

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. XCVIII

SEPTEMBER, 2020

NO. 09

“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

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

TEACH ME THE TRUTH

Teach me the truth, Lord, though it put to flight
My cherished dreams and fondest fancy's play;
Give me to know the darkness from the light,
The night from day

Teach me the truth, Lord, though my heart may break
In casting out the falsehood for the true;
Help me to take my shattered life and make
Its actions new.

Teach me the truth, Lord, though my feet may fear
The rocky path that opens out to me;
Rough it may be, but let the way be clear
That leads to Thee.

Teach me the truth, Lord, When false creeds decay,
When man-made dogma vanish with the night,
Then, Lord, on Thee my darkened soul shall stay,
Thou living Light.

– Francis Lockwood Green

FILTERS

Filters are used by manufacturers, homemakers, medical practitioners, and others who desire to make their product as pure as possible. Filters strain out the impurities that might harm or destroy the machine or person who uses the final product.

There are many types of filters. Some filters are fine screens that prevent large chunks or clumps from being a part of the final product. Some filters are chemical or electronic that separates the impure from the pure. Some filters are microscopic that filter very minute viruses or other impurities.

There are various filters on machinery. These filters purify the fluids being used. Sometimes these filters become clogged and the machine will not operate.

In medical practice pure

substances must be used to ensure that patients' bodies are not contaminated. Medications must be made to the highest standard possible. The air in a room where surgery or other procedures are performed must be a free of impurity. Proper equipment is needed to provide a sterile atmosphere. When proper procedures are broken, there is a higher risk for the patient.

Manufacturing processes filter to remove potential impurities from the final product. Whether the product being manufactured is for heavy construction or for microscopic equipment, the integrity of the item must be at the highest level possible. Quality demands proper filtering during the manufacturing process.

Filtering is necessary in the

THE BIBLE MONITOR SEPTEMBER, 2020

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

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

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

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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home. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, all need to be filtered either before being brought into the home or as a part of home life. The housewife filters the ingredients that are combined into her recipes. Filters are installed on machines used in the home to prevent impure air. Screens are used to confine various bugs or small animals to the outside of the home.

Filters are needed in our everyday lives, whether at the manufacturing level or in our own homes. Filters are also needed in our Christian lives.

The primary area that needs filtering in our lives is our thoughts. Paul counseled the Philippians about their thought lives with these words, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Philippians 4:8. If our thoughts are filtered, we will not be led into ungodly, impure, or dishonest behavior. Our thoughts influence our words, attitudes, and actions.

God desires that His followers

apply these thoughts so their lives will be productive, honest, pure, and true. The thoughts promoted by the Satan-influenced world will not meet God's filter. We need to filter our thoughts and to reject any thoughts that Satan would suggest.

We need to have filtered thoughts to rightly use our tongues. Our words need to be filtered as they enter the ears of our hearers. Peter shares a filter that we need to employ in our speaking. "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." I Peter 3:10. We need to filter our speech, so we do not promote evil or mislead anyone. It is far better to say a little that is praise-worthy than to speak much that promotes evil. The tongue must be filtered since it is capable of both speaking the praises and glories of God and be used to deceive and to promote evil.

Our actions need to be filtered by the choices we journey through life. As we respond to those filtered thoughts, we will choose actions that are honoring to God and helpful to our neighbors. Joshua's challenge to his people is a challenge to us. "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will

serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15. The choice of false deities is always before us as well as how we choose to serve the God. Bible study that only parses words will be of little value until we also learn how to apply His Word to the activities of our lives.

As a child of God, the

greatness of the salvation He offers us, demands our proper application of His will for our lives. He has given us many filters to help us choose wisely. He has given definite commands and prohibitions and opportunities to choose wisely when doubtful.

Filters are needed for our thoughts, words, and actions as we strive to serve Him in a world driven by Satan’s desires. Use God’s filters!

M. C. Cook

LOOKING FOR TRUTH IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES

I must admit I sometimes get a little irritated when somebody says, “The truth shall set you free.” Usually they use it in the wrong context or in a context that magnifies them.

I realize people saying that have absolutely no idea what they are saying. They are using a phrase from the Bible, but they have no idea the significance of what the Bible was saying. This is not a motto for some political agenda.

Truth is a particularly good commodity in our world today. Some people will pay quite a bit of money to get the truth about something, but the reason they want that truth is so they can take

advantage of it, exploiting it for their own purposes.

Advertisers take elements of the truth and twist it to their advantage to make their product look better than any of the other products. This seems to be an acceptable process in our culture today.

There are people, who are really looking for the truth. The problem is they are looking for truth in the wrong place. By wrong place, I mean a place that will not give them the truth as it really is. If some people knew the truth about something, they would have to drastically change their life or lifestyle. Few people want this kind of truth.

People are looking for truth if it does not compromise their lifestyle. This is quite important. If I can continue going and doing the things I like to do. I am willing to accept the truth. However, if that truth contradicts my lifestyle in any way, I am going to find a way to discredit that truth.

I want truth, wherever I find it, to accommodate and support my personal lifestyle. I am the measure of truth.

Many people are gifted at doing such a thing. They can take truth and wrap it in such a way as to be offensive to nobody. I am not quite sure how they do that, but they are experts at it. What is important to people today is something that substantiates their idea of right and wrong, which changes generationally.

Also, people are looking for truth that will entertain them. If we cannot wrap the truth in an entertainment package, nobody really wants to know it. People want to be entertained at any cost. A lot of entertainment, but only a sliver of truth.

It often amazes me how much people will pay to go and listen to a concert. Maybe it is the Pennsylvania Dutch in me, but I have a hard time justifying that kind of expenditure. Or maybe it

is because entertainment is not that high on my list. I do not need to be entertained 24/7 to feel good about myself.

Then there are those who say they are looking for truth, but really, they are looking for something to muffle their guilt feelings. For us to deal with our guilt feelings, we need to embrace the truth that will deal with the scars of those guilt feelings.

If we are going to have truth guide us, we need to define that truth. According to the Bible that "truth", is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the absolute truth and the only truth that we can rely upon to guide us.

To know where to look is the first step in finding what you are looking for. And the only place we are going to find "The Truth" is in the Word of God. And when we go to the Word of God, we are not just pulling out a verse here and a verse there in order to make up our own truth. Too many people are doing just that.

We need to look in the right place for the truth, we also need to accept that truth as being from God and then allow that truth to effectively change our life and bring it into harmony with God regardless of what it costs.

For us to access the truth, we

need to go directly to God. Some people are satisfied with going through a priest or a minister and then there are those who go to the extreme and rely upon “occult” ministrations. All these falls short of what is available to the person who is truly hungering for the truth of God.

We can go directly to God and experience the truth of God on a personal basis. We have direct access to God in this regard.

Our reliance upon others can only take us so far. We need to

get on our knees before God and access the truth that He has for us.

Yes, the truth will set me free, but it is God’s truth that is in focus here. And the “free” that He is talking about is God’s definition and not man’s. Man wants to be set free from superficial things. God wants to set us free from everything and anything that will compromise our relationship with Him.

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SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES...

“...for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:39

John Chrysostom, an early and venerated disciple of Christ said, “The cause of all our evils is in our not knowing the scriptures.” Nothing much has changed since these words were written. We could easily argue with this point of view, but upon reflection it becomes clear. Look at all the church schisms in our lifetime. Some folks have strong convictions toward a scriptural teaching, while others do not. This causes division.

Take just one point of argument, for instance, the homosexual question. What do the scriptures

say? Look at Romans 1 and Leviticus 19. Genesis 2 tells us God made us male and female. Same-sex marriage is simply contrary to the scriptures as well as our culture, which also has condemned it.

For the past forty-five years people have been brainwashed into thinking “All you Need is Love” (an old rock and roll song exactly forty-six years old) in whatever way people can get it. The culture is gradually changing the way people look at things, but the scriptures, even if scholars change the words to appease the sinner, the scriptures will prove them wrong. The message is the same. It never changes. There will always

be the testimony of the Word to give credence to the truth.

Paul, in 2 Timothy 3:15, gives us the most important reason for learning God's Holy Word, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

As we read the Word and begin to see the trustworthiness of a Holy God, we begin to have faith in Him to perform the deeds He promises. This action of faith makes us "wise unto salvation" through Jesus Christ, in whose love the sacrifice was made.

In I Corinthians 15 it tells us "that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:" This declaration shows

us how important the scriptures are, or should be, in our daily lives. Psalm 119:11 says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee." How meaningful are these words! God's word keeps us from sin. In Psalm 119:105 we read, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It guides us in all truth. What other book can do that for us?

Forever with the Lord!
Father, if 'tis Thy will,

The promise of that faithful
word e'en here to me fulfill:

Be thou at my Right hand,
then can I never fail,

Uphold thou me, and I shall
stand; fight, and I must prevail.

-James Montgomery 1835

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

September 2020 Study Questions

September 6 – Luke 21:1-19

What sort of conversation was likely taking place between God and the poor widow?

How might you respond to your church house being destroyed or burnt down?

What is the likely course of action other messiah pretenders will follow?

Why are synagogues mentioned with prisons?

What does patience have to do with possessing your soul?

Are you prepared for persecution?

Commentary: Jesus is always drawn to those who walk by faith. This widow demonstrates that faith trusts in the grace and mercy of God. Faith looks toward God and the resources at His disposal rather than one's own resources. Those who were admiring the beauty of the temple walls probably thought of it as unconquerable. How easy it is to be seduced by the power of our own might that will fail as surely as though walls are ultimately town down. When this whole world begins to shake apart and every institution is toppled by those who conquer, will our faith be strong enough to face persecution, betrayal, and death? Only if our faith rests upon the grace and mercy of our God who can sustain us through every trial and whether by life or death deliver us from evil.

September 13 – Luke 21:20-38

How often in the last few chapters has Jesus talked about the destruction of Jerusalem or the temple?

Is there anything in these first few verses that suggests that prophecies about Jerusalem are in our past or yet to come?

What does the new normal look like in verses 25-28?

Is it only the fig tree that Jesus references?

How does our pandemic fit in the last days?

How does verse 34 fit with returning to normal?

What should we be watching and expecting next?

Commentary: Often we think on the last week of Jesus' earthly ministry and focus on His suffering, death, and resurrection. But His preaching and teaching are often focused on the destruction of Jerusalem and the

Temple. His last earthly days are full of warning of a future no Jew wants to hear. In 70 AD Roman legions tore Jerusalem and the Temple apart and the inhabitants of Jerusalem were slaughtered fulfilling nearly every detail of Jesus' warning. But the warning is not just for times past but is the future of the entire earth. Our present pandemic is but a mild hiccup compared to the end of history and the return of Christ. So, we must watch and never allow ourselves to become complacent, yearning for things to get back to normal, and remembering with longing the good old days. If we are vigilant and prepared, then we will stand before the Son of Man. I take that to mean that we will share in His victorious triumph that subdues all rebellion against His heavenly reign.

September 20 – Luke 22:1-23

How does “fear of the people” complicate plans to kill Jesus?

What are some reasons why Judas decides to betray Jesus?

What possible practical reason does Jesus send Peter and John?

Why is Jesus so eager to eat the Passover with His disciples?

What is the fulfillment that Jesus expects?

Commentary: How many of us are willing to sit at the communion table with someone we know who is going to betray us in a deeply personal and hurtful way? Yet Jesus says He has fervently longed to eat this Passover with His disciples. Rather than the moment being swallowed up in the dreadful prospect of what is to come Jesus relishes this moment with great anticipation. For Judas' betrayal is not the dark stain of rejection that detracts from the beauty of this moment. It is in fact the means by which the fulfillment of all that this moment points toward is accomplished. The sorrow that is there for Jesus is focused on what Judas is surrendering to and the consequences of his betrayal that will ensnare him. As we reflect on this drama being played out in the pages of Scripture may we draw upon His strength for ourselves. For Jesus has prophesied that betrayal by those closest to us will be common in the last days. What will glorify Him amid such betrayal is His all-conquering Spirit within us who loves us to the end.

September 27 – Luke 22:24-46

When did Judas slip away?

What is missing from so many who exercise authority over us?

Why does Jesus suddenly turn the conversation toward Peter?

Jesus predicts and Peter denies but why is Peter such an important key to the future?

What were the swords for?

What clue suggests that the disciples are beginning to perceive that trouble is brewing?

Commentary: Our difficulty with this passage arises from our familiarity with it. What we read is overlaid with our frequent experiences of surrounding those tables to which we are invited. We come every bit as human with our foibles as those first disciples. But we seldom perceive their desperate circumstances as compared to our own. From a strictly historical perspective it is just another group of men, like so many before and since, gathered around another petty pretender who cannot deliver what he has promised. Instead, they are sabotaged from within by betrayal, denial, and skirmishes over self-importance amongst themselves. What awaits them outside is the naked power of the political order, flexing its muscle, eliminating the threat to its borders. The doom of this movement is as certain as humanly possible. And that is the weakness of all power wielded by men who never consider the plans of God. For He is able to use the very power they exercise to bring about His own eternal purposes. They meant it for evil. He used it for good.

THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

Rudy Cover

Matt. 11:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36

There is something about a mountain that makes you feel good. I lived in the mountains for

a good many years and liked to climb to the tops of mountains. Sometimes it takes a lot of effort

to climb a high mountain. You may have to walk for several hours over steep trails, rocks, and water, but when you reach the top, how inspiring it is!

From the top of a high mountain you can see for miles. It makes one feel very small, but it makes God seem very big. To see the trees, waterfalls, and range upon range of other mountains, brings God very close. It helps you to know that God made the earth and all that is therein. God created the little wildflowers, the birds, the insects, tiny ants, and bugs, then we realize that He also made the mountains and the whole earth! When we gaze out across the valleys and see all this, it can only cause God to become real to us.

One time, Jesus took Peter, James, and John up into a high mountain to pray. As Jesus prayed the disciples noticed that He began to change His appearance. Jesus was transfigured before them and His face did shine like the sun and His clothes became white and glistening. Peter, James, and John were amazed at what they saw, but all of a sudden there appeared two other men, Moses and Elijah. Moses had died nearly fifteen hundred years

before and Elijah had been taken up in a chariot of fire nearly nine hundred years before. They were talking with Jesus. How could this be? They knew Jesus and talked about how He would die at Jerusalem.

Jesus came into this world to die. Because man had sinned Jesus was willing to die and pay the debt of sin. Because Jesus died, you and I have the opportunity to choose to live for Jesus. If we live for Him Jesus has promised us that after we die, we will live again – forever! Peter, James, and John really had a mountain top experience. Would you like to have been there? To see Jesus and Moses and Elijah in glory – that would have been wonderful. It would be worth climbing the highest mountain to see what Peter, James and John saw that day.

Someday, if we are faithful to Jesus, we will see Him. John says that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. Will there be mountains in heaven? John says, (Rev. 21:10), “And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God.”

We must get up on top to see. We must get above – we must strive for the good things in life – we must live for Christ! Like Mary the sister of Lazarus, Jesus said, “Mary hath chosen that good part which shall not be

taken away from her.” The top of the mountains can be ours if we are willing to climb.

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

HE IS WONDERFUL

V. O. Whitmer

A wonderful, matchless Saviour is Jesus Christ my Lord,
By all people in the world, He should always be adored,
He was wonderful even before He came to this earth,
A wonderful Creator before His wonderful birth.

Long ago the prophet called Him “wonderful, counsellor”,
Yes, our Lord Jesus was all of that and much more,
“The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace”,
His Kingdom, as it was said, is ever on the increase.

He came into the world, a babe born of flesh,
To bring a wonderful message from the loving Father, afresh,
A wonderful son of a young virgin, so clean and pure,
Though some said He was of illegitimate birth, they were sure.

The birth of this babe was told by angels above,
To lowly shepherds glad to hear of “good will and God’s love”,
A bright star led wise men from afar where the young child lay,
The town wherein He was born and slept on the hay.

They called His name “Jesus”, as the Angel said they should,
He came to save His people from sin, for no one else could,
A wonderful gift from God to the fallen children of men,
For we were lost sinners and kept sinning time and again.

When at the age of twelve a wonderful knowledge He had.
No one could fathom the wisdom shown by so young a lad,
Wonderful was He when John Baptized Him in the river,
For John knew He was the Son of a God of love.

The devil tried in a subtle way to make our Lord fall,
A wonderful victory o'er sin, a great lesson for all.
For our Lord would not yield in any way to temptation,
It would have ruined the wonderful plan of salvation.

He was the wonderful, mighty Messiah looked for,
The one Prophets foretold and expected in days of yore,
Wonderful was He when He preached the great message of grace,
The only way now open to redeem a fallen Race.

A wonderful physician Who turned none down, at any place,
The only doctor we know who never declined a case,
Cripples to walk cleansed and the blind could now see,
Those that were chained by Satan's power were set at liberty.

He was wonderful to comfort those who were sad amid gloom
There was joy when he called Lazarus out of the dark tomb,
With five loaves and two fishes the hungry people were fed,
To the hungry and famished souls, He was the Living bread.

To the parched and thirsty, the water of life He would give,
For He knew quite well that without it they could never live,
His most wonderful love was a true love that never ends,
He calls us no longer servants but calls us now His friends.

This true love was proved when He washed the disciples' feet,
After He had done this, their cleansing was surely complete.
As He did to them, we ought to do to one another,
If we will not do this, then we are not a true brother.

His broken body was as broken bread, for strength within,
The blood He shed for many, was for remission of sin,
"Father forgive them" he said, as they nailed Him to the tree,
This was His wonderful love for all, for you and for me.

As His precious blood trickled down and His life ebbed away,
He became our wonderful sin offering there that day,
Then they took His bruised body down from the cross,
This all turned out to be our gain, but to Him a great loss.

They placed His body in a new tomb that Joseph had made,
 As the Angel rolled the stone away the guards were afraid,
 To our wonderful Lord a wonderful resurrection,
 To us, who believe, is imputed justification.

Jesus the mighty conqueror destroyed the devil's power,
 Now God's precious children need not fear their dying hour,
 On the mount He gave the disciples their great commission,
 They must preach good news of salvation to every nation.

Caught up into heaven, He is seated at God's right hand,
 To intercede for all those who are of His chosen band,
 He is coming again someday, for His beloved bride,
 Will you then be ready to go for that Heavenly ride?

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

CHRIST'S COMING

Reuben Shroyer

The greatest fact of past history is that Jesus Christ lived in the world. The greatest event of the present is that Jesus is now in Heaven making intercession for us. The most important event of the future is that Jesus is coming back to earth again. Just so surely as His ascension from earth to heaven was witnessed on Mt. Olive even so His descent from heaven to earth will be witnessed. Even as earth once was the scene of His suffering and sorrow so surely is it yet

to be the scene of His triumph and glory.

Dear reader, are you looking for Christ's coming? Suppose you had a friend who just before he started on a long journey to a far country, promised you that upon his return he would give you a princely inheritance, would you not be looking, even longing, for his return? Even so our absent Lord has promised a glorious inheritance when He comes again to those who love Him and look for His appearing.

At His appearing the dead

in Christ will be raised up and the righteous living will be caught up and changed. (1 Thess. 4:15-16.) Yes, there will be given to us a new body, like unto His own glorious body. (Phil. 3:21.) "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." (1 John 3:2.) "...we know that when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Does not the bride long for the day when her lover will come and fulfill his engagement to her. No gifts from him, however beautiful or rare, can wholly satisfy her longings but when he comes, she is happy with him. Remember that the Lord is the bridegroom and the church is His bride. If you care more for other things than for Christ's coming it may be that your love for Him has grown cold or you are trusting on some other, instead of being joined in spirit unto the Lord.

You may ask, what difference does it make whether I am watching for Jesus' coming or not. If we are God's children then whatever concerns Him

should concern us, and the coming of Christ is mentioned oftener than many other things in the scriptures. In the Bible blood is mentioned 315 times. Death 300 times. Baptism 80 times. The second coming of Christ 319 times in the New Testament, besides, it is referred to in many places in the Old Testament. The second coming of Christ is mentioned 15 times as often as the resurrection. And yet how few sermons are delivered on this important teaching? Again, you ask, what difference does it make.

I answer it is God's command. He bids us watch. The Lord would have His people to be in continual expectation of His coming. (Matt. 24:42-44.) "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come...Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." (Luke 12:35-37.) "Let your loins be girded about and your lights burning, And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open to him immediately. Blessed

are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them." (Luke 21:34-36.) "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

If Jesus may not come at any moment, why then did the Lord command us so often to watch? If Christ's coming is imminent and will be at such a time when men are not looking for it is it not important that we watch at every season? If love to Christ is supreme, we will delight to obey everything He commands. Jesus declared: "If ye love me ye will keep my commandments." (Revised version.) When Jesus instituted the communion in that upper room in Jerusalem, He reminds

us of His coming. "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew forth the Lord's death until he come." (1 Cor. 11:26.) The last prayer recorded in the Scriptures is a prayer for the return of the Lord Jesus.

"Evan so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20.) This is the blessed hope and eager desire of every true child of God. Unbelievers scoff at the doctrine of Christ's coming. "...Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." (2 Peter 3:4.) The Psalmist said blessed is the man that sitteth not in the seat of the scornful. The faithful bride forsakes all others and cleaves only unto him whose name she has taken.

Brethren, if you have forsaken the world and are cleaving only to Christ, whose name you have taken, then the thought of His coming will be your heart's delight.

Dear reader, signs multiply on every hand, which show that the day is approaching. Soon, yes, very soon, we may be called upon to give an account of our stewardship. Are we

ready to meet Him?

Consider whether you are keeping the lamp of your profession filled and brightly burning. Oh, let us live soberly and righteously, and Godly in this present evil age. Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus

Christ. Let us be faithful in all over which He has appointed us. And when He shall appear, may we from His own hands receive the crown which He reserves for all those who love His appearing.

Selected from the
September 15, 1930
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE END MUST BE NEAR

Owen Mallow

Is not the spirit of the church leaving us in this age? "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobeying to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

As I pick up the New Testament and read this Scripture concerning the professed church of God in

the last days, I wonder if the churches are filled with these things in their members? If so, then the seeking heart in the world is left without human hope or guidance. When the Christian follows the teaching of God's Word, these things do not affect him.

The nineteen evidences of back sliding from the text, are among many people who hold high their form of godliness. So much unbelief is in the professed Christian of our time, which is proof that the coming of Christ is near and this makes the times perilous. Let us look back the past thirty-five years as worldliness increased in the churches, from then to this day the church has been

on its downward drift. Has the world ever witnessed a greater disappearance of spirituality? I do not believe this world ever witnessed a greater spiritual declining and back-sliding of God's professed children. This is proof that we are near the end.

Church members are no longer known and read as living Epistles. The distinction between these inside and on the outside of the church, is so obscure that men and women just smile, when asked to unite with the church. Some even tell us that they find better men and women on the outside. What is wrong with us as Christian people, are we too far out in the world? If the New Testament teachings were put in force and all churches were to live up to these teachings and these ordinances, we would have far more true Christians and greater power. One of two things must be done, either discipline should purge the church or God's Holy Spirit will find some other place to dwell.

The Kingdom of Christ and the kingdom of the world are two distinct kingdoms. The laws for the one will not do for the other. No where in

God's Word do we find that God in His wisdom gives His subjects duties in the worldly kingdom. Heaven and Hell are two distinct places. We have no Scripture saying that the subjects can dwell together. Then why do church members want in the worldly kingdom, to enjoy its pleasures, to help rule it and many other ways, when they are to be separated? Christ said that His Kingdom is not of this world. (John 14:36.) The Kingdom of Christ is a spiritual kingdom and has for its subjects, spiritual worshippers. All outside of this compose the kingdom of the world.

Every church member should realize that every soul belongs to one or the other kingdom. Now which one do you hold to? You cannot belong to both at the same time. (Matt. 6:24, Amos 3:3.) Christ said to your church members or children of His, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world even as I am not of the world." John 17:15-16. In spite of this church members attend card parties, picture shows and many other worldly

amusements, yes even in some church houses. In the past thirty-five years of my life there has been a wonderful disappearance of spirituality, a sure sign of the coming end.

In light of existing conditions, it certainly must be near.

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

PRESSING ON

B. E. Kesler

In our last article we had something to say on sanctification and suggested that it may be thought of in a comparative sense as sanctified, more sanctified, and most sanctified, and that we may be sanctified to a greater or lesser degree, conditioned upon our obedience to the Truth, that our souls are "purified in obeying the Truth only to the extent and degree in which in loving obedience we manifest the fruits thereof.

This suggests the idea of progression in the Christian experience and the divine life, or as Paul would express it, as "going on unto perfection"; and that the Christian life may be thought of as a development, a "growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." And this seems to be the idea in the mind of Paul when he wrote to the church at Ephesus as follows:

"He gave some, apostles: and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:11-13.)

Those different officials had their own line of work or functions in the church which each was expected to perform as "of the ability which God giveth", by application and study, "to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15.)

And all this was done that certain specific results might obtain as perfecting of the saints, the work of the ministry,

and the edifying of the body of Christ which means the church or body of believers. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect", and to the rich young ruler he said, "If thou wilt be perfect, keep the commandments." This not only tells us to be perfect, but also how this perfection may be attained, by keeping the commandments, or as Peter puts it, "Purifying our souls in obeying the truth", or the word of God, which is the truth. And to this end the scripture has been given, "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Tim. 3:17.)

Paul himself was not "already perfect" but was "pressing on." And James tells us, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man." Measuring ourselves by this rule we may see how much progress we have made toward perfection. To the Corinthians Paul said, "this also we wish, even your perfection." (2 Cor. 13:9.) And to the Hebrews he wrote, "let us go on to perfection." (Heb. 6:1.)

These scriptures convey the thought of progression in the divine life or of pressing on.

And so, Paul said, "Forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-14.)

When we speak of perfection, we do not mean godly perfection, for God is so perfect He cannot sin, but because of our imperfections, so long as we are in this life we shall be subject to temptation and so long as we are subject to temptation we are liable to sin, not because we have to, but because of weakness, or lack of moral stamina, or exercise of will power to resist temptation, and a determination to live right, we are overcome by the enemy of our souls and indeed to do wrong and so lead into sin, and the downward way instead of pressing on the upward way to "higher ground."

This pressing onward and upward, should be our constant aim and effort "till we all come in the unity of the faith." And while we may not be able fully to attain unto this coveted goal, yet it should be our constant aim. And if we can suppress the spirit of selfishness, and subdue the carnality that is in us, and

surrender the desire to have our own way at whatever cost, we shall have removed the greatest barrier and the most formidable obstruction in the way of perfect unity. And when we make up our minds to follow after the things which make for peace, and to avoid everything that tends to discord, we shall be a long way on the road to harmony and unity. So that unity, as other Christian graces, may be attained to a greater or lesser degree, conditioned on the greater or lesser degree of our consecration to duty, and devotion to Christ and holy living.

The unity of the "knowledge of the Son of God", may be had when we all cheerfully submit to His ruling and walk in His commandments and yield submissively to His authority.

Thus may we know Him, whom to know aright, is life eternal, and thus "growing in grace and the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ", we become more and more like Him until we all come "unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." And so, attain unto the highest degree of Christian experience, and Christian perfection possible to mortals as we are, and those heights are attained by pressing on. May our constant prayer be, "Lord, plant my feet on higher ground", while we "keep pressing on the upward way" and "new heights gaining every day."

Selected from the
September 15, 1930
issue of the Bible Monitor

THE HARVEST TRULY IS PLENTEOUS

Howard J. Surbey

When the harvest is spoken of, we usually think of the fruits of the earth, consisting of food for man or food for animals. Without this harvest, neither man nor animals would live very long. In this age of diversified industry with almost an innumerable multitude of occupations, the

harvest to an individual may be many things. However, it all sums up to the necessities of life, or that which one can trade for these.

Even with these facts in mind it is all concluded in the fact that "God hath given the increase." Without this bountiful blessing our labors would be in vain. In

many sections of the country the harvest is very plenteous at the present time. Why so? because God has supplied us with the blessing which develop an increase. It is astonishing to consider the vast difference a few of God's blessings will make in the increase, such as rain, sunshine, etc. As we go about reaping the harvest and preparing to store it for use at a later date, when it is not readily available, how thankful are we to our God who had so abundantly blessed us?

God gave to Noah a most valuable and definite decree, "While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, and cold and heat and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Gen. 8:22. First this is a very definite and satisfying fact, something to build our plans upon. Second, it is a very useful fact for our whole existence depends upon it. We hear so many statements in this day and age, but sorry to say, there are few of them upon which we can unconditionally depend upon. Because of life's uncertainty man often becomes discouraged and even causes him to lose faith in his associates. However, such promise as this from God can be depended upon to be fulfilled.

How thankful are we that God always fulfils His promises? How thankful are we that God gives us a harvest? How careful are we in the use of His blessings? Whatever our harvest in life is, that which we use to obtain the necessities of life, how appreciative are we of it and how careful are we of its use? Did you ever realize that you are responsible for the proper use of God's blessings? Whatever our harvest may be, some day a reckoning will be required, what kind of a Steward have I been?

No doubt we have all often been discouraged with the harvest which we received. As we labor, sweat and toil in one way or another and then this or that goes wrong, and in the end we receive little harvest for our labors. We are living in a day and age when man spends much time and words, considering whether he is receiving a full reward for his labors. Much dissatisfaction that trouble is stirred up when man feels that he is not obtaining proper reward for his labors. Does God receive full reward for the inconceivable blessings he bestows upon man? Dare we limit the question, in too many instances at least. Does God receive a reward for the blessings

He sends? Could it be that God is just as much discouraged as we are, when He labors so much and then man returns no harvest unto Him? Does He labor sufficiently that He deserves a reward?

Since it is no question in our mind, but that God deserves a plenteous reward, we shall meditate upon just what is a reward or a harvest in God's sight. God has supplied man with all the elements, all the animals, all the vegetation, an invaluable mind; in fact, all He possibly might desire to bring forth a bountiful harvest. Is His harvest plenteous and if not, why not? Are His laborers unfaithful? Just why does God so bountifully bless man? Should not the harvest, the satisfactions, the joys, and the benefits of this earth be divided to one purpose to honor and glorify God and prepare men for His Kingdom? Is God pleased with any other use of His harvest?

"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Eph. 5:20. How far does man come short of "always" giving thanks unto God? How far does man come short of giving thanks for "all things"? Does man fail to give thanks "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"? "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." Matt. 22:37-38. Can we carry this out without returning unto God a bountiful harvest? If we do not fully obey this "first and great commandment" how far can we get with the others?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Rom. 12:1. This is not a great accomplishment, no great harvest unto God, but rather only our reasonable duty to our Maker. How well do we fulfil even this little service? Now we come to some of the fruits, the harvest, the good things by which man can please God. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Gal. 5:22-23. We are His spiritual children. "God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in the spirit and in truth." Matt. 4:24. Are we yet carnal, Gal. 5:19-21 or are we bringing a spiritual harvest unto our Lord?

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

OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS CHRISTIANS

L. W. Beery

At one time during His ministry here, Jesus, in order to reveal to His followers some truths pertaining to the kingdom of God, spoke a parable of a certain nobleman who went into a far country on a mission, intending to return again. Before leaving he called his servants and delivered to them a certain amount of his money with the instruction "occupy till I come." From the instruction given it was the intention of this nobleman that these servants should be responsible for that which was left in their possession and make use of it in such a way that it would be of value to their master when he returned.

The servants realized the responsibility that was theirs but not all of them made proper use of their funds and when the nobleman returned each one received according as he deserved, their master being an austere man: some of them were commended and others were punished.

There are truths portrayed in this parable which we believe are intended for us in the day in which we live. Our Lord and

Master when He was about to leave this world said, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3.) At the time of the ascension of our Lord the angels bore testimony to this truth that the Lord would return again, in these words: "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

In applying this parable of the nobleman to us in our day we can easily get the lesson intended for us. Our Lord has gone to prepare a place for us, with the promise that He will return again. Before leaving, He gave definite instruction as to how His servants should conduct themselves and use the talents and abilities He has bestowed upon us, and we are not in ignorance as to the responsibility that is ours nor the day of accountability

that is approaching. His parting command to us is, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19-20.)

Our responsibility then is the spreading of the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, to all men. Our talents and abilities which the Lord has bestowed upon us should be exercised to this end so that our Master will receive that which is justly due Him as a result of our stewardship. To fail in this our duty will bring upon us shame and condemnation. We know that our God is an austere judge and that we will be judged in the light of His inspired commands and receive a reward in accordance with the deeds done, in the body. "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, who his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, that he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say

in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; the lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, and shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth." (Matt. 24:45-51.) This teaching of our Lord in connection with His portrayal of events preceding His second coming, is a solemn warning to us which we will do well to take heed.

The spirit of the age in which we live is eat, drink, and be merry, have a good time. Christian people need to watch and pray lest we enter temptation in these vain and foolish things about us. We should use the time while waiting for our Lord in spreading the gospel to the saving of souls that we may be accounted worthy to hear our Lord say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." "Matt. 25:21.)

Selected from the
September 1, 1940
issue of the Bible Monitor

OBITUARIES

DUANE E. REED, SR.

Duane E. Reed, Sr., 61 of Grandview, Missouri, passed away peacefully, June 23, 2020, from complications of colon cancer. Duane was born in Kansas City to Carl and Miriam Reed on October 22, 1958. He attended Grandview High School. He married Cherri Fuller on October 1, 1988. They were blessed with three children: Duane, Jr., Jaclyn, and Doug. In 2018, he became a proud PawPaw to his grandson Drake Edward.

Duane worked as a Glazier for the Kansas City School District for twenty years, and then was self employed as a painter until his illness would no longer allow him to work. He enjoyed the outdoors, hunting with his friends, and sports.

Duane is survived by Cherri Reed of Raytown, Missouri; children: Duane Reed, Jr. (Christina) of Independence, Missouri, Jaclyn Reed and Doug Reed (Michaela) both of Raytown, Missouri; grandchildren: Drake Edward Reed and Annabelle Lea; mother Miriam Reed of Grandview, Missouri; sisters: Sandra (Lee) Meyers of Peculiar, Missouri, and Donna (Davy) Myers of Dallas Center, Iowa; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father Carl Reed and sister Marilyn Reed.

Services were held June 26, 2020 at Park Lawn.

TERRY D. GUNDERMAN

Elder Terry Gunderman, 73, of Goshen, Indiana died unexpectedly July 19, 2020 at home.

He was born April 13, 1947 in Goshen to Reinhold O. and Velda Irene (Schrock) Gunderman.

On December 24, 1966 he married Lola Surbey in Alvordton, Ohio.

She survives along with daughters, Marcie (Craig) Troyer of Bradenton, Florida and Cristina Gunderman of Goshen, Indiana; his mother, Velda Gunderman of Goshen, Indiana; grandchildren, Braxton (Tiffany) and Dylan (Michelle) Troyer and Darion and Savanna Fager; great-grandchildren, Flynn, Adalyn, Tessa and Jayce Troyer; sisters, Diane (Kenny) Reed of Elkhart, Indiana, Patricia (Jeff) Gangler of Granger, Indiana and Susan (Thomas) St. John of Alvordton, Ohio and brother, Michael (Brenda) Gunderman of Howard, Colorado.

He was preceded in death by his father, Reinhold Gunderman, grandson, Brandon Troyer and brother, Ronnie Paul Gunderman.

He was the pastor of the Dunkard Brethren Church, Goshen, Indiana for thirty-seven years. Terry loved to serve his family and community. His love for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren was immeasurable. The family cabin in Colorado was also a special joy.

Terry worked for Pierce Plastics, retiring as plant manager after forty-one years.

Funeral services were held July 25, 2020 at the Yoder-Culp Funeral Home with burial in the West Goshen Cemetery.

REGINA ELIZABETH WORKMAN

Regina Elizabeth (Hudnell) Workman, daughter of Albert Stephen Hudnell and Gayla Jo (White) Hudnell was born on May 4, 1981 in Des Moines, Iowa. She passed away on July 26, 2020 at her home in Gadsden, Alabama. Regina attended school at the Dallas Center Christian School. She was united in marriage to Michael Shane Workman on November 9, 2019 in Gadsden, Alabama. Regina rededicated her life to Christ on March 8, 2020. She loved to do many things including reading, baking, watching movies, coloring, and spending time with her family. She especially loved the quality time she shared with her nieces and nephews. Spending time with her husband at the lake near their home was time she truly enjoyed. Learning how to jet ski and how to drive were huge accomplishments for her. Regina and Michael shared their love of Country music and spent much time listening to their favorite songs. Regina was preceded in death by her father Albert Hudnell; her brother Trey Hudnell; and her paternal and maternal grandparents. Regina is survived and loved by her husband Michael Workman of Gadsden, Alabama; mother Gayla Hudnell of Granger, Iowa; siblings, Christina Mangin (Dan DeLaCruz) of Smithville, Tennessee; Andrew (Julie) Hudnell of Ogden, Iowa; Letisha (Josh) Demmers of Granger, Iowa; Jon (Dawn) Hudnell of Jewell, Iowa; Shawn (Jackie) Hudnell of Pilot Mound, Iowa; and Micah (Angel) Hudnell of Perry, Iowa; father and mother-in-law; Mickey and Lynn Workman of Gadsden, Alabama. Regina is also survived by many nieces and nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Memorial services were held August 5, 2020 at the Dunkard Brethren Church, Dallas Center, Iowa.

NEWS ITEMS

To all Dunkard Brethren officials and wives,

Greetings to each of you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I am sharing another cancellation to your schedule. As you are well aware, we were planning to have our Leadership Conference coincide with the Anabaptist Awareness Symposium on Sexual Abuse in November. However, the Leadership Conference Committee was notified on July 8th that the meeting was postponed until November 2021. Mandates on meetings due to Covid-19 are becoming more restrictive in Pennsylvania, which prompted this decision.

Subsequently, the Leadership Conference Committee discussed this change and do not feel they have adequate time to develop another subject, select speakers and make other preparations needed for the meeting. Therefore, the Leadership Conference Committee has offered the following recommendations:

1. Postpone the Leadership Conference until November 2021 in the Lititz Congregation.
2. Plan to join the Anabaptist Awareness Symposium on the dates they establish.
3. Communicate to church officials when registration for the Symposium is available in 2021.

The Officers of Standing Committee are accepting the recommendations of the Leadership Conference Committee. We regret the need to continue to cancel meetings that promote the spiritual growth and wellbeing of the brotherhood.

We pray that each of you will continue to be faithful in your calling before the Lord and have the courage to face the enemy of your soul.

Blessings to all,

The Officers of Standing Committee

Bro. Jim Meyers, Moderator

Bro. Mark Cordrey, Reading Clerk

Bro. Lloyd Lorenz, Writing Clerk

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and gifts during the last five months of our journey. Your support was a real blessing and greatly appreciated! Please continue to remember us in prayer.

Love,

The Rissler Family

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER
2020****October 4 – Betrayal, Denial, and the Sanhedrin Trial – Luke 22:47-71**

1. How do we betray our brothers or sisters in Christ?

2. When you are called a “Christ Follower”, how do you react?

3. Have you ever been convicted by the words you speak in conversation with others?

October 11 – From Pilate to Herod and Back Again – Luke 23:1-25

1. How much effort do we as Christians put forth to be faultless? (verse 4)

2. Herod was exceeding glad to see Jesus. How can we as Christians have this kind of impact on the world around us?

3. When have you succumbed to peer pressure and punished the innocent?

October 18 – Jesus is Crucified – Luke 23:26-43

1. How do you carry the “Cross” of those around you?

2. How eager are we to forgive?

3. By what do you desire to be remembered?

October 25 – His Death and Burial – Luke 23:44-56

1. What does it feel like to be forsaken by all?

2. Why did the centurion glorify God in verse 47?

3. How eager are you to share the good news that Jesus has risen and intercedes for us today?

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