

# BIBLE MONITOR

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“For the faith once delivered unto the saints”

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

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## SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS

Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on his gentle breast,  
There by his love o'er shadowed, Sweetly my soul shall rest.  
Hark! 'tis the voice of angels, Borne in a song to me,  
Over the fields of glory, Over the jasper sea.

Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe from corroding care,  
Safe from the world's temptations, Sin cannot harm me there.  
Free from the blight of sorrow, Free from my doubts and fears;  
Only a few more trials, Only a few more tears.

Jesus, my heart's dear refuge, Jesus has died for me;  
Firm on the Rock of Ages Ever my trust shall be.  
Here let me wait with patience, Wait till the night is o'er;  
Wait till I see the morning Break on the golden shore.

Safe in the arms of Jesus, Safe on his gentle breast,  
There by his love o'er shadowed, Sweetly my soul shall rest.

—*Fanny J. Crosby*

## THE TWO SAULS

There were many men who shared the name of Saul during Bible times and even in more modern times. We remember two Sauls who had a major place in the Bible story. The first was Saul the first King of Israel. The other Saul lived during New Testament times; he became better known as Paul rather than by his birth name Saul.

Although these two men shared the name, Saul, they were different in many ways. Saul of the Old Testament while out looking for lost donkeys encountered the Seer Samuel. Samuel had not been impressed with the people's desire to have a king. While he railed at God about the idea of a king, God told him that a king was in their future. Although God allowed

Samuel to warn the people what it would entail having a king. Samuel pointed out some of the inconveniences that would happen when their king began to demand the full service of their sons and daughters. The anointing of Saul as their king was managed in secret. Saul, himself, hardly realized what had happened. Eventually the day of finding and appointing Saul to be their king would come.

That day of declaring and appointment of the king did come, and it almost turned into an embarrassment. Samuel used the lot system to identify who the king would be. The king would be from the Tribe of Benjamin, of the family of Kish and specially Kish's son, Saul. When the new king was

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identified, it was Saul. He was nowhere to be found. Finally, he was located among the stuff. He was more interested in the everyday items of life than in his calling as king. After being installed as king, he kept a low profile among the people. Slowly, he did begin to take on more mannerisms as a king and began to demand more service from the people. He began to require the help of the people and their submission to more of his orders.

Unfortunately, Saul lost his low-profile personality, as he was called to serve in numerous ways. His first crucial mistake happened at Gilgal. Gilgal was the point where the Children of Israel had originally crossed the Jordan River and entered the Promised Land under Joshua's leadership. They had piled rocks scavenged from the Jordan River into a pile that was always to identify that key place. Samuel had appointed a time he would meet Saul at Gilgal. When Samuel was delayed, Saul took upon himself without any authority to offer the sacrifice. When Samuel showed up as soon as it happened, he castigated Saul for going ahead without authority to do so. After

that slip and fall, Saul began to make other mistakes and unwise decisions.

Many of these faulty decisions were made concerning the movement of his army against the Philistines. He especially made an unwise decision about not allowing his soldiers to eat while they were pursuing the Philistines. During that time, he was willing to put his son, Jonathan, to death for eating while winning a great victory over their enemy. After keeping King Agag and the Amalekites' best animals alive, Saul was finished as the King for both Samuel and God. After this rejection, David of the Tribe of Judah was anointed to be the next king of Israel.

The ministry of Saul of Tarsus in the New Testament may have a few parallels to the life of King Saul, but in the end his ministry proved to be far more helpful than King Saul's. At the beginning of his ministry, Saul tended to go home to Tarsus. He did not project himself, waiting for Barnabus and others to encourage him. But when Saul began to reflect upon his ministry and allowed himself to be further taught in the Word, he became quite energetic in

his preaching of the Gospel. Another hindrance to his ministry was the history of his radical loyalty to the Pharisee and his efforts to destroy and limit the Christian's influence. After the support of other believers, he became quite proficient in preaching the Gospel. As he preached increasingly and as he met increased opportunities to counsel and help various believers to become ardent in their belief and practice of Christianity, he became very well used by God in his ministry.

After Saul and Barnabas on their first missionary journey, had been requested by the Deputy Sergius Paulus to preach the Gospel, we find that Saul which means "destroyer" changed his name to Paul, which means "builder." From that moment he was known by the name Paul rather than as Saul. Eventually he became known as the Apostle Paul.

He had been a destroyer of the Church but soon became known as the builder of the Church and its creative thinker. His missionary journeys were multiplied and Paul's letters both to the churches and to individuals were written for the advice and

the teaching of the church. As Paul ministered to the Gentiles, he shared many thoughts with the church. He filled out some of the teachings of Jesus and with the writings of John, Peter, James, and Jude brought the New Testament into a fuller book of doctrine and practice. As Paul labored with the other Christian writers, believers were left with a complete teaching of the Gospel. The ministry and writings of Paul helped to prepare the church for her great persecution and stand for the truth. His ministry and teaching prepared Christians to advocate for the faith that was once delivered for the saints.

King Saul well set the pattern for failing God. The Apostle Paul by his faithfulness and his reasoning prepared the church for her momentous day in standing for the truth. While King Saul prepared the way for King David, the man after God's own heart, the Apostle Paul prepared His people to serve God and the Lord Jesus Christ. We are thankful that the destroyer, Saul of Tarsus, became the Apostle Paul.

M. C. Cook

## HOW ARE WE TO LIVE?

Micah 6:8, "O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

This verse boils down what the Lord expects of us. It says it quite simply. So simply, in fact, that we should have no problem fulfilling the command. The rub comes in when we do not know The Just One; we do not walk humbly with our God. If we do not intimately know the one that made and is the standard, how can we come even close to fulfilling the requirements? This is one of the many reasons we need to read and study scripture. We need to know what it says and in doing so we can come closer to fully understanding the heart of God. As we understand the heart of God, we are to become like Him. We are to like what He likes and to hate what He hates. 1 Thessalonians 4:7, "For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." As we know what God likes and dislikes we can then strive for holiness.

This is not a step program or an exhaustive list, but scripture tells us to "PUT OFF." This means to lay aside,

to remove, to have no part of, to put to DEATH, certain things, actions, and thoughts. Colossians 3:5-9, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: in the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these, anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;" It is imperative that we put off the things that are not of God. Ephesians 4:22, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;"

As a builder I know, to build on something that is rotten or less than ideal, will result in failure down the road. God, as the Master Builder, knows the importance of removing the things that are unclean, and hence the first order of business is removal of the garbage. We

sometimes think that we need to get it all removed before we come to Christ, however that is pride to think that we can do it of our own doing. We need Jesus and the cleansing power of His shed blood to wash us and make us clean. Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." This is a process and not a once and done thing that we can be immediately free of all temptation and struggle. This is especially true if we fail to take the next step and "PUT ON."

Colossians goes on to say, 3:10-17, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do

ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body: and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

I feel like this "PUT ON" is a step that is as crucial or more so than the "PUT OFF" stage. Ephesians 4:24, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." As people and churches, we are ready to pounce on any sign of the old man that rises and exhibits itself. I am not saying that it is not important to be made aware of the remnants of the old man hanging around. Jesus says in Luke 11:24-26, when the house was swept and garnished, but the new was not put on, the evil spirit came back with devils worse than the first and reinhabited that house. Cleaning up and cleaning out

are important, but we must not stop there! I would like to submit that if we focused our energy on calling out the “new man” in a person, blessing the new life we see and helping to mold and shape them into the calling that God has placed on their lives, we would have a much more vibrant and healthy culture and church.

The statements in scripture referring to putting on the new man are imperative!! It is not optional for the Christian, but mandatory. As we focus on what we want and need to become, rather than what we are not to be, we get a clearer picture, and the results are easier to accomplish.

I am becoming more interested in having a vision statement. You can and should have one for yourself, one for your family, one for your business, one for your church and so on. Proverbs 29:18, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” All well run businesses talk about where they are going and what they want to be instead of focusing on what they do not want to be. Bankers train with real money because there are too many fakes to know them all. I see a

trend in Christian’s attitude that instead of saying “What must I do to be saved?” they ask, “What can I get away with and still be saved?”

Ephesians 5:1-20 is a good passage to look up and read. Do not misunderstand, if we see the old man rearing his ugly head he needs to be dealt with, however focusing on the old man instead of on Christ is not efficient. Looking at the goal, adjusting your path and focusing all your energy to get there is the way we are to run the Christian race. “Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14.

Romans 13:12, “The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.” God has given us The Holy Spirit and the spiritual armour to help us with this war. God is cheering us on. We are not left alone to fight. God can finish the work that He has started in you. Philippians 1:6, “Being confident of this very

thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 12:1-2, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto

Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Put off, put on, run with joy, focus on Jesus!! God Bless and God Speed!!

Brother Joe Cover  
Dallas Center, IA

## PHIL’S PONDERINGS

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

July 2022 Study Questions

### July 3 – 1 Samuel 16:1-18

Why does the Lord rebuke Samuel for his continued mourning for Saul?

How would you label the Lord’s attitude toward Samuel?

Why is Samuel afraid of Saul?

How complicated is God’s plan for Samuel to follow?

Why do the town elders fear Samuel’s visit?

Why didn’t Jesse have one of his servants tend the sheep to begin with?

What reactions would you expect Jesse and his sons to have after David was anointed?

**Commentary:** Samuel has known the Lord since he was a young child. God has spoken to him many times. Talking with God for Samuel seems as normal as breathing is for us. He is stuck in mourning Saul, and he cannot seem to get past the loss of hope in



Saul. God's antidote for Samuel is "get going." There is spiritual work that needs to be done. Samuel must travel to Bethlehem because there is a new king to anoint. God's plan cannot wait any longer for Samuel to continue his mourning. God already has a plan to avoid any suspicion on Saul's part. Samuel just needs to start moving as God directs. Sometimes we get bogged down with life. Not all problems are solved just by staying busy. But the movement of God's Spirit in our lives constantly keeps us looking forward to the new possibilities that God is preparing. The past is over. We cannot change it. But God in His faithfulness moves us a step at a time. He assures us that our fears are in His care. As we walk by faith again, we walk with the One who holds the future. Regardless of what that future holds, our security is in Him.

#### **July 10 – 1 Samuel 16:19-17:15**

What new job(s) does David have?

What is the nature of David and Saul's relationship?

Why does Saul suffer from a distressing spirit from the Lord?

How does Goliath reveal the weakness of Saul as king of Israel?

Why is David not present when Goliath first challenges Israel?

Do you detect any similarities in family dynamics between David and Joseph?

**Commentary:** The song from Fiddler on the Roof: Sunrise/Sunset, comes to mind as we get a small peek into the relationship that develops between David and Saul. David is the sunrise and Saul is at least headed toward the sunset of his reign as king. It soon will become more obvious that Saul's greatest enemy is himself. But for now, Saul seems to have taken David into his heart as though David was his son. For David, life has become much more exciting being so close to the king. His days of tending to his father's sheep are rapidly ending. But David offers more to this relationship partly due to his days as a shepherd. There is something pastoral

about David as he ministers to Saul especially through his musical talents. This talent has been nurtured during his long days of tending sheep. Playing his music has calmed the sheep as they intuitively have felt secure under David's shepherding. Saul has responded in a similar fashion. But the light in David's life will soon outshine the dimming light of Saul's. As it does the serenity that David inspires in Saul now will soon take a murderous turn.

### **July 17 – 1 Samuel 17:16-35**

Why was David sent by his father to the battlefield where Israel camped?

What verse suggests that there were some skirmishes taking place with the Philistines?

Why does David refer to Goliath as an uncircumcised Philistine?

What does David's older brother accuse him of doing and not doing?

What is the cause (verse 29) David refers to?

How does Saul hear David's words so quickly?

**Commentary:** David has spent enough time in Saul's presence and with others, who are leaders and advisors to Saul, to not be overawed by their persons. Since Saul has a sincere care for David, he likely has encouraged him to share his thoughts from time to time. Certainly, David's faith in God has made a deep impression upon Saul. In contrast, David's older brother has insinuated some unworthy accusations as to his motives for having come to the battlefield. But David has matured beyond his youthful appearance and does not fall prey to brotherly rivalry. David's faith sees the insults by Goliath as aimed, not just at the armies of the living God, but God Himself. So, it is not surprising that David's words find their way to Saul. He shows no fear of Goliath. His bouts with a lion and a bear are not bragging but are testimony to the fearlessness with which he is willing to fight this giant. Saul can only concede to David's eagerness. It is extremely apparent that no

one else is willing. But what about ourselves? We battle against a much more fearsome foe. We learn in Ephesians 6 that we do not fight against flesh and blood. We are to stand against the wiles of the devil. To do so we must put on the whole armor of God. We follow David's son who was more than fearless. His fearlessness led Him to the cross that all of us can know how to be fearless before Satan and all the demonic powers that inhabit his kingdom, even unto death.

### July 24 – 1 Samuel 17:36-54

How did Saul's armor feel on David's body?

What did he mean by saying he had not tested them?

What advantage does David have by refusing to wear the armor?

Who did Goliath say will lose the battle?

Who did David say will lose the battle?

Why does David run toward Goliath?

What happened to Goliath's armor bearer?

**Commentary:** It is common in many kinds of sporting events for the competitors to talk to each other in their play. In one form or another their conversations have similarities to the conversation between David and Goliath. There is lots of bragging about who will win and how badly they will defeat their opponent. Generically, this is often referred to as "trash talk." But it would be a mistake to label their conversation as such, at least on David's part. David points out Goliath's biggest weakness. Now Goliath has plenty of weapons. David acknowledges that Goliath has a sword, a spear, and a shield. But David has one weapon that Goliath has no acquaintance with, and it is not his sling. David says, "...but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defiled." (1 Sam. 17:45b). When confronting evil, we must remember who has led us into this battle and who is providing the resources that allow us to emerge victorious.

**July 31 – 1 Samuel 17:56-18:16**

How does the text suggest an answer to Saul wanting to know who David's father is?

Why is there such a strong bond between Jonathan and David?

What was the covenant between Jonathan and David?

What is the root cause of Saul's distrust of David?

What conspiracy does Saul begin to imagine?

How should we connect a distressing spirit, Saul's prophesying, David's harp playing, and Saul throwing a spear at David?

**Commentary:** WARNING: Be ready to exit quickly if you are playing a harp and someone else is playing with a spear!! This is just the first of many bottom bumping episodes with Saul and David being the main characters. Saul is no longer merely distressed but has become dangerous to those near to him. David is everything that Saul had hopes of becoming. Now David is the chief threat to Saul's position and power. Or so Saul imagines. What is hard to imagine is Saul prophesying just before throwing the spear in David's direction. How do we reconcile the chasm between such extreme opposites? We know from our text that Saul is experiencing spiritual distress from the Lord. This distress only fuels his jealousy of David. In anguish he begins to repeat words and phrases that are familiar to his previous experiences in prophesying. Rather than gaining spiritual relief and praise for God the words are empty of power and his heart knows no praise to give the Lord. Who can he blame? Surely David is plotting behind his back. Everyone is turning against him. Everyone is exalting David. Rage and fury overtake him as he hurls the spear at David. Few if any of us would have given Saul a second chance. David did, but only once more. Nevertheless, he conducts himself wisely knowing that someday he will be king but only in God's good timing.

Brother Phil Franklin  
Modesto, CA

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## THE FINE ART OF ENCOURAGEMENT

In my experience, the people who need the most encouragement are the last ones you think of. Someone going through a great difficulty has a big target on his or her back for encouragement. And they need it.

However, encouragement also needs to go to those who do not seem like they need it. Somehow, they have been able to hide from the public, even their friends, the fact that they really need some encouragement. This is the greatest fraud of all time.

It is interesting when someone finds out about some tragedy and they say, "My prayers are with you." I have never really figured out what that means. Usually, the ones who say goodbye are not in the habit of praying anyway. What they are saying has nothing whatsoever to do with what they plan to do.

Discouragement is a demanding thing to diagnose. Everybody at some point in their life has suffered moments, if not days of discouragement. How many times have I been wallowing in discouragement and have successfully hidden it from my friends. I put on a nice smile and tell everybody things are going fine, yet down deep in

my heart, I am "wallowing" in the Swamp of discouragement.

Lately I have taken on the attitude that everybody I meet is discouraged at some level in their life. I know I am, and I have tried to take steps to deal with that discouragement.

The greatest battle we have in the spiritual arena is in this area of discouragement. It does not take very much to get discouraged, it could be a comment made by somebody or it could be a look from somebody or even something they did not say. I can be up one moment and down the next.

Although it is extremely easy to get discouraged, it is quite a challenge to become encouraged and quite often, I need someone else to help in this encouragement. Unfortunately, at the time I do not think it is important.

Each moment of encouragement has a price tag on it. It never comes easy or free. This may be why so many people are in discouragement. Usually, it cannot be managed alone.

In the Bible, for example, Barak needed Deborah's encouragement. God had a job for Barak to do and for some reason he could not do

it without Deborah's help and encouragement. Many of us need a Deborah in our life to do what God has called us to do. Unfortunately, she is often not there when we need her. Fortunately for Barak, Deborah made herself available.

Someone once mentioned to me that the encouragement you give is the encouragement you received. Although that sounds okay and I am all for it, the problem is many times I do not get the encouragement I need therefore I am bankrupt when it comes to giving encouragement.

I think the secret here is to give encouragement as much as you can regardless of any encouragement that comes our way. The best encouragement for us comes from seeing someone encouraged through our help.

Although we need a lot of emotional encouragement, we need spiritual encouragement more than anything. This is where most people do not have any idea of how to encourage someone spiritually. We can pat them on the back and encourage them emotionally, but that is as far as it goes sometimes.

Spiritual encouragement requires a genuine discerning spirit. This is lacking in many

people today. Discernment is that which really comes from the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens doors for me that I could never open for myself. This door of discernment is the most important.

Not only do I need to recognize someone who is discouraged spiritually, but also, I need to know how to really encourage that person in the spiritual realm. What you say, and more importantly, what not to say is the focus of encouragement. This is where our spiritual battle really begins. Sometimes we need a verse of Scripture, sometimes we need prayer, but not just any prayer, prayer initiated by the Holy Spirit. Prayer that penetrates the level of discouragement that person has.

This brings me to a phrase I enjoy using, intentional encouragement. This should be top priority in my life as a believer. That every day of my life I intentionally encourage someone. Each day I am on the lookout for someone who needs encouragement from me. It is amazing how God brings such people my way.

I set a goal to encourage someone every day. Sometimes this is a great challenge because I get so busy, I forget about this important part of my life as a

Christian. God has encouraged me in many regards therefore I need to reach out and encourage those who need it. It may be the only word of encouragement that person gets all day, or even all week.

This means that I need to spend some quality time in prayer asking God to make me sensitive to people who do need encouragement. More important, to people who are ready to receive that encouragement. I have found that there are some people who love to be discouraged. I can never figure out why, but that is their life.

I want God to lead me to someone who needs the kind of encouragement I can give. I realize I cannot encourage everybody. However, I want to

be able to encourage everybody that I can encourage. I need to be intentional in my pursuit of encouraging other people.

There is a difference in encouraging a believer and in encouraging a nonbeliever. Both need encouragement, but both cannot receive the same kind of encouragement. I need to know the difference between them. I need to be able to reach out and encourage anybody that the Lord leads me to. Who knows, but my encouragement to a nonbeliever may result in them coming to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. What can be better than that.

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## **“PROUD OF IT”**

Rudy Cover  
Luke 18:9-14

Did you know that people can be proud of their religion? God does not like pride in anything. He even hates a proud look. When Jesus was here as a man, there was a religious group called “Pharisees.” They were extremely strict about keeping the law of Moses. They

had lawyers who interpreted the law and were very precise about living it to the letter. They also had many traditions which were misinterpretations of the law and Jesus said that by their traditions they had made the law of none effect. Lawyers in that day were not any better

than those of today. They were not really seeking the truth but only honor for themselves. If a man disobeyed the Law of Moses and they could prove him innocent by stretching the law or winning a point by being a better orator than another, they could care less.

Jesus told about two men who went up into the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a publican. The publicans were the tax collectors for the Roman government, which at that time controlled the land of Palestine and the Jewish nation. To enrich themselves the publicans often charged more tax than was legal. The Jews hated them exceedingly. Anyone who was a Jew and would lower himself to be a tax collector was classed as the worst of sinners.

The Pharisee who went to the Temple was a proud man. He was rich and I suppose he was dressed in the best of clothes. He stood in the temple and prayed to himself, "God, I thank thee, that 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." This man sure thought a lot of himself, didn't he? He was

telling God all about the good things in his life, which God knew anyway but he did not mention one thing that he did that was not good. The Bible says that all men have sinned, and I am sure this Pharisee would be included. When he mentioned that he was glad he was not like the publican. He was judging a man of whom he knew little or nothing.

The publican was standing afar off from the Pharisee, probably at the rear of the temple. Jesus said he did not so much as lift his eyes to Heaven but smote upon his breast saying, "God be merciful to me a sinner."

I do not think this publican had been an exceptionally good man but he realized that he was a sinner and implored God to forgive him and be merciful unto him. Who is it that does not need the mercy of God? This Pharisee, according to his understanding, was a fairly good man but he was so proud of it that he despised a fellow man of whom he knew extraordinarily little.

Jesus said the publican went down to his house justified rather than the Pharisee; "for everyone that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth



himself shall be exalted.”

No one has anything of his own to boast about. God has done so much for us, and we are so little for Him. “God resisteth the proud but giveth grace to the

humble.” We should judge our own lives but not others.

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

## LEAD LIKE CHRIST

### The foundation

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being conformed to his death, If, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”  
Philippians 3:10-11

Many are interested in what we call ministry. Yet, my heart saddens to realize that many do not understand what spiritual ministry is all about from the biblical point of view. For some reason, we have brought into the church the world’s business methods to fulfill Christ’s call.

A journey through the Gospels will show the passion Christ had when it came to ministry. He completely rejected the world and even religion to minister to the people around Him.

I am not against education. But I do feel many people are too educated, and by that, I mean they are educated beyond their ability to function in the

spiritual world. They are trapped in techniques and methods.

If secular education were absolutely necessary for ministry, that would rule me out. After my first day of eighth grade, I came home from school and told my mother that I could do a better job than my teacher. I never returned to school, and instead spent most of my time in the library reading books. It was perhaps a little arrogant of me, but I eventually got over it.

Education is important; but where it’s coming from and how we handle it matters.

A friend of mine used to say, “Get as much education as you can and earn as many degrees as possible, and then when you are all finished, lay it on the altar and give it over to God. If God uses it, great. If God does not use that education, that is His choice.

### Christ, the Key to Ministry

This book is not a book of

techniques and methods – a book that could be titled something like *10 Keys to a Successful Ministry*. That would be how a worldly-minded person would approach it. There is only one key to ministry: Christ.

When Abraham laid Isaac on the altar, it must have seemed like the most horrendous thing he had ever done in his relationship with God. Isaac represented everything Abraham had worked for, and now God wanted him to lay his son on the altar. Yet when Abraham did it without reservation, God gave Isaac back in a way that Abraham never could have imagined.

When we lay our education, experience, and expectations on the altar and give our ministry over to God without reservation, and are even willing to walk away from it, then God in His power can give what He wants us to have.

God does not call the equipped. Rather, in His wisdom, God equips the called. And that is where the power and authority of God flow in the life of the servant. The equipping of God's servant is a wonder that flows from heaven, and nothing on earth can hinder it.

In no way is biblical ministry associated with business. Business techniques of the world

cannot accomplish the goals of spiritual leadership. When we use the world's methods, we push aside the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit, and nothing else, who runs and energizes our spiritual leadership. To grieve the Holy Spirit is to jeopardize the true ministry of Christ.

Whenever God moves, He pushed aside the world, and the focus is on Christ. The world cannot honor Christ – only the true church can.

I am not sure a church's size has anything to do with this, but I have noticed that the bigger the church, the more it relies on worldly and business methods.

If we are going to lead like Christ, we need to model our leadership after His and observe how He dealt with the issues of His day. At the time, His main opposition was religion. The religious people and leaders did not want anything to do with Jesus. They considered Him a danger to their religiosity and lifestyle.

The government also opposed Jesus, and when the Pharisees tried to get Jesus to choose sides between religion and Rome, He responded, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the

things that are God's. And they marveled at Him" (Mark 12:17).

When Jesus walked on water, it was a great illustration that He never allowed worldly circumstances to determine what He was going to do or not do. (Remember what happened to Peter when he tried to walk on water? He became obsessed with the circumstances and fell in.)

In this book, my purpose is to focus on how you and I, as servants of Christ, can lead like Christ in the circumstances we are in today. My focus will be on the book of Titus, which records how Paul mentored Titus to be a model servant and lead like Christ.

## **The Foundation of Spiritual Leadership**

But before we go further, what is the foundation for all of this? On what do we build our spiritual leadership?

Again, is it education? Is it experience? Is it adopting the world's methods?

No, it is none of that. Thus, we need to clearly understand what we build our ministry upon. I want to say right here that every born-again Christian is involved in ministry. We are not called to do the same kind of ministry as

our brother or sister. But all of us, together, are engaged in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

To lead like Christ, the first thing we need to do is to *know Christ*. This is a crucial element of spiritual leadership.

Now, if I were to go up to people in church on a Sunday morning and ask them if they know Jesus, I would get a positive response from most everybody. Everybody knows who Jesus is.

That is not the issue. Because it is one thing to know about someone, and it is another thing to *experience* a person intimately.

The apostle Paul writes, "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ" (Philippians 3:8).

To know Christ on a personal basis does not come naturally or without cost. Knowing about Christ is one thing but knowing Him personally is quite a different thing. That was certainly Paul's experience before he became a Christ follower.

As a Pharisee, he knew all there was to know about the Messiah from the Old Testament. But it was on a journey to Damascus – a

trip to further persecute the church – that Saul (Paul’s name at the time) encountered the real Christ.

Saul...went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” Acts 9:1-4.

It was at this moment that Saul transformed into Paul we know of today.

Following this Damascus transformational moment, Paul went into the desert for approximately three years. I believe he was unlearning religion during those years in order to understand who Jesus Christ really is.

Moses spent forty years in the wilderness to unlearn Egypt so God could use him to lead His people into the promised land.

Jacob was another Old Testament character who had such a transformation: “Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, ‘Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.’” (Genesis 28:16).

The Lord was with Jacob all the time, and he did not know it. His life changed when he encountered the Lord.

With the apostle Paul, it was the same. During his desert journey, Paul experienced Christ in a way that transformed him so completely that God was able to use him to lead like Christ and establish the church of Christ as we have it today.

The foundation of my spiritual ministry is to personally know Christ in such a way that my life has been transformed. To do this, I have needed to unlearn the world and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

To lead like Christ, we need to work in resurrection power that has nothing whatsoever to do with the world’s elements. I cannot emphasize it enough. This begins with a transformational encounter with Jesus Christ. Out of this experience will flow a passion and desire to serve Christ that colleges and seminaries cannot provide.

I like Charles Spurgeon and the requirement they had at Pastor’s College. They would not accept an applicant for the college until he could prove he had been called of God for ministry. Spurgeon’s idea was that you do not

go to college to discover your call. You go to college because you have been called of God to serve.

This perspective is lacking today. Consequently, our churches are suffering drastically because of the lack of Christ-led leadership.

My purpose is to inspire you to discover your calling in Christ that will enable you to receive the power and the anointing

of the Holy Spirit in your life. As you build on the spiritual foundation of Christ, you will begin to see ministry from a completely different perspective. You will see ministry as Christ sees it and see people as Christ sees them.

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## CONDESCEND

Grant Mahan

In his Epistle to the Romans, the Apostle Paul wrote: "Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate." He was giving advice, instruction, to those who had begun the Christian race. James wrote much the same thing in his general Epistle, though he referred to money rather than social position. Jesus taught the same thing when He told His hearers that when they were invited to a house, they should not seek the highest seats, the places of honor, but the low places. The doctrine of humility is stressed in many places of the Bible. That must be because men, even after taking upon themselves the name of Christ, do not want to become humble,

do not want to seek what is low in the financial or social world.

Yet the promise of exaltation is for those who condescend, who mind not high things. This refers to the things of time, the perishable things. When it comes to what is really worthwhile, we are told to seek the highest. Paul said to follow him as he followed Christ; and Christ said we should strive to be perfect, even as our Father in Heaven is perfect. We are not to labor for the bread that perishes, for the treasure which moths will corrupt, and which thieves will try to steal. We are not to seek to be lords over God's heritage or any other, for Christ is our great Exemplar, and He came to serve.

The thing that is so hard for most persons is to condescend, unless it can be done to show their superiority in some earthly respect to the one to whom they condescend. When one condescends in that way or with that spirit, there is no virtue in the condescension, and there will be no desirable reward for it. The outward act of condescension is of no value in and of itself. Outward humility, of itself, is of no value. A good deed will help the recipient, but it is of little or no value to the doer thereof, unless his heart is in it. The true character is in the heart, not in the outward action or expression.

Most of us probably agree that humility as advised by Jesus and His apostles is a good thing. And yet how much do we practice? How much do we advise it when we are talking to our children of what they shall do in life? Success is the great reward we urge them to aim at; and by success we mainly mean success in the things of time, not those of eternity. Too often a man is counted as a failure if he has not succeeded in accumulating money or has not acquired some elevated position. Lazarus was a failure from the viewpoint of Dives, but from God's viewpoint the judgment was just

the opposite: Dives made the greatest of all failures. And so, it is with everyone who lays up treasure on earth and is not rich toward God.

Condescend means to get down, to get down with the other fellow who has not been as fortunate in some respect as we have. It means "to waive one's privilege of rank or dignity; to accommodate ones-self to an inferior." The greatest condescension ever made was that of Jesus, who, though He was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through His poverty might become rich. To condescend means, in the Christian sense, to get down with the other fellow to help him to get up to what is better than he has. It includes helping a man to better himself financially, intellectually, morally, and spiritually; and to do for love of him, from an unselfish desire to help him to better things.

Condescend does not mean to get down with a view of staying where the other man is, but in order to help him to something better. Christ came down, not to stay down on earth, but that we might get up, up to a spiritual life here, and to lasting communion with Him and the Father hereafter. We can do nothing better than to

follow that example; we can do nothing else so good as that. We all know this is so, and that to do as He did is showing the highest wisdom on our part, and yet, our pride so often keeps us from doing the best things.

We object to getting down; we are afraid, if the man we should help is below us in some way, that we should be considered as much of a failure as he. Why is it that we have that feeling, when we know it is not the right one? It is not the Christ Spirit; and we are very plainly told that "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Thank God that our salvation does not depend on what we have of earthly possessions or our social position.

We need to be condescending, but not as if we are doing some great favor by stooping, not as if we are doing something beneath us; but because we love our fellowman; because Christ condescended, and we want to be like Christ.

Real and lasting happiness does not come from pride, but from humility, true humility. All of us want to be happy here and hereafter, and we are told how we can be; it is up to each of us to decide for himself whether he will follow the master's steps to the desired goal.

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

## WE BE BRETHREN

Genesis 13:8

The wind stung their faces. Rain pelted them from time to time. Warren was six years old, and Earl was four. Down the sidewalk they went, determined to reach their destination. Warren walked on the outside toward the road, holding firmly the hand of his little brother, as his mother had taught him. Earl began to fuss. "Not much further," Warren said, tersely. He was doing everything

his mother had told him. He loved his brother more than anything. Some folks stared curious at them, but the boys trudged on, looking straight ahead.

Their father had died a few years earlier. Earl did not remember him. There had been an accident at work. The company had promised them money, but for some reason it never came. Mother did what she could, but

her health was weak. The boys struggled on.

They arrived at the sheriff's office without incident. The trip had been twenty blocks: about two miles. The sheriff was dozing in his office chair with his feet up on the desk. The door closed behind the boys with a bang and Sheriff Smith sat at attention. "What can I do for you gentlemen on this unsettled night?" Warren spoke up nervously before the sheriff was done speaking. "Mother is sick. She did not answer me when I spoke to her last." He gave Smith the address. Warren memorized it over a year ago. They did not have a telephone. The sheriff made one call and an ambulance was on its way. "Mother told me exactly what to do if she could not get out

of bed," Warren explained. "She told us boys that if we listened to her and followed her word that we would be okay."

Some folks think that the mother was too strict. Can you imagine?

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."  
1 Peter 1:13-16.

Brother Lynn H. Miller  
Mohler's Congregation

## THE MARKET VALUE OF THE SOUL

Paul R. Myers

Recent weeks has seen a great fluctuation in the market value of stocks and bonds. Fortunes were made and lost overnight. General merchandise varies in value according to the law of supply and demand.

There never has been a depression in the values of man's spiritual life. Undoubtedly, Jesus

frequented the marketplaces in old Jerusalem, and there He witnessed buying and selling. Some days prices rose because of demand. Other days, for lack of buyers, commodity prices were lower. Yet, the quality remained the same.

Every other item may fluctuate in price, but the value



of the soul remains constant. On one occasion Jesus asked a very profound question. "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" Never was there a more startling or more serious question asked. No one has given an adequate answer to that question.

Too often, man overlooks the supreme value of his soul. Men often cheapen the value of their immortal soul. Men, daily, in their mad pursuit for worldly gain, neglect their soul. People live and act as though they will live forever. They fail to properly appraise eternal values. They are wise in worldly wisdom, but in eternal things they are profoundly foolish. People are going crazy over pleasure, foolish things, material things, and at the same time profess Christianity. Jesus witnessed the same condition in His day. He emphatically said, "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." We cannot have enough room in our heart to entertain divided allegiance.

While in Cairo, Egypt, the writer saw several tombs wherein were buried kings who once ruled nations. With them were buried many of their treasures. Those who were responsible for their

burial must have assumed that their buried treasures would be of value and benefit to the deceased at a future date. Are we not just as ignorant, who lay up treasures on earth and are not rich toward God?

Exchanging the soul for worldly pleasures is a bad, sad, and losing bargain. At the end, when we meet death, to be spiritually poverty stricken, will mean the loss of our soul and the penalty of punishment in Hell.

What shall it profit anyone, to find at the close of this life's pleasures, that our cup is empty? Solomon concluded such a life would result in vanity. "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity."

One great evident fact proves that power and wealth do not bring true happiness. Jesus spoke to humble people. He knew that covetousness is one of the besetting sins of the human heart. Our Lord laid down the terms of discipleship based on self-denial and sacrifice. Covetousness leads to greed, theft, murder, etc., all tending toward the loss of the soul. When one is engrossed in these worldly and sinful trends, he is not giving diligence to his soul!

Compared to the value that men place on their soul today, Jesus taught, "If a man gain the whole world and lose his soul,

he has lost all.” The intrinsic value of the soul has been lost. Millions of men are slaughtered on the battlefield. People, boys, and girls are murdered in cold blood every day. What has come over mankind? Why such gross insanity of bloodshed? Why such wholesale disregard for the Word of God? It truthfully bears but one answer. The value of a single soul has been reduced to where man places but little value on it. But God’s price remains the same. Therefore, man and God are in conflict over man’s soul. Hence, Jesus was sent by God, to redeem and to save man’s soul.

Jesus plainly teaches that the value of the soul cannot be computed. The value of the soul has no comparison. It is priceless. Neither is there fluctuations in the worth or value of the soul. Life will hold little for those who place small value on the soul.

Such declining in the worth of the soul is a result of men losing sight of God. Material things take preference, and the spiritual goes to second, third or fourth place in the lives of men.

Jesus did not answer the question asked. But His entire life lived and His death on the Cross was His answer. The value of the soul is priceless because of

the sacrifice which was paid for it. THE PRECIOUS blood of the Lord. The redemption of our soul was purchased at a tremendous cost.

It is of little wonder that Jesus asked, “Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” The soul of man is worth more than kingdoms, empires, and dynasties.

As we meditate on the preciousness of souls, we will more fully appreciate the sacrifice on the Cross. With all the provision made for the soul, God gives freedom to man to do what he chooses with his own soul. Many, like Esau, sell their soul for a mess of pottage. And what a mess many get their soul into! Jesus never compels men to follow Him. He offers every soul the plan of salvation and eternal life. He never once minimized the consequences of rejecting salvation. THE SOUL THAT SINNETH, IT SHALL DIE. Ezekiel 18:4. The message of Jesus, regarding the soul, is the same today as when He uttered the words, “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

The great question concerning the soul which Jesus asked, is a very personal question, directed to everyone who has reached

the age of accountability. Paul, in writing Hebrews must have meditated on the value of the soul when he wrote, "How shall ye escape if we neglect so great salvation?" There is no way of escape if we neglect our soul.

Men determines his own answer to such very pointed questions. The road to peace and salvation of the soul is through the acceptance and obedience to Christ, Our Lord and Saviour.

This generation is busy buying and selling of the temporal things

of life. They are busy making certain they are fully insured, are entitled to old age benefits, social security, and unemployment insurance. They have neglected nothing pertaining to this life. Many people die, rich in this world's goods.

BUT, what doth it profit them, if they lose their soul?

NOTHING.

Selected from the

July 15, 1962

issue of the Bible Monitor

## NEWS ITEMS

### NEW DEACON ADDRESS

Brother Andy Lichtenberger has a new address. His address is now 1556 Yarrow Rd, Piqua, KS, 66761, which is a part of the Grandview, MO Congregation

### CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Brother Bart Hoblit will be our evangelist for revivals for the Chambersburg Congregation, July 31-August 7, 2022. Sunday morning services start at 9:30 A.M. Sunday evening, the 31<sup>st</sup> services at 7:00 P.M. Weeknight services are at 7:30 P.M. A fellowship meal will be at the church on August 7, with the last services at 2:00 P.M. We invite all to come worship with us.

Sister Bev Priest, Cor.

### SPECIAL DEAL

Currently, the Publication Board is selling copies of the Dunkard Brethren Church History Book, "They Counted The Cost" by Keith M. Bailey for 50% off at \$20.00 per book. Contact a member of the Publication Board to buy your copy.

## 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.

1 Samuel 16-18:16

There is a battle that is raging for the souls of men. There are many giants that need defeated. We must focus where the battle is happening. Where is the battlefield? This battle was in the valley of Elah. The battlefield is in the hearts of men not in what they look like. If outward appearance were the concern David never would have made it to the battlefield.

The heart does affect outward appearance, but we should look at the heart as the Lord does. Though the battle was in array they were not prepared, someone needed to step out into the valley. There are many battles being fought around us for the souls of men. We must step out and be engaged in the field or valley and fight. We often do some preparing for battle as we read the Word, pray, go to church, and many other spiritual experiences which are good. We have much at our fingertips to help us prepare. But for the battle to be fought and victory to be won we must GO. Sometimes it would be easier to stay at home (there are

battles to be fought in the home as well) or away from the battlefield. Many times, we as Christians think it is enough to simply live differently or separate from the world.

While this is important, Biblical, and can provide opportunity we must also speak the Gospel. We must be in much prayer as well. If we really care, love, and have a heart for the things of God. If we have a heart for the souls of people, and desire to take away the reproach of Christ's followers and to stand against those who defy the army of the living God. Then we must GO. There is a cause. We must confront the enemy. As we go it is not in our strength or with our weapons. The Lord saves not with sword and spear. Ephesians 6 reminds us that the fight is not against flesh and blood but principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness. 2 Corinthians 10:4 tells us the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds. The battle belongs to the Lord, but He will use us to fight. So that all the earth may know there is a God not just in Israel but in all the world. Let us join the work God is doing for His honor and glory.

Brother Jason Carpenter  
*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*

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## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 2022**

### **August 7 – A King’s Sun-in-Law – 1 Sam. 18:17-19:3**

1. What differences do you see between the attitudes of David and Saul in this lesson?
2. How did his jealousy of David affect Saul’s ability to rule properly as king?
3. Why did Saul’s children like David so much even though their father hated him?

### **August 14 – David Fled and Escaped – 1 Sam. 19:4-24**

1. What can we learn from the example of Jonathan about helping to bring peace between others?
2. Was there a time of peace between Saul and David between verses 7 and 8?
3. Why was Saul given the ability to prophesy despite his evil intentions?

### **August 21 – Sounding Out Saul – 1 Sam. 20:1-23**

1. In verse 2, Jonathan implied that Saul would not harm David without first telling Jonathan about his intentions. Do you think this was true?
2. In verse 5, David said he wanted to go and hide in a field. In verse 6, he asked Jonathan to tell Saul that he had gone home to Bethlehem. Is it ever appropriate to lie to protect the safety of someone else?

### **August 28 – Self Control – Daniel 1:1-21**

1. The young men are called “children” in this scripture. What age might they have been?
2. What would have been wrong with eating the king’s food? In what way would it defile Daniel and the others.
3. How did God honor the discipline in the lives of the young men?

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