickling their fancy He derides their motives. While people may yearn for a change of administrations both religiously and politically, they have little interest in changing themselves. Repentance and faithfulness aren't compelling slogans that motivate the masses. Jesus saves His harshest criticism for those with whom He has most in common: the Pharisees. Jesus has no interest in brokering any backroom deals that will strengthen His position amongst the powerful shakers and movers of His day. Many will conclude that while He knows how to stir the pot, He doesn't know how to feed those hungry for change.

May 10 – I Kings 3:16-27

What do you notice as the first woman makes her plea?

How does she know that the second woman accidentally smothered her own child?

What was Solomon listening to hear?

Why did the second woman agree with Solomon's plan?

How did Solomon's judgment reveal God's wisdom and justice?

Commentary: How did the case of two women make it to the Supreme Court of Solomon's administration? They are women and harlots to boot. So why should anyone really care? The true measure of the strength of any nation is how it deals with the least and the most powerless of its citizenry. Thus, their case was just as deserving of justice as the most powerful and rich. As so often happens in Scripture it is the least whom God uses most powerfully. And in this case, it is God's wisdom through Solomon that displays most clearly the glory of His justice.

May 17 – Luke 12:1-21

When we get caught up in some sin what do we hope won't happen?

Who are we to fear most?

How does God knowing how many hairs are growing on your head comfort you?

How does confessing Jesus impact you?

What promise does Jesus make when we are helpless before powerful men?

How do we overcome the seduction of riches?

Commentary: Fear is a normal reaction to things that threaten us. God wants to teach us what should be feared and how godly fear frees us to live faithfully. 1) Truth will ultimately reveal what is hidden. Therefore, we should never say anything of an evil nature, even in secret, so that we need not fear discovery. 2) Suffering for our faith, even to death, is not to be feared in comparison to being cast into hell and suffering for all eternity. 3) We should not fear that somehow, we are so sinful that we are of no worth to God. He has established our worth in Christ Jesus, even knowing how many hairs we have on our head. 4) We should fear the results of failing to confess Christ and thus miss out on the joy of Christ confessing us before the hosts of heaven. 5) Finally, we should fear temporal riches that can blind us to their fleeting nature and blur our vision of the eternal riches that are ours in Christ Jesus.

May 24 – Luke 12:22-48

What do clothes represent for you?

What is your typical justification for worrying?

How does seeking the kingdom refocus your mind?

What keeps you/us from receiving more of His kingdom?

What do you treasure most in the kingdom?

How many perspectives does Jesus use to describe the relationship between the master/his servants/his return?

Commentary: How would someone view you if they saw the clothes in your drawers and closets? Do they represent Christ's kingdom or your own? Many of us contribute things to thrift stores but seldom shop there. Where do we get our values for the basics of living? From Christ and His kingdom or from magazines and flyers that come in the mail? We live in a culture dominated by mammon. Every billboard we see, every advertisement we hear, everything we can want is but a few clicks of our keyboards within our reach. By comparison the kingdom that Jesus calls us to seek seems to promise us nothing but insecurity and worry. His kingdom seems counterintuitive to how we normally live our lives. Jesus challenges us to turn our attention away from all the false security that mammon promises and put our trust in the promise that it is God's pleasure to give us the kingdom. O we of little faith, are we ready to make God our supreme treasure?

May 31 – Luke 12:49-13:9

Who does Jesus sound like in verses 49-53?

How does Jesus cause division?

How well do you understand your own actions?

Do bad consequences tell us the truth about someone's sinful character?

Who are the three characters in the parable of the fig tree?

How do you interpret this parable?

Would the parable of the fig tree be different if it was about you?

Commentary: It may seem impertinent to suggest that Jesus is expressing impatience with His task in becoming the Savior. The fire He wishes to kindle are fires of judgment. Sin must be purged

from the earth. This judgment has no fairy tale ending. Rather division is the near future reality that cuts across all familial lines. Jesus is both the cause and the focus of the division. While we can discern the weather, without Jesus we lose our moral compass. We declare our innocence rather than taking responsibility for our actions. We offer no restitution that could lead to justice and peace. And too often, in order to make ourselves look good in comparison, we presume God's judgment as the reason for the tragedies which others experience. Let us be quick to confess and repent of our sins. Let us pray to be fruitful in Christ for we have no grounds to presume on His patience with our barrenness.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

WHERE DID I PUT MY KEY?

I cannot remember how many times I have locked myself out of the house not knowing I did not have a key. I am not sure why my door is so legalistic in that it only takes a particular key to open it. No matter how many keys I have, it will only take one particular key.

The same can be said about my computer. Whenever I want to open it, it demands a certain password. There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, but only four letters and they must be in a particular order. Then, you had better have the right password. That password can change and should be changed, so they say, on a regular basis.

Just because you use a

password you used last year does not mean it is going to work today. Being up to date with your password and PIN is crucial to security.

Having the right key is important. Just because you have a bunch of keys, does not mean you have the right key that is going to open your car door or your house door.

If only there was one key for everything, it would make my life a lot simpler.

If that were so, however, anybody could hack into my accounts and relieve me of my net worth. The problem here is, there are people who want to rob me and take away everything I have.

The only reason I have a key is to lock my possessions and keep thieves from stealing what I have.

Because of that, we need to have strong security programs to protect us and what we own. Those programs need to be very legalistic.

There are those who say that legalism is always wrong. I can see the point to a certain degree. But when a doctor is legalistic about their health conditions, they do not complain. When the mechanic working on their car is legalistic, they do not mind it. When the lawyer defending their case is legalistic, they are glad to pay for it.

Security and safety really depend upon being legalistic. Only one key, only one password, only one PIN and no deviation on this matter. This is very legalistic. And it is this legalism that protects us.

When we come to the spiritual life, people take a different view. Legalism should be completely ruled out of spiritual matters. Yet, it is very hard to find biblical support for that.

In this light Jesus was probably the most legalistic person in the Bible. Did He not say, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the father but by me." He is saying there

is absolutely no other way to the Father except through Him.

Isn't this being a little legalistic?

Of course, I understand the attitude of legalism in the church today. There are people, who are legalistic in the sense that what they believe and how they believe, and their opinion is the only right one. That is not legalism, that is foolishness. That is the foundation of a cult. Some do not know the difference between unity and uniformity.

It is important to differentiate between legalism and narcissism. Many religious narcissists out there are claiming to have the only message and the right message. If you examine their message, you will find it is not in complete harmony with the Word of God.

Anybody can pick a verse here and a verse there to support a doctrine, completely out of harmony with the rest of the Bible. What I believe must be in complete harmony with the whole Bible and should in no wise compromise the truth of the Bible.

What the Bible says is truth. No two ways about it.

If I am going to really understand the truth of the Bible, I need to know what security key is going to open the vault of spiritual truth. That

security key is Jesus Christ.

Our world is full of religious keys of every kind and fashion. Many of them look good and even smell nice, but they do not unlock that spiritual vault. It does not matter how many keys you might have if you do not have the right key you will never open the treasures from God's Word. Let us be legalistic about that. Truth does matter.

If legalism means you are right, everybody else is wrong, your interpretation is the correct one, and everybody else's is wrong, then you are definitely going down the wrong path. That is not correct legalism, but rather it is spiritual narcissism that has no support from God's Word.

If by legalism you mean that God's Word is absolutely true and correct and there is no variation

on that Word, then you are going in the right direction. There is no compromising when it comes to the truth of God's Word.

The only key that will get us into the presence of God is the Lord Jesus Christ. Apart from Him, the door will not open for us. Many people trust in man and man's wisdom, but it never gets them into the presence of God.

Not all the rituals and rites developed by man down the years will ever open the treasures of God's Word. When I get on my knees before God and through the Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I come into that holy sanctum which is the presence of God.

James L. Snyder
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PLEASE DO NOT CALL ME REVEREND!

"He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his name." Psalm 111:9

Holy and rev'rend is the name
Of our eternal King,

"Thrice holy, Lord," the angels cry;
"Thrice holy," let us sing.

—*John Needham, 1700's*
Brethren Hymnal #2

The only time in scripture the word "reverend" is used is in reference to God, not man, not woman. Today, in this world, there is very little reverence for anything or anybody, let alone God.

Children have little respect for their parents, or any other older people for that matter, because morals are no longer taught

to young people. The writer of Hebrews in chapter 12, verse 9, says, "We have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" This tells us that morals were taught in the past. How do we, then, serve God according to His Word? In verses 28 and 29 we read, "Wherefore we, receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire."

For a person to be called by the title "reverend", is close to blasphemy. It is human nature to worship something or someone they can see: a statue or a golden calf or something else of tremendous value. But it is even easier to put a man on a pedestal. At first, he is considered the "intercessor" between man and God but eventually he becomes worshipped like a God.

Man, by bestowing titles, power, and lavish clothing upon a preacher, makes him believe he is something more, in a different category, than all the rest. Most people change when they acquire fame, even among a few. We have seen many preachers, upon

gaining popularity, lose their Godly humility.

We cannot lift up man without failing to lift up God. When we read the Book of Acts and see what Stephen preached, and what Peter preached, and what Paul preached, we see that God was lifted up and man was sublimated as only God was able to save. Man has NO power of his own: NO authority of his own. God will give His servants authority but only by lifting Him up, not ourselves.

Those of us who preach the Word are often influenced by flattery. Look back to those preachers in Acts. Were they venerated with titles? Were they lifted up by men? They put God first, and when men assaulted them with praise, they fled to Him.

Often when we are treated as any other preacher, such as participating in weddings or funerals outside our circles, we are often given these titles. They must see in our deportment that we are not like the others. In whatever we do, we must lift up God.

Lord, forever at my side
 Let my place and portion be;
 Strip me of the robe of pride;
 Clothe me with humility.

Brethren Hymnal #442

Brother Lynn H. Miller
 Mohler's Congregation

CRUMBS FROM THE MASTER'S TABLE

Rudy Cover

Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Do you have a dog in your home? Many people do. Dogs like people – especially those who give them a home and feed them. Dogs don't sit at the table and eat like people, but many times they do lie on the floor when people are eating, hoping that some one will give them a piece of bread or meat, even if a crumb is dropped, they will eat it and appreciate it. Dogs seem to worship their master and are ever ready to obey them.

Jesus was teaching people in the northern part of Palestine and went into or towards the land of the cities of Tyre and Sidon which were along the Mediterranean Sea. Jesus was tired, so He went into a house hoping to rest. While Jesus was in this home a woman who was a Greek heard of Him and came to Him. She fell at His feet and said, "Have mercy on me, O, Lord, thou Son of David, my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil."

Jesus didn't answer her a word and His disciples came and said, "Send her away, for she crieth after us, she won't let us alone."

Then Jesus said to her, "I am only sent unto the people of Israel."

The woman came and worshipped Jesus and said, "Lord, help me."

Jesus answered her, "It's not right to take the children's bread and cast it to dogs." The Jews called all other people, "dogs." Jesus had never been known to talk this way to anyone, but He was testing this woman and He knew what she would say.

The woman said, "That is the truth, Lord, yet the dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from the Master's table." The woman was asking Jesus, who had helped so many and whose power and goodness knew no limit, to just give her a crumb. "Healing my daughter is nothing compared to all you have done for your people. I'm only asking for just a little."

Jesus, who had pretended to refuse the woman's request, looked at her with a love that only Jesus could have and said, "O, woman great is thy faith: be it unto you even as you desire." And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

We have a wonderful lesson here. The woman knew Jesus, alone, could heal her daughter. There was no other place to go. Even though Jesus pretended to insult and refuse her request, she still wouldn't give up. She kept asking Jesus even though she had to humiliate herself before those around her. She was willing

to consider herself a dog, to have her daughter well again. If we have great faith and humility and never give up, like this good woman, we also can eat of the crumbs from the Master's table.

Selected from the
May 15, 1980
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REMEMBERING MOTHER

Of all the words, there is no other
More dear to me than the word "Mother"
For Mother means so many things,
Revealing all the love it brings.
It starts a joy down in my heart
From which I never could depart
Her lovely eyes would seem to glow,
And with a smile, she'd always know
Before I'd even say a word
As if with inner voice she heard
What I was thinking; but she'd wait,
To show me if I'd hesitate.

I'd need not fear that she'd be glad,
To share my secrets, good or bad!
She knew she'd taught me right from wrong,
That trusting God would keep me strong.
Her faith showed in the prayers she said,
Learned from the Bible, daily read.
The stories she so often told,
Meant more to me than gifts of gold.
Her special sense of humor too,
She shared when I was feeling blue.
I'm thankful for each memory
My precious Mother gave to me!

— Margaret Umland

Selected by Shirley Frick

A GODLY MOTHER

Paul R. Myers

“For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of Him; Therefore also I have lent him to the Lord: as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.” I Sam. 1:27-28.

Emerson one time wrote, “Men are what their mothers make them.” Abraham Lincoln contributed much of his success to his mother, when he issued this statement, “All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.” John Quincy Adams made this statement, “All that I am, my mother made me.” D. L. Moody is quoted as saying, “All that I ever have accomplished in life I owe to my mother.”

Do we give to our mothers their due credit? Not only at the occasion of Mother’s Day, but every day of the year? Certainly, Godly mothers have wielded a good influence upon their offspring.

When we think of the Bible character Samuel, we are made to think also of his mother Hannah. Her influence in his life is vividly seen. The influence of a godly mother is beyond our estimate. The Bible lesson of Hannah reveals

some of the things that makes the influence of a Godly mother very effective. She exercised a prayer life. She was a praying mother. The very name Samuel means, “Asked of God”. She had prayed to God for a son and God heard her prayers and answered them. I believe she not only prayed for Samuel before he was born, but that she prayed for him much after he was born.

A sailor who had spent a night in sin, far from his home, upon retiring, made this statement to his bunk buddy, “My mother’s prayers haunt me like a ghost.” He could not forget his remembrance “When mother prayed.”

On a certain occasion when a young minister had sat down, after delivering his first sermon, he leaned over to the minister sitting beside him and made this statement, “I know my mother was praying for me and it helped me.” Certainly, the prayers of mother help her children.

I believe that Samuel was often strengthened by the thought that his mother was praying for him. A minister named J. H. Ainsworth has well said, “A mother’s prayer is a thought of love passing up to the

universal heart of God, and then returning, enriched with God's own blessing, sent on its way to the particular soul for whom the prayer is offered." Many examples could be given of the holy influence of the prayers of a godly mother. We, as children need your prayers, Mothers, do not ever stop praying.

The recorded prayer of Hannah is brief. It was offered when she was in trouble. Her prayer was secret, she spake in her heart: only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. When she included in her prayer a vow, proves that she had faith her prayer would be answered. Studying her prayer is time well spent. We have Hannah making a dedicatory vow, "and she vowed a vow." If more mothers would dedicate their children unto the Lord, it oftentimes would make unnecessary the many efforts and tears and prayers to regain or redeem their wasted lives in later years.

Today many babes are born of godless mothers. Mothers who never were on praying terms with God. Many babes coming into the world are not wanted. What a sad comparison with the birth of Samuel? And what an advantage a child has who is born into a Christian home! That child can

say in after years as the Psalmist David in Psalms 16:6, "I have a goodly heritage."

There must be love within a mother's heart to be a godly mother. Hannah loved her son. She also loved God. Because of her love to God she gave her son over to the service of God, as long as he might live.

She was quite willing to sacrifice by devoting her son to the service of God, in return for the answer to her prayer. The offer was made out of love. And what love, other than the love of God and Christ, exceeds a mother's love? The love of a godly mother is wonderful and can hardly be expressed. Yet it can be seen and felt. Mothers, often times, go through the valley and shadow of death to bring their babe into the world.

A mother will sacrifice the things she rightly needs for herself that her babe may have. Her time is not her own. Her desires are not her own. They are displaced from herself for her child. Mother's love never wears out.

"Her love outlasts all other human love,

Her faith endures the longest,
hardest test,

Her grace and patience
through a lifetime prove,

That she's a friend, the noblest and the best."

No one can estimate the influence of one pious mother. "The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world" is a very old saying, nevertheless very true. It is said of John Newton that he learned to pray at his mother's knee. Her influence in his life was so great that when he faced dangers at sea in later life, he prayed, "My mother's God, have mercy on me!"

History records that over a generation ago, a young schoolteacher by the name of Martha Campbell greatly desired to be a missionary. She wanted to help fallen humanity. She wanted to contribute to the advancement of Christ's cause here on earth. She repeatedly prayed to that very end. But God, for some reason, did not answer her prayer that she might go and perform this wonderful work, personally.

However, He did hear the prayer of the godly mother, and He did answer it according to His will. He did not send her. Instead he sent her two sons that were very active in the missionary field. He sent her three daughters, who with their husbands were missionaries. He answered her prayers.

Countless more instances

could be referred to, that are recorded, where the lives of mothers influenced the lives of her children. The Bible teaches, "To train up a child..." Hannah was preparing her child Samuel, before he was born. While I believe the Bible holds out the teaching, that what Hannah did for Samuel, she did for his benefit, nevertheless, God did not do it all for Samuel. He remembered Hannah. She was compensated by God for her effort.

T. DeWitt Talmadge, a minister of the Gospel summed up, in a few words, concerning Hannah, thus, "For all the coats Hannah made for Samuel, for all the prayers she offered for him, for the discipline she exerted over him, she got abundant compensation in the piety, and the usefulness and the popularity of her son Samuel." And that is true in all ages of all Godly praying mothers. When mother's prayers are answered in behalf of her children's spiritual welfare, it brings to her heart joy and happiness.

I believe many a godly mother has been troubled and fought many a battle in her heart, because of a wayward son or daughter. I believe if she has won that battle, it was won through prayer, as Hannah won.

The greatest battle that was
ever fought-

Shall I tell you where and
when?

On the maps of the world you
will find it not;

It was fought by the mother
of men.

Selected from the
May 1, 1960
issue of the Bible Monitor

VENTURING INTO THE UNKNOWN

Glenn A. Cripe

Luke 15:13, "He took his journey into a far country."

The spirit of venturing into the unknown seems to be born with the human race. This spirit has caused the success and failure of many a man. We all love to travel, some to a greater extent than others. We have some place that we would like to see, or we think that living in some other part of the earth certainly would be pleasant.

This spirit has been the cause of many families being divided. A son may live in a western state while mother and father live in the central states, another son may be in the east. Again, it may be that the parents live in Europe while the children live in America. For the most part they go while young, the aged being more content with that which the Lord has seen fit to give them. They go seeking their fortune if it be money, love or pleasure. When the sought is found they settle down to spend their

remaining days in the land strange to their fathers. If it is not found as is so often the case when they seek their homeland, sometimes sadder and wiser than when they left.

Sometimes this wandering of the young man is a good thing for him. It may cause him to learn to depend on himself or some other thing that will be beneficial to him. More often it is only the adventure of a Godless youth sowing his wild oats.

The writer has arrived at certain conclusions by observing those who have done as this young man did. One of them is that if a person cannot make good at home it is very seldom, he will do much better in a strange land. However, will not say much about that now.

What we want to do with this text is to compare it with our conduct and relation to the father in heaven.

First, we note. This is his journey. It is the journey of the young man. By that we conclude he had not consulted his father or friends about it. If he had done so it is not mentioned. The word "his" would indicate that it was conceived in his own brain and not that of another, that he carried it out alone. This is very similar to the way we act toward our heavenly father. We have a heavenly father and he has given to the world his word including his intentions for us and directions for the conduct of life. We have the angels to watch over us. We have the spirit who will guide us. Yet how often we do as the young man when we reject the counsels of God or do not consult him at all. In fact, I believe we very seldom counsel with him, asking his directions and advice concerning the affairs of life. We would rather direct our own lives in the way we want to go whether we know it to be the best for us or if we know it to be detrimental to our welfare and progress in life.

We have noted that he executed the plan he had conceived. A lot of he and him in that sentence but that is the thing that stands out in this text. A plan that is born in man's own brain must often be worked out by man if it is to be worked at all. The father did

not go with him in his scheme even though he did not oppose it. When we reject the counsel of God, we will not have his presence or rather help in the carrying forth of our human schemes. Sometimes I fear the churches do not make better progress and growth because they have too many such man-made schemes, rules, regulations and doctrines.

Second. His journey is into the far country. He is going away from home and familiar landmarks, away from his old occupations and all that is familiar. He is going to where new scenery will greet his eyes. His acquaintances will be exchanged for new ones. This is a call we all feel sometimes in our lives. The call of new things. We want a new automobile, a new home, or what not. It may also come to us in a spiritual way. We tire of the old church with its ordinances, restraints and practices. There will be reasons for our tiring in this way and those reasons may not be to our credit. When we do tire of them and leave them for other pastures, we go to a place that is far from the kingdom of God. We leave salvation with all its benefits. We leave behind us the Father in Heaven. We leave friends who would help us in times of trouble and danger.

Instead of all these benefits and helps we venture into the unknown where every path may be one that has unknown dangers and before we reach the strange land, we are headed toward we may perish. The bones of many a man and woman are bleaching on strange trails over which they attempted to travel without proper conveyance or being prepared for the dangers to be met.

When we leave for strange lands, we should understand that we shall learn new customs and practices. American ways are different from those of France, and so are the ways of God different from those of the world.

Third, we note that he had all his substance with him. His money was in his belt. He took all his strength and health with him. He has set forth with many assets to wander in a strange land. Will he lose them, or will he improve them? When we leave the father, we go forth with all we possess. Sometimes our possessions may not be much but what they are we are willing to risk them on our persons in a new land with unknown dangers. How much better to leave them in safe hands, the hands of the Father in heaven.

Selected from the
May 1, 1930
issue of the Bible Monitor

A REMINDER FOR 2020

Nations are puzzled, laden with fear,
All seems just darkness, year after year,
Planning and scheming don't seem to bring;
Peace and contentment – joy bells that ring.
Millions are asking what's it about?
There is an answer. . .God is Left Out!

Tempers are fraying, quarrels abound,
Many are saying solutions they've found;
Then like a bubble, they burst in the air,
Bringing depression, waves of despair.
Courage is failing in hearts that are stout;
Here is the answer. . .God is Left Out!

Some lives are needing assurance and peace,
 Hearts that are broken daily increase;
 Many are straying deep into sin;
 For some there is fighting and striving within,
 This is the answer, proclaim with a shout;
 There is the trouble. . . God is Left Out!

—*Eric Honor*

God told Solomon, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” II Chronicles 7:14

Selected by Shirley Frick

THE WORLD’S GREATEST NEED IS-NOT

J. C. Cline

More inventions, scientific research, or even the sort of learning now being taught in our public and private schools and colleges. “For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.” (I Cor. 3:19.)

But the world’s greatest need is in view of the brevity of life and the longevity of eternity a searching of the scriptures, a hungering and thirsting after righteousness, a seeking after that way of life that leads to eternal glory, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov. 14:12.) “Let no man deceive himself. If any man

among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.” (I Cor. 3:18.)

Nor is the greatest need men like Franklin who drew lightning from the clouds, nor Edison, who gave us electric lights; nor Ford who gave us cheaper autos; nor Rockefeller, to show us how to become millionaires; nor a Lindberg to blaze new air trails; nor Dr. Oberth to build and establish transportation to Mars or the moon; nor Byrd to investigate the Polar regions of the North and South; nor a Tom Payne to write a philosophy of life, nor a Darwin to give another

theory of evolution or origin of the species. Nor is it founders of and leaders in organizations, open or secret, with high sounding titles, grand mottos, enticing rituals and promises of great and lasting benefits. Nor great artists, to put on canvas his conception of beauty, nor a sculptor, to cunningly carve out of marble his ideal of beauty, nor a designer of modes and fashions, nor writers of stories for our magazines to employ the idle hours of mankind.

But men like Paul, who says, "we are fools for Christ's sake" we are despised even unto this present hour. We both hunger and thirst and are naked and buffeted and have no certain dwelling place, and labor working with our own hands being reviled. We bless being persecuted, we suffer it, being defamed, we entreat, we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscourings of all things unto this day. These words from the scholarly Saul of Tarsus who sat at the feet of Gamaliel and learned of him until he could not teach him more. Out of such magnetic material as Paul and Barnabas, God brought a man possibly the greatest human inspiration in history, after the brightness of the noon-day's sun, struck him to earth sightless and

burned the dross of egotism from his heart and made him to say, "Lord what wilt thou have me do." Saul on this occasion was going to do that which he believed to be his duty until God showed unto him his folly and made him forget his learning and become a fool for righteousness' sake.

Oh, that today the ministry of our churches were to come under the blazing sun, and have burned from them selfishness, world wisdom, indifference, and love of ease and become so sick at heart that their souls would be filled with the consuming flame of love for God that they might cry out, Lord, what must I do, instead of usurping authority and persecuting those who do not fall in with their plans and drive some from their most sacred place of worship, who desire only the faith of their fathers, a living faith. The prophet, Jeremiah, said, "Woe unto you pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture. Behold I will visit upon you the evil of your doings saith the Lord."

Nor is it the sacrifice that many parents make to acquire fame, riches, pleasure to gratify the insatiable appetite of their daughters for modern fashions of dress and dance and society so-called. The Psalmist exhorts,

“Ye rich men weep and travail for your miseries which shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted and your garments are moth eaten,” but the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart.

Nor ministers, pastors of churches of fashion and pride who are swayed by every wind of doctrine, whose ears are strained to catch only words of praise and whose sermons are prepared with the idea of feeding the sensationalists, the peculiar fancies of their richest parishioners, and who desire to be known as great leaders of moral reform. Legislative lobbyists seeking to do by law that which they should do in love. Seekers of the easy places and the pastorates that pay large salaries that their lusts after the “flesh pots of Egypt” are gratified.

But ministers whose souls are aflame with love to God for the richness of his grace, the plenteousness of his money, and his abundant salvation, and whose sermons are yea and amen and whose faith is founded on the solid rock even Christ Jesus, and who believe the Bible to be the word of God from Genesis to Revelation, and that it is the way of life, that Jesus is the door, and that no man

cometh to the father but by him. Ministers who like Isaac Long of the Church of the Brethren at Mill Creek, Virginia, who said “I would rather have a church of ten members who were Christians than a thousand who were only members.” Ministers who can and do walk in the Valley of the shadows whose tears fall with the sorrowing, and who can and do share in their transfiguration glories.

Nor missionaries who go out to foreign field on the most palatial steamers, and modern pullman cars to a home furnished and equipped in modern style and who carry pay in advance with a guarantee of his return expenses paid, whose head is filled with liberal thought and latest fads and fancies of our modern seminaries many of them leaving the impression that the history of creation is only a legend. The flood a myth and that even the virginal birth of our Savior is doubtful, seeking to establish their own glory and the glory that belongeth to the things of this world, who in the face of adversity, famine, disease or uprising are always ready to cable the missionary secretary for funds to leave the affected district, and who must have

periodical vacations with full pay and traveling expenses.

But missionaries who have heard the commission of Jesus, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" and provide neither gold nor silver or brass in your purse nor script for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves for the workmen is worthy of his meat, and as ye go preach saying the kingdom of heaven is at hand, heal the sick cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils, freely ye have received, freely give. Missionaries, who like Paul are willing to endure hardships and to lay down their lives if necessary, for the sake of the Gospel, who for edification, recounts some of his experiences. "In labors, more abundant, in strife, above measure, in prison more frequent death often. Of the Jews five times received I forty strips same one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, and a night and a day I have been in the deep; in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, weariness, in

watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness, besides those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the cares of all the churches."

Then Paul says, "If I must needs glory I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities."

He tells us in II Cor. 11:23-31 of twenty-seven hardships endured besides supervision of all the churches. The need is for missionaries who believe a whole gospel and go forth in that belief relying upon the promise of the Savior who gave the commission to go forth not depending upon doctors, hospitals, nurses or any other human agency, but believing that the Christ they preach for the healing and saving of the soul will grant the power to heal their bodies and take care of their physical wellbeing.

The great need of the world today then is men who have consecrated their lives mentally, morally, spiritually and physically to the service of God and who will go forth in his name and by and through his power, to work the works of the Father in Heaven in the rescue of fallen humanity, the building up of the faith of our fathers, and establishing again on the earth that Pentecostal

religion Peter preached and keeping power, the gift of the Holy Spirit, against which the powers of the devil fall, and cause great rejoicing in Heaven.

Nor is it great generals to go out in the name of humanity at the head of large armies to kill, slay and destroy men and property "to make the world safe for democracy" and to rob, plunder and take the possession of our weaker neighbors. Indeed, we may find behind the so-called patriotic movements of armies the greedy lust of those who thought war, talked war, until they stilled their consciences into a belief fallacious as it was, that enabled them to make war. No need for a Lee, Jackson or Davis to lead an army of men and to incite blood lust in the hearts of the flower of young manhood in south, or a Lincoln or Grant or Stanton to instill into the minds of the people of the north, that the only way to save the Union was with guns, ammunition, and fire to destroy men, women and children, and homes and property of the south.

In the world war, whose aftermath we are now feeling, statistics say 13,000,000 lives were sacrificed, countless homes destroyed, millions of children orphaned and billions of dollars

wasted on the mistaken idea that might makes right, and to gratify the desire of a vain-glorious fanatic for world dominion. And on our own part to save the dollars of the men who exploit their weaker brothers on the stock markets of the world and to build from the chaos of lost lives, broken homes, orphaned children and widowed mothers, greater riches for them, to gratify selfish desires and ambitions. Matt. 5:39-40, "Whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also, and whosoever shall take away thy coat let him have thy cloak also." Isaiah 2:4, "And they shall turn their swords into plough shares and their spears into pruning hooks."

These lines are written by one who years ago gave all to Christ and who views with alarm the constant leaning of the Church to the vain glories of the world, and whose only desire is to see the Church of God stand, that the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

First Thess. 5:21, "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good."

Selected from the
May 1, 1930
issue of the Bible Monitor

OBITUARY

RETHA M. MATTHEWS

Retha M. Matthews, daughter of Owen and Ollie Mabel (Harper) Mallow was born near Clearville, Bedford Co. Pennsylvania on September 14, 1939. She went home to her Lord and Savior on January 10, 2020, making her sojourn here 80 years, 3 months, and 27 days. Realizing her need of a Savior at the age of sixteen, through faith, repentance and baptism, she was received into the Dunkard Brethren Church in October 1955. In April 1969 she united with the Old German Baptist Brethren Church.

She was united in marriage to Robert Matthews, Jr. on December 30, 1961. They shared the joys and sorrows of life for over fifty-eight years. She left an example of daily study of the Bible along with a quiet, consistent Christian life. She supported her husband in the Christian ministry for over forty years at home and across the brotherhood, traveling to the west coast four times.

As the years passed and health problems arose, she was anointed on four occasions receiving abundant comfort. She suffered a severe stroke three days after her eightieth birthday. Within an hour and a half clot buster drugs were administered and a miraculous recovery followed with all functions restored except her speech, which was improving daily. Her speech was perfect when singing and upon her return home from the hospital she broke out singing "Each step I take I know that He will guide me; to higher ground He ever leads me on. Until some day the last step will be taken, Each step I take just leads me closer home." After three months she became ill with a seeming virus along with ongoing heart issues, and her daily prayer for over a year became a reality and the Lord took her home very quietly and peacefully, in her home near Lebanon.

Remaining to mourn her departure are her loving husband, son Steven E. and wife, Louise; grandson Steven L. and wife, Michelle; granddaughter Kimberly and husband Keith Martin; four great-grandchildren; brother Eldon Mallow and wife, Angeline; three sisters Clara, wife of Roger Beegle, Naomi, wife of Curtis Bickerstaff, and Ollie, widow of Thomas Noecker.

Preceding her in death were a daughter, Karen Louise in 1963; her parents, a brother Manfred, and four sisters, Mildred Mallow, Evelyn

Moyer and husband Bernie, Loma Price and husband Walter, and Ilda Valentine and husband Glentis.

Her funeral service was held at the Fairview Mennonite Reception Center, Lebanon, Pennsylvania on January 17, 2020. Elder Mark Riffe opened the service with hymn 443, Elder Howard Hess spoke from James 4:14 (Life is a vapor) and II Timothy 4:7 (I have finished my course, I have kept the faith). Elder Richard Hess followed with hymn 483. Hymns during the viewing were 509 and 389. Her body was laid to rest in the Frystown Brethren Cemetery with hymn 456 and I Cor. 15:50-58. Hymns while filling the grave were 390, 445, 449 and 451. We rejoice in the promise and hope of the first and best resurrection.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

The date of the 2020 General Conference has been changed from June to August 29 through September 2.

During a recent meeting by way of a conference call, the Elders of the Brotherhood have decided that due to the Coronavirus outbreak and the many unknowns surrounding the issue, the date of the 2020 General Conference will be changed from June 6 through 10 to Saturday, August 29 through Wednesday, September 2. In this way, the basic format of having General Conference from Saturday afternoon through Tuesday evening with Business Day on Wednesday will be maintained.

As more and more states issue “stay-at-home” orders, and with gatherings of any size being discouraged or forbidden, it has become increasingly clear that our normal June date was in question. Add to that concern the fact that three of our four Districts had to postpone their District Meetings, it became obvious that it would not be possible to give adequate notice of any potential queries in advance of General Conference if held on our normal June dates.

The management of the Roxbury Holiness Camp in Orrstown, Pennsylvania, very graciously offered the dates of August 29 through September 2 to us as an alternative to our normal June dates. However, they and the caterer needed to know of our decision shortly. So

Standing Committee met by conference call recently and made this singular decision.

The Elders are painfully aware that the time of the rescheduled conference will present a conflict for some. There is at least one revival meeting scheduled for that week. Many students will have begun school by that time, and many college students report to campus and begin their classes during that time. There are other activities related to Labor Day Weekend which immediately follows. Also, quite a few people must hand in for their vacations the first week or two of the year, and it will be very difficult or impossible for them to get time off work for the new dates.

However, there was a strong desire throughout the Brotherhood to reschedule General Conference rather than to completely cancel it. It is anticipated that several Districts will be sending on one or more queries for consideration, and there is a groundswell desire that these queries be considered and not be put off for another year.

While it is always important to register for General Conference so adequate food and lodging can be arranged, it will be crucial for all who are planning to attend the rescheduled conference to register their intentions with the lodging committee as soon as possible. Partly because of the interest generated by the anticipated queries, we expect a larger than usual attendance this year. So, in consideration of our lodging committee, conference staff, and caterer, please send in your reservations to the lodging committee as soon as you know you are planning to attend. That will make things go more smoothly for everyone. Folks who plan on attending for just one day or even for only one or two meals should let the lodging committee know out of consideration for the caterer.

When making reservations please state date of arrival, approximate time of arrival, number of people in party, and approximate time of departure. Please send e-mail, text, or phone reservations to Duane and Tena Priest.

Duane and Tena Priest
51 Hillside Ave.
Manheim, PA 17545
505-771-2974
Duaneandtena3@icloud.com

Thank you! We hope and trust these revised plans will suit most folks! And we hope and pray the Coronavirus plague will be long gone by then.

With love in Christ
Brother Bob Lehigh

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020

2020 General Conference will be held August 29 through September 2 at Roxbury Holiness Campgrounds located at 13763 Cumberland HWY, Orrstown, Pennsylvania 17244.

Those traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I-76) at exit 201 take Route 997 south to the campgrounds.

Those traveling Interstate 81, North or South, take Exit 20 (Scotland Exit) and follow Route 997 north to the campgrounds

Please bring your own sheets and pillowcases. There is plenty of room for campers and trailers.

Conference Lodging Committee

NOTICE

All queries, reports and any other business for the 2020 General Conference should be in the hands of the General Conference Writing Clerk by July 15, 2020. Thank you.

Brother Bob Lehigh
5137 Waltersdorff Drive
Spring Grove, PA 17362
717-225-4928
rlehighdb@gmail.com

CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2020 Church Directories were ready to be mailed to the congregations early in April. If you do not receive your directory through a contact in a congregation, you may order up to 3 copies for yourself, while supplies last. The price is \$4.00 each. Order from Jolene Andrews at grtgma.pa@gmail.com or by calling 816-758-6285.

Sister Jolene Andrews

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who remembered by birthday with cards and gifts. I appreciated getting so many. May God bless you all.

Sister Jolene Andrews

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 2020**June 7 – Loosed from Bondage and Kingdom Parables – Luke 13:10-35**

1. What has stopped you from doing good?

2. What influence does the question in verse 23 have on you?

3. How have I refused God as my refuge?

June 14 – Too Religious to Love, Too Proud to be Humble, Too busy to Come – Luke 14:1-24

1. How do you show compassion for those around you?

2. What are the promises to the generous in verse 14?

3. What excuse causes you to miss worship with your Heavenly Father?

June 21 – Father’s Day – Genesis 18:16-33

1. Do you as fathers understand the gravity of the consequences of your actions? (Example: Lot vs. Abraham)

2. Abraham petitioned mightily on behalf of Sodom. For whom/what should you be petitioning as a father?

3. Can God say the same thing about you that He says about Abraham in verse 19? If not, what do you need to change?

June 28 – How Much is Jesus and One Lost Sheep Worth? - Luke 14:25- 15:10

1. What cross have you been called to carry?

2. If we as Christ-followers have lost our “Savour”, how will the world be seasoned?

3. What will you as a Believer sacrifice for one sinner?

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Dunkard Brethren Church
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