

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. C

APRIL, 2022

NO. 04

“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.

OF HIM WHO DID SALVATION BRING

Of him who did salvation bring,
I could forever think and sing;
Arise, ye needy, he'll relieve:
Arise, ye guilty, he'll forgive.

Ask but his grace, and, lo, 'tis giv'n!
Ask, and he turns your hell to heav'n
Though sin and sorrow wound my soul,
Jesus, thy balm will make it whole.

'Tis thee I love; for thee alone
I shed my tears and make my moan;
Where'er I am, where'er I move,
I meet the object of my love.

Insatiate to this spring I fly;
I drink, and yet am ever dry;
Ah! Who against thy charms is proof!
Ah! Who that loves can love enough!

—*Charles Wesley*

WORSHIP

Throughout the Bible, worship of God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is promoted and commanded. The Psalms are full of David's and others' worship and praise directed toward God. God is praised for His might, ability, love, and care that He shows to His people. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is praised and honored throughout the New Testament as He completes God's plan for the rescue and salvation of His human creation. The Holy Spirit is worshipped not through direct praise being offered to Him, but through the glory that it is given to the Son. Worship is important not only for the honor and glory given to the Godhead, but also for the uplift that is inspired within the one who worships.

Christians need to worship appropriately.

Worship is the result of the realization, availability, and inspiration of the Holy Spirit within a Christian's life. The believer becomes aware of the Spirit's power to make known Who God and Jesus Christ really are. God is not a shrine sitting with other idols. Jesus Christ is not a warm and fuzzy figure who is going to protect and ennoble us. God is real; He has power; He will judge; He is capable of the tenderest of emotions; and the harshest of judgments. Jesus Christ is real; He lived an earthly life without sin or misstep; He warned and entreated sinners to repent; He provided the perfect sacrifice that was approved by

THE BIBLE MONITOR APRIL, 2022

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

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

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

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

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His Father for the salvation of fallen mankind. The Holy Spirit inspires people to worship and glorify Jesus. He interprets the Word of God that He inspired. He leads in ways that may seem mysterious and strange but are approved by God.

Worship is not music, noise, or uncontrolled emotionalism. It is not a performance, an act, or an art. Worship honors God through words, singing, or direction that is consistent with the inspired Word of God. The true Holy Spirit will not lead a worshiping person to do, say, or sing untruth or to commend that which is unbiblical.

Worship can happen on the largest stage of Christian service with multitudes in attendance or in the tiniest of rooms where one believer dwells. The size of the event does not guarantee the richness of inspiration nor the genuineness of expression. It can never be staged no matter the quality of the performance or those involved.

Words are an important part of worship. Words may be spoken, in a sermon, a Sunday School lesson, an opening or closing devotion, or in individual speaking opportunities. The words may not be expressed

with great emotional or dramatic effect. Words may convey witness of what God has done in a person's life. Words may encourage another who faces a difficult situation. Words may be set to music to glorify God and Jesus Christ. That worship music may not meet the standards of men, but it will be a joyful noise unto the Lord.

While these emotions may be conveyed by words, the attitudes behind those words are also important. What we say must be motivated by the Spirit of God within us. Those words must be heart-felt and honest. The Holy Spirit will not use words that are deceptive or untrue. Those words must honor God and Christ, not on us. We must have a sense of awe as we speak of God. He is above every other honored being in this world. Adoration should shine through the words that we use. The work of the Holy Spirit, using us as His spokesman, is to glorify Jesus and what He has accomplished within us.

Beyond the words that we use, our activities also convey our worship. Sometimes our lives speak so loudly that our words are drowned out. Hopefully, our lives will be

aligned with our words. Our lives should convey the same worship that comes from lips. The degree of helpfulness we show others conveys our willingness to worship God through service to those who have needs, that we can help address. Our obedience to the Lord's directives in His Word conveys our sense of worship. When we restrain ourselves to do His will shows that we are worshipping Him not only in word but also in deed. Our lives add a dimension to our words that lift

our words to a higher sense of worship in our daily living. God desires that we become His worshipful, productive children.

How do you worship God? Is your worship only in emotion or does it have substance beyond your words? He desires heartfelt worship demonstrated through your words and daily lives. May our lives be marked by the aura of worship that promotes and honors our God and our Savior.

M. C. Cook

A TESTIMONY TO THE GREATNESS OF OUR GOD!!!

There seems to be a greater number of my acquaintances that have been recently diagnosed with cancer. There also seems to be a lot of people who do not know or forget some important details of my cancer journey. I write this, not to bring attention to myself, but to bring honor and glory to our God. I also write this as an encouragement to those who are going through this valley as well as the families that are caring for them.

In the fall of 1999, I was diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma. I was twenty-three years old. This type of cancer is

found mostly in men over sixty. I had been married for about three years and we had a one-year-old son. We were living the dream, or so I thought. Knowing what I know now, I had been experiencing symptoms for most of a year, but since we did not know what to look for, I passed them off as nothing.

What finally led to a diagnosis was a lump in my neck lymph node that they biopsied. The findings led to more testing, and I was given the diagnosis of stage four, on the bone, but not in the marrow. I was run through a gantlet of testing to decide if

I was physically well enough to go through chemotherapy. Heart stress test, blood work, lung function, surgery to put in a port for the chemo, and so forth, you get the picture.

Our town was small enough that the hospital's infusion department was outdated, and we assumed we would be going a little over an hour away for treatments. To our surprise and joy, the doctor that was helping us decide what next and assigning us to an oncology Doctor informed us that one of the top oncology centers had just opened a satellite office in our town.

We met with Dr. Adkins, and he presented us with options. He assured us that if you had to have cancer, mine was the one to have. Easily treatable and curable. He told us of a very new treatment, Standard 5, that had just gotten approval and was working quite nicely. We agreed and he decided on a regiment of treatments every Monday afternoon for twelve weeks. He told us our ability to have more children was most likely over. If the cancer had not destroyed the ability the chemo most certainly would.

Over the next weeks I

received treatments and did blood draws weekly for them to keep track of my white blood cells. Twice the white cells were too low, and treatments were postponed a week while Laura administered steroid shots at home. My body was weakening, and the drugs were taking their toll on me. I was hungry all the time, puffy and bald from the chemo and steroids, and did not feel good most days. Laura was a selfless caregiver. She made sure I was getting enough to eat even though at times she went without. She administered shots and metered out the fifteen prescriptions I was on. She juggled appointments and stretched the finances further than seemed possible.

When it seemed like we were as deep as we could go without suffocating, the collection agencies started calling about the ever-mounting medical bills that we could not keep up with. They threatened to foreclose on our house and were an ever-constant bother to what seemed like a full enough plate.

Fast-forward to the end of the treatments. We are waiting in the exam room and Dr. Atkins comes in with his chart and announces that I am CANCER FREE!! He

went on to say that he only was hoping to be able to give us a five-year remission, and never expected to see the day when I was cancer free.

Looking back on this journey, we see the hand of God through the whole thing. The new remote cancer center that opened a few weeks before I needed it, closed about a year later. Not enough business in our little town. The new treatment that had just been approved, very shortly after I was done with it, was pulled from use, and can only be found in history books. It was killing patients, remember most of those with my kind of cancer were old. God has been so good to us. He is faithful!!! He brought about a complete healing!!!

When the medical field said, five years of fighting till the cancer took my life, God said "Not today, cancer!!" I have been almost twenty-two years cancer free. I had an aunt that came to us and asked for our biggest regular bill. She paid our home mortgage for a year. The church and community paid up all the bills that the insurance did not cover. God has given us two more children.

What I have not told you until now is this, our marriage

was far from being what God intended. It was struggling. I was one of the most selfish people I have ever met. I was more of a dictator than a Godly leader to my young family. I was raised in a Christian home and had been a born again, baptized believer since I was sixteen, but my life did not honor God or bring much value to the ones around me. Laura and I were not a team. I believe God allowed cancer into my life to teach me some things that I was too stubborn or stupid to get any other way.

He taught Laura and I to unite and fight as a unit and put ourselves aside and become a team, a force to be reckoned with. He taught me that things are things, and they are not what is important in life. He taught me when times are tough and you have nothing else but Him, He is all you need. He became real to us. He brought us in closer to Himself and made us realize that we are important to Him.

He showed me the importance of having good friends, church, and community to help when things are rough. He taught me how to be aware of the stuff others are going through and be available to help. He taught me how to give without any hesitation

or reserve. He taught me life is precious and tomorrow is not promised. He taught me how to live from a perspective that today may be my last.

Be sure you are right with God!! He taught me to LOVE. Love those around us. Love the hurting, love the less fortunate. He taught me the importance of telling my loved ones, I care. Send a note or a text. He taught me the importance and power of prayer. Prayer on an individual level and prayer corporately. I have tried to always remember and live life from the perspective of these lessons, but I am human, and I fail. At times, the Lord needs to gently remind me.

Again, I say all this to bring honor and glory to our God. To bring encouragement to those who find themselves somewhere in our story. "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that I cannot save; neither His ear

heavy, that it cannot hear." Isaiah 59:1

I am sure I do not fully know all the lessons God intended for me, or why He choose to give me another chance. This I do know I am determined to Honor and Glorify His name. I am determined to be available for His work and His callings. I will be faithful with and to the things that He has placed into my care. They are His and I will use them for Him.

I readily acknowledge not all cancer stories end like mine. I would never give cancer to someone to see them die, but if I knew that through their cancer diagnosis, they would learn what I have learned, and come out healed physically and strengthened spiritually, I would give cancer to everyone.

Brother Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

April 2022 Study Questions

April 3 – 1 Sam. 9:1-21

How has God used **donkeys** in your life to get your attention?

Has God ever used someone who is **lesser** than yourself to point you in the right direction?

What difference is there, at least in your own mind, between a seer and a prophet?

In this lesson how many *coincidences* can you find?

Has someone ever provided you the exact info you needed to accomplish your task?

How do you respond when suddenly thrust unexpectedly into the limelight?

Commentary: Most of us have spent far more time than we like to admit chasing donkeys. I do not mean the four-legged kind. Rather, they are disguised as keys missing from a purse or pocket. Perhaps it is the list that tells you what to buy at the grocery store or the phone number you were going to call while running errands that is MIA. So what donkeys is God using to get our attention? What coincidences are we discovering that lead us on to the next step in our journey? By faith we believe that God is working in our lives. He is free to use all things, large or small, common, or unique, to accomplish His purposes in our lives. Consider our passage. Saul and his servant have spent three days looking for the lost donkeys with no results. However, they are near to where Samuel lives. Perhaps he can tell them where the donkeys are. But they have nothing to give him in payment until the servant locates a nickel he had forgotten about. With hopes buoyed they head toward town and meet some young women who provide exact directions and information about Samuel's whereabouts. While searching for him Samuel walks up and introduces himself to Saul though they have never met before. Not only are the donkeys found but he informs Saul that God is going to use him to bring hope for all Israel. So, the next time you find yourself stuck behind a car going much too slow to suit you it may be helping you arrive at just the right time in God's plan for your life.

April 10 – 1 Sam. 9:22-10:16

What was running through Saul's mind as he and his servant ate with Samuel?

Where did Saul and his servant spend the night?

Has God ever surprised you?

What is God teaching Saul through the specific events Samuel describes?

What is different about the new heart God has given Saul?

Why did, “Is Saul also among the prophets?” become a proverb?

Commentary: What is the purpose of your life? I suspect that most of us do not often think, at least with great clarity, as to our life’s purpose. We know that we have a purpose, but the details are a bit sketchy. Like Saul we may be on donkey patrol but with little success. One day after another goes by with slight change in the status quo. Saul is not an obvious choice as the new and future king. He is not the master of every moment. He does not come across as a charismatic leader ready to be thrust into the limelight. But then neither are most of us. The temptation is to look ahead to see just what kind of king Saul will be. That is the advantage history provides us. But in the now, the present moment of each of our lives, we cannot see clearly what lies ahead. We can, however, choose to live expectantly. God has a purpose, and more than one, for each of us. It is often in the smallness of our daily lives that we are being prepared to live in the fullness of God’s love and life for each one of us.

April 17 – Acts 10:34-48

What is a one-word answer to what Peter preaches to the household of Cornelius?

What lesson is Peter learning?

What does the phrase “defining moment” mean to you?

How should it be applied to this passage?

What is the significance of Peter’s question in verse 47?

How is this passage a transitional moment in the life of the early church?

Commentary: A defining moment can be defined of as a point in time when something that was confusing and uncertain suddenly or quickly becomes very clear. Peter had a defining moment when he answered Jesus' question about who He is. "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God." Matt. 16:16. Jesus had just referred to Peter's name as meaning rock. But when Jesus says, "upon this rock I will build my church" He is not referring to the person of Peter but to Peter's confession of faith. Peter has had some humbling moments in his life since he had uttered those words. Perhaps when Peter commands the household of Cornelius to be baptized with water he makes sure that they are to be baptized "in the name of the Lord" and not in his name. However, a defining moment does not necessarily shed light on other matters that have caused confusion and uncertainty. Another defining moment must shed its light so that no one must stumble in the darkness. The Christians in our passage still defaulted to the Law when it involved relating to the Gentiles. The prohibitions of the Law inhibited any fellowshiping together. But Peter had a new defining moment that made his previous defining moment even clearer. "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34-35. The righteousness of God in Christ Jesus sweeps away the Law's prohibitions. Jewish and Gentile Christians now stand together on the same ground. As we grow in Christ, defining moments help magnify the purposes of God in our lives. They build upon each other providing greater insight and understanding. This is not just for the Peter's of the world but what the Lord desires for all of us.

April 24 – 1 Sam. 10:17-11:9

How does the Lord respond to being rejected as Israel's God, who has saved them many times?

How does a person's height affect our perception of them?

Where is Jabesh Gilead? And Gibeah?

What does Gibeah function as during Saul's reign as King?

How kingly does Saul appear in verse 5?

How effective was Saul's advertising campaign?

Commentary: The Bible does not tell us why Nahash the Ammonite chooses to attack Jabesh Gilead at this time. Perhaps he recognizes that this is a very opportune moment to snatch away a city close to the Jordan River that will give him a strategic location for multiple purposes. Saul, though chosen as king, is back on the farm taking care of his herd. He has not yet been crowned as King. He has not organized a standing army or organized his administration for ruling Israel. He is also untested as a leader, especially as a military leader. Nahash can inflict a mighty blow that will be a source of constant embarrassment to Israel and its untested king. Nahash forgot one detail in his grand scheme to conquer Jabesh Gilead: The Lord God of Israel. God's Spirit moved Saul to employ a vivid illustration to the people of what will happen to their oxen if they choose not to respond. The fear of the Lord fell on the people, and they responded as one people to Nahash's threat. In our own humanness we forget to consider the Lord in our plans. We wonder why things go every which way but the way we planned. God uses these times to remind us that He is Lord of all. When He leads and we follow goodness and mercy are always right behind us.

Brother Phil Franklin
Modesto, CA

LOOKING

Psalm 115:5, "Eyes have they but they see not..."

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 12:2

First came the theatre. For most, feeding the family consumed most of the average man's money, so they saw little of it. The 1890's brought the nickelodeon, which developed into full-scale motion pictures.

They were cheap in the beginning, so everybody could sneak a peek, and so they did. From the beginning, dirty and violent movies could be found, if you knew where to look.

After World War II the television became popular when it was introduced to the unsuspecting public. With radio everything came in through the ear. But with Television you looked,

and it was hard to look away.

Toward the end of the 19th century the art of the purchase began to change. Before that, if you needed a particular item from the store, you would go and ask for it. The clerk would slide the ladder over, climb up, and find the item for you.

A few people, like F. W. Woolworth wondered what would happen if the products were laid out on the table where customers could look, touch, and manipulate them. After all, it does not hurt to look (or does it). Before this, folks bought what they needed and little else. When the big stores came, along with their window dressing and lower prices, people bought what they saw: a lot more. Since then, the world has been in the clutches of debt.

Just what else can we see? If we go to the lake or ocean, we see nudity in abundance. It is even on our city streets. We see the flaunting of bodies with piercings and tattoos, which the Mosaic Law discouraged highly. We can only wonder what we will see next.

But instead of all this there is Jesus, the Creator of the Universe. We can LOOK TO HIM. The Bible says, "With God

all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26) It says, "He is Lord of all." "Every eye shall see Him." "I go to prepare a place for you."

One day in 2021 we were walking across a railroad bridge to see the valley below. Half the bridge had been knocked down by a tornado. I stepped off the land onto the bridge below. It was plexiglass, and I could see down three hundred feet. Someone said, "Do not look down." Someone else said, "Look up, for your redemption draweth nigh."

*Look, ye saints, the sight is glorious!
See the Man of sorrows now
From the fight returned victorious,
Every knee to Him shall bow.
Crown Him! Crown Him! Crown Him!
Crowns become the victor's brow.*

-Thomas Kelley

Brethren Hymnal #328

We have not included gambling or sporting events. We all know our weaknesses and limitations. The most important rule of thumb is anything that keeps us from serving God with our time, talent and money should be eliminated from our lives. God bless you all.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

DO YOU SEE WHAT YOU ARE REALLY LOOKING AT?

One thing I am not too happy with in our home is our mirror. Every morning when I go into the bathroom, I need to face this mirror.

The problem I have with the mirror is it always tells the truth. What I am looking at is what I am looking at. I wish somebody would invent a mirror that would not always tell the truth but polish the picture up a little bit. With all the technology we have today, can't somebody develop mirrors that can Photoshop a little bit?

If I pretend to see something in the mirror that is not there, I am really setting myself up for many difficulties. If I want to have a passionate heart, I need to be able to see things as they really are. And that begins in my own mirror.

When I begin to see myself as I really am, with all the imperfections, I begin to have compassion for other people. We are, after all, only human. And humans get old and wrinkle faster than they realize.

Jonah was trying to look at Nineveh through a glass darkly to see what he wanted to see. His problem was he was not able to see Nineveh through God's mirror. God was looking at

Nineveh and seeing something that he could never understand.

God loved Nineveh not because of what Jonah saw, but because God saw beyond that and saw hearts that really needed God's love and forgiveness.

We have become so Hollywoodized that we try to make something out of something else. We want to Photoshop our image and present to people something that we really are not.

I suppose it is okay for those Hollywood people to do that, but not for you and me. We need to be able to see ourselves as we really are. Now I do not mean we should not try to make improvements in our life. This really should be obvious. We should be encouraged to put the best foot forward, as they say. But we need to understand who we really are.

God's love for me is not based upon my perception of myself. God loves me because he created me in his image. It would be nice to borrow God's mirror sometime and try to see myself as he sees me. That would be a fantastic experience, I am certain.

People only see what they want to see. If they do not like a certain thing, they pretend it does not exist. And for them, I suppose, it does not exist.

Some have the idea if they ignore some negative in their life, their life will be that much better. But we need to understand that there cannot be any positive in life if there are no negatives. It takes both the positive and negative to really make something true.

In electricity, for example, you need both positive and negative or it does not work.

If I can look at the negative side of my life and realize that despite this, or maybe because of this, God truly does love me. And God's love for me is of such a nature that he is constantly molding me into his image.

When Jonah looked at Nineveh through his mirror, he could not imagine what God could do with these people and how he could transform them into people who loved and served the Lord.

I know to be fixated on the negative all the time can have its downside. I think we need to have a balanced approach to our life. Yes, we need to see the negative, but then we also need

to see the positive.

Some people only want to see the negative. For some reason that makes them feel better about themselves. But we need to have a balanced mirror of ourselves as God sees us. As I walk with God and become familiar with the Lord Jesus Christ, I begin to see the Christ in me. That is a wonderful experience.

When I look out on the world, I need to be careful that I do not have Jonah's mirror. I need to look out on the world and use God's mirror. How does God see the world around us?

Everybody is so eager to judge people and to tear them down by saying negative things. Yes, we need to deal with problems and difficulties, but we need to deal with them with God's mirror in perspective.

I need to be looking in the right mirror. I need to be able to see what I am really looking at, and I can only do that through God's mirror.

How do I get God's mirror? That is the \$64,000.00 question.

As I immerse myself in the Word of God and encounter the Living Word by the power of the Holy Spirit, I begin to see things as God sees them. I begin to

see myself as God sees me. I begin to see other people as God sees them. And most important of all, I begin to see the lost as God sees them. And when I do that, I have a passion

to reach those lost people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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THE OTHER SON

Rudy Cover
Luke 15:25-32

There was a man who had two sons. The younger son went away from home, spent all his money, ended up feeding hogs and came home broke. He learned his lesson, repented, and was received home by his father.

The other son was the eldest. In ancient times the eldest son was given more responsibility and received two portions when an inheritance was divided. When the younger son asked for his share, the father divided unto them his living or his money and property. Because there were only two sons, the elder son would have received twice as much as the younger. The eldest son was, according to the custom of that day, looked up to and oversaw family affairs and servants. Only his father's word was more important than his. I suppose the eldest son could get to feeling especially important and would

despise his younger brother.

When the younger brother left home, the other brother could not have cared less. I do not doubt that he hoped that he would never return. We can understand a little more of how the inheritance was divided when the father, entreating the elder son to celebrate the return of the younger, and said, "Son, thou art ever with me and all that I have is thine." The younger son was paid off in cash and the remaining property was given to the other son.

They were having a celebration. The younger son had returned. When the other son came near the house, he heard music and dancing. He had been out working in the field, helping, or managing the harvest of grain or some such work. He called one of the servants and asked what all this was about. The servant said, "Thy brother is come and your

father has killed the fatted calf because he is safe and sound.” The fatted calf was an animal that had been fed extra well so when they had guests of importance, they could have some extra good meat. It was killed only for great occasions.

The other brother was angry when he heard his brother had returned and would not go in and join the celebration. When the father heard that his other son would not come in, he went out and entreated him to come. Listen to what the elder son said, “These many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time your commandment; and yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make much merry with my friends: but as soon as this, thy son, left home, spent all the money that you gave him and wasted it, you have killed for him the fatted calf.”

The elder brother did not have love or compassion for his brother. I think he would have been glad if his brother had died and never returned. The younger son was foolish, but he came to himself and repented. The other brother was self-righteous and considered himself better than his brother.

Which is worse: to spend your money foolishly or hoard it, as a miser, and never do any good with

it? I think the elder brother did just that. Because he had received the inheritance of the property and land, in a sense, even the fatted calf was his and he begrudged his brother even that!

He was like the self-righteous Pharisee who stood and prayed, “God, I thank thee, I am not as other men are extortioners, unjust, adulterers or even as this publican. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all I possess.” The publican would not so much as lift up his eyes unto heaven, but smote his breast and said, “God be merciful to me a sinner.” Jesus said that this publican was justified rather than the other.

We are all dependent upon our Heavenly Father – just as the two sons were on their father. Our blessings all come from God for everything and when we think we are better than others, God is not pleased. The other son should have had love for his brother and been glad to see him come to himself and return to his father’s house. The father said, “For this thy brother was dead and is alive again; and was lost and is found.” Do not be like the other son!

Selected from the
August 1, 1981
issue of the Bible Monitor

WHOA OR WOE

Ray S. Shank

There is quite a contrast between these two words. Because of the “lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life,” when “Whoa” is not heeded, this leads to “Woe.” If we consider that “Whoa” means stop, halt, stand, or hold, and that “Woe” is the cause of sorrow and grief, misery, affliction and that it is also synonymous with sadness, pain, and calamity, we conclude the Broad Way must be traveled by the “many” who could not, would not say “Whoa.” The result “Woe” here and destruction hereafter.

By error in judgment, and indiscretion in conduct, we may do incalculable injury to others, and subject ourselves also to many calamities. There is within ourselves a propensity to lean to the side of error, by reason of the corruption of our own hearts. The spirit of the world is altogether contrary to the spirit which is of God. Beware, “There are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers,” Titus 1:10, who “Lie in wait to deceive”, Eph. 4:14, and actually do, “by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple”, Rom.

16:18, even so far as to “subvert whole houses”, Titus 1:11.

We must be careful to give no encouragement to evil in others – say “Whoa.” We should not only “have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them,” Eph. 5:11. If we countenance sinners in any of their ways, we make ourselves “partakers of their evil deeds”, 2 Jno. 11 – We reap “Woe”. If the Lord is our Shepherd, the uniform endeavor of our lives should be, as our Lord has taught us, to be, “wise as serpents and harmless as doves,” Matt. 10:10.

Because of carnality many fail to stop, hence arises a necessity to be always on our guard against Satan’s devices. It was Satan who “beguiled Eve” in the Garden and has been incessantly occupied in deceiving the children of men. “We must not follow a multitude to do evil”, Ex. 23:2. Under the Law, men were forbidden to sow their fields with different kinds of seed, or to wear clothes that were formed of different kinds of materials, as of woolen and linen: nor were they to yoke together an ox, which was a clean animal, with an ass, which was unclean,

Deut. 22:9-11. The import of these different laws was the same: they were all intended to intimate that in the Lord's people there should be a perfect simplicity of mind, an entire freedom from all mixture of evil. "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers," 2 Cor. 6:14. Here, the Apostle's direction ought to be justly urged against the most fatal of all connections, the union of a believer with an unbeliever, in the indissoluble bonds of marriage. If the contracting parties had early given heed to "Whoa" because they had come to realize that the union on the part of a believer, is to be formed "only in the Lord," 1 Cor. 7:39, much "Woe" could have been avoided.

"Since the whole world lieth in wickedness," 1 John 5:19, it is almost impossible for a believer to be much in union with it, without contracting some defilement. So as not to be diverted from the path of duty, or impeded in our spiritual progress, we must give heed to

"Come out from among them and be ye separate, and touch not the unclean thing", 2 Cor. 6:17. Let us be aware how soon, "Evil communications corrupt good manners", 1 Cor. 15:33, and follow Solomon's advice, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men: avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away", Prov. 4:14-15.

"They are not of the world," says our Lord, "even as I am not of the world," Jno. 17:16. May this saying be verified in you, that by means of it, "the world may be crucified unto you, and you unto the world," Gal. 6:14. May we remember, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world", 1 Jno. 4:4. He has pledged himself, that "neither angels, nor principalities, nor powers shall ever separate us from the love of God," Rom. 8:38, 39.

Selected from the
April 1, 1962
issue of the Bible Monitor

WHAT LACK I YET?

Willard A. Beam

A message from God's Holy Word on the above subject which I was privileged to hear during our worship service, Sunday

morning, March 4th has greatly impressed me. This message in connection with the opening Scripture, James 4 and the

remarks made on that Scripture, have brought many thoughts to my mind. I shall try and share them with you. I do not wish to offend anyone, as I feel that I lack more than anyone else.

What are some of the things I lack? I shall try to mention a few, but not in order of their importance, only as they came to my mind. To begin with: Do I have enough love for the Brethren and Sisters? See Jno. 13:35, and Jno. 4:11. If my neighbors and friends see that I do not love my Brethren and Sisters, it will be hard to convince them that I am a Christian. How can they tell if I love my Brethren and Sisters? They have only to observe my conduct and actions.

Do I lack in not following close enough to the Master? See Eph. 4:1, Jno. 2:6. Do I do as I have been commanded in the afore mentioned Scriptures? Or do I follow so far off that I can hardly discern the Master? Do I lack Faith? See Heb. 11:16, Ja. 1:5-6. Do I have enough faith to obey all his commandments, or do I just keep the ones I feel like keeping? Perhaps I say I do not believe it was meant that way. Therefore, I will not do it.

Do I have enough Forbearance? See Eph. 4:2, 6:9,

Col. 3:13. Can I get along with my Brother or Sister although we do not always look at things alike? Or do I shun them? Perhaps even staying away from Worship Services if I think certain ones will be there.

Do I lack in regular attendance at all services in God's House? See Heb. 10:25. Had I worked too hard the day before? Maybe I went shopping and was all worn out. Surely, I would not have sat up listening to a ball game, on the radio, the night before and was too sleepy to get up in time to go to Worship in God's House. In connection with time see Ecc. 3:1-7. Do I lack in getting to Services on time? It seems to me that if I continually lack in being on time for services in God's House, I also lack in Reverence, Respect, and Courtesy to God and the Ministers, Sunday School Superintendent, or Leader at Prayer Meetings.

Do I lack in my prayer life? I again refer you to Jam. 1:5-6 also Jas. 5:13-16. Do I three times a day thank God for the food I eat and all other Blessings? Do I read in his word every day? Or do I pray only when I am in trouble? I hope all who read this will also read hymn no. 478 in the hymnal.

Do I lack in my Spiritual Conversation? See Phil. 1:27, 3:20. When I visit with the Brethren and Sisters, do we talk about what we did last week? Or what we are contemplating doing in the future? Perhaps I talk or gossip about some Brother or Sister. I remember when I was a boy that the Brethren spent Sunday afternoons in discussing the Scripture. Seems like we do not do that anymore. Why?

Do I lack in my witness for Christ? See Matt. 5:13-16, 1 Pet. 3:15. I realize that I am far from what the Lord wants us to be. Will you all pray for me so that the Lord will help me to do better?

Do I lack in my conduct

while in God's House? Do I sit and meditate in silence and reverence before Services? Or do I chatter, talk, and gossip about anything and everything pertaining to the affairs of this world, see Hab. 2:20. After services do I promptly forget the message from God's Word, and become engrossed with other things? Far too often I do that very thing. I hope that the Brother who brought the message on the morning of March 4th will forgive me if I have in any way misapplied his text.

Selected from the

April 1, 1962

issue of the Bible Monitor

FORGIVENESS

Otto Harris

In the Sermon on the Mount, delivered by our Lord almost two thousand years ago, there was much that was peculiar in doctrine, and much that was contrary to the accepted thought and practice of that day and age. Consequently, the teaching of forgiveness came as a surprise to those that heard it. It also seems to be repulsive to many folks today and therefore not practiced by them. The writer

believes it is because many have not weighed these precepts of our Lord; that they have proceeded on the assumption that He did not mean what He said. Let us notice some of the instructions given by our Lord on this memorable occasion.

In teaching His followers to pray, He gave them this petition, "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." It must be worse than mockery if, when we

use this petition, we do not forgive those who trespass against us. Will we deliberately offer up such a prayer and ask the Almighty Judge not to forgive us? Yet such, in effect is the prayer of every unforgiving person. Do we want God to answer such a prayer and the door of Divine forgiveness be closed against us? Let us not take refuge in deceitful subterfuges when a moment might place us in the presence of our God, who will mete to us the same measure which we have measured to others.

“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remember that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Matt. 5:23-24. Notice our gift is to be left at the altar as a solemn reminder of the duty required of us. We often hear this precept of the Saviour applied in self-examination instructions. It is usually stressed that once an offender is forgiven, the transaction is closed. We have no authority to revive the transgression and make it again a matter of forgiveness. If former offences that have been forgiven, can be revived from

one Lovefeast to another, then forgiveness has no purpose. So many people want to follow the way of their own willfulness. A certain man has laid down this position which he says is fatal to the soul’s welfare. “A state of happiness is not to be expected by those who reserve to themselves the habitual practice of one known sin, or the neglect of one known duty.” An unforgiving disposition is a constant torment to its possessor.

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matt. 5:14-16. What can give a brighter light to this world than a kind, courteous, and forgiving disposition?” The writer was reading where a man, in search for the Christian way of life, came in contact with church officials that would not speak to him. It is the conclusion of the writer that all such people have missed their calling, and they are jeopardizing the cause of Christianity in the world.

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind

one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Eph 4:31-32. In the matter of forgiveness among men, a kind of lapse or sinking of grade, appears to have somehow occurred; so that holding still the duty of forgiveness, it is being held in the form so cheap and low, as to signify little when it is practiced.

Someone has asked, "How can the high standard of forgiveness, demanded by the above verses of Scripture, be practiced by mortal man?" I might answer with another verse

from the Bible found in the book of Romans, "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." We must be willing to have our life molded by His teachings and follow His example of love and sacrifice. There can be no choosing out threads and patches from His teachings. His teachings are like the earthly coat that He wore, they are without seam and woven from the top throughout.

Selected from the
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OBITUARIES

MARGARET ZUG BURKHOLDER

Sleeping peacefully, Margaret (a pearl), age 89 went to be with Jesus, January 22, 2022, in the home of her son, Glen Burkholder, surrounded by family and friends.

For the last eleven years, she was cared for by her sons Michael and Glenn Burkholder in their homes.

Born July 11, 1932, in Bareville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Jacob and Anna Ebersole.

She was baptized as a young girl and was a faithful member of Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church and later Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church. She was a prayer warrior.

For fifty-six years she was the wife of the late Jay Harold Burkholder who passed into eternity on March 7, 2006.

Surviving are her sons, Michael E. Burkholder and his wife Elma, Glenn Burkholder and his wife Debra both of Bernville, Pennsylvania, Lee Burkholder of Manheim, Pennsylvania and her

daughter-in-law Cinda Burkholder, wife of the late Raymond Burkholder (March 19, 2011) of Milan, Pennsylvania. She is also survived by twenty grandchildren, eighty great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. Also, one brother, George Ebersole.

Margaret was a devoted, prudent wife, mother of four boys, seamstress, homemaker, lover of hospitality, fun and games. Children knew her as Grandma B and enjoyed her “chips” to suck and smarties. She spent many hours canning food for the family. She sold and gave away lots of angel food cakes, many lovely hand towels and dresses for babies and tots.

Later in life when asked how she was, her answer always was: Lots to be thankful for! She will be dearly missed by those whose lives she impacted so greatly.

The funeral service was held January 26, 2022, at the Little Swatara Old German Baptist Church with Brethren David Aungst and Justin Beck officiating. Interment was in the adjoining cemetery with Jerre Longenecker officiating.

Thank you, Lord for Mother, and the rich, godly heritage. Jn 14:1-4.

MARGARET ANN BIRT

Sister Margaret Ann Birt, 77, died February 14, 2022, after an eight-week battle with glioblastoma. She was born on June 4, 1944, in Wabash, Indiana to Harley and Iona (Lantz) Rush. After graduating from Somerset High School in 1962, she married Harliss Birt in 1964. They lived together for fifty-seven years in the same home in which they were married. Margaret is survived by her husband, Harliss Birt; four children, Arlene Birt of Ephrata, Pennsylvania; Annette (Mike) Clifton of North Manchester, Indiana; Jeffrey (Angela) Birt of Hanover, Pennsylvania; and Karen Birt of New Paris, Indiana. Also, surviving are her grandchildren Caroline Carroll, Jordan Birt, Rebecca Clifton, and Hannah Birt, along with one great-grandchild, Kimani Carroll. Her brother Dale Rush and sister Clarice (Robert) Carpenter also survive. Her family brought her immense joy, especially her grandchildren and great-granddaughter; she was a good wife and mother. Margaret was known for her generosity: she sent cards to hundreds of people, shared

her garden produce, made comforters to donate to Christian Aid Ministries and others in need, and gave away many cookies and loaves of bread.

Margaret loved Jesus and was a member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. She is remembered for her singing and vast knowledge of hymns. While her family mourns their loss, they rejoice that she is free from suffering.

Funeral services were held February 19, 2022, at the Howard-Miami Mennonite Church in Kokomo, Indiana.

FERN MINNICH NESS

Sister Fern M. (Fahnestock) Ness, 91, of York Township, passed away peacefully on January 19, 2022, at Senior Commons at Powder Mill. 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, 2022, at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church. Interment followed in the adjoining cemetery. Officiating were Brethren Ray Stuber, Adam Lehigh, and Merle Sweitzer.

MARY JANE SWIHART

Sister Mary Jane “Janie” Swihart, 72, of Quinter, Kansas, passed away on February 24, 2022, after a long journey with ovarian cancer. She was born to Kyle and Mary (Light) Reed in Des Moines, Iowa on February 24, 1950, and was the oldest of six children. She grew up on a farm near Minburn, Iowa.

One week after graduating Iowa Lutheran’s R.N. training, Mary Jane became the first Director of Nursing at Spurgeon Manor, a new nursing home in Dallas Center, Iowa. One of her first residents was the mother of a state inspector! From there, she spent a year working at the mission clinic at Torreon Navajo Mission, Cuba, New Mexico. This is where she met and married the love of her life, Roger Swihart. They were married July 21, 1973, with Navajos as attendants. They moved to Quinter, Kansas where she worked forty years at Gove County Medical Center. She was a fixture at the nursing home, having started the restorative program, and working for years keeping the medical records (and doctors) in order.

Mary Jane enjoyed teaching Sunday School and VBS at the Dunkard Brethren Church. She was well-respected for her charity project, Bundles of Love. This perpetual garage sale raised money to warm cold children in Romania and other cold countries for over eighteen years. Mary Jane credited the success to all her volunteers, those that made donations, and the many shoppers. She truly modeled a servant’s heart and wanted no glory for herself. Her glory awaits her in heaven, where she will rejoin her parents, her infant brother, Bruce Edward, and her granddaughter, Elizabeth Wertz.

She is survived by her loving husband, Roger, and three children, Ricki (Todd) Wertz, of Quinter, Kansas, Janet (Chad) Sparks, Two Buttes, Colorado, and Lee (Danae) Swihart, Bernville, Pennsylvania. Her legacy lives on in her grandchildren, Kimberly and Autumn Wertz, David (Sarah) Fleener, Katie (Chance) VanCampen, Lisa (Shane) Edgecomb, Ryan Fleener, Clayton Sparks, and Kylee, Landon, Kiptyn and Mavalech Swihart, along with several great grandchildren.

Her surviving siblings are Doris (Phil) Hemphill, McClave Colorado, Margaret (Earl) Ratcliff, New Sharon, Iowa, Myrna (Joe)

Palmer, Sapulpa, Oklahoma, Howard (Peggy) Reed, Inola, Oklahoma, and Dorothy (Mark) Harsen, Springfield, Missouri.

Funeral services were held Monday, February 28, 2022, at the Church of the Brethren, Quinter, Kansas. Interment followed in the Baker Township Cemetery.

Mary Jane left us with this message: It is not how many cold children you warm in this world that's the most important thing in life. The most important thing you can do in life is to accept Jesus as your personal Savior! Salvation is a FREE GIFT! Life here is short. Eternity is forever!

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

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

All are welcome to the spring revival meeting with Bro. Brant Jamison at the Lititz, Pennsylvania Congregation. The meetings are scheduled for March 30 – April 3, ending with the morning service, April 3. Evening services are at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

THANK YOU

While death still has a sting that is very real, it was a blessing that Fern was finally released into the presence of her Savior whom she was longing to meet. The family wishes to express their thanks for all the expressions of love and support during this time.

The Family of Fern Ness

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY 2022**May 1 – A King Rejected and a King Selected – 1 Sam. 11:10-12:15**

1. What other words could have been used in place of salvation in verse 11:13?

2. Why does Samuel establish his own righteousness before the people?

3. What is the primary lesson taught through Samuel's history lesson?

May 8 – Mother's Day – 2 Kings 4:8-37

1. What innate motivation played into the Shunammite woman's desire to provide lodging for Elisha?

2. What is the approximate distance from Shunem to Mt. Carmel?

3. How can we use the physical description of Elisha's method for healing the young boy to better understand our own spiritual healing?

May 15 – Faith is the Victory - 1 Samuel 12:16-13:10

1. How have you responded to the chastisement of the Lord?

2. What lessons did Israel learn from God's destruction of their wheat harvest?

3. What failings do we begin to see in King Saul?

May 22 – Prospects for a Disobedient King – 1 Samuel 13:11-14:7

1. What determines Saul's actions, his faith, or his fears?

2. What kind of shape is your spiritual armor in when preparing for battle?

3. How does Jonathan's faith inform his behavior and influence others?

May 29 – Jonathan Leads and Saul Follows – 1 Samuel 14:8-27

1. What military tactic did Jonathan and his armor bearer exploit to their advantage?

2. What are some of the similarities between confusion during a battle and a riot?

3. What are some of the possible motivations for Saul's oath and how did it impact the morale of his army?

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