

# BIBLE MONITOR

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“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.

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## THERE'S A WIDENESS IN GOD'S MERCY

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
Like the wideness of the sea;  
There's a kindness in his justice,  
Which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner,  
And more graces for the good;  
There is mercy with the Savior;  
There is healing in his blood.

For the love of God is broader  
Than the measure of man's mind;  
And the heart of the Eternal  
Is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple,  
We should take him at his word;  
And our lives would be all sunshine  
In the sweetness of our Lord.

– *Frederick W. Faber*

## STRANGERS, PILGRIMS, AND ALIENS

When early November arrives, Christians will again be reminded of their status as aliens, while their neighbors, friends and relatives participate in the election. During the voting season, the hue and cry will be that all should do their civic duty and vote for the candidates campaigning for President and other down ballot offices. Among the requirements for lawful voting are residency and citizenship. People must live in their voting jurisdiction for a specified time to qualify for casting a ballot. The highest qualification is being a native or naturalized citizen.

Citizenship is bestowed by birth within the physical boundaries of the United States or one of its Territories. Citizenship may be acquired

through the renunciation of a former allegiance and application for citizenship. Before casting a ballot, the person may be required to show proof of residency and citizenship. Those who are not citizens may continue to be interested in the outcome of the election. That outcome may affect their lives, livelihood, and living conditions.

Christians are interested in the government of their country. They are affected by the policies enacted by the government. They are not qualified to vote or participate in the election. They are aliens. After people move from one country to another, they lose their ability to influence the policies of their new country because they are not citizens. They may be considered alien

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

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

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

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

residents. Christians have a citizenship that is not limited by physical borders. They are citizens of the Kingdom of God. They have given their allegiance to Him rather than to a political entity.

Although they do give allegiance primarily to God, they are not excused from the basic duties of citizenship. They should be honest and peaceful. They pay their taxes and give respect to those who govern. They are generous in their help for those who suffer and are downtrodden. They favor what is right and righteous in their communities.

By being aliens themselves, they may be inspired to be sympathetic to those who are alienated from the government or culture surrounding them. Christians have a reputation for protecting those who do not fit into their communities' mold. They may support unpopular positions concerning warfare, diversity, or protection of the unborn or the feeble.

When we think of minorities, we think of racial, economic, or ethnic groups, when perhaps the smallest minority in the country are Christians who espouse a biblical worldview that is at odds with the worldview of the various isms of

this world. Whether those isms are capitalism, socialism, racism, or other beliefs and practices that attracts the allegiance of many. When those isms are unbiblical, hateful, bombastic, or vitriolic they are not worthy of Christians' belief or support. As the citizens of God's Kingdom, they should follow the Messiah who was at variance with the powers that ruled the world in His time, whether Roman or Jewish. He was much less interested in the political and social culture than in the needs of individual souls.

The citizen of God's Kingdom serves his Heavenly Father, who is the true object of the battle. God's loyal citizen will not become the object of praise or worship by others although a leader. If he becomes the object of the battle, then the battle is already lost since God is not the object of the praise and worship of those who follow Him. God uses His citizens to represent Him in this world, but He does not allow them to garner His glory.

Christians are engaged in a greater battle than the outcome of worldly elections; they are involved in the proclaiming of the Gospel, the salvation of eternal lives, and the magnification of

Jesus Christ as the Savior and Lord of all men. When the battles of the world draw away the energy and efforts of the believer, the true Gospel is not being proclaimed.

We would desire to live in a world that is friendly towards the desires of God, men living godly lives, and a moral and Christian worldview. We must remember that the world is not the true home of believers. They have

ever been aliens in this world. Today perhaps more than at other times, Christians have become strangers, pilgrims, and aliens in the world. How will we represent God in this time?

May God have mercy upon His people as they face the choices that lie before them in these troubled times.

M. C. Cook

## JESUS

Jesus loves you and me,  
And I want you to see  
How He made us clean and free.  
He showed us how to be  
Kind, loving, and friendly.  
Jesus was patient and brave,  
Jesus was the son God gave.  
Do you look at Jesus in love,  
And think of the Father above?

Jesus is God. He made the world.  
He loves everyone, straight hair or curled.  
Look to Jesus' strong power.  
He doesn't want you to be angry or sour.  
He will always be your best friend.  
With him there will be no end.  
He lived, died, and arose on earth.  
The angels sang at his birth.

Jesus will be close to my side,  
And in his fold I will abide.  
When you feel your light is dim,  
Look up to Jesus, look up to Him!  
Always be a shining light!  
Shine in the day and  
Through the night.

Look at the beautiful night sky.  
Why did Jesus die? Do you know why?  
My debt of sin I cannot pay.  
But Jesus has washed my sins away!  
I won't be afraid at night or day.  
Jesus is with me all the way!  
Jesus is the one Judas did deceive.  
In Jesus I will believe!  
Look at Jesus, God's own Son.  
Do you think He is the one?

– *Sister Jasmine Esther Muñoz*

## **WAITING IN GOD'S BLESSING LINE**

Sitting on my son's front porch early one morning as I was reading my Bible, I happened to notice squirrels in the front yard playing around, chasing one another. As I watched them, a thought began to develop in my head. How does that squirrel glorify God?

Thinking about that for a few moments, another thought came

to me. That squirrel glorifies God by being a squirrel; by being what God created it to be.

I am a blessing to God when I am who He created me to be. To know me as God knows me is the greatest accomplishment of my life. Many people have not discovered themselves yet and therefore His blessing is not a regular happening in their

life. They are waiting for God to bless them, but they would not recognize that blessing if it came to them.

I have waited in a customer service line for a long time and when my turn came only to find out, I was in the wrong line. How frustrating.

Many people are in this dilemma spiritually. They think they are in a line to receive something from God but end up in the wrong line.

What God wants to give me is in complete harmony with His character and nature as well as what He has created me to be.

St. Augustine said it clearly, "Thou, O Lord, has created us for thyself, and we are restless until we rest fully in Thee." To understand that is to begin to get in the place to receive from God what He wants to give us.

I believe the great tragedy of heaven for those who go there, will be to see all the blessings God had for us with our name on it. Blessings we never activated in our life.

Every day of my life, I need to be in tune with God to receive from God what I need today to be all that God wants me to be. This is not happenstance. This is something deliberate,

an intentional walk with God.

If I am going to see and receive God's blessing for me, I need to understand the basis of God's covenant with me. In this, I will begin to understand God's faithfulness to me.

I think this is one of the most overlooked aspects of our relationship with God. God is absolutely faithful to us. My challenge is to tap into that faithfulness in such a way that I bring God into my life today.

To be blessed by God, I need to be where He wants me to be. Only Christ can get me there and that will be through obedience to the call of Christ. That comes from giving myself to the reading and meditation of God's Word. That also comes from surrendering myself to the Holy Spirit, which enables me to understand the Word of God and to experience the Christ of that Word.

I contend that most people do not understand the nature of God's blessing, which is why they are not able to take advantage of it. We see it from our standpoint, but God's blessing must be seen from God's standpoint. After all, it is God's blessing for us reflecting God's love for us.

The basis of God's blessing

in our life is His faithfulness. Is God really faithful? That question I need to wrestle with. Do I really believe that God is faithful to His Word?

Each day is an opportunity for me to discover how faithful God really is. As I embrace a promise from God and see in that promise His faithfulness to me, I begin to appreciate Him and love Him more. God will always deal with me in complete harmony with His character and nature. The more I get to know God the more I will begin to understand the blessings He has for me.

I think another basis of these promises of God has to do with my obedience. God cannot bless a disobedient person. That is something I must wrestle with each and every day. Am I really being obedient to God's Word or am I interpreting God's

Word from my vantage point?

When I interpret God's Word from my perspective, I really shortchange God's blessings in my life. God is much bigger than I am. God has much more to offer than I could even expect from Him. It is His great delight to pour into my life blessing after blessing after blessing.

The only hindrance is my disobedience. Every day I need to check up on my obedience. How is my obedience to God's Word today? Am I truly listening to God, hearing His voice, and obeying Him to the best of my ability?

Once I have figured that all out, I now can stand in God's blessing line with great expectations.

James L. Snyder  
324 Bahia Circle  
Ocala, FL 34472

## SHINE ON

"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, putteth it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come in may see the light." Luke 11:33

It costs something to let your light shine. You cannot get light from a candle without burning it.

It requires paying a price. It may be that the price we must pay is suffering or some trial or another. How we show ourselves to the world improves when we take everything patiently. The trials of life are always difficult. In our flesh we would rather have the glory without the tribulation. But

burning is mandatory for our light to shine.

It also takes work to let your light shine. In Matthew chapter five verse sixteen it says: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Philip Bliss wrote the following words:

Brightly beams our Father's mercy  
From His lighthouse evermore,  
But to us He gives the keeping  
Of the lights along the shore.

Let the lower lights be burning!  
Send a gleam across the wave!  
Some poor fainting, struggling seaman  
You may rescue, you may save.

If we are indeed lighthouses for God, as the verse suggests, we realize the lighthouse is at the edge of an often-violent ocean, with huge waves breaking upon the rocks below. But remember, if indeed we are built upon the Rock Christ Jesus we will endure. Jesus concludes His

Sermon on the Mount with these words: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matthew 7:24-25)

We can let our light shine if we are established upon a Rock, if we are willing to burn down for Him, and if we are willing to work. We can only burn for God if His light is in us.

No darkness have we who in Jesus abide  
We walk in the light when we follow our Guide.  
Come to the Light, 'tis shining for thee;  
Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me,  
Once I was blind, but now I can see.  
The Light of the world is Jesus.

– P. P. Bliss

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
70 Round Barn Rd.  
Newmanstown, PA 17073

## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

October 2020 Study Questions

**October 4 – Luke 22:47-71**

What is the irony in Judas kissing Jesus?

How did Peter (John 18:10) manage to cut off the ear without any other wounding?

What do you think Peter contemplated while sitting with others around the fire?

When Jesus and Peter locked eyes what sort of look did Jesus have on His face?

What was the tone of the voices who questioned Jesus?

How do you respond when spoken to in a similar fashion?

**Commentary:** What is your response to difficult circumstances in your life? Some of us appear outwardly calm and others of us seem to dissolve into whatever feelings engulf us. Some of us just become numb and shut down. Luke 21:19 says, "In your patience possess ye your souls." Jesus says this in the context of the persecution that will take place before He returns in power. In this week's lesson Jesus models for us what His words mean. Judas kisses Jesus so that those who are with him know who to arrest. Jesus points out the irony of using an act of affection to complete his act of betrayal. His words are meant to penetrate Judas' heart. To those who have come out with clubs and spears Jesus points out He was just as vulnerable while teaching in the temple. But they depend on darkness to cover their deeds. Whether Jesus is beaten by guards or interrogated by the Sanhedrin He is not only in control of Himself but sheds light on every circumstance. He neither sinks beneath the weight of events or retaliates with threats. When difficult times come our way, He not only has demonstrated the way to walk but is there to walk with us, to strengthen us so that we, by patience, can possess our own souls.

### October 11 – Luke 23:1-25

What is Pilate's highest priority?

Why does Pilate send Jesus to Herod?

What was Herod most interested in?

How does Pilate's final decision reflect his priorities?

Why isn't Jesus more proactive in defending Himself from all the accusations?

**Commentary:** In the kingdoms of this world, power, in order to maintain power, must jealously guard its power. Pilate acted benevolently toward Jesus as long as his power was not threatened. He told the chief priests and company that he found no fault with Jesus. When they persisted in their demands Pilate saw an escape route when he learned that Jesus was from Galilee. So, he sent Jesus to Herod. Again, he declared Jesus innocent when Herod sent him back but hoped to satisfy their bloodlust by having Jesus scourged. But it only intensified it. In order to avoid a riot, knowing full well that Jesus was innocent, Pilate reluctantly ordered Jesus to be crucified. It was sensible to sacrifice one man in order to quell any rebellion or riot. His pride might have taken a hit that day, but he would not forget. He would find ways to remind the Jewish leaders that their power was limited. His power remained secure because truth is always made subservient to security and security is what is promised by power.

### October 18 – Luke 23:26-43

How does Luke know Simon's name?

What event is Jesus referring to when He speaks to the women?

What is the difference between green and dry wood?

How quickly do you forgive someone who has hurt you deeply?

What did each of the criminals see in Jesus?

What reasons help explain the faith in the one who believed?

**Commentary:** There are moments, often unexpected, that profoundly influence the future course of our lives. Simon came to Jerusalem, presumably as part of the Passover celebration, from some outlying area. Suddenly, he is chosen out of the crowd and ordered by the Roman soldiers to carry Jesus' cross. It is too heavy for Jesus weakened by the scourging. Simon's day has been radically altered. We know nothing about Simon other than Mark mentions the names of two of his sons,

Rufus and Alexander. Paul sends his greetings to Rufus in Romans 16. So possibly he is Simon's son. If so, then Simon's life is significantly changed by meeting Jesus in the last hours of His life. It may have started out as a great inconvenience. Likely, it ended up a great honor to be able to serve Jesus. Another man has been spending time in a prison cell anticipating his death for the crimes he has committed. He is introduced to Jesus as they are both crucified side by side. His last hours of life are spent in agony. Yet, he begins to comprehend the meaning of redemption and is filled with hope by Jesus' words of comfort for the life He will soon be experiencing. Whether we are just on our way into town or in the last hours of life, meeting Jesus will turn our life upside down so that we can live right side up in the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

### **October 25 – Luke 23:44-24:12**

What might you imagine if the sun suddenly darkened for three hours in the middle of the day?

What is the significance of the veil being torn?

How is Jesus' death different than any other for the Roman centurion?

Why did many in the crowd beat their breasts?

Did the women accompany Joseph to the tomb or come afterwards?

Women heard the good news of Jesus' resurrection first. Does that strengthen or weaken the authenticity of Jesus' resurrection?

**Commentary:** The Gospel accounts, including Luke, are full of descriptions associated with Jesus' death. Each one provides both similar and distinctly varied details to the accounts of His death. But the details also point us in the direction of things less tangible, hidden from view, yet pregnant with purpose and meaning. Darkness blots out the midday sun casting an eerie shadow over this execution. When Jesus utters His last words and surrenders to death a seasoned soldier, a centurion, who has seen many die, declares Him a righteous man. Many in the crowd who watched Jesus die, beat their breasts in sorrow

and contrition (Luke 18:13). The awareness of our fallen natures and a lostness of hope with the extinguishing of Jesus' life is palpable in their sorrow. And then there is the rending of the curtain that separates the holy of holies from the rest of the temple. What do all these details add up to? How do you make sense out of things felt but still hidden during despair? Somehow, we must be vulnerable to these moments full of poignancy and pathos as a part of our own spiritual journey to fully grasp what we have received by faith. Otherwise the resurrection is just another detail added to our knowledge rather than the fountainhead out of which we may drink continuously the grace of God given to us.

Brother Phil Franklin  
Modesto, CA

## **“THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD”**

Rudy Cover

Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21

Do you ever forget people's names? Do you ever wonder just who a person is and where you have seen him before? I think we all experience this. Even when we think we know a person and can remember his name how much do we really know about them? Jesus was a man who was seen of many people. He preached to thousands and healed the sick or afflicted. Nothing was too hard for Him. He healed them all and they were made perfectly whole. You would think that everyone would know who Jesus was, but many people did not.

One day Jesus was near a

town called Caesarea Philippi. It was a town in the northern part of Palestine. It was located in the beautiful hill country on the southern slopes of Mt. Herman. It was near one of four streams of water that flow into the Jordan River. Jesus asked His disciples, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

His disciples said, "Some say you are John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." John, the Baptist, had recently been killed by King Herod. Elijah had been dead nine hundred years; Jeremiah, six hundred years and the other

prophets had been dead for a long time. Why did people think Jesus could be one of these men? I suppose because He did so many miracles, that they thought He must be one of the prophets who had come to life again. Elijah had done many miracles by the power of God. Then Jesus asked His disciples, "But whom do you say that I am?"

The disciples wondered about what they should say, but Peter who was always quick to answer said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was the one-time Peter had it just right. Jesus was the Christ whom the prophets had said would come and heal the sick, cause the blind to see and the deaf to hear. He was the Son of God; "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jesus told Peter no man had revealed this unto him but his

Father in Heaven. Peter was just a man, but God can put into a person's heart the right thing to say, if they really trust in Him. Jesus said that upon this answer, "Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God", He would build His Church. Jesus is the rock. He is a sure foundation. "There is none other name in heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus is the Christ who was prophesied to come into the world. He taught people about God and Heaven and how to live. He died on a cruel, rugged cross so we could have our sins forgiven. He is the Son of the living God. He arose from the grave and lives forever more. If we believe His Word and do what He says we too, can have eternal life.

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

## NON-RESISTANCE

Ralph K. Frantz

This is a subject we should be deeply interested in as we pause and view the conditions upon this sin-cursed earth. It is no time to make apologies but

to preach the blessed word with boldness and power. True the Spirit will reveal unto us what we are to say when taken before the powers that be, nevertheless,

we have great need for earnest studying the reasoning together.

As we live in this life, we find chiefly three enemies. 1. World, 2. Satan, 3. Self. We must be in this world and must be careful lest we are led astray by the evils thereof. The world has no enjoyment such as a true Christian has.

Satan is on every hand to try to draw us from the truth. He is not after the sinner but after the true followers and yea, trying to deceive the very elect.

Then there is self to contend with. We must be very careful lest self try to shove in ahead of the will of God. It takes but little thought to see the terrible state we would get into if we would let self rule our lives. The cause of Christ is in sore need of those that would do the divine will. When something is done that we do not like, self would have us get even.

Dear brethren and sisters let us strive to keep self under control and let the humble Christian attitude prevail within us. It takes what I call a real man to let someone strike you and not to strike them back or even hold a grudge. The Dunkard Brethren have been opposed to the shedding of blood for over

200 years and let us keep it that way. The Golden Rule has been lost by the American people. The rule seems to be now, down the other fellow before he downs you. (Rom. 10:4.) "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." (Rev. 1:1-2.) "God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the father by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds."

God knoweth his works from the beginning. He is a just God and he never changes, let us obey him. (Rom. 8:9.) "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." We are to care for our bodies as a temple for the Spirit, but when things happen beyond our control let us take no thought for the flesh but obey the Spirit. Christ has a great concern for us, let us please him. (Phil. 2:5.) "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." (Matt. 5:21; 43-44.) "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou

shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment.” “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” We see Christ’s example and what great love he showed for us. Let us follow his example and show our love for him by doing his commands.

Kind friends can we not picture him upon the cross and the agony he endured for the salvation of mankind. Let us obey and we shall reign with him. (Rom. 12:17.) “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” This is contrary to nature, but a true follower can do it. A minister was once preaching and a certain man was offended, so he decided to get even with the minister. Meeting was dismissed and the minister went through the crowd shaking hands and speaking to the people, finally he offered his hand to this offended man and this man up and slapped him, so the minister dropped his hand and turned the other side, then

just stood there. This man said he was never hurt so much in all his life. Are we always able to shew an humble spirit? (Matt. 26:51-52.) “And, behold one of them which was with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest’s, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”

Therefore, one zealous of good works will not take the sword. The true child of God can say with the prophet of old, “Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.” Christ himself said in Matt. 26:53, “Thinkest thou that I cannot pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”

Christ suffered and so let us not think it strange if we likewise must suffer. As our blessed Master said, the scriptures must be fulfilled. In II Cor. 10 we read, “Now I, Paul, beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ.” Brethren and sisters and kind friends let us manifest the same spirit.

We read in the blessed

word that, the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit are in the sight of God of great price, and I say in agony of soul that we need more such in these latter days. (John 18:36.) "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews, but now is my kingdom not from hence." (II Cor. 10:3-4.) "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds)." (Heb. 4:12.) "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Let us remember the word of God is powerful. If we study the blessed word, we will be able to give answer to any man. If you are asked to give reason for your hope and faith, what reason have you? The other war was awful. The things that some had to endure chills our hearts and cannot decently be

told. We should encourage one another and so much the more as we see the day approaching.

(John 15:19-20.) "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying they will keep yours also." We need expect no better for we are not greater than our Master. Let us pray earnestly for an increase in our faith.

(I Pet. 2:21-24.) "For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an ensample, that ye should follow his steps; who did not sin, neither was guile found in his mouth; who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose strips ye were healed." I wonder

could we do as Christ did?

(I Pet. 2:19.) “For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.” Are we and shall we be able to rejoice that we are accounted worthy to suffer for Christ’s sake, as the apostles rejoiced for the same? Then comes to our mind that beautiful song we sometimes sing, “Loving Him Who First Loved Me.”

(I Cor. 13:13.) “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” Pure true love is a great thing, how many of us possess it? I rather doubt if we comprehend the full depth of love but let us use it all that is possible and sometime, we shall know. Faith, hope and love we now have, the first two we leave behind, but love goes with us to the great and wonderful beyond. The questions that were asked the last time – and the church officials were asked to sign papers to that effect.

1. Are you a regular attendant at church?

2. Do you support your church financially? Then quickly, How much?

3. Are you attending communion services?

4. Why, etc., do you believe so and so?

Many other questions put fast to confuse one. So, it behooves us

to be ready to answer, and try not to become confused, at all times.

Texts we would do well to learn: Ex. 20:13; Matt. 5:21, 43-44; Rom. 12:17-21 and 13:8-10; Matt. 5:9. Study Isa. 53.

Faith is what we need, we cannot have too much. That we all might remain true and faithful unto the end is thy unworthy servant’s prayer. May the Almighty ever help us and he will if we but look at him. Watch and pray lest ye enter into temptation. Brethren, sisters, and kind friends we need more earnest prayer, come let us pray. It is upon our knees that we will get strength to endure. Let us not fear those that can destroy the body only, but rather serve the Lord with Godly fear. Come let us praise his holy name for the wonderful blessing we still enjoy. Praise God from whom all blessings flow, for his merciful kindness is still great toward us.

Selected from the  
October 15, 1940  
issue of the Bible Monitor

## THE PRINCE OF PEACE

Russell Holl

What a contrast there is between a man-made peace and the One permanent Ruler or Prince of Peace. Some persons have good intentions (no doubt) but by their very words they look for a man-made peace, instead of the "New World wherein dwelleth Righteousness." Most persons today as in Noah's day, still scoff at the very idea that God's Kingdom is the only hope of the Nations. True Christians know that God always had witnesses on earth, and today more than ever in these last days or "time of the end."

We who are His witnesses are told, we are losing all our friends? This is dividing the sheep from the goats, otherwise our true friends of good-will, who are meek and teachable, from our so-called friends who show their contempt for the truth and are puffed up by their self-righteousness and haughty disposition. "Because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you." John 15:19.

Do we choose Satan's old world, or do we uphold Jehovah's now appointed King, of the new

World, Christ Jesus? Very soon, all those scoffing at the "very idea" of His Kingdom will see to their sorrow "Armageddon upon them" with the greater Noah, Christ Jesus, in charge. Today the clergy (in general) are showing their contempt for God's true witnesses, more than ever, because they love darkness (ignorance) rather than light (understanding). The Scriptural command is very plain "from such turn away."

Above all, quench not His Spirit when it works in us to witness for His truth. Often, He calls us to stand alone and separate ourselves from modern Babylon or Christendom, tied in with politics and commercialized. "Having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof." It is certainly timely for people to write their convictions from the heart and spend more time writing and witnessing for the Truth. We feel sure that we are living in the last days or "time of the end."

Though some are not highly educated or cultured, neither have the benefits (?) of some religious controlled College or Bible seminary, yet they need not feel downhearted or despised. They

have the privilege to feel like Jesus instructed them, "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, when they shall say all manner of evil against you falsely." We might also add what the apostle states in Gal. 4:16, "Am

I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?"

Selected from the  
May 15, 1951  
issue of the Bible Monitor

## THE ROYAL FAMILY

B. E. Kesler

One of the main reasons, if not the main one, why the Jews rejected Christ, was that he did not come in royal splendor as they expected him to come and set up a magnificent kingdom as they had pictured in their minds, and the disciples were perhaps, more greatly disappointed in him that he did not set up and establish an earthly temporal kingdom, than in anything else. They found themselves wondering about the nature of the kingdom, and who would be the greatest in the kingdom and even desiring the highest place "one on the right and one on the left" of Jesus in the kingdom.

On the contrary, Jesus tried to disabuse their minds by the parable of the Good Shepherd, the parable about the Householder, and his teaching about the bridegroom and the bride and the children of the bridegroom. But they seemed

not to realize he was building up and establishing a royal family until the work was completed and he had taken his leave of them and returned unto his Father from whence he came.

True, this family bore the titles of vineyard, kingdom, sheepfold, and church, each of which was in some way descriptive of its nature and portrayed its character. As a vineyard the branches were to maintain vital connection with the "true vine" and were expected to bare fruit as a kingdom. Jesus was its born king and his people as loyal subjects were expected to obey him. As a sheepfold, Jesus was the good shepherd who maintained vigilant watch over the sheep that they were not destroyed by ravenous wolves. As a church it was an organism fully equipped to function as a mighty force in evangelizing and Christianizing the world.

Paul was enabled through the hidden mystery to see God's eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs with the Jews and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel. And "for this cause", said he, "I bow my knees unto the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and on earth is named." (Eph. 3:6, 9, 11, 14, 15.)

In gathering together, "in the dispensation of the times," both Jew and Gentile into one body, Paul saw the church as one great family, part of which is in heaven and part on the earth.

Peter saw in this "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people." (I Pet. 2:9.) And that God "had chosen us in him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, having predestined us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself," as Paul saw it. (Eph. 1:4-5.) And that through Christ, both Jew and Gentile "have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (Eph. 2:18.)

In the beginning, this family was composed entirely of Jews. The first Christian church was composed of Jews. But in

his death Christ had "broken down the middle wall of partition between Jew and Gentile." So that now, as Gentiles, we have been adopted, and become a part of God's family, a chosen generation, a royal family, with God the Father, as its head, and our elder brother, and we the spiritual children, as spiritual children we should "obey our heavenly Father", and "love one another even as Christ loved us, the church and gave himself for us, that he might purify unto himself a peculiar people zealous of good works". And so, we may sing, "I'm the child of a king, with Jesus my savior, I'm the child of a king." "A Holy nation", occupying our proper place, and operating in our own sphere in which God has placed us, and as a "holy nation", a royal family, filling our mission and God's purpose in our lives, may we ever be faithful to him an honorable citizen of this holy nation, and a worthy member of this royal family.

The instruction to this nation is, "be ye holy, for I am holy," and "follow peace and holiness with all men, without which no man shall see the Lord."

This being a holy nation it follows as a natural conclusion,

its citizens must be holy, for the nation cannot be holy unless the people who compose it are holy.

Another truth here is, we are holy only to the extent that we live a holy life. A mere profession of holiness can serve only one purpose and that is, to deceive. We may deceive our fellowmen, but God is not mocked.

“A peculiar people,” because the purchased possession, “the habitation of God through the Spirit.” Peculiar because no other people are so highly favored. “Ye are a temple of God.” How holy then should we be! “If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy.” It means much to live so that our “hearts may be a fit temple for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.” It means that we put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, filthy speech, corrupt communication, lying, with all secret sins, presumptuous sins, etc., etc., and that on the other hand we live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world, deal justly, provide things honestly, owe no man anything but to love him, “walk in all the commandments of the Lord blamelessly,” adding faith, virtue, temperance, knowledge, patience, godliness, brotherly

kindness and charity”, for so an entrance into the kingdom will be obtained.

“A royal priesthood,” with Jesus Christ as our high priest, “that we should offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ”, and “as lively stones being built up a spiritual house”. And as such we should “abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul, and have our conversation honest among the Gentiles”, or those with whom we associate, that “they may by our good works which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation”; and that as Jesus said, “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Jesus, by the sacrifice of himself, redeemed us by his blood, and “made us kings and priests unto God” and so we sing, “All glory and praise to the lamb that was slain”, who “bought us with a price”, his own blood. “Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are his”, by purchase. And being made priests unto God, “we should present our bodies a living (not a dead) sacrifice holy acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service”, and be not

conformed to the fashions of this world, and “not fashion ourselves according to our former lust in our ignorance.” By adopting the uniform of the church, we can avoid the styles of the world, and at the same time be in line with the teaching of the scripture on simplicity and modesty of apparel.

True, the uniform of the church may not be the only style

that simple and in harmony with the scripture, but it is one style, at least, that IS in harmony with the scripture. Then, as a mark of distinction and identification it behooves each of us to adopt it, and thus be “living epistles, read and known by all men.”

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

## EARNESTLY CONTEND

Howard J. Surbey

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” Jude 3. Jude is writing to “Beloved” the church, those of like precious faith. He is not writing in an unconcerned way but is writing with all diligence. He is writing about “the common salvation: and the word common does not infer that it is of little value, but rather that no one is exempted from it. It is offered to everyone, regardless of condition or state in life.

What faith, belief or method

of religious practice does Paul refer to as “the faith”? This becomes an important question as we think of the many different faiths and practices in the world today. Without question Paul must have meant the teachings and commandments delivered to us by Christ and the apostles, which form the New Testament. We can be very thankful that almighty God has seen fit to preserve these writings for us today. It is our duty to study and meditate upon them in order that we can recognize and build our faith and practice.

“And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.” 2 Tim.

2:5. Paul warns Timothy that salvation will take some striving, some earnest and diligent agreement with the teachings of Christ and the apostles. "And send Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellow labourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith." 1 Thess. 3:2. Already in the early church, it took brotherly concern and laboring together to establish a Scriptural and definite faith. God is definite and means what He has said, through His Son and the apostles. Are all believers thus seriously concerned that they believe and practice the Gospel faith?

Notice that our text describes Gospel faith as "faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Unless we believe that the apostles wrote only as the Holy Spirit directed, we have no sure foundation for any faith or belief and if they so wrote then, that only is the safe faith to believe. "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." Phil.

1:27. Why have so many people not accepted the Gospel faith? Could it be that we do not "stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together?" Is our striving too much about other things, than the faith of the Gospel? If we do strive together is it with one mind?

"This charge I commit unto, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightiest war a good warfare; holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck." 1 Tim. 1:18-19. Again, we find Paul warning Timothy of the effort required in the Christian warfare. Have any faiths today "made shipwreck" of the Gospel faith? How much concerned am I, that my faith and belief is New Testament faith?

"Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us." 2 Tim. 1:13-14. How do we know that our practice is "sound words" unless it is wholly founded upon the teaching of Christ and

the apostles? Will the Holy Ghost aid and work with any other practice, than that taught by Christ and the apostles? May we be really sure that it is Christian faith that we believe, profess, propagate, and contend for. Paul was certain of his faith and of his effort in spreading it unto others, "I have fought a

good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." 2 Tim. 4:7. Are we so closely united together on the Gospel faith that we can be as certain as Paul was?

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

### DO IT NOW!

If with pleasure you are viewing  
Any work a man is doing;  
If you like him, or you love him,  
    Tell him NOW!  
Don't withhold your approbation,  
'Til the parson makes oration,  
And he lies with snowy lilies  
    O'er his brow;  
For, no matter how you shout it,  
He won't really care about it,  
He won't know how many teardrops  
    You have shed.  
If you think some praise is due him,  
Now's the time to ease it to him,  
For he cannot read his tombstone  
    When he's dead!  
More than fame & more than money  
Is the comment, kind and sunny,  
And the hearty, warm approval  
    Of a friend.

For it gives to life a savor,  
And it makes you truer, braver,  
And it gives you hope and courage  
‘Til the end.

If he earns your praise, bestow it,  
If you love him let him know it,  
Let the words of true encourage-  
ment be said,  
Do not wait ‘til life is over,  
And he’s underneath the clover,  
For he cannot read his tombstone  
When he’s dead!

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

## CARE FREE EXISTENCE

Glenn A. Cripe

“Thou maintainest my lot.”  
(Psa. 16:5.)

Care free existence has been the dream and ideal of many of us. The idea of never having to worry and wonder about tomorrow and the day after that, has a wonderful hold on most of us.

Possibly it is this idea which prompts us to get all of this world’s goods we can. We think that after we have much goods laid up against the future, we shall then have this care free

life we desire so much. It may be we have a mistaken notion of this matter but from the way most act this would seem to be true. We scramble and hurry, treating one another in ungodly fashion in our rush to get something ahead for a rainy day. We worry and fret until we have no peace of mind. All this to the end that we may some day live a care free life.

It may be that we are simply producing more cares instead of less. The wealth once gotten

is hard to keep. Others want it and will have it if possible, to get it by hook or crook, honest or dishonest. In the end we have more worry and care than in the beginning.

When the psalmist gave us the words of the text, he came very near telling us that a care free existence is to be had. If someone would only keep us, we would have no troubles. The text implies that someone will. Think of being assured that every wish we wanted would be supplied or granted by some certain one who was in a position to do so, every need would be given by someone of means. That we think would truly be pleasant.

Such a condition is not beyond us if we will heed the instruction of God. It is ours if we will only accept. Others who have gone before have testified to this truth and the lives of some now living witness to it.

To some of us the greatest need of today and the only desire of many is some steady occupation where one can be employed in gaining a living. When we have plenty of work, we wish we didn't have so much of it and then when we don't have any at all we want it very

badly. Such is human nature. The clothing we need, the food for our dependent ones can only be supplied when we have work and when we have none we see this more clearly than ever before. We believe that work will be supplied if that is what we need, or in case the work is not to be had then the other needs that could be eliminated if we had work will be supplied.

Along with other things the friends whose company we enjoy and desire, those of like faith and our social needs, these will all be supplied.

Spiritual blessings are to be ours as well. Many are troubled about their church relation. They wonder if they are in the proper church, if they are doing the part in the church they should, if they have missed their calling and so forth. Or trouble has come in their church, one member not agreeing with another or some similar situation. So, they worry, fume and fret, they lose sleep and health and with all of this goes their good judgment and possibly also the blessing of a solution to the problem. The psalmist doesn't do all of this because there is one who maintains his lot.

There is one thing we all

want, and many have done considerable thinking about it also. It is deliverance from the adversary when it is ours to depart this life. We can be assured and comforted when we think on this subject if we remember the words of the text.

You will also note we have used the word supply occasionally where the text says maintain. The word maintain means much more than supply. To get the full meaning of it also means much to us. It means not only supply today but also tomorrow and the next day or next week and year.

It means when used as this text uses it that the maintaining is the work of someone other than we who receive the benefits. The one who will do all this for us is none other than our creator. Certainly, the creator will take care of his creation if it will permit by still being as obedient now as when in the process of creation.

We must as the psalmist

says, take refuge in him. When these cares and troubles begin to appear then confide and trust him for the blessing and it will be ours. The child runs to its parent when in trouble and so we should go to our creator, "Because he is at my right hand" the psalmist states.

Evil must not be ours or rather obedience must be given also to get the blessing. Verse 4 reads, "Their drink offerings of blood will I not offer, nor take their names upon my lips", refereeing to the idolaters and the ungodly. In other words, the writer of this text will have nothing to do with that which is unrighteous. He is an obedient servant of God.

Because of this trust in God and the abhorrence of all evil not only David but we also can say, "Thou maintainest my lot."

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

## OBITUARY

### MARLIN R. KEGERREIS

Bro. Marlin R. "Molly" Kegerreis, age 66, of Bethel, Pennsylvania died on August 18, 2020 at St. Joseph Hospital, Reading, Pennsylvania. He was born on May 16, 1954 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania to the late James Mark and Amy Mildred (Gibbel) Kegerreis.

Molly retired from the Northern Lebanon School District as a custodian after twenty-nine years of service. He was a member of Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church and he enjoyed his hobby of recycling for others.

In addition to his parents Molly was preceded in death by his brother, Harold H. Kegerreis.

He is survived by his brother, David H. Kegerreis and his wife Rhoda, of Bethel, Pennsylvania; sisters, Fern Wolfe and her husband Verling of Bethel, Pennsylvania, Darlene M. Marks and her husband Marlin of Red Lion, Pennsylvania, Jean Keeney, wife of the late Lamar of Ephrata, Pennsylvania, Maxine Wilkerson and her husband Kenneth of Richland, Pennsylvania, sister-in-law, Fern Kegerreis of Bethel, Pennsylvania. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Private funeral services were held.

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **EXTENSION OF TIME FOR BOARD EXPIRATIONS**

The Officers of General Conference humbly request all members of the Brotherhood Boards and Committees whose terms expired in June of 2020 to continue serving through June of 2021.

Thanks for your prayerful consideration of this request. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.

Sincerely in Christ,

Brother Bob Lehigh

Writing Clerk – General Conference

### **WEST FULTON, OHIO**

Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation will be holding their revival meetings October 4 through 11, 2020. Brother Mark Cordrey from Modesto, California will be our evangelist. Please remember Bro. Mark and his family in your prayers. The first Sunday's services are at 9:30 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Each evening services will be at 7:30 P.M. and the last Sunday's services will be at 9:30 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. A potluck dinner is planned for both Sundays.

All are welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Joy Reed, Cor.

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**THANK YOU**

I wish to thank all of you for your cards, prayers, gifts, and phone calls during this very difficult time of being sick and the time of the passing of Terry. This time has been so difficult, and your prayers are very much appreciated. Please continue to remember us in prayer.

Lola Gunderman and family

**THANK YOU**

I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all who sent me sympathy thoughts concerning the passing and loss of my son, Terry. I've appreciated each and every one. God can heal, but it just takes time. Thank you all.

Lovingly,

Sister Velda Gunderman

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2020**

### **November 1 – His Resurrection – Luke 24:1-12**

1. Is there any significance to the women coming very early in the morning?

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2. Why did the words to the disciples seem like idle tales?

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### **November 8 – Christ of the Emmaus Road – Luke 24:13-32**

1. Why didn't Jesus reveal Himself sooner to these disciples?

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2. Did the disciples have misplaced trust?

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**November 15 – Christ Appears, Commissions and Ascends – Luke 24:33-53**

1. The two disciples had walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus and had turned in for the night. However, once they realized they had been with Jesus they returned to Jerusalem. What do we do with the exciting news of our risen Lord?

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2. What should be the results of the Resurrection in our life?

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3. Do we need to sometimes tarry until we are endued with power?

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**November 22 – Thanksgiving – Psalm 136**

1. Why does God's mercy endure forever?

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2. Most of this chapter covers specific things the Children of Israel could give thanks for. What specific things can we give thanks to the Lord for?

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**November 29 – Zacharias and the Angel – Luke 1:1-25**

1. What does it mean to walk blameless?

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2. Why does the presence of an angel bring trouble and fear?

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