

BIBLE MONITOR

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MARCH, 2022

NO. 03

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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

O LORD THY WORK REVIVE

O Lord! Thy work revive
In Zion's gloomy hour;
And let our dying graces live
By thy restoring pow'r.

O, let thy chosen few
Awake to earnest pray'r;
Their solemn vows again renew
And walk in filial fear.

Thy Spirit then will speak
Through lips of humble clay,
Till hearts of adamant shall break,
Till rebels shall obey.

Now lend thy gracious ear,
Now listen to our cry;
O, come and bring salvation near!
Our souls on thee rely.

—*Thomas Hastings*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Christian believers have the privilege of offering prayer for the needs of other believers. This is an opportunity to share our Heavenly Father's benefits with others. Those needs may be spiritual, physical, or relational.

It may be a sign of spiritual maturity when a Christian can identify with the needs of others. When a Christian feels the needs others experience, they become less self-centered. Intercessory prayer may bring healing, encouragement, or hope into situations that seemed to be without hope or help. That intercession may be known or unknown to the one for whom prayer is made. It does not need to be advertised. It can be a secret. It is one person's attempt to bring change into

another's life. It is only God that can bring the actual hoped for change into another's life. God covets intercessional prayer and supplication for the needs of someone else.

Interceding for another person's need, creates an attachment between the two people that would not otherwise exist. It increases a bond of fellowship and intimacy that does not exist when needs are not shared. Intercessory prayer should be worded as specifically as possible. The one praying may not know all the details involved in the prayer need, but their prayer should be as specific as their knowledge allows. Praying for a specific outcome can mean a greater degree of involvement

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in the need of the one being prayed for. Although our prayer request may not be answered in the specific way that we might desire, it gives us a vested interest in the outcome. Having that degree of investment may provide ways to contribute financially or with advice helpful to the one in need.

God is not bound to follow our prescription for solving the problems of the person we intercede for. That is okay. God knows far more about His plans for that person than we do. He has knowledge of the situation that we are not privy to. Whatever the outcome we can praise Him for His infinite wisdom. It may be a lesson teaching us that we do not know the best outcome for the situation. If God's action is not changed by prayer, it can bless the afflicted as they learn to lean on Him when the outcome was not their desired result. The peace and contentment that comes with the acceptance of God's will can be a major factor in improving their spiritual life.

God's answer to the intercessory prayer will affect more than the one in need when it is resolved. More people will be aware of the outcome, and

they can praise and honor God for His answer. Seeing God's involvement in the answering of prayer gives all who have been involved a blessing as they realize how God can work at times in ways not easily understood or expected.

While involved with interceding for others, we may become more aware of the blessings in our own lives. As we share concern with others over their specific needs, we may think less about the annoyances that pester our own lives. In sharing our time and attention concerning another's needs, we may relax about some of our own perceived needs. This confirmation of our own blessing can lead us to praising and worshipping God more than we were before. Being less concerned about ourselves and our needs can make us more thankful and more ready to honor God's work and will in our lives.

As we participate in intercession for others, we may become more open to sharing our own needs and concerns. While we do not relish being the object of others' interest and attention in our lives, we also from our intercession prize the prayers of others for us. Our

actions do not go only one way for we can also become the subject that needs prayer and encouragement. God can work in our lives as well as others.

Intercession requires faithfulness and consistency. We must be persistent in our task of praying for others. God desires people serving Him who are consistent in their service. They not only keep at the task, but they live consistently in God's will and way. When inconsistent Christians have not been faithful in their daily

lives, can they be faithful in their intercessory prayer life?

Do you know someone who desires intercession before God's mercy seat? Are you willing to be faithful in your prayer life so you can consistently pray for their needs? Whether they are believers needing prayer for their needs or unbelievers who need to find God through Jesus Christ. You can pray for them.

Intercession should be a part of your Christian life.

M. C. Cook

THE BATTLEGROUND OF THE MIND

"Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become character. Watch your character, for it becomes your destiny... Selah!" Quote from Bobby Eaton.

Do you ever get yourself in a situation where you look around and wonder how you got here? Little indiscretions here and there are easily overlooked, and soon we find ourselves someplace we never thought we would go.

The hardest battle is most often in the mind. Deciding that

no matter the cost, you are going to do something will give you the grit and determination to see the challenging thing through. If you are on a certain diet and you have determined to stay on "plan" throughout the day, the temptations are incredibly less than if you just decide to see how the food goes that day.

The sooner we can decide that God is the Great I AM, and whatever He says and does is right, the better off we will be. When what He says is a sin, is off the table of options for us, because He says so, the less of a temptation it is.

The same goes for lying. If we decide no matter what, no matter the cost, the truth is always the only answer, we will be less tempted to shade the truth or tell a white lie. Our work ethic, the same thing. If we determine in our minds to always do the right thing, no matter if we can get away with it, no matter who is watching, the temptation of cheating is drastically reduced.

I am not saying that deciding to always do the right thing is a failsafe way to never sin. We are human and if we are breathing on this side of eternity, we will have temptations and even fall into sin occasionally.

If the mind is where the battle rages the fiercest, how can we prepare for war? Acts 17:11-12 says this of these men, "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore, many of them believed."

I think we can find a key here, "Search the scripture!!" Decide that since it is God's infallible word, it is always right and what it says is right then search it and apply it to your life. 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew

thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Fill our mind with good, godly material. Anything and everything we look at, listen to, and ponder on must be filtered through the standards of scripture. If it does not meet the standard, it must be cast out. Philippians 4:8, "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."

Mark 12:30, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment." We are to love God with everything we have. The totality of our being is to be His, heart, soul, mind, strength. The love here is not a fleeting love or a feeling. It is a love that is totally surrendered to Him, so sincerely that we are eager to obey Him.

If we genuinely love God, we will delight in His commandments and laws. It

will be our delight to do His will and we will be sorry and mourn the fact when we fail. Romans 8:6, "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." To serve God wholeheartedly will bring peace.

We will understand that whatever happens to us, it has been filtered through God's hand and He decided it was right for us. Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."

Romans 12:1-2, "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. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." The renewing of the mind not only comes from "feeding" it wholesome material but connecting with God in the Spirit.

Daily we need to come to God's throne room and pour out our shortcomings, wants, desires, and petitions. We need to lay them at the foot of the

cross and give them over to God knowing that He knows best. Colossians 1:20-22, "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unprovable in his sight."

Hebrews 8:10b, "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people." God wants His laws to be in our hearts and minds, but He will not just miraculously put them there. It takes work on our part. Get in the habit of studying God's word, listening to good, godly music, and filling our minds with wholesome stuff. Over and over, repetition is what makes something stick in our minds. When we are together, talk about something with eternal value. Discuss God's word, ask questions, stir up thoughts. Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."

1 Timothy 1:7-8a, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord." Get use to telling your testimony of what God has done for you. How He has provided, brought you through some temptations or challenging time. The more you tell it, the more it becomes real to you and the more you are looking for His provision. We need to realize that He has fought the battle and won! We do not fight for victory but from victory!!

Revelation 12:11, "And they overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death." Did you ever look at past and even present martyrs and question if you could stand like they did? Even unto the death?

I submit to you that they did not face their persecution with a weak mind. They knew that they would not bend or break, they had it settled in their mind long before the day of their death that they would stand for Jesus until they were standing with Him in glory. I write this as a note of encouragement and a challenge to you as well as myself. There

is a line of a song that says this, "Time is winding down, just look around us. Evil is breaking loose on every side. The Devil knows his time is almost over. That soon the clock will stop, and Jesus Christ will split the skies!"

We need to be deeply confident in the truth that God is ALWAYS right, Jesus Christ is coming back, heaven and hell are both real and you are going to one or the other. Choose wisely. The devil will do anything and everything to get you to question any of these things. Once he does, he has a foothold, and you begin to lose the battle in your mind. Decide in your mind, today, that no matter what, who, or why, you will remain faithful to God. He will not let you down!!

Romans 8:37-39, "Nay, in all things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Brother Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

March 2022 Study Questions

March 6 – 1 Samuel 4:12-5:9

In verse 13 and verse 15 what do we learn about Eli’s physical condition that seems contradictory?

What life experiences help you comprehend the sorrow felt by those in this passage?

What common assumption is made by cultures with different gods when they do battle?

Why did the Philistines place the ark in the temple with Dagon?

What do we learn about God’s honor in these verses?

Commentary: Defeat, loss, failure. These are words describing a reality difficult for us to bear. The consequences of such realities are seldom limited just to ourselves or whoever is the guilty party. Phineas’ wife died from a broken heart as much as any complications associated with childbirth. And she said, “The glory has departed from Israel, for the ark of God has been captured.” (1 Sam. 4:22) She also lost her husband and her father-in-law. While the valley of the shadow of death is not our favorite camping site or place to go on vacation, it can be a place and time in our lives where we discover or deepen our trust in the Lord. Nor is God hindered by our unfaithfulness. He is quite capable of winning victories over our enemies without any help from us. The Philistines had won the battle but are quickly discovering they are losing the war. God is not an object to be controlled or manipulated by those who possess the ark. In a direct contest with Dagon, the Philistine god, the Lord knocks Dagon down in the first round and scores a KO (knockout) in the second round. The Philistines begin breaking out with nasty tumors all over their bodies. Death and destruction accompany the ark of the covenant as it gets shuffled from one city to the next. God is not hindered in manifesting His omnipotence. No vacancy and not welcome signs go up everywhere. Bottom line is that

God is quite capable of taking care of Himself. He manages to honor Himself with no help whatsoever from His chosen people. While sin has prevented Israel from tasting victory, God has not stopped being their God. With Him all things are possible. So even when disaster haunts the landscape of their faithfulness (and ours) His people can say, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." (Rom. 8:37)

March 13 – 1 Samuel 5:10-6:18

What assumption(s) did the Philistines have about God since they won the battle?

What do the Philistines learn about the God of Israel?

Why didn't the Philistines send the ark home sooner?

Have you ever felt enslaved by something you thought made you powerful?

When we use the phrase, "The fear of the Lord," what are we saying about God?

Commentary: The Philistines had their hands full with the God of Israel. And they were not happy about it. Death, disease, and destruction went wherever they took the ark of the Lord. Perhaps they thought they could harness the power of Israel's God for their own purposes. What they discovered is that Israel's God was no more friendly with them than He had been with the Egyptians and Pharaoh. If they did not release the ark of the Lord they would be destroyed. Humanity prefers a god that can be controlled. A warm fire, a full belly, good company, and plenty of coins in our pockets satisfies most of our needs. If there is a god who will do these things for us, we will bow down and worship. But the God of Israel is not a domesticated god. He cannot be tamed. He cannot be known except on His terms. Revelation is how we begin to know the Lord. His infinite nature is revealed by His creation. His written word teaches and instructs us. His Spirit gives us eyes of faith to discern character. His Son reveals the depths of love God has for His people. It is the life, death, and resurrection of Christ that we have the fullest means

to know Him until we see Him face to face. "But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased." (Ps. 115:3)

March 20 – 1 Samuel 6:19-7-17

What do some translations of the Bible report as the number of men killed in Bath Shemesh?

Why is the ark of the Lord essentially abandoned for twenty years?

What circumstances led to Israel "lamenting after the Lord"?

What were Samuel's duties as a judge of Israel?

What change in behavior accompanied Israel's return to the Lord?

How does verse 8 confirm Israel's repentance?

What is significant about Ramah being Samuel's home?

Commentary: "And the children of Israel said to Samuel, Cease not to cry unto the Lord our God for us, that he will save us out of the hand of the Philistines." (1 Sam. 7:8)

God wants our attention. If we give it to Him sparingly, we are likely to lose our way along the pathway of life. We end up not sure how we got to where we are and little clue how to find the path again. If we are truly serious about finding our way, we will need to allow God to show us the wrong steps we have taken so that we do not keep making the wrong choices as we walk. The children of Israel lamented after the Lord. They were full of regret and grief at the choices they had made. What were those choices? In the clash of cultures between Israel and the other nations occupying the land given to Israel by God they had allowed idolatry to seduce their hearts and minds. They had stopped giving the Lord their full attention. Dire consequences followed poor choices. But as they lamented their choices the word of the Lord ministered to their hearts through Samuel. Renewal and revival began to take place. Under Samuel's direction they gathered at Mizpah to repent of their sins. Then, horror of horrors, the Philistines prepare to attack Israel. Israel had not come

prepared for war. Their cries are not for victory but for deliverance. They call on the Lord to save them from the Philistines. They are giving their full attention to Him. Only by God's power will they taste victory. So complete was His victory that He restored to Israel many cities taken by the Philistines. Let us not forget to lament our sins nor forget who saves us beyond what we can imagine or believe.

March 27 – 1 Samuel 8:1-22

What is alluring about dishonest gain, bribery, and perverting justice?

Who are the elders of Israel?

How do emotions cloud our judgment?

How did prayer help Samuel see beyond his hurt?

What are the advantages of having a king?

What will having a king cost Israel?

What likely was the most appealing reason for having a king?

Commentary: How often we long for a king to rule over us. How often we long for that king to lead us in ways that diminishes the problems we face and maximizes the strengths we possess. How often we wish for a king who will give wise counsel, speak the truth boldly, and continually fight for justice for all. How often we long for a king who is flesh and blood, who truly understands our problems, who knows our sorrows, and can deliver a better tomorrow. How often we segregate the root issues of life into political and spiritual worlds. We need a king now who can deal with the issues of economies, war, race and refugees, rights, guns, and who gets to vote. How often we hope that the king we want could just get enough votes to win. Then all the problems of our day will be swallowed up by the promises that will bring a new day and cause rejoicing for years to come. How often we long for a king below and without realizing it, reject the king of kings above.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION UPDATE FOR DECEMBER

“Only one life ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.” This is a quote by C. T. Studd, and you have likely heard it multiple times. I want to finish his statement that you are less likely to have heard. “Only one life ‘twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last. And when I am dying, how happy I’ll be, if the lamp of my life has been burned out for Thee.” I cannot think on the meaning of these words without shedding a tear. Brothers and Sisters if this could only be the reality of each one of us, I do not believe our imaginations could grasp the work God could accomplish in the world we live in. 2021 is now over and as C. T. Studd’s statement for our lives is true, it is ultimately true for the year 2021 as well as how we used it.

My time at this mission has humbled me to the reality of what God has done for me. It has burdened me with the responsibility I have to share my Redeemer to those that have not experienced Him. It has revealed, in a far greater way, the destitute nature of life without Him.

It has alarmed me at the reality of how little American believers are bothered by the lost state of the humanity that surrounds them each day. It has caused me to shed one hundred times more tears in a year and a half than I had in the prior twenty-seven years of my life (infancy/childhood excluded). It has also been the greatest blessing of my spiritual life to this point. Service to my Savior is the greatest, and most humbling honor of my life and I say that as a husband and father blessed beyond anything I could have asked for with my children and wife.

December had a new record for funerals with ten. These funerals have probably been the single greatest impactor of my time here. It is such a humbling thing to stand at the graveside to lay to rest the body of a man who took his life to go be with his father that also took his life a year earlier. To be in the midst of a group of mourning people knowing you hold the answer to life and eternity that they so desperately need in that moment. Such a setting teaches you so much appreciation for

Jesus and what an absolute honor it is to be able to represent and share Him to those that do not know Him.

As a critical care nurse, I have had patients that I quite literally held their lives in my hands. With proper management of their illness or injury, I could, through medicine, save their life or lose it. As incredible as that experience is, it pales in comparison to this setting where I get to offer a Savior of the soul even unto eternity. The life I save in ICU may go out the next day and hang themselves, as the men mentioned above, because I offer them no lasting hope in and of myself. My Savior offers all of this even to the saving of the uttermost.

I could go on about the funerals and details related to them but really, I am more just wanting you to taste what I have tasted of and hopefully my descriptions and words can do that in a small way. December brought us to a total of seventy-three funerals that we have been a part of since June of 2020. I believe there is a handful of reasons for such a large number, but I do not know for sure. Although it is heavy, each one has provided an opportunity

to show the love of Jesus and for that I am grateful and have found myself blessed by them.

Additionally, December had a lot of traveling with the staff. My family went to Iowa for my youngest sister's wedding. The rest of the staff was gone for the holidays while we watched the mission. Loraina also got to visit her boyfriend, Carter, that I mentioned as a prayer request last month.

We got some snow, did a lot of Christmas caroling and handing out blankets and gifts. The school had a Christmas party on the 23rd which will be more documented on the next bulletin. The school continues to have the same student body as it had to start the year which is a blessing and not a given.

Throughout the holidays there is always plenty of reminders of how good we have it as poor souls come to the mission seeking help. We always try to use such opportunities to teach life lessons not just hand out clothes, food, and firewood. Give a man a fish and feed him for a day vs teaching a man to fish and feed him for a lifetime is a pretty good rule of thumb that we try to follow here.

Also of note, we found out

Alyssa and I will be having a baby boy this summer and we are excited about that. Overall, God has been good, life has been busy, and we have been blessed.

I want to take time to thank each of you that have supported the work here over the past year as well as those that gave over the holiday season. I have used the word humbling quite a bit in this update and it belongs here again. It is humbling to see and receive your support. The giving throughout the year and especially in December is a real blessing. A blessing to the staff

with the gifts, cards, and money sent to us and the mission. A blessing to the community, as I mentioned above caroling is a special time as we not only go sing but, thanks to you, we have had an abundance of blankets and gifts as they allow us to show we care, tell of a Savior that loves, and bring honor and glory to Him. I hope each of you had a Christ focused and blessed Christmas season. You have blessed us, and we pray God will bless you also.

Sincerely,
Brother Devin Meyers

THE PARENT'S RESPONSIBILITY BEGINS BEFORE BIRTH

Every now and then, you see on the news a story about a child out of control. When I see that, my first instinctive response is to thank God they are not my child. However, that is not the attitude to have.

The responsibility of a parent begins long before the birth of that first child. The newly wedded couple needs to begin their married life praying for their children. In fact, they should start even before they get married.

Nobody can really predict what kind of child they will have, but everybody can do the best possible job in raising their children. I will admit, it is more difficult raising children today than ever. But it is possible to raise Christian children in such a society.

One person said something I thought was significant, "Parents are not to raise perfect children but rather perfect adults." Sometimes we forget the children are only children

for a brief period, but they are adults for the rest of their lives.

The question that must be posed is, how can parents, newly married, begin to pray for their children? There are things about their children that they do not even know yet, including their gender.

Personally, I think, it begins by praying that the couple will be a deeply spiritual couple resting on the promises of God. A good husband/wife relationship is the foundation for good parenting. Every couple needs to be praying that they will set the tone for their children to come.

I know there are people in our society who are desirous of destroying husband-wife relationships. But a Christian couple has resources that nobody else has.

Daily this newly married couple should spend time reading the scriptures together and praying together. This is necessary if their relationship is going to be built on spiritual values. Of course, it is also important to go to church. However, I believe, that this daily devotional time together is the foundation upon which the rest of their married life should be built.

Unfortunately, newly married couples may become so caught up with life that they soon have little time for quiet times together with the Lord. They must be willing to do this more than anything else.

The wife should be praying that her husband will be a godly father to the children. What children need today are fathers who are godly, who can raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

The husband should be praying that his wife will be a godly mother to the children. Mothers have a hard enough time today and if that spiritual foundation is not present, they will be influenced by the culture around them.

Children today need godly fathers and mothers if they are really going to survive today's society. There are many things that the father and mother will have to do to counteract the influence of society upon the children. Prayer needs to be made by both parents individually as well as together for their children.

Then of course, this newlywed couple needs to begin praying for their children. At this point, they do not know

who those children will be, nor the number there will be, but they do need to pray, so God will bless as they acquire a family. This is the time to begin praying for those children because they will be facing quite the world out there.

Children need to receive training that equips them to face the godless society that we have today. The prayers of the parents to be, need to emphasize that their children might have an appetite for the things of God. We cannot make our children Christians. But we can create an environment where they will develop an appetite for the things of God.

I believe God's word to Jeremiah should be the foundation of our prayer. "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jeremiah 1:5).

Certainly, this newlywed couple do not know anything about the children that will be

coming into their home. But, according to Jeremiah, God does. I believe, this is a particularly important verse of Scripture for newlywed couples to meditate upon. Even before pregnancy, God knows these children and have a purpose for these children.

This then should be the prayer of this newlywed couple for the children to come. That they would be able to help those children discover God's purpose for their life. What could be more wonderful than leading your children to understand God's purpose for their lives?

Although parenting in our day has become a very careless and casual thing, for the Christian couple it is the most dynamic ministry they could possibly have. Someone has said that it takes a village to raise a child, but I think, it takes a community of godly men and women that begins with this newly married couple.

James L. Snyder
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KEEP PLAYING

Matthew 18:5, "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me."

In the 1920's, there was no Polish man more famous than Jan Ignace Paderewski. He was a prominent concert pianist who performed all over the globe. He had been president of Poland after World War I. He performed often in the United States.

To one such performance came a mother and her young son. She saw musical talent in her son and took him to the concert to encourage it. When they arrived, the young boy was overwhelmed by the huge piano on stage. The mother was talking to a friend and did not notice her son as he disappeared.

When the lights dimmed, the attention was drawn to the stage, the woman was

floored to see her son on the piano bench playing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." About this time the maestro arrived to scattered applause. "Don't quit, keep playing," he said, reaching around either side of the boy. He began to embellish the simple tune. Never had there been a finer version of this song ever played in public. The old maestro and the young musician gave an unforgettable performance.

Do you feel that what you do for God carries no significance? Paderewski said to the youngster, "Keep playing." Do not be discouraged. There is room for you. Do not be jealous of others' abilities but give all the glory to God. Remember, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

I hear the Saviour say,
 "Thy strength indeed is small,
 Child of weakness, watch and pray,
 Find in me thine all in all."

Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
 Sin had left a crimson stain,
 He washed it white as snow.

Mrs. H. M. Hall
 Brother Lynn H. Miller
 Mohler's Congregation

THE SON WHO LEFT HOME

Rudy Cover
Luke 15:1-24

Did you ever feel like running away from home? Don't do it. I did once and it does not pay. Home is the best place you can be. It is the place where there are those who love you most. Some do not have good homes, and some have no home at all but most of us have good homes – especially we who have Christian parents.

There was a man who had two sons. He was a good father and had plenty to eat, a good house to live in and servants to work for him. The younger son became dissatisfied. He wanted to go away from home and see something different. He was tired of working with his brother. He wanted to see the world. He asked his father to give him his inheritance, the share of this father's wealth that would be his when his father died. This was an unusual request, but his father went along with it. He divided his living unto his two sons.

It was not long till the younger son took his belongings and went on a journey to a far country. He really had a big time. He had many friends as

long as his money lasted. It was something he had never experienced before. He could do just as he pleased. He wasted his substance with riotous living. His money was soon gone.

He may have thought, "When I've spent all I have, I will get a good job and make some more." This was not the way it worked out. About the time he had spent everything, there was a famine in the land. It did not rain; the crops did not grow, and no jobs were to be had – especially for a stranger in a foreign land. What was he to do?

I suppose at first, he tried to get a nice easy job with big pay; then he would ask for a little lower position and day by day he was refused. There just was not anything to be had. He was getting hungrier and more desperate until at last he went to a man who raised hogs. The man did not pay him any money for the job but said he could eat what the pigs ate!

How low can a man get? The food he ate did not satisfy him at all. It did not taste good, and

he lost weight. He was getting hungrier and weaker. One day he got to thinking the thing over and said to himself, "How many servants, of my father, have bread enough and to spare and I perish with hunger! I am going home, and I will say, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants."

So, he started for home. The father loved his son who had run away from home. I can see him watching the road every day, hoping for his return. While the son was a great way off, the father saw him coming. He ran to meet him and hugged him and kissed him. The son was a mess; his clothes were dirty and torn; he had not had a bath for days; his shoes were gone. The

son said to his father, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in thy sight and am no more worthy to be called thy son."

Before the son could ask to be made as one of the servants, the father said to his servants, "Bring forth the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his hand; and shoes on his feet; and bring forth the fatted calf. Let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again."

God is our Heavenly Father, and he wants us to come home to Him. He loves us and wants to forgive us our sins if we will only repent. God will bless you abundantly if you will give Him your life and trust Him for everything.

Selected from the
July 15, 1981
issue of the Bible Monitor

GOD AS FLESH AND BLOOD

Howard J. Surbey

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear

of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and

faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.” Heb. 2:14-17.

Every individual, in the past, present or future, who wished to be a child of God has partaken of flesh and blood and Christ also took on flesh and blood. Why should He, a part of the eternal Godhead, so lower and humble Himself like this? That He might suffer and die in the flesh in order to be made a sacrifice for our sins: thereby releasing those who accept Him as a sacrifice for their sins and thus removing them from the hold of Satan. “Deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage” no doubt refers to the delivering of the Jews from the bondage of the law of the Old Testament.

It would not have been such a humiliating move if Christ had taken on the nature of angels, who were only a little lower than He was in heaven: but He took on the flesh and blood of the seed of Abraham. More than this He allowed Himself to suffer and be treated in all things, like the despised Jews were treated, that He might understand how to be a merciful and faithful high priest unto them

and between them and God the Father. More than that He stooped and suffered, that He might wipe away the sins of the people and reconcile them in the sight of God. Do you love your Lord and Saviour? Do you have enough faith in Him to depend upon Him to cancel your sins? Are you willing to serve Him with all your mind, soul, and body for the remainder of your life?

Here the wonderful love of God appeared, that when Christ knew what He must suffer in our nature and die in it, yet He so readily took it upon Him. Christ must be faithful to God and merciful to men. There was a great breach and quarrel between God and man, by reason of sin; but by Christ taking on flesh and blood and dying, He has removed the stain and covered its scar so that God is ready to receive all into His favour and kingdom, who come to Him through Christ.

No doubt the wise man Solomon referred to the suffering of Christ many, many years before in Psa. 22:13, 16-18, “They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. For dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me:

they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones; they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” Who but Christ could coordinate the plans of God over so many years? Again, the Psalmist tells us Psa. 69:21-23, “They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Let their table become a snare before them; and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.” What could be more revealing of the way the Jews treated Christ. Instead of Christ’s sacrifice being for their welfare, it is a trap to keep them out of His kingdom, because they will not believe it. Have not their loins shaken almost continually since, for fear of the powers of Satan?

Is there any hope for the Jews, who have suffered so bitterly for their wicked deeds? “And it shall come to pass

in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first born.” Zech. 12:9-10. What else can this refer to than the future acceptance of Christ by the Jews? Are you going to go against Jerusalem and oppose them? Notice in the latter part, how earnestly they shall seek the Lord. Have you noticed in the last 25 years, how rapidly they are getting ready for the fulfillment of this Scripture? No doubt the Lord will come for His own before the final fulfillment of these words. Are you ready for His coming?

Selected from the
March 15, 1962
issue of the Bible Monitor

OBITUARIES

RUBY PIKE

Sister Ruby Marie Pike, 93 years of West Unity, Ohio passed away December 31, 2021, at Cameron Community Memorial Hospital, Angola, Indiana. Ruby was born July 25, 1928, in McClave, Colorado, the daughter of the late Melvin C. and Sarah E. (Jarboe) Roesch. She married Wayne Samuel Pike on June 10, 1950, in Wauseon, Ohio, and he preceded her in death on March 23, 2016. A devoted wife and mother, Ruby had previously worked as a cook in a restaurant. She provided childcare for many families over the years. Ruby was an active member at West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church in Wauseon, serving as a Deacon's wife, Sunday School teacher and song leader. Ruby was an excellent seamstress, creating clothing for many others. She also enjoyed quilting, baking, being known for her pies, traveling, taking pictures, and collecting interesting rocks.

Surviving are her four daughters, Dianne (Paul) Heisey of West Unity, Ohio, Brenda (Pete) Beck of West Unity, Ohio, Nedra Pike of Defiance, Ohio, and Renee (Steve) Heisey of West Unity, Ohio; sixteen grandchildren and forty great-grandchildren; one sister, Beulah Swihart of Goshen, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Wayne; one daughter, Nadine Morehouse; son-in-law, Jerry Morehouse, and one great-grandson, Anthony.

Services were held at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church on January 11, 2022, with Brethren Brant Jamison, Andrew Miller and Lyndell Noecker officiating. Interment was in the North Pettisville Cemetery, Wauseon, Ohio.

BETTY STUBER

Betty L. Stuber, 81 of Ephrata, Pennsylvania, went home to be with the Lord, January 7, 2022, peacefully in her sleep. She was the daughter of the late Paul F. and Mildred (Sensenig) Stuber. Betty was born January 24, 1940. She was a member of Christ Ambassadors Church, Little Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Betty attended Ephrata Schools, worked for Akron Shoe Factory, Maple Farm Nursing Home, Ephrata Nursing Home, and after her retirement enjoyed doing in home care.

She is survived by her sister, Mary Wise, Ephrata, Pennsylvania, brother Ray Stuber, husband of Joyce, of Felton, Pennsylvania. Also

surviving is a daughter, Karen Lynn, wife of Jody Mease, Dalmatia, Pennsylvania, three grandchildren, Justin Mease, husband of Cystal, of Herndon, Pennsylvania, Kristiana Baronet, wife of Brad, of Cleburne, Texas, and Jody Lynn Mease of St. Robert, Missouri, nine great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by brothers, Paul Stuber, Jr., and Harold Stuber, sisters-in-law, Sandra and Delores, brother-in-law, Carl Wise, and a great-granddaughter, Shelby Nicole.

Betty loved her family, reading her Bible, listening to Gospel Music, praying for others, scrapbooking, puzzles, crosswords, spending time with her sisters and brothers in Christ, and going to church.

Services were held at the Valley View Mennonite Church, Stevens, Pennsylvania with interment in the Mellinger's Union Cemetery across from the church.

FERN M. NESS

Sister Fern M. (Fahnestock) Ness, 91, of York, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2022, at Senior Commons at Powder Mill Rd., York, Pennsylvania. She was the loving wife of Jacob C. Ness for almost forty-seven years before his passing in 2001. Born August 8, 1930, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania she was the daughter of the late Adam and Susan (Minnich) Fahnestock of Lititz, Pennsylvania.

She was a kind and loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She worked as a cook at Dallastown Middle School Cafeteria for twenty-eight years before retiring in 2000. She was a long-time member of Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church where she served as a Sunday School teacher and minister's wife. She enjoyed baking, growing flowers, and spending time with her grandchildren and family. Everyone enjoyed her fun-loving sense of humor.

She is survived by two children, a daughter, Sharon Lehigh, and her husband Robert of Spring Grove, Pennsylvania; a son, Duane Ness, and his wife Tina, of York, Pennsylvania; five grandchildren, Adam Lehigh and his wife Melanie, Christina Lehigh, Alisha Lehigh, Chloe Ness, Maxwell Ness and three great-grandchildren. Besides her husband, she was also preceded in death by a brother, Lloyd M. Fahnestock and a sister Leota Fahnestock.

Funeral services were held January 24 at Shrewsbury Dunkard

Brethren Church, Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania with Brethren Ray Stuber, Adam Lehigh, and Merle Sweitzer officiating. Interment following in the adjoining cemetery.

DOROTHY E. MARKS

Sister Dorothy Elizabeth Marks, 97 years old, passed away January 26, 2022, at the home of her son in Hart, Michigan. She was born in the Dunkard Valley, Springfield Township, York County, Pennsylvania on April 2, 1924. She was the third child of Norman E. and Elsie E. (Godfrey) Keeney. She was preceded in death by her parents and all her siblings – Marguerite, Elva, Kenneth, Laverne, Norman Jr. and three great grandchildren.

She helped with the work on the family farm in North Hopewell Township and received her eight years of formal education at the Myers School.

August 16, 1937, at the age of 13, she was baptized by Elder J. L. Myers into fellowship at the Lower York County Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church meeting at Shrewsbury.

On April 7, 1945, she married Melvin F. Marks who passed away December 24, 1968. Surviving are four children, Ronald (Nancy), Hart, Michigan, Marian (Stanley) Primeau, York, Pennsylvania, Marvin (Wanda) Montrose, Colorado, and Melvin (Barbara) Airville, Pennsylvania. There are twenty-seven grandchildren, sixty-five great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren, leaving over one hundred physical descendants, besides many nieces and nephews and a sister-in-law, Norman Jean Keeney.

For forty-six years she lived on the farm in North Hopewell Township, Pennsylvania, where the family was raised. She then moved to a new house on the property. In August of 2020 she moved to Michigan.

As the last original vendor of the New Eastern Market, she retired in 2015 at ninety-one but continued to do some baking for five more years. She was well known for her angel food cakes, pies and bread.

Surrounded by her family, she had a peaceful passing to meet her Savior two days before the one hundredth anniversary of her husband's birth.

Funeral services were held at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church on February 4, 2020. Interment was in the adjoining graveyard.

DANIEL VANCE

Brother Daniel Galen Vance, 83, of Flintstone, Maryland, passed away February 1, 2022, at his home. Born February 22, 1938, in Frostburg, Maryland, he was the son of the late Daniel H. Vance and Mildred (Eichorn) Vance.

He was also preceded in death by his wife of sixty and a half years, Catherine Vance, with whom he looks forward to reuniting with his “Sugar”, his brother, Richard Tyree; his daughters, Deborah Ann Vance, and Catherine Vance; his son, Timothy Adam Vance; and he was the last surviving member of his immediate family.

Dan was a graduate of Allegany High School, Class of 1957, where he played football. He was a U. S. Naval veteran and retired from Kelly Springfield Rubber and Tire Company. Dan served his community as a member and fire chief for the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department.

He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church for forty-five years.

Dan loved the outdoors, dogs, and wolves.

Dan is survived by his sons, Daniel M. Vance and wife, Cathy, and Steve Vance and wife, Jamie; his grandchildren, Brandon Vance and wife, Sarah, Melanie Vance, Staci Vance, Rachel Hill and husband Brandon, Grace Vance, and Trevor Ritchie; his great-grandchildren, Rylan Vance, Brandon Vance, Jr., Seamus and Atticus; his best friend and side kick, Minnie, aka, His Pup; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be private.

NEWS ITEMS**GENERAL CONFERENCE 2022**

The Lord willing, this year’s General Conference of the Dunkard Brethren Church will be held June 4-8, 2022, at Manchester University in North Manchester, Indiana. Questions and reservations should be directed to Brother Lyndell and Sister Rita Noecker. Reservations must be received by May 21, 2022, via text, call, email, or mail.

Rita’s cell: 567-239-5348

ritanoecker@gmail.com

13903 Co. Rd. 20, West Unity, OH 43570

We have attempted to find a place suitable for all ages and believe this location will serve us well. The buildings are all close and there is an open yard for play. We plan to have activities for children as well as complete access to two gyms. There are four camper hookups on the campus and a campground within ten minutes.

Further information will be published later.

The Lodging Committee

NOTICE

Please be sure all queries, reports, and any other business for 2022 General Conference are in my hands by April 15, 2022.

Thank you,

Brother Marlin Marks, Writing Clerk of General Conference.

Address: 429 Summit Drive, Red Lion, PA 17356-1119

Phone: 1-717-246-9193

Email: marlinanddarlene@att.net

CORRECTION

In the February 2022 issue of the Bible Monitor the current staff at Torreon Navajo Mission was not listed. The current staff at the Mission is: Devin and Alyssa Meyers, Vernon and Emily Champ, and Loraina Priest. All other information concerning the Mission remains current.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation will be having their spring revivals starting on March 20, 2022, through March 27 with Bro. Gerry Priest from the Chambersburg Congregation. Remember Bro. Gerry as he prepares for these meetings. Sunday, March 20, the evening service will start at 7:00 P.M. throughout the week starting at 7:30 P.M. Sunday, March 27, there will be a meal prepared for all in the basement and the last service starting at 2:00 P.M. All are invited, come, and enjoy the fellowship.

Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

We invite all prayer warriors to join us in prayer for our upcoming revival meetings. May the Holy Spirit move mightily through Brother Paul Skiles as he brings us messages from God. May we

as the listeners at Dallas Center willingly have our hearts open so that we may receive that Holy Spirit into our hearts and lives.

These Revivals will be held March 27 - April 3, 2022. Join us the first Sunday and enjoy a Fellowship meal, join us every evening during the week or join us for our Lovefeast weekend. Saturday April 2, we will be enjoying messages in the morning at 10:45 A.M., Examination services at 2:00 P.M. with Communion at 6:30 P.M. Sunday April 3, join us for Morning Worship at 7:30 A.M., Morning services at 9:30 A.M. and the final service at 1:30 P.M. on our closing day of Revivals.

Sister Mabel Chupp, Cor.

BEREAN, INDIANA

The Berean Congregation welcomes Brother Devin Sweitzer, from Quinter Congregation to hold our Spring Revival meeting March 30 through April 3. Services will begin each evening at 7:30 P.M., Sunday at 10:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. with lunch served, as well. All are welcome to join us for these services. Let us be in prayer for the progress of these meetings.

Sister Donna Wray, Cor.

CONNECTIONS

Contributed by the Bible Study Board in reference to this month's Sunday School Lessons. Our hope in writing a monthly article is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

The Hand of God was heavy upon the city causing the men that did not die to be stricken with painful tumors. The cry of the city went up to heaven. We often need the hand of God heavy upon us that can cause us to cry out and return to Him

It is natural to harden our hearts. The light exposes the darkness. The light is bright and initially causes us to turn away. However, once we realize the Truth our eyes are open to the fact that the light not only exposes the darkness of our hard heart but will also bring about cleansing, the removal of the darkness, and the softening of our hearts. This brings us into a relationship with God and into His presence. The psalmist answers the question who can stand before this holy Lord God? He that has clean hands and a pure heart.

We ought to be lamenting and anguishing over souls that have not been made pure. Those who are not able to come into the presence of a holy God. Not only lament for the lost but also for ourselves when we stray. We need reminders of what God has done in our lives knowing He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Revival comes when we are willing to listen and obey the voice of God however, He chooses to speak to us (through prayer, His word, or other believers). Revival also comes when we turn to Him for cleansing and the glory of the Lord shines in and through our lives for His honor and glory.

Brother Jason Carpenter for the Bible Study Board

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 2022

April 3 – Seeking Samuel the Seer – 1 Samuel 9:1-21

1. Did Saul know that Samuel was going to be anointing a king?

2. Were Saul's comments about his family in verse 21 factual or just his opinion?

3. What traits do you see in Saul which made him qualified to be king?

April 10 – A Lowly Benjamite Given a New Heart – 1 Samuel 9:22-10:16

1. Why did Samuel want to anoint Saul in private?

2. What did Samuel mean in verse 6 when he said that Saul would be turned into another man?

3. Why didn't Saul say anything to his uncle about becoming king?

April 17 – The Resurrection! – Acts 10:34-48

1. Who was Peter talking to in this passage?

2. Are we ever surprised to see God work in the lives of others like the Jews were in this story?

3. Did the Gentiles in this story receive the Holy Spirit before being baptized or expressing repentance and faith in Jesus?

April 24 – Big Man, Hidden in the Stuff – 1 Samuel 10:17-11:9

1. Why did God grant the people's request for a king?

2. Why do you think Saul hid himself? Fear? Humility?

3. In verse 5, was Saul still caring for his family's herds even after becoming king?

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