

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. C

SEPTEMBER, 2022

NO. 09

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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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## I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK

*I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling  
of God in Christ Jesus. Phil. 3:14*

Above me and around me lies the unattained,  
My spirit longs to walk the beckoning paths,  
I fain would run, where now I inch along.

Yet, while I stumble on and drag my feet,  
I keep my eyes upon the hill-tops fair,  
And take deep breaths of the life-giving air,  
That comes from those far heights of UNATTAINED.

Not what I am but what I will be then,  
Gives strength, and breathes into my fainting soul,  
The courage that still sends me on, and on,  
And steadies me to tread the dusty roads,  
Which lie between me and the perfect day.

- Author Unknown  
(Selected by Bro. Lynn Miller)

## VOLUME C

If you look at the top of the front page of this issue of the *Bible Monitor*, you will see that this issue is part of Volume C. Some might see this and think that this is part of the third volume following Volumes A and B. However, that assumption would be incorrect.

Roman numerals are used to number the volumes of the *Bible Monitor*. As this is the one hundredth year of the *Bible Monitor*, the Roman numeral "C", representing one hundred

is this year's volume. This seems quite simple compared to last year's volume of XCIX, representing the ninety ninth year of the *Bible Monitor*.

So is there any significance in the *Bible Monitor* turning one hundred? As far as I'm aware, with only one possible exception, the *Bible Monitor* is older than all of its readers. In fact, the *Bible Monitor* is older than the Dunkard Brethren Church, which brings me to the focus of this article.

### Winds of Change

With the world-ward drift of the Church of the Brethren by the early 1900's, some conservative members were sounding the alarm on the

dangers of acculturation. They raised a number of concerns they saw the church struggling with including the paid ministry, women in ministry, the use

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## THE BIBLE MONITOR SEPTEMBER, 2022

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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. Checks should be made out to "DB Publication Board". Send all subscriptions and communications to the Office Editor.

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of musical instruments in worship, positions on divorce, involvement in politics and secret societies and deviations from nonconformity in dress.

For a while, the conservative brethren were able to publish their concerns and viewpoints in the *Gospel Messenger* (the official journal of the Church of the Brethren). However, by 1917, a change in editorial policies of the paper stopped most voluntary submissions to the *Gospel Messenger*. Additionally, other actions to help spread their message to the larger church found little support in their Annual Conference.

It was time to seek another path. The chosen path was the launching of the *Bible Monitor* in October 1922. The purpose of the *Bible Monitor* was not to spread discord within the church but was rather to call the church back to her formerly held beliefs and away from her slide towards acculturation. Those that agreed with these conservative ideas were called the Bible Monitor Family.

In the first issue of the Monitor, Elder B. E. Kesler wrote "Our policy is, and our aim shall be, to uphold truth and

righteousness, and to oppose error, wrong and evil, and to use our best efforts at reform by earnestly contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints as revealed in the Holy Scriptures and maintained and held for over 200 years by our beloved Brotherhood".

During the next few years, the Bible Monitor Family held their own annual meetings as well as continued to attend the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. During this time, the Bible Monitor Family continued to plead with the church to withdraw from their worldly path and return to the high calling of God. However, during these Annual Conferences, the Bible Monitor Family and their ideas were being met with resistance from within the church leadership. At the 1925 Annual Conference, B. E. Kesler was charged for publishing the *Bible Monitor* against the decision of Annual Conference and was also charged with unbrotherly criticism of the church. One year later, during the 1926 Annual Conference, it finally became clear to the Bible Monitor Family that they were alone in their battle for conservatism and must set a new course.

### The Birth of the Dunkard Brethren Church

After leaving the Church of the Brethren 1926 Annual Conference, the Bible Monitor Family headed to Plevna, Indiana for their fourth annual meeting.

As noted in *They Counted the Cost* (Bailey, 2009), “The gathering at Plevna was not a victory celebration but an humble, quiet bowing to the will of God. Conscience would not allow them to stay in a church body that had accepted acculturation as a norm, whose position would be an accelerated movement toward liberal modernism.”

In his opening remarks at Plevna, B. E. Kesler presented this challenge, “Will we be men of the hour? God will raise up men who will lead this people out.”

Regarding the founding of this fledgling church, as recorded in the Minutes of that meeting, “Therefore, we, as part of the loyal and faithful of the present Church of the Brethren, see no other remedy for relief than to obey the gospel, and declare ourselves independent and to reorganize, and to reestablish

the true faith of the gospel among us.” And so, the Dunkard Brethren Church was born.

Today the *Bible Monitor* is in its 100<sup>th</sup> year. So is there any significance in the *Bible Monitor* turning one hundred? I believe there is and I hope you do as well. In a way, it could be said the Bible Monitor Family was the seed bed from which the Dunkard Brethren Church sprouted. Therefore, the story of the *Bible Monitor* and the Dunkard Brethren Church run together and cannot be separated.

But as we look back across several generations to what happened one hundred years ago with the Bible Monitor Family, we might ask if their lives and choices have application to us today? After all, many things have changed in that time and today we live in a different world. There is some truth there. But might we consider that while the world we live in has changed significantly since the days of the Bible Monitor Family, the God we serve is the same and His word never changes. The Bible Monitor Family sought to apply the principles of a life lived for

Christ in the world they lived in. And we must do the same in the different world we live in today.

In future issues, we hope to take a glance to our past to establish a better sense of our founding and how we can use the *Bible Monitor* today as a lively tool as we look to our future.

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and

broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” (Matt. 7:13-15)

Bro. Ken Brock

## BUT GOD

With a Google search on the internet, I discovered the phrase, “but God” is in the KJV Bible 44 times. Have you ever wondered how many times those two words have been included in your life story? Some of the ones in scripture have a direct relationship to your story. Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” The happenings in that verse has the potential to change the outcome of every single human. We must avail ourselves of the gift that has been given to us. When we do, we go from death unto life. Ephesians 2:4,5 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his

great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

Genesis 50:20 “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” How many times in your life can you think of a time when someone or the devil himself had ill intentions for you, but God worked things out for good? He took what looked ugly and made it into a blessing for you or someone else. God can do that every time and by faith we can trust Him to have our best interest at heart. Even when

we don't see the whole picture, we know God is right and the things He allows for us are right, according to His plan. I would challenge each of us to look at the inconveniences in life as possibly the very moment that God is performing a "but God". Maybe a flat tire saved you from a major accident. Maybe the restaurant selling out of your favorite meal, saved you from food poisoning. The possibilities are endless. In our human minds we cannot always see the big picture.

In the previous verse and the story contained in the chapters before, do you think Joseph had any idea that through his suffering and inconvenience, God was providing a place, a way of escape for His chosen people? I would say he did not. Scripture bears out that he did not pout and sulk around but went about serving God in Egypt, however I don't think he necessarily knew God's plan. God revealed it to Joseph in God's timing.

1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted

above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Here we are promised that any temptation that comes along, also has a way of escape. We cannot blame God or anything else for a failed temptation. God has promised a way of escape for us. We may need to crucify self and submit to God's way, but in His goodness, He has provided a way of escape.

The Steele's sing a song with this line, "But God was first on the scene, before it happened, He knew our need. How many of us would find it quite odd, that we would be here except for two words, 'but God'" How many times does something happen to us and we are caught completely off guard? It comforts me to know that God is not surprised. He knows long in advance what we will face. He knows what we will need, and HE has already put the necessary things in motion to fill our needs as He sees fit. It usually takes a time of reflection after the fact to realize all the ways that God had put things in motion for us. I challenge you, while in the moment, look for, notice, and acknowledge what

Jesus is doing for you. If you have your eyes open, it may surprise you how many times God orchestrates seemingly small details in your life. He is the perfect Father and is delighted to give good things

to His children. God is GOOD all the time and all the time God is GOOD!!

Bro. Joe Cover  
Dallas Center, IA

## CONTEXT

Recently, I was in a church camp setting that included a time of singing and devotions around the campfire pit and bringing to an end the day's planned activities. That first evening included the handing out of some printed scripture verses to use in succeeding campfire devotions. I took what was on top of the pile not looking to see what other possibilities I could have chosen. As it turned out it was a familiar scripture. But what caught my attention first of all was its address, the 15th chapter of John. For many, perhaps even most of us, we could place that chapter very accurately on a timeline of Jesus' life and ministry. In less than 24 hours Jesus would be dead having been crucified on a cross. Why is that important?

There are times that the words we read don't always make themselves easily

understood. Taking a look at the circumstances that silently surround those words begins to create a picture or story that helps unlock the meaning of the words. The words begin to have a context. Anything that adds to the context of the verses, such as historical references, geography, relationship between characters, adds context to what we read.

The story of the prodigal son, in context, can help us recognize some of the purpose associated with any passage. Chapter 15 of Luke begins with two groups of people who are listening to what Jesus is saying. One group is referred to as tax collectors and sinners. The second group is primarily Pharisees and scribes who complain about the first group. Jesus tells two stories, the lost sheep and the lost coin, before telling the story of the prodigal son. Without the context of the two groups of listeners the

stories are just stories. But Jesus is telling these stories because they relate directly to the hearts and minds of those gathered to hear him. Prodigal living is not without consequences. But God is merciful and forgiving beyond our deserving (the prodigal son/ tax collectors and sinners). But the hardness of our hearts separates us from the loving heart of God (the older brother/ Pharisees and scribes).

We also need to be aware that we can read into a passage thoughts and meanings that the passage doesn't support. We all have presuppositions about different topics and people that color our thinking. If we are unaware of them we are less likely to learn the truth that God wants to teach us. Remember the reaction Jesus' disciples had when they discovered him talking to a Samaritan woman? In their minds she had two strikes against her without doing or saying anything. She was a Samaritan and a woman. They were shocked that he related to her as a person with value rather than the prejudices that formed their opinions. Jesus saw fields ready for harvest while his disciples were eager to leave Samaria behind.

So to add to our context in John 15 it should be noted that all of the gospels spend more time describing the events and conversations during Jesus' last week of life than any other time frame. John in particular focuses on his last day of life starting with the 13th chapter until his death in the 19th chapter. It is not presumptuous to suggest that what Jesus shared with his disciples during the last day of his life was of critical importance. The mystery of his life, the purpose of his behavior, the significance of his teachings all depend on his disciples' understanding who he is, what he is doing, and why he is surrendering to the enemies and instruments that will take his life. It is also important that we, you and I, comprehend as well. Otherwise, what Jesus says will only seem like nonsense.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5) This is the verse I picked for devotions at our next evening campfire. This verse holds forth both promise and disappointment, fruitfulness and futility. Jesus says abide



in him, who is the vine, and you will be fruitful. This is the promise that Jesus makes to His disciples. But without Jesus, who is the vine, you can't produce fruit. You're just a branch disconnected from the vine. The promise is no longer in effect. It is being swallowed up with disappointment. Why? Not because of anything they had done. Jesus was dead. Any hope of fruitfulness has died with him. How can a branch be fruitful if the vine is dead?

In the context of a dead Messiah Jesus' promises mean nothing. He stands exposed as a failure. Oh, he spoke to people's hearts and many were moved. He healed many and raised several from the dead. But ultimately he was too naive to overcome the religious and political forces that united against him. One of his very own betrayed him. Obviously, his spiritual power was limited. His way could not unite the people in throwing out the entrenched political forces of the Sannhedrin, nor the power of Rome's soldiers. The savvy pundits of the day would have plenty of listeners while they cataloged and detailed all of Jesus' failures. This is the context in which the world judges him. Is

he a liar or just another lunatic? He is brilliant at exposing others' faults and failures. But they will tolerate him only so long. In fact, eliminating Jesus is the wisest course of action lest his ambition invites Rome's legions to occupy their land. Caiaphas, the high priest said, "... it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not." (John 11:50)

If Jesus is dead then what is written above corresponds to what we sometimes refer to as reality. It may be clothed in religious, secular, political, or humanistic garb. Ultimately, it is empty of what God decides is reality. The limitations of human sight cannot see how different the context becomes when viewed through the lens of faith in the resurrection of Jesus. He had prophesied both his death and resurrection. The vine is not only alive but beyond the means of any human or satanic instrument to kill. The fruitfulness of the branch is the signature of our Risen Lord written on the tablets of our hearts. Abide in him and the fruit will grow.

Bro. Phil Franklin  
Modesto, CA

## DID YOU EVER READ IN THE SCRIPTURES?

A clear beautiful stream can easily be muddied simply by someone walking through it. God has preserved His Word over the centuries. We are thankful for God's Word as represented by the King James version. Yet many would tramp their muddy feet through it in an effort to make it "clearer" or "more understandable". Usually they are only trying to push through an opinion or heresy.

Is it not the Holy Ghost Himself that teaches us? (Luke 12:12) Is it not God Himself that shows us all there is to see from the scriptures? Jesus said, "Follow me!" Those who followed Jesus and continued to do so are memorialized in the New Testament. They never turned back. What promises! What hope! How can we hesitate? "All things are possible to him that believeth". (Mark 9:23b) Do we believe that God created the universe and all that lie therein? Do we believe that Jesus Christ came to earth to bring a saving gospel? Do we believe that God's Word is from the beginning?

Number 284 in the Brethren Hymnal gives us this admonition: "Come every soul by sin oppressed, there's mercy with the Lord, and He will surely give you rest by trusting in His Word. Only trust Him. Only trust Him. Only trust Him now. He will save you. He will save you. He will save you now." It is simple, but compelling.

All the cares and dictates of this life, as serious as they seem to be must be secondary to our relationship with GOD. We hear Him through His Word. 1 John 2:15-17: "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." John 14:15: "If ye love me, keep my commandments."

Bro. Lynn Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## WHEN IT SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE

Behind everything happening in this world of ours is the salesman. It does not matter what you have, somewhere in the history of that “thing,” was a salesman selling the product to someone that you bought it from.

Nothing is more aggravating to me on television than infomercials. All of them, without exception, will present their fabulous product and the low, low price for today and follow it with these astounding words, “But wait, there’s more.” Now you can but two of those things for the price of one.

Salesmanship is what makes our world go round.

We sometimes make fun of the used car salesman, but have you ever seen how many used cars there are on the highway today? Despite their reputation, used-car salesmen sell used cars on a daily basis.

It is the philosophy of the world to offer us what we do not need under the guise of something we cannot live without. The world will offer anything as long as it has your full attention, which in effect

pulls you away from God. That is the objective.

There is an old saying that has so much truth in it that I almost hesitate using it here. It goes like this, “When it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.”

As my father used to tell me, “Son, there are no free lunches.” Every free lunch has some catch to it somewhere. The person voting on the “free lunch,” hopes that you do not find that out before they actually catch you with it. The free element is only to entice you to buy something you probably will never need.

This brings me to an old truth that a fulfilled man cannot be conned. If what you have satisfied, you cannot be enticed into something you do not need.

These kinds of promises are based upon carnal appetite. The sales pitch is that you really cannot live life to its fullest without their product. What they have to sell you will become the most satisfying in every respect. Well, even if it was true, which it is not, it would not satisfy you for very long.

That is the catch. If you could eat a bag of potato chips and be absolutely, positively satisfied with that bag of potato chips, you would never have to buy another bag of potato chips. The salesman knows that once you enjoy one bag, you will want more.

Nothing of this world is absolutely satisfying. The sales pitch is really based on a certain level of dissatisfaction and restlessness. Remember, "You deserve a break, today."

A lot of these will promise the world to distract of from God's promise in the Word. It is the difference between the external, which is temporary, and the eternal, which is permanent. The slick salesman will sell you the idea that temporary is forever.

Promises are only as good as the one making the promise. Can that person back up what they promise? Then there has to be a question as to the motive. What do they really want? Do they have a hidden agenda?

It is easy to figure out what they really want. They want your money. They want to convince you that their product is so satisfying that you are willing

to give them your money. The bottom line is always a \$ sign. Very few, if any, have only our well-being in mind.

This is the difference with God. God is not selling a product. God is opening up his heart for us to experience Him through His grace. What God has for us goes deeper than any carnal desires we might have. What God has satiates the soul in a way that it can never be otherwise.

A marvelous hymn says that the blood of Jesus goes deeper than the stain of sin. What God has to offer us has nothing to do with any passing fancy but rather with the satisfaction that nothing on the outside can disrupt. What God has for us creates a holy desire and longing for God. A deep satisfaction in God. Once somebody has tasted the good things of the Lord, nothing else will ever satisfy them.

St. Augustine said, "Thou hast created us for thyself and we are restless until we rest fully in Thee." If we truly want satisfaction, we will only find it in God.

The Bible clearly declares that friendship with the world is enmity with God. You cannot

have both. It comes down to our choice. Are we going to go with the world, and remain throughout this life and all through eternity unsatisfied? Or,

are we going to rest in the God who created us for Himself?

James Snyder  
Ocala, FL

## CONNECTIONS

As members of the Bible Study Board our hope in writing monthly articles related to the Adult SS Lessons is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

1 Sam 22:3-4

3 And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me.

4 And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

It is a distressing time in David's life. Saul is seeking to end his life. In fleeing from Saul he has already made some poor choices. He has not only endangered Ahimelech but all his close relatives as well. David sought out Achish, a Philistine king, hoping for safety from Saul. This seems very

strange considering the state of relations with the Philistines. But Achish is the king of Gath, the same city that Goliath was from. So perhaps Achish may owe David a certain amount of gratitude for eliminating a possible political rival. But the servants of Achish object to providing refuge for such a notorious killer of Philistines. So David must find shelter and safety in the hills surrounding the city of Adullam. The cave of Adullam becomes a temporary refuge not only for David but many others who are discontent or fearful of Saul's kingship. David's family also flees to this place of shelter including his parents. At their age they have become easy targets of the king's wrath.

However, the cave of Adullham can only provide temporary shelter from Saul's reach. David's entourage must be ready to move swiftly to avoid being trapped by Saul's

army. They will be frequently on the run, following trails in varying wilderness locations, and always avoiding the major routes of travel. Such a life will easily become a death sentence for his elderly parents. David must find a different solution for his parents.

But why choose Moab? They have been enemies of Israel at various times in the past. But it appears that there have been more than a few generations who have lived at peace with one another. Perhaps David is counting on this peace to be too big an obstacle for Saul to threaten. While his anger is directed at David he doesn't need to start a war with Moab in the process. Besides being a place of peace and refuge for his parents there is also another connection. Jesse, David's father, is the grandson of Ruth, the Moabitess and David is the great grandson of Ruth. Moabite blood is in their bodies. Moab had provided shelter from famine for Naomi and her family previously. In turn, Israel accepted Ruth. Now, but a few generations have passed before

her offspring will become a king of Israel.

While few, if any of us will experience such difficult circumstances most of us have some experience in caring for aged parents. Some of us are rapidly closing in on becoming aged parents who will need some sort of assistance as we continue to age. Most of us have heard more than a few horror stories where one parent or perhaps both have balked at making changes that help make caring for aged parents easier. Change can be very threatening. The loss of certain freedoms that have existed for many decades are difficult to accept. Emotions can easily erupt in the midst of making changes that were thought benign. The sweetness of God's Spirit working in all of us, whether aged parent or child of the same, will be tested. What will be our final testimony? Will it be that we lived to the fullest of God's Spirit in us. Or will it be that we lived too long?

Bro. Phil Franklin

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*

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## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

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

September 2022 Study Questions

### Sept 4 - 1 Samuel 20:24-42

Why does Jonathan stand up?

How does Saul first excuse David from the feast in his own mind?

What does Saul recognize about David's faith that is a constant testimony?

How does Saul's reaction to David's absence reveal his intentions?

Why is Saul so angry with Jonathan?

How do the circumstances of life reveal our character?

How does adversity impact relationships?

**Commentary:** It is difficult to feel much sympathy for Saul. He has become his own worst enemy. But as he gives himself over to the destructive emotions of his own imagination he hurts those closest to him. Saul's actions, both vulgar and violent, force Jonathan to realize how truly dangerous his father has become to David. While it is easy to point the finger of blame at Saul as the author of his own destruction, we should take care to notice our own reflection staring back at us in the portrait of his life. Our words and actions frequently wound those we love the most. Our hearts are often full of our own self-importance and daily needs. As a result we neglect the One who sees all our needs and selflessly gave His life for us because we are so important to Him. Therefore, let us be wary of those who market themselves as the best stewards of earthly power. Like Saul, their desire for power is too often self-serving, not selfless, and laden with promises that wither away in the heat of the day. Instead let us deepen our fellowship and love for one another. Genuine spiritual relationships endure and grow through the struggles we experience in this life.

**Sept 11 - 1 Samuel 21:1-15**

What structure is in residence in Nob?

Did David break the 9th commandment?

What is David's status at this time?

Why is Doeg, and Edomite, present?

What day of the week is David visiting Ahimelech?

What is the difference between Show Bread and Common Bread?

Who is Achish and where is the territory of Gath?

**Commentary:** David is on the run. His transition from the king's son-in-law and a military commander par excellence to outlaw and alien has left him with little time to plan. He improvises the truth that leaves Ahimelech squeamish. Ultimately, it will cost Ahimelech his life. David continues to flee by heading for Gath where Achish, a Philistine king, rules. It is clear from later chapters that Achish and David are well acquainted. Since Goliath was from Gath, David may have paved the way for Achish to become king when he defeated Goliath. But the servants of Achish are fearful of David and his prowess as a warrior. To calm their immediate fears David feigns madness, reducing the threat on his life, and heads back to Israel before anyone changes their mind for the worse for David. So far David's plans have proven less than stellar. He must reinvent himself with an army of 400 men while doing little to disturb or threaten King Saul. He must learn to take care of the people God sends him before he can rule a nation of people. He must overcome his own impulsive nature and learn a greater dependence upon the Lord. It is not a time for greater heroics. Rather, it is time for introspection and learning to trust the Lord. How and when he will become king is in God's hands. For now David must content himself with developing a heart like Gods.



**Sept 18 - 1 Samuel 22:1-19**

Why do David's parents and brothers join him at the Cave of Adullam?

Why does David take his parents to Moab?

What sort of men gathered themselves to David?

What is a kangaroo court and what is its application to our study?

How does David's acceptance of Gad's recommendation contrast with Saul's behavior toward Ahimelech?

Why is Doeg so willing to kill the priests?

**Commentary:** The problem with having a king is that sometimes the only way to change administrations is by the edge of the sword. While this means of removal will be delivered by the Philistines some years in the future it seems like the present moment of Saul's kingship is the low ebb of his rule. He believes in his own infallibility in judging the faults of others. He points the finger of blame at everyone else. Saul can discern conspiracies in his morning cereal bowl. What we see at work is the growing corruption of his heart by the power he wields. Saul has lost all consideration for the Lord in his life. He is willing to murder the defenseless priests of the Lord to satisfy his own baseless accusations. When his servants refuse to kill Ahimelech and the other priests Saul calls on Doeg, the Edomite, to execute them. Doeg is not hindered by respect for the Lord or His priests. He also slaughters the inhabitants of Nob including their livestock. The exercise of power becomes self justifying. If we could ask Saul how he could justify such actions his answer might be no more complicated than, "Because I can." As our own society deteriorates in the direction of increased violence the momentary sense of wielding immense power is seductive to those who feel powerless. "Because I can" is their last hope to feel powerful.

**Sept 25 - 1 Samuel 22:20-23:15**

What is the relationship between Ahimelech and Abiathar?

What do you notice in the conversation between David and Abiathar in assessing accountability?

How frequently does David pray in this passage we are studying?

What sort of prayer does David make?

How do you think David's prayer life affected his men?

Why will the people of Keilah deliver David to Saul after he has saved them from the Philistines?

**Commentary:** As we continue in our study of

1 Samuel the differences between Saul and David become increasingly apparent. Saul berates those who serve him. David invites people to draw close to him and accept the safety he can provide. Saul has lost any sense of God's presence in his life. David inquires of the Lord before taking action. His trust in the Lord is evident to those around him. Saul looks for any opportunity to kill David and end the threat to his kingship that he represents. David knows he cannot overcome Saul on the battlefield. So he learns how to use the caves and wilderness expanses to protect himself and his followers. Saul hates David. As we will learn, David honors Saul because God anointed Saul as king. David is content to let God lead the way to his eventual kingship of Israel. There is very little in Saul's life that we can rejoice in. In contrast David's life overflows with the spiritual wealth of his heart. Many of his Psalms capture our hearts in praise and worship and deepens our trust in God. David's life was far from perfect. His sins caused the death of many. But we can rejoice in the fruitfulness of God's life in David that spills over into our own.

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## OBITUARY

### **Lori (Marks) Magley**

On March 6th, 1979 in Lebanon Pennsylvania, a little girl was born to Marvin and Wanda Noecker- Marks and they named her Lori Nadine. Lori was the first child born to her loving and protective parents, with eleven siblings to come.

At the age of 18 months she was in a farm accident. Though Doctors gave little hope for her to live, God in His Mercy spared her life. Being the oldest in the family gave her plenty of opportunity to care for others. She was also a gentle teacher.

As her family moved a number of times through the years, she learned to endure long journeys and to lighten the load for others who were also in on the long haul.

When Lori was in her early 20's she was unsure what the Lord had in mind for her life. She thought of going to Africa to help with the church's work there. Then she had a desire to go to Switzerland. But neither of those happened. Finally she decided to go to Oklahoma to the Institute in Basic Life Principles, to prepare for work in an orphanage in Mongolia.

A Man's heart deviseth his way: But the Lord directeth his steps. Proverbs 16:9. Lori did go to Oklahoma, But God had a different plan. A Bachelor from Kansas heard about her. So when Lori was 26 years old, she added the name Magley to her signature.

She changed that lonely Bachelor into a happily married man. She had some surprises for him though. For she had no desire to stay in that quiet empty house, coming from such a lively one. So when he went off to work in the field she went too! At first he thought he would just get more work done. So he had her drive the tractor, combine, truck or what ever needed done but she really wanted to be with him. So it was decided that she would pack a big lunch and an interesting book, then as he drove she read aloud. Many interesting stories were read.

There were times that even after all three children were born that children, lunch, water jug, and parents loaded up and headed to the field along with that interesting book. It was a lot of fun and taught the children the joy of reading.

Lori then started teaching the children at home. She watched carefully over their purity and guided them faithfully towards the Savior she loves.

Lori was an herbalist, and not only enjoyed growing the herbs, but also finding the usefulness of each one. Then putting them to work with her gentle, loving hands would rub the aches away.

Another joy that Lori brought to others was her burst of laughter, a warm, comforting laugh that made you feel special.

Although there was one time her husband wondered about that sweet laugh. She made an herbal concoction to plaster on his head to prevent baldness. The children gathered around to see how this would work. Something that the family was quite happy about was that Lori liked to cook. It was her pleasure to make interesting things to eat. There was always plenty of milk so she make yogurt, cheese, butter, and other things that come from milk.

Another quality that Lori had was that she was calm-natured. She did not like spiders at all but she didn't scream or run, but just dealt with them swiftly as she did with most trials in life. Even after Lori's mean old surgery in January and the kind physicians came to ask if she was in a lot of pain; her answer was always, "No, it's not really pain, it's just a little uncomfortable.

Above all else Lori loved the Word of God and did her very best to live out what is asked of each of us. That is to love the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, with all our mind, and our neighbor as our self. May the Lord Jesus help us each one to do just that.

As for Lori's husband and children, they knew they were very blessed to have such a dear, loving wife and mother.

## NEWS ITEMS

### Special Deal

The Publication Board is still selling copies of the Dunkard Brethren Church History Book, "*They Counted the Cost*" (2009, Keith M. Bailey, Hardcover, 535 pages) for 50% off at \$20.00 per copy. Contact a member of the Publication Board to buy your copy.

### Electronic Bible Monitor (e-Monitor)

If you are interested in receiving the Bible Monitor by email each month (e-Monitor), please notify Ken Brock at [kenbrockdb@gmail.com](mailto:kenbrockdb@gmail.com) or at 419-515-3396. The e-Monitor comes as a pdf file (Adobe file) and looks just like the paper subscriptions that come by regular mail. If you choose to sign up for the e-Monitor, you can either continue or discontinue your paper subscription of the Monitor that comes by regular mail. Simply let Ken know your preference. Subscriptions currently remain \$5/year, whether receiving paper copies of the Monitor, e-Monitor or both.

### Dunkard Brethren Church Website Update

While not yet fully operational, the Dunkard Brethren Church website (<https://www.dunkardbrethrenchurch.com/>) continues to be developed. The sermons from 2022 General Conference were recently added to the website and are now available for viewing. To access them, go to the website and then scroll down to "Sermons" and select the "Learn More" button.

### Thank You

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude & appreciation for all the love & prayers sent during my most recent health crisis. I continue to improve after kidney surgery but still face a number of chronic medical issues.

Sister in Christ,  
Ellen Strayer-Leach

**Thank You**

We want to say "THANK YOU" for all that remembered us on our 50th Anniversary. We have many precious memories, we've been richly blessed.

God Bless each of you.  
Bro. Ronald & Sis Nancy Marks

**West Fulton, Ohio**

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation will hold their fall meetings Oct. 12th - 16th, 2022 with Brother Clint Alspaugh from Bethel, PA as our evangelist. Services are at 7:30 P.M. each evening. Sunday service is at 9:30 A.M. with a potluck dinner to follow.

We invite you to come and attend these services with us. Please pray for brother Clint as he prepares for these services.

Cor. Joy Reed

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## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2022

### October 2, 2022 – David Spares Saul – I Samuel 23:16-24:6

1. What caused Jonathan to make such an unselfish covenant with David?

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2. Why did Saul want to kill David?

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3. Considering Saul's desire to kill David, what lesson can we learn from David's desire to spare Saul?

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### October 9, 2022 – Saul's Nap - I Samuel 24:7-25:3

1. Is there a purpose in the irony found in Saul and David sleeping in the same cave?

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2. Why did Saul fear David taking Saul's throne?

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3. Why was Saul moved to tears in verse sixteen?

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**October 16, 2022 – Nabel’s Unkindness - I Samuel 25:4-22**

1. Why did David send his men to Nabel?

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2. Do you think Nabel really did not know who David was?

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3. Do we have ingratitude toward those who have done good to us?

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**October 23, 2022 – David Meets Abigail - I Samuel 25:23-44**

1. How do we, as God’s people, intercede for those around us?

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2. Abigail came and blessed David. How can we, like Abigail, look for opportunities to bless others around us?

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3. Why did Nabel, “Become as a stone,” in verse thirty-seven?

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**October 30, 2022 – David Spares Saul Again - I Samuel 26:1-20**

1. Why is Saul still trying to pursue David?

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2. Saul followed the advice of the wicked. Are we prone to falling into the same trap as Saul?

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3. How did David have the self-control needed to not kill King Saul?

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