

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE KNOT IN MY SOUL

There's a knot in my soul
That just won't untangle
No matter how much I
Wriggle and wrangle.

Pulling it here
Pulling it there
It won't budge a nudge.
It doesn't care.

Begging and nagging
It won't move an inch
But presses and stresses
To puncture and pinch.

Day upon day
Year upon year
That knot in my soul
Just won't disappear.

It's hard to be happy
To breathe free and live
TILL...
The knot at last
B-R-E-E-E-E-E-E-A-K-S
When at last
I forgive.

Edith D. Plettner

Selected by Edna Carlin
Ney, OH

PEOPLE IN JEOPARDY

Jeopardy! Is a long-running television game show which first aired in 1964. The show is a quiz competition that reverses the typical question-and-answer format of quizzes. Contestants are given clues of general knowledge and they must identify the subject in the form of a question. To do well in the game, a vast information base is required in many subject areas. Some of the most successful contestants have won great sums of money and seem to be a bottomless pit of general knowledge. A good dose of smarts certainly doesn't hurt.

But a few weeks ago, a brother brought to my attention an item of national news that three contestants on *Jeopardy!* were stumped by a question that

most of us would find incredibly simple. What was the question? It was... "*Matthew 6:9 says, 'Our Father which art in heaven, _____ be thy name'.*" That's right. A question on the Lord's prayer. And all three contestants were stumped. Not one of them could come up with "*Hallowed*".

Perhaps you're as shocked as I was. I know that there seems to be a dearth of Biblical knowledge throughout the world, but for three people that rather religiously practice stuffing their noggins with as much general knowledge as possible, to then draw a blank when asked about the most commonly spoken portion of scripture in the world? How could that be?

Surely there were many people watching the show that

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were sitting in front of their screens at home shouting “Hallowed... Hallowed... Hallowed!”. However, I think this should be a stark reminder to the church not only of the graveness of the lost condition of the world around us but also of the urgency of the task that is laid before us.

One has to note the irony of the missed answer of “Hallowed” in a game of “Jeopardy”. Hallowed means holy, sacred, revered. In the Lord’s prayer, this means that we are to worship, exalt and honor the Lord’s name. Jeopardy means danger of loss, harm or failure. By not being familiar enough with scripture to know the Lord’s prayer, I suspect that likely means that the contestants don’t know the Lord and don’t hallow His name. If they don’t know the Lord, they are themselves in jeopardy, not of losing the game but of losing their souls.

How could it be that the knowledge-laden contestants have not heard enough about God to at least know the Lord’s prayer? In a world where nearly all information is easily accessible at our fingertips, how could something this big be unknown to them?

In considering these things, I have to wonder to what degree the world is ignorant of Biblical principles and teaching because the church has been too quiet or at times even silent. In my own life, I know that I have failed on a number of occasions to speak up and share of the truths of Jesus Christ and His word. Romans 10:14 asks serious questions about this: *“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

When opportunities arise for us to share of the truths of God with others, we sometimes justify reasons to hesitate. However, in John 4:35, Jesus said *“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”* We might consider this and conclude that the world was ripe for harvest in Jesus’ day. It clearly was. But was that the only time? No, the world is also ripe for harvest today. So many souls today, perhaps including those three *Jeopardy!* contestants are

ignorant of the Lord because they haven't heard about Him. Could it be that believers near them have chosen to be silent? Could it be that believers near them have seen the white fields but have chosen not to labor for the harvest?

There are many people in the world who are in jeopardy today. In Matt. 9:37-38, Jesus said to His disciples, "*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers*

into his harvest." Maybe you've seen the white fields around you but have chosen to avoid them. Or perhaps you been laboring in the fields that are ripe unto harvest. If that latter is true, praise God! Whether we've been diligently laboring for the harvest or not, may we pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth laborers (including ourselves) to reap. May all of us boldly and joyfully serve as laborers in the Lord's harvest. Hallowed be His name!

K. Brock

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW, WHEN TOMORROW IS TODAY

The 3rd part of 4. See the June and July 2023 issues for Parts 1 and 2 and look for Part 4 in the September 2023 issue.

Part 3 of 4

Defending The Faith

The greatest debates between Christians and atheists take place within apologetics, and for some reason we have separated apologetics from simple faith. At a certain level everything faith related is apologetics. To truly know the Bible is to know apologetics. Does this mean that everyone needs to be fully versed in how to win a debate against an atheist, and know the answers to all the hard-hitting questions? Of course not, but there is seemingly a fear of thought within our groups.

True thought seems to be a long-lost art now practiced only by the select few that can do it naturally. For all of the world's talk of critical thinking skills in its education, their curriculums teach anything but. At the other extreme, the conservative church is often in a similar rut, with the concept of the church being for "simple people" taking hold so as not to scare people off. Have we lost the ability to perform simple thinking in regard to all aspects of life?

Basic thinking can be summarized in a single concept, the Hegelian Dialectic. This thinking method is very common among academics, even if not known by that name. Very logically minded people tend to think this way naturally, while for others it is a struggle to implement. It is vital however, to always think this way when dealing with theology, as without it we are easily influenced and our thinking is basic.

The Hegelian Dialectic is simply taking an observation, thought, or belief (the thesis), and comparing it to the opposite of that thing (the antithesis). What comes forth from that equation is the synthesis. You then pull the synthesis and make it to become your new thesis, and so on and so forth until you have achieved a thesis that is impregnable.

Apologetics in essence boils down to a form of the Hegelian Dialectic. We should always be attempting to poke holes in our beliefs, to break them down and build them back stronger. If you form a belief that hasn't been tested and then build your life based on that belief, when it inevitably crumbles you are shaken and destroyed. To protect your faith, it is vital to test it.

I often hear from people that respond to my commentary that they don't or can't think this way, that they aren't built for this kind of thought. If you sent me a message like that, you can rest easy knowing you were by far not the only one. This boils back down to the previously mentioned issue of apathy. You very much can think and act like this, you just choose not too because it is too far off the beaten path. Much as cooking comes natural to some and not others, but is yet still vital, so too is proper thought. To progress in a right and good path we must begin to teach thought and proper thinking

as part of theology, not as a nice add-on. The church dies when we relegate deep thought to the ones who do it naturally, everyone has a part to play in developing Christ's church.

When laying out the outline for this paper, this section is titled "Grow up and Think", because it fundamentally is that. We must grow up out of our childish ways and think! "*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.*" - 1 Corinthians 13:11. We become trapped in a loop of thinking as children, not pursuing deep and meaningful thought, which further traps us in this cycle of "someone else will stand up". When we think as children, we act as children. Children fear responsibility, we must embrace it.

Men must become bold and assertive in their faith. We must allow righteous anger against sin and vice to push us to share our love for Christ, and lead. Women must become submissive in their faith. Not to say they must lay down and do everything they are told, but they must support their men. The phrase "behind every great man there's a great woman" has never been more true than now. Few men can go through life without a woman, let alone lead nations and peoples.

God has called us to be relentless in our push for His glory, the only way to escape the rut we have dug is with scripture based, God given power. We must shed all traces of feminism and the sexual revolution from our churches. We must recognize that men and women have beautifully distinct roles, and that they cannot function without each other. When the women lead, they cannot lead fully, when the men submit they cannot submit fully. We are made in his image and the binding of a man and a woman is one picture of God's holy perfection and wholeness. Just as God cannot separate from any part of himself, so too can we not act separately from our callings.

To be continued in "Part 4 – Call To Young People" in next month's issue of the Bible Monitor

Ashton Koval
New Carlisle, OH

NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

An update from the McGlinn family. For an introduction to the McGlinn family, please refer to the March 2023 issue of the Bible Monitor, which is available electronically on the DBC website or from the editor.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Greetings to the churches across the United States from these servants of our Lord in the Netherlands; let us remember each other in our prayers.

I just returned from conference in Oregon, where I was greatly encouraged by many of you, and much inspired by hearing what has been going on. It was special to me to hear the perspective of our young members on what the future might hold and where they are headed. I myself grew up in very different circumstances, so it was really inspiring to see youth zealous for God. It was surprising to me, that so many of you expressed a sincere desire to come and visit, even though we live so far away!

Feeling reinvigorated from hearing new perspectives and filled with hope from singing again with my brothers and sisters in Christ, I expressed my wish to have such a conference here in the Netherlands, geared more towards seekers (those from different backgrounds who desire to follow all the Bible, but have not yet joined such a church), as I believe many would come. I was blown away by the enthusiastic response of a number of elders, promising the support that would be crucial to the success of this plan.

On Tuesday a brother expressed his desire that we would use the Bible Monitor more for our social networking, and it seemed to me good. Speaking on behalf of a sister who likes to stay in touch, he said "it doesn't all have to be spiritual matters; we like to read what is going on in your life". With that in mind, I want to tell you a bit about a website I made called anabaptist.nl explaining the basic tenets of faith shared between conservative anabaptists (Dunkard, Amish,

Mennonites, Hutterites), with a map of the churches in Europe. Three churches I have visited and would recommend you visit;

(1) the Beachy-Amish Mennonites in Dunmore East, Ireland are about 50 souls working together in furniture making, having their own school, and they have a gas station, convenience store and bakery that does a good deal in outreach. These are the same who came and helped us when the roof of our barn was near collapse and would accept no payment from me but travel expenses; for five days, five men were up on the roof of our house, often singing as we worked. You can imagine how the 'Amish barn raising' was the talk of the town! From 1981 through 1994 this mission church was in Alsace, France and later Poperinge, Belgium, eventually settling in Ireland by invitation seekers there. They hold a family conference, similar to our general conference, in August.

(2) They have close connections with the nearby Shropshire Hills Mennonite Church (an hour west of Birmingham, England), which has a firmer stance against technology, banning internet usage outside work and email. Their mention on anabaptist.nl is the only online presence I am aware of. This church is also quite large, and also runs a woodworking shop making luxury kitchens. The first weekend every December, there is a Bible conference that tends to draw around 200 souls, half of which would be from the U.S. from their Nationwide Fellowship Mennonite churches, and the other half would be seekers. I highly recommend this to anyone looking for a church, as well as anyone interested in outreach toward Europe.

(3) Finally, there is a second Nationwide church in Denmark; a tightly knit group of 15 or so settled near Tinglev and a few weeks ago officially enrolled as the South Jutland Mennonite Church. They spent the past years moving from Norway through Sweden to Denmark due to visa issues, but we thank God this has now been approved in Denmark. We hope to visit in the next few weeks again. They are the closest by to us (7 hours) and always give us a warm welcome, fine American meals and a thoughtful Sunday service.

There are also individuals outside churches to visit and encourage, most of these I have heard from through other churches and only ever talked with on the phone myself; a group of young adults near Stockholm, one man in Northern Ireland and a few families with little children in Bulgaria. So, God has a purpose here also for the adventurous Dunkard willing to travel.

There are 34 subscriptions so far on my newsletter, probably about half are from the Netherlands; but I unfortunately do not have as much time as I should like to write. A brother from Ireland has also written a few of the articles, and I welcome any submissions from our own church as well. Write by email (tama@anabaptist.nl) - one Bible quote should be right below the title, and please include a picture or two. Your full name is not required, nor would your email address be published.

We pray that you all continue to use your diverse gifts in service to our Lord, whether at home or abroad. May God bless you all.

Love,
Bro. Tama & Sis. Carmen McGlinn
Engwierum, Friesland
The Netherlands

END TIMES?

Unawares.... not a common word but a word that should catch our attention, especially when read in scripture. It carries the meaning of "not intentional" or "unknowingly". The definition is simply, "not being aware". Luke Chapter 21 is the inspiration for this writing. It has a lot of verses so I will not include them all, but you should look it up and read it. Jesus is talking about future

events including His return. The people ask Him what sign shall we be looking for? (verse 7) He gives a list of signs including many things that are already happening today. (verses 8-26) Verse 27 "*And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.*" That is the day, brothers and sisters, that if we are in Christ and He is us, we are

waiting for. It will be the victory that we all long for. It will be the realization of our faith. Christ returns to make all things right. Not just right as man sees it or the government says is right, but RIGHT as GOD sees it. God Himself will judge the world and whatever is going on, legal or not will be judged according to God's standards. That sounds wonderful, don't you think?

My pause comes from verse 34 *"And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares."* This verse would tell us that even the ones that are looking forward to Christ's return, have the possibility of being distracted. It tells me that like the Jews in Jesus's day, we could possibly not see the signs and miss the big event or at least not be prepared for it.

The signs are all around us. Many of the scriptures concerning Christ's return have been or are being fulfilled right before our eyes. I know many previous generations have believed that they were in the end times and Christ has not returned yet. 2 Peter 3:3-4

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

This warns us that not only will there be scoffers but that the believers will get lax. We get to the point that everything has always been this way and it will always be. We stop looking with anticipation towards the eastern sky. Jesus said He will return. He has never lied and will never lie. No matter if we die and go to Him, or He returns to us, we need to be watchful and ready. I pray that none of us are unawares. I also don't think we should panic. I trust that most or all of us don't have trouble with surfeiting and drunkenness, but I think that most of us can relate with letting the 'cares of this life' weigh too heavy sometimes. We are to be diligent and conscientious of our lives here but never let them make us so busy we miss the important stuff.

Scripture is full of warnings about being tied too tightly to the 'world' and its systems. We are part of it and I believe

we should be diligent with the time and talents God has given us, but we need to not get so entrenched in making a living that we forget the need to watch, tell and be ready!!! 1 Peter 4:7 *“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober and watch unto prayer.”*

Take time to pray, commune with God, ask Him to reveal Himself to you and wait for an answer. Pray that you are not deceived. If we truly mean that,

and are earnest and diligent to seek Him, I believe we will not be caught unawares but will be found ready, with our lamps trimmed and burning at the return of the bridegroom. Mark 13:35 *“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning.”* God Bless!!

Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

IN ALL THESE THINGS WE ARE MORE THAN CONQUERORS

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Rom. 8:35

Thus my soul before her God
Lieth still, nor speaketh more,
Conqueror thus o'er pain and wrong,
That once smote her to the core,
Like a silent ocean, bright,
With her God's great praise and light.

Johann Joseph Winkler

In the early 1800's nearly all of Europe was conquered by the French army. Yet all of the many square miles of territory was conquered in the name of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte.

When the Greeks conquered most of Europe three hundred

years before the birth of Christ, they conquered in the name of Alexander the Great.

In John 20:21 we read: *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life*

through his name." Also, in Phil. 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* He will conquer on our behalf if we have faith in Him.

For all the many things that hindered us, that stopped us, that threatened us in the past: we need to give them to Jesus. For all the uncertainty, doubt, anxious moments, grief and carnality, we need to spend time at the foot of the cross and

conquer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. What separated us from Christ? It was our sins. He became the sacrifice for our sins. He also intercedes for all those things that keep us from having victory. I John 5:4 tells us *"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."*

Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

WHO'S TO BLAME?

Recently I've seen a lot of spiritual warfare, specifically in marriage. It might show itself in the form of one spouse becoming discontent or becoming overly critical of the other. Or perhaps it's evidenced through passive aggressive behavior or selfishness. But the root is often growing from spiritual issues within that spouse. When we struggle in life with our personal relationship with Christ or with our flesh, we start seeing the world through different lenses. We may struggle to find grace, love, and forgiveness for others and often our spouse, who we are closest to, takes the blunt of it. Instead of turning to God for

help to strengthen us and help us overcome the battles we are facing we can start picking at our spouse. We start ripping down the love we so carefully nurtured. We see them as the problem instead of ourselves.

Marriage is one of the most beautiful things God created. Genesis 2:18 says *"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him."* It's one of the best representations of His relationship and covenant with us. Isaiah 54:5 reads: *"For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of*

Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called." Being such a dynamic demonstration and working of God's love for us, is perhaps one of the things Satan hates most. It would seem that he desires to break apart as many marriages as he can, specifically believers' marriages. When we falter in our walk with Christ, might we be inviting Satan to tempt us to blame the other spouse or push them away? If we take this bait, not only do we forsake God's help, but we can start to rip apart our marriage, God's symbol of His covenant with us.

Another area of misplaced blame and criticism can be in the church. Just as with a spouse that inappropriately shifts the problems in their marriage to the other party, we as individuals in the body of Christ can point fingers when the real problem is within us. I recently had a time where I saw the church through a more critical lens. Instead of seeing all the positives and amazing things our church does, I was too focused on the few negatives. Frankly, this was rooted in discontentment in my own Christian walk. When allowed to fester, these feelings of discontentment grow into a larger beast. They can

lead to sowing discord among the brethren when we spread negativity about our church. They can lead to bitterness, anger, and resentment. They can lead to poisoning our children against church or church leaders.

Just as marriage is a symbol of God's covenant with us, the church also is a real-life example of God's marriage to us. We are His chosen and holy bride. He pursues us and wants us to be growing closer just as a groom pursues his bride. Ephesians 5:25-27 says "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*" Just as with marriage between a man and woman, Satan desires to destroy the church, another symbol and embodiment of God's marriage to us. He knows his time is short and he is seeking to pull us apart any way he can. When we are struggling with our Christian walk in some area, he tries to get us to shift our negative feelings to the church. He doesn't care what

kind of damage we are doing to ourselves or the church, he simply wants damage to be done to what's most important to God.

I conclude this with a challenge. When you feel overly critical and frustrated with your spouse or the church, instead of acting on it, take a moment to check your own life. Talk to God and ask Him to shed light on your life and examine your heart. Are

you walking daily with God, seeking His guidance, and letting Him mold you? Or have you given Satan and your flesh a foothold in your life? Psalm 139:23-24 *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: Try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”*

Lydia Troyer (Brock)
Hicksville, OH

A SECRET PLACE

There is a safe and secret place,
Beneath the wings divine,
Reserved for all the heirs of grace,
O, be that refuge mine!

The least and feeblest there may hide,
Uninjured and unawed,
While thousands fall on every side,
He rests secure in God.

The angels watch him on his way,
And aid with friendly arm,
And Satan, roaring for his prey,
May hate, but cannot harm.

He feeds in pastures large and fair,
Of love and truth divine,
A child of God, O glory's heir,
How rich a lot is thine!

A hand almighty to defend,
An ear for every call,
An honoured life, a peaceful end,
And heaven to crown it all!

—Henry F. Lyte

Selected by Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

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.

John 11:38 - 12:50
Jesus to Jerusalem

In our studies this month, we see the public ministry of Jesus coming to an end on this earth, however, the final impact of His message is great. He raises his friend Lazarus from the grave, later has his final meal and fellowship with those same friends at Bethany, then rides into Jerusalem on Lamb Selection Day. The whole while, He is standing up to His opposers in conversation, but through the same words inviting everyone to follow Him and receive eternal life.

This passage of scripture is John's prelude to what we call the Passion Week, as he quotes

the words of Jesus, "*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me*" (Jn.12:32). This is speaking of the type of death He should die.

This would have been a busy time in Jerusalem, as the people were making preparation for the Feast of Passover. This was a time appointed by God, when the families would select a perfect lamb, have it slain, then eat it together as a family, remembering that great event when God brought the Hebrew people out of the bondage of Egypt.

Jesus rode into town on the very day that families were

selecting their lambs to be slain for this great feast, as The Perfect Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world and through His blood, would deliver us from our bondage.

Today it is called Palm Sunday, because of the palm branches that were laid in His path, and the Hosannas that were sounding through the streets, as they were expecting Him to reign over Rome and free them from that heavy-handed government.

We know this moment was

more significant than a militant perspective, as Jesus gives the reason for His death in this passage and the real purpose for Him riding into town that day.

As we study this passage of scripture together this month, may we gain more insights into these final weeks and days of when Jesus came to this earth to rescue us from the bondage of our sins!

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Bart Hoblit

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we “study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God...”
August 2023 Bible Study Commentary

Aug 6 - John 11:38-57 – From Death to Life

It is tempting to note the similarities and differences between Lazarus' and Jesus' burial experiences. However, there will be an opportunity to do so when commenting about John 20. But there is a striking contrast between those who came to comfort Martha and Mary, and those who went to inform the Sanhedrin Council. Jesus prays aloud to God the Father that those present will believe that he has been sent by the Father. This restoration of Lazarus from the dead is meant to strengthen their faith. Many of the Jews who were there did believe. But why would some run to tell the Pharisees that there has been a “development” with which to contend?

There are two perspectives by which we tend to see life. The first is spiritual. God is active and not static in relating to His people. If God seems absent from our experience we need to have our

hearts checked. Our eyes too. This is what Jesus prays for, “that they may believe.” But some race to tell the Pharisees. Why? The Pharisees and the Council that meets have power they can see and experience. There are rewards for those who can provide “breaking news”. What we are speaking of is the tremendous attraction that politics inspires. Jesus constitutes a threat to their power. He is in fact a threat to the entire nation. They must act or Rome will provide its own solution. Only the death of Jesus can save them. Those words are true. But their intention is totally self-serving.

Aug 13 – From Bethany to Jerusalem - John 12:1-16

For all of us there are various times and reasons where our waiting dominates our expectations. Each moment seems to drag its way across our consciousness. Suspense, joy, fear, worry, grief, and many other emotions prod our hearts and minds. Our responses to these moments are equally diverse. Our excitement, like a young child eager to open presents, leaps about making a bit of a nuisance. Other times we may be easily irritated or lash out with words that wound others. Our focus is on one person whose name has been mentioned several times before. Sometimes it has been nothing more than identifying him. Other times he is labeled: *the one who would betray Him*.

As the impending clash between Jesus and the religious leaders begins to unfold. Judas finds himself in an increasingly dangerous position. Perhaps more clearly than any other of Jesus’ disciples, Judas recognizes that things can only end badly. In his own mind he is acting pragmatically protecting himself from the powers that plot Jesus’ death. Add to this drama the all too soon loss of easy access to the funds at hand. This may have motivated his comment about the costly oil of spikenard, that is, in his mind, wastefully used to wash Jesus’ feet. Regardless, self-preservation is the driving force that motivates his decisions. Others may dance in the streets celebrating the coming Messiah. Such wishful thinking and celebrating won’t last for long. The only way he can save himself from a horrific ending is to barter his knowledge for safe passage through the coming turmoil.

Aug 20 - John 12:17-33 – But for This Cause

Jesus is at the height of his popularity. Some, who had been present when he raised Lazarus from the dead, returned bringing others with them who had heard their witness. Greeks, who were attending the feast, were asking to speak with him. The Pharisees complained that the whole world was going after Jesus. Whatever plans they had been making in hopes of diminishing his popularity weren't working. The spontaneous celebration of his entry into Jerusalem and the shouts of proclamation of his kingship revealed the depth of their longing for the King who is the promised Messiah. But the religious leaders who governed the people were not ready to hand over the reins of power to someone who showed no inclination or ability to throw out the Romans. Instead, they quickly united on the need to eliminate Jesus from any equation involving power.

For Jesus all the subterfuge employed by the religious leaders only intensifies his own awareness of what lies ahead. While all things are working together as he and the Father have planned, the prospect of his own death and crucifixion fill him with dread. When Philip and Andrew tell Jesus of the Greeks who wish to speak to him his response is not a campaign speech near and dear to those who proclaim his kingship. Rather, he speaks of death, the death of a kernel of wheat. Only by death can there ultimately be a harvest. Such realities don't attract the masses who want change. And when their hopes are not met they quickly find someone else to follow.

Aug 27 - John 12:34-50 – This Divine Illumination

Within the text of the Old Testament there are many hints and prophecies concerning the Messiah who will come and reign over his own people. But not all such prophecies fit together in a nice, neat package. There appears to be contradictions that do not reconcile with other descriptions of the Messiah. Our text begins with just such contradictions that don't agree with each other. If the Messiah is to live forever, how can he also be referred to as the Son of Man who will be lifted up (crucified)? Are we talking of one person or two? But Jesus does not always respond or clarify the questions that elude

our understanding. As important as doctrine is to our understanding of God, Christ, and his coming kingdom it is not always the truest pathway that enlightens our knowledge of God. Within our text, Jesus is constantly emphasizing that what he is saying comes directly from His Father God. God tells Jesus what to say. There is no contradiction between them. Our acceptance of what Jesus teaches us will never leave us short of what God the Father desires us to know. As we trust in His word our understanding grows. Whether it comes in a flash of spiritual insight or through the long struggles of daily life God is always working within us and for us. Our relationship grows deeper. He is the ultimate truth that persuades our hearts to love Him more completely both in this life and in the one to come.

OBITUARIES

Denver Rupp

Denver Benjamin Rupp, age 98 of rural Pioneer and a deacon of West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, passed away at the Bryan Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center on Monday, July 3, 2023. Denver was born on April 7, 1925, to Oscar and Stella (Flory) Rupp on their farm in West Unity, Ohio. In June of 1945 he served his country until December of 1946 in the Civilian Public Service with the US Agricultural Station in Maryland.

On December 23, 1945, he married B. Lucille Roesch and they were united in marriage for 40 years until her passing in 1986. Together they raised two foster children Ed Rupp and Gary Woods. He and Lucille's surviving nieces and nephews are: Laurie (Scott) Murray, Rodney Rupp, Shirley (Terry) Sisty, Renee (Steve) Heisey, Diane (Paul) Heisey, Brenda (Pete) Beck, Nedra Pike, Elaine Leatherman (Cletus Fry), Gary (Pat) Leatherman, Delbert (Connie) Swihart, Sharon Swihart, Carla (Dave) Burgess.

On April 15, 1990, Denver married Ruth Ann (Eberly) Brown and together they faithfully served the Lord. Along with this union came five children, Arthur (Rosemary) Brown of Kunkle, Van (deceased)

Linda Brown of Pioneer, John Brown of Pioneer, Rosemary (Larry) King of Alvordton and Kathleen (Jim) Gillette of Columbia City, Indiana, 12 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Van Brown and three brothers Henry, Glen and Paul Rupp.

Denver and Ruth enjoyed their cross-country travels throughout the US and Canada. He was an avid rock collector and his collection grew as they traveled. Denver was a life-long farmer and he loved being in his garden, but above all else he loved to serve the Lord and his church.

He was a member of the West Fulton Dunkard Church in Wauseon, Ohio. Throughout his life he served on different boards and committees, as well as being a deacon and Sunday School teacher. Denver also owned and operated the Refuse Disposal Service and labored in the business for 28 years until his retirement in 1993.

Funeral services were held on July 7, at West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, with internment following at Floral Grove Cemetery in Pioneer, Ohio. Pastors Lyndell Noecker and Jim Gillette officiated the services.

Ivan Dutter

Ivan Keith Dutter, 2nd son of George and Edna (Blocher) Dutter was born on April 17, 1930 near Cutler, Indiana. He departed this life peacefully at his home on July 5, 2023 at the age of 93 years 2 months and 18 days.

His childhood years were spent on various farms in rural Indiana. During his teen years he lived with his family near Minot, North Dakota before moving to California in 1949.

He felt the call of the Lord and was baptized into Jesus Christ in

September of 1950. At his death he was a member of the Cornerstone Dunkard Brethren Church.

On October 7, 1951 he was united in marriage to Myrna M. Kline. This union was blest with 3 sons and 1 daughter. Dad and Mother resided in California from 1951 until they moved to Goshen, Indiana in 1973. They moved from Goshen to Cleveland, Georgia in January 1998. This union was broken when Mother passed away on June 23, 2000. He was again united in marriage to Bonnie L. Kline (who was Mother's sister) on April 14, 2001. Sharing the joys and sorrows of life together for 22 years. They resided in Georgia until the fall of 2006 and then moved to Union City, Ohio. Later moving to West Alexandria close to the home of his son, Galen, where he passed away.

He leaves to mourn his passing his loving companion, 2 sons, Galen (Judy), David (Jeanette), one daughter Linda Culp (Ray), and 1 daughter-in-law Nancy, 19 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren. Also 1 brother Marshall (Rosalene), 3 sisters Charlotte Flora (Hollis), Doris Oyler (Atlee), Martha Meador (Michael), one sister-in-law Norma Dutter.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, one son, Paul, 2 brothers David (Jane), and Gordon, one sister Georgia, and one brother-in-law, Donald Kline (Alice).

Dad's influence has affected the lives of his children and their posterity in many positive and spiritual ways. Also the lives of many whom he came in contact with.

The funeral service was held on July 9 at CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church in Greenville, Ohio with interment on July 10 at Old German Baptist Church Cemetery in Goshen, Indiana.

NEWS ITEMS

New Congregation - Garnett, Kansas

On May 26, 2023, the Garnett Dunkard Brethren Church was established. There were 34 charter members taken into the membership. The address of the church is 1020 S Westgate Road, Garnett, KS 66032. As opportunities arise, please encourage, support, pray for and visit this new congregation.

CornerStone, Ohio

We invite you to Revival Meetings, August 9-13 with Bro. Tom Priest of the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania congregation as guest speaker. Each evening at 7:00 p.m., Wed. thru Sat. Sunday begins with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. followed by preaching services at 10:30 a.m. Please stay for fellowship and a carry-in meal directly after services on Sunday. Pray for Tom, Dawn and family as the Lord prepares their hearts and brings them here. "Open to us the gates of righteousness!" Cornerstone Dunkard Brethren Church, 5430 Greenville Falls Rd., Covington, Ohio.

Arlene Rolle, Cor.

Dallas Center, Iowa

Please join the Dallas Center congregation in prayer as we gather with Bro. Loren Zook from the Lititz Congregation in Pennsylvania for a weekend of revival, refreshment and renewal, August 11-13. Services start 7:00 p.m. Friday
Saturday 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Communion at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.
Join us for meals both days!

Mabel Chupp, Cor.

Women's Retreat

Ladies...don't forget to mark your calendars for Women's Retreat October 6-7 at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, Indiana. Please join us for a time of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, worship (and excellent food!). This year's theme is "Women Building Community" and the speakers are Rita Noecker, Blossom Hollinger and Kiara Marks. Please pray for this year's retreat and for the speakers as they prepare.

Subscription Price Increase

For 2024, the subscription price for the Bible Monitor by mail will increase to \$10 per year. Subscribers can still receive the Bible Monitor by both mail and email (e-Monitor) upon request. For subscribers that don't want a paper copy and only want the e-Monitor, the subscription price will remain \$5 per year. While this increase will not completely cover the cost of publishing and distribution, it will come closer than does the current price of \$5 per year.

For those interested in a little history on this matter, when the Bible Monitor began in 1922, the subscription price was \$1 per year. While this might sound like quite a bargain, let's not forget about inflation. Due to inflation over the last 101 years since 1922, that initial \$1 subscription would be equivalent to approximately \$18 today. The subscription price then remained at \$1 until it was increased to \$2 in 1981 (about \$6.70 today) and then increased to \$5 in 1998 (about \$9.35 today).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR September 2023

September 3 - John 13:1-20 - From Kingship to Servitude

1. How do you describe a "Servant King"?

2. How does washing feet demonstrate unending love?

3. How does Jesus link knowing and doing?

September 10 - John 13:21-38 - Love- The Loudest Testimony

1. What are some possible reasons why Jesus is secretive in pointing out Judas as his betrayer?

2. Why is the bond of love so important at this moment in the lives of the disciples?

3. What important lessons do we learn from Peter's bravado?

September 17 - John 14:1-21 - His Coming / His Coming Comforter

1. Why are the hearts of the disciples feeling troubled?

2. What antidote does Jesus offer for a troubled heart?

3. What exclusive claim does Jesus make concerning access to God?

September 24 - John 14:22-15:8 - The Divine Romance

1. What is the threefold process that results in Jesus manifesting Himself to believers but not to the world?

2. What are the benefits which the Holy Spirit provides to Jesus' disciples?

3. How does pruning increase fruit bearing?

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