

# 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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## JOY IN HEAVEN FOR A REPENTING SINNER

Who can describe the joys that rise  
Through all the courts of Paradise,  
To see a prodigal return,  
To see an heir of glory born?

With joy the Father doth approve  
The fruit of his eternal love;  
The Son with joy looks down and sees  
The purchase of his agonies.

The Spirit takes delight to view  
The holy soul he formed anew;  
And saints and angels join to sing,  
The growing empire of their King.

*Issac Watts*

Selected by Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## TRUST THE PLAN

To some, it seems as if the world is spinning out of control. The war in Ukraine, the war in Israel, the southern border wall, inflation, the instability of the financial system, the political situation, the general increase of immorality, attacks on basic rights and talk of World War III. These things have been on the minds of many of late and have caused a good deal of anxiety. And this is not an exhaustive list. There are myriad things that can cause us to worry today.

As we consider the world's troubles of today, we can sometimes remember the past and wish we could turn back the clock. We might even think similar thoughts on the personal level. How many times have you looked at old photos or reminisced and wished you could return to the

days of your past? Interestingly though, in doing so, we often whitewash our history. If you peruse your old photo albums, you will likely find that this record of your life is heavily biased towards the sweet things and barely touches on the bitter.

As we look at the state of things today and compare them to the past (or at least how we remember the past), perhaps we even wish that we had been born at an earlier, simpler time. Maybe you've entertained thoughts of being born in say, the year 1900, as if your birth in place and time was a somewhat random event. But is our birthplace and time a matter of chance? I don't believe so.

On the contrary, it appears that God has a very specific

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plan for His people. In Eph. 1:4, Paul writes *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.”* Further, in II Tim. 1:8-9, *“...but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”* And at a more personal level for Jeremiah, *“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.”* Jer. 1:5 We may not be prophets to the nations as was Jeremiah, but does God act in a similar way with us? Does He sanctify His people for His purposes from before the womb?

These verses tell us that God's people were chosen long ago, before the foundation of the world. That God knew us before we were created and placed in this world and that we are called according to God's own purpose. God has a specific plan for our lives and we can trust it. Because of this, I suspect that

our birthplace and time were not at all a matter of chance but were rather chosen, with purpose. If that is true, then we are here at this time because God planned it that way. Further, that He has specific purposes for our lives as part of His plan. While we might not think of ourselves as important or influential people, God can do great things with those who are simply obedient. I am reminded of the story of Esther as Mordecai considered with her regarding her part in eventually saving the Jews of Persia, *“...who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”* Est. 4:14

Believers are God's children. However, at times we can become so focused on the troubles of today that we can lose sight of being God's children. But God chose His children and has a plan for each of them. So I don't think we are here by chance. I don't think that it was a mistake that we were born when we were, where we were and whose family we are part of. Scripture indicates that there was pre-planning for your life and the lives of all God's children. God has a plan and we can trust it.

## THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

The fact that I can write a title like this is truly amazing. Satan and his angels fell and God did not make a way of salvation for them. When Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and sinned, God was not obligated to make a way of salvation for them either. God chose to make a way of salvation because He is love, and because He desired to redeem a people, from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Tit. 2:14)

The word "Gospel" means "good news" but you will not glory in the gospel as you should, until you realize what you were, or are, outside of Christ. When Adam and Eve sinned, they died (the wages of sin is death). They would eventually die physically but they also died spiritually. This spiritual death puts man into a state called "natural man." Everyone since Adam is born a natural man and inherits his sin nature. (Rom. 5:12)

Let's take a look at this natural man. In Gen. 6:5 we see that the thoughts of man's heart were only evil continually. In Matt. 15:19 Jesus says *"For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."* Another aspect of this we see in Luke 6:43-44. *"For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes."* If a tree is bad, it WILL bear bad fruit, because the very nature of the tree is bad. So it is with us, with our evil nature, our wills are bent toward evil.

The worst part of this evil nature is that it is at enmity with God. This means that the sinner is opposed to, or hostile toward God. Rom. 8:7-8 *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* Why is the natural man so hostile toward God? God has shown man such great mercy since the fall, man should be in awe of this unmerited favor. Jesus tells us why in John 3:19-20 *"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than*

*light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*” The reason people are hostile to God is because He is perfectly righteous and people are not. We who are in Christ know this to be true. The reason that many do not come to Christ before they do, is because they know that in coming to Christ all of their secret sins will be exposed, and many believe that they would rather spend eternity in hell than have their sins exposed.

This leads us to another aspect of our depravity, the slavery and power of sin. John 8:34 *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”* What makes the sinner a servant or a slave to sin? Can he not just choose to walk away from it when he wants to? Again our Lord reminds us in John 8:44 *“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do.”* This is the cause of our slavery to sin, our very own wicked desires! Now let’s talk about the power of sin, we know that the devil is the god of this age and that he has blinded the minds of the unbeliever. (II Cor. 4:4 ) So not only is the sinner enslaved to his own evil desires, he is supernaturally blinded by his father the devil. Is it any wonder that it took the death of God’s own Son to redeem such a vile sinful creature?

So the question is never “why do bad things happen to good people”? The question is why are we not all in hell suffering under the just fury of the wrath of God; we have no idea who we’ve sinned against! If I were to punch a random guy in the face, my punishment would be significantly less than if I punched the president. You see it is the worth of the individual who we’ve sinned against, as to what degree of punishment we should receive. We have not merely sinned against tiny men, we have sinned against God; the God that Isaiah saw, high and lifted up, who is Holy, holy, holy. He is perfectly righteous, perfectly pure, none can stand in His presence. If God is a Just God He MUST punish sin. If a judge in a court passed over sin and let the murderer go free, we would say that is a wicked judge! In saying that, we condemn ourselves. Because we have all broken God’s law so many times, we deserve nothing but the full justice of God’s wrath.

You see, the gospel really is good news when we see what we are without Christ! So why would God want to save wretched mankind? For His own glory, He wants to reveal to us all of His attributes. If there was no Savior, we could know nothing of His love, mercy, grace, and long suffering. We see in Rev. 13:8 that the Lamb was slain before the foundation of the world, meaning, our sin did not take God by surprise. We see foreshadowings of Christ already in Gen. 3:21 right after the fall, where God clothed Adam and Eve's nakedness. The best picture of Jesus Christ in the Old Testament was when God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, his only son Isaac. We know the story, how God provided a ram in the place of Isaac, but that story is continued 2,000 years later when God placed His only begotten Son on the altar and allowed Him to be slaughtered. Someone had to die. God cannot just forgive sins unless His justice is satisfied. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and as God is just, the sin debt we owe must be paid, by us or by a substitute. Praise the Lord there was a substitute!

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He was born of a virgin, born under the law, He was tempted in all points such as we are, yet without sin. He was fully God and fully Man, He lived a perfect life, thus fulfilling the righteous requirement of the law. He gave Himself up and was betrayed into the hands of wicked men. They nailed Him to a cross where He became a curse for us, as it is written, "*Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*". (Gal. 3:13) In Rom. 3:25 we see that God set forth Jesus as a propitiation, this is a big word that must be understood. Propitiation is the act of appeasing or satisfying God, How did He do this? We see in Isa. 53:6 *That "The LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."* We see this again in II Cor. 5:21 *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* This is the glorious doctrine of imputation. Even though Jesus Christ was the sinless Lamb of God, our sins were imputed to His account and God treated Him as guilty. And all the wrath that should have fallen upon you and me for all eternity, fell upon Him. We see that Jesus, in the garden prayed, *"O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."* (Matt. 26:42)

In the Old Testament the cup is a symbol of God's wrath. (Ps. 75:8, Jer. 25:15) As He is just, God's wrath must be satisfied for Him to justify wicked men.

When Jesus was on the cross, He cried out "*It is finished*" which means paid in full. This is why we can read in Rom. 8:1 "*There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.*" He was laid in a borrowed tomb and was there for 3 days, but the grave could not hold Him. Jesus says, "*I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen.*" (Rev. 1:18) Praise the Lord! Sin and death have been conquered and Satan is a defeated foe. The Lord has ascended to the right hand of His Father and is seated with Him until He puts all His enemies under His footstool. He will one day come again, but the next time He comes, it will be for judgment. He will separate the wheat from the tares, the tares, He will burn with unquenchable fire, but the wheat He will gather into His barn. What should be our response to everything He has done for us? Ps. 2:12 "*Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and ye perish from the way*" The command to the sinner is to repent and believe. Repent of your sins, turn away from them, abandon them. Repentance means a change of the mind. You need to think differently about your sin. You need to see yourself as a poor beggar with nothing to offer, give up on doing anything to try to save yourself. Isa. 55:1 "*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*" Now sinner, look to Jesus Christ! and believe in Him, trust in His finished work on the cross and trust in Him alone! As the song writer says, "*Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling*" Rom. 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord Shall be saved."

If you truly believe in Christ you are justified, which means that in God's courtroom He declares you to be perfectly righteous. This righteousness is not your own, it is Jesus Christ's righteousness imputed to your account. Not only are you justified, but you are also adopted. (Eph. 1:5) Yes, He not only justifies us, He makes us His

children. Gal. 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 1 John 3:1 *"Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed on us, that we should be called the sons of God!"* 1 Cor. 1:18 *"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."*

The gospel is good news for the lost, but also for the Christian. It reminds us of what needed to be done to obtain our salvation, but also draws out the love and adoration our Lord deserves. We cannot keep this good news to ourselves. There is a lost and dying world out there who, without the salvation of Jesus Christ, will die and go to hell. Let's always be ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within us and press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Davy Brougher  
Midville, GA

## TEMPLE MOUNT

It has been a while since Laura, and I sat at this place. It can be called by many names, Mt. Moriah, Temple Mount, Outside the wall of Jerusalem, to name a few. More important than what you might call it, are the happenings that took place there. Close your eyes and imagine this scene. Down the mountain there is a path of stones that have been cut and/or placed there to make steps, however if you look closely, you can see some of them are natural stones that make

up part of this stairway up the mountain. This mountain is the one that Abraham climbed with Isaac (perhaps even stepping on these stones) on the day the Lord asked him to offer his only son. As we all know, The Lord spared Isaac's life that day and provided *"a ram caught in a thicket by his horns"* to be offered as a substitute. Gen. 22:13 *"And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up*



*for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.*" The Lord never wanted Isaac to be literally sacrificed, but he wanted Abraham to prove, he was willing to give up everything, including his ONLY promised son, in order to obey God. Little did Abraham realize that this place, and the ram offered as a substitute, were a foreshadow of things to come.

Years later, this mountain would become the building place of Jerusalem and the temple, where thousands of animals would be sacrificed as a substitute, a sacrifice for the covering of the sin of Israel. About 2,000 years after Abraham and Isaac climbed down off this place, "*The Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world*", would be condemned to die and be crucified on this very mountain. John 1:29 "*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*"

Christ was offered as a substitute in our place. Not just as a covering but His blood washes us white as snow. Our sins are not just covered but removed from us and remembered no

more. In turn we are then to follow the command in Rom. 12:1 "*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*" This is not done to earn salvation but as an act of love and thankfulness to God, the Creator, our Redeemer, our Friend and our Guide, for loving us so much that He offered His ONLY Son, Jesus, (before we were ever born, and before we ever even asked for forgiveness) as a substitute for us. 1 Pet. 1:19-20 "*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*"

At least in my case, my "living sacrifice" keeps trying to climb off the altar. I am thankful that even with all my faults and failures, Jesus loved me so much that he stayed on the cross as the sacrifice for me. A loving substitute, one of which I am not worthy!!!

Joe Cover  
Dallas Center, IA

## WHO IS HE THAT OVERCOMETH?

*“And who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”* I John 5:5

*“Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* Acts 16:29,30

To have any spiritual success in this life there must first be a sense of dissatisfaction with your present condition. Any progress

in a person's spiritual life begins with dissatisfaction. You must reach a point where you must find a way out of your position.

Christ is the way out. (Christ in you, the hope of glory. Col. 1:27) Christ in us will react on our behalf to our good. If my temptation is pride, Christ will be my humility. If our temptation is harshness, Christ will be our kindness. All of life's problems are met with His virtues and His grace. All we need to do is open ourselves up to Him.

Awake, my soul, to joyful lays,  
And sing thy great Redeemer's praise;  
He justly claims a song for me,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how free!  
Loving-kindness, loving-kindness,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how free!

He saw me ruined in the fall,  
Yet loved me notwithstanding all;  
He saved me from my lost estate,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how great!  
Loving-kindness, loving-kindness,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how great!

Though num'rous hosts of mighty foes,  
Though earth and hell my way oppose,  
He safely leads my soul along,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how strong!  
Loving-kindness, loving-kindness,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how strong!

When trouble like a gloomy cloud,  
Has gathered thick and thundered loud,  
He near my soul has always stood,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how good!  
Loving-kindness, loving-kindness,  
His loving-kindness, oh, how good!

*Samuel Medley*

Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## COMING TO THE END OF OUR HOARDED RESOURCES

When John Bunyan, who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*, was in prison, they sent for his wife to beg him to stop preaching the gospel and then they would release him. Bunyan looked at his wife and said something like this, "Honey, I'm sorry about this, but I've got to stay here because God put me here and I won't give up."

Always when we stand for our faith in God, we will attract attention and opposition no matter who we are and if we want to follow God we at times have to go against our culture.

It puts us in a difficult position where our strength is not enough. When I acknowledge my limitation, then God's unlimited grace can begin to flow in my life. As long as I say, "I think I can," I never will. My problem

is I do not fully understand the dynamics of the opposition or the consequence. If I try in my own strength, I am going to back myself in some corner somewhere with no escape. John Bunyan trusted God in the midst of opposition he could not control or handle. When we find ourselves in such a position where we cannot handle it, we do not know what is going on, and we do not understand what the outcome will be, then we can begin to experience the amazing grace of God.

One hymn I like has a phrase, "When we reached the end of our hoarded resources our Father's full giving is only begun."

Coming to the end of myself gives God the opportunity to step in and begin to do what

only He can in my life. God will never abandon me as long as I trust Him.

God did not abandon Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. When they went into the fiery furnace, while they knew God could deliver them, I doubt they confidently believed they were ever going to come out. They were willing to go to the ultimate end because their faith in God was more important than the consequences of objecting to the government.

I believe one of the first things I need to do is admit that I have limitations. That is very hard to do because we all think we are king of our own castle. However, when I begin to admit that I am not sufficient in everything, then I am on my way to discovering the grace and power of God.

Also, I must not allow my circumstances to define or limit me. I may be going through trouble, opposition and consequences, but these are not defining who I am. When I allow my faith in God to define me, nothing else really matters.

The key to this is surrender. When I surrender to God's grace, I begin to see my situation through God's eyes.

When I look at my situation through my eyes and understand I am not able or capable of dealing with this situation, I can fall into the slough of despond that John Bunyan writes about. When I see how limited I am and how big the opposition is, I can become very discouraged.

As I begin to see God for who He is, my circumstances begin to fade into the background. When I begin to see that God is more important to me than anything else, that is all that really matters in my life.

To stand for our faith in God, I believe will attract opposition because we do not fit into the surroundings. The world is okay with anybody as long as that anybody conforms to their ideas and their mannerisms. Only in the fire do we experience the grace of God in its fullness. If I am able to handle everything in my life, why in the world do I need God?

This brings me to the point of beginning to understand God's resources. When I understand my resources are limited, I then can look at God's resources and see the unlimited nature to all of that. Then I begin to understand God's resources are completely and utterly unlimited. There is no

situation bigger than God's grace. There is no failure on my part that shocks God and causes him to pause for any length of time. If I know what I cannot do in my own strength, I then can begin to see what God can do in me and through me. When I begin to understand God in my life, I begin to rejoice in the grace of God.

A person out at the beach that is drowning makes it his priority to let everybody around him know he is drowning. In order for him to come to the point of his drowning situation, he needs to understand that he cannot help himself. He needs help. Spiritually speaking, I need to come to the point of

understanding that I am drowning and in such a case I need help. The only help that can really benefit me will come from God.

As I commit myself to God, the situation and the circumstances I am in begin to fade and the focus of my life is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. As I walk in faith with Him, nothing else really matters. God's path in my life is a path of joy unspeakable and full of glory. As I notice what God is doing and how God is overcoming my situation, my confidence in God grows deeper each day.

James L. Snyder  
Ocala, FL

## PARENTS HIGHEST RESPONSIBILITY

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* Prov. 22:6 This may sound like a simple instruction for parents but if you have raised children, you know the applications are many.

Teach them to love the Lord, themselves and others...

Teach them about His plan of salvation for them and all their friends...

Teach them to repent and believe...

Teach them right from wrong and good from evil...

Teach them about His mercy and grace...

Teach them to pray (in private)...anytime and anywhere.

Teach them to know their freedoms came at the expense of others' sacrifices ...

Teach them to testify and witness...  
Teach them to be generous and giving...  
Teach them to defend their beliefs ...  
Teach them to question the issues...  
Teach them to search for the truth ...  
Teach them to be honest & truthful...  
Teach them that there are 66 books in the Bible (God's Word)...  
Teach them the difference between the old law and the New Testament ...  
Teach them that their creator is the only God and to worship none other ...  
Teach them that material wealth has no bearing on self-worth...  
Teach them to love all life placed on earth and in the universe ...animals, plants, human life.  
Teach them tolerance and empathy...  
Teach them that bigotry and prejudice are not godly...  
Teach them skills that they can use to make their decisions and understand consequences ...  
Teach them to think and survive and thrive in a hostile environment...  
Teach them to realize, react, respond, reach out to others when faced with challenges that they might have experienced and had problems with resolution...  
Teach them the proper way to respond and deal with authority...  
Teach them to respect their elders but to understand they also make mistakes (human).  
Teach them the difference between discipline and punishment (neglect and abuse)...  
Teach them to forgive...  
Teach them the value of living a clean life...  
Teach them common sense...  
Teach them how to be part of the solution and not just part of the problem ...  
We all are part of the whole...  
AND  
Teach them by example...

So you can expect that their teachers may tell them about Allah & Mohammed and all the other gods (Greek and Egyptian) and goddesses (Mother Earth) and Buddha and all the false prophets (like Joseph Smith) and all the many religious belief systems that may be the one your child decides to follow if you don't know how to teach them at home.

Support your children's teachers and actively participate

in their learning and the education process you choose to expose them to. Do your homework and know what curriculum is being taught and developed.

Promote the growth of responsible respectful and bold mature adults; who will provide leadership for the future generations.

Ellen Strayer-Leach  
Elkton, VA

## CONNECTIONS

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

### *I Timothy, Chapters 1-3*

After being freed from house arrest at Rome in approx. AD 63, Paul writes this letter to Timothy. Earlier, Paul was driven out of Ephesus and left behind this young man Timothy to shepherd this troubled congregation.

Paul gives Timothy some very clear doctrinal teachings that needed upheld to carry on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, such as, hope, grace, mercy, peace, and love (chpt.1).

He also emphasized areas of godly living, unfeigned faith, and the message of salvation, which is for everyone through Jesus Christ (chpt. 2).

Paul was exhorting this young leader Timothy to care for the church by teaching and preaching the "sound doctrine", and to establish additional shepherds (chpt.3) to do the same.

The two epistles to Timothy

serve as a concise manual, even today, to instruct individuals, congregations, and church leaders, how to apply the Gospel in our lives. It has always amazed me how words that were written so many years ago, are still precisely applicable today.

As we study these first three chapters this month, let us learn

together how we can apply these teachings in our personal lives and churches, as we look into our own hearts, for that *“commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.”*(1:5)

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*  
Brother Bart Hoblit

## PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we “study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God...”  
April 2024 Bible Study Commentary

### April 7 - I Tim. 1:1-11 – One True Doctrine

Paul identifies himself at the very beginning of this epistle as he does in all of his epistles. Peter, James, and Jude all identify themselves in the same way. John is the lone exception. It is likely the etiquette of the day. But we dare not consign this writing etiquette merely to the culture of the day. For the apostles want to be known by their affiliation with the one whose name is above all other names. It is the name of Jesus that they want to bring to everyone's attention. They are bondservants, willing to obey every command given to them, that the love, mercy, and grace of God Almighty will be evidenced to those who will listen and come to know the Shepherd of their souls.

But how about us? How do we introduce ourselves to others so that they not only know our name but how joyfully we introduce the King of Kings and the Savior of our soul? We aren't apostles. Yet surely we can tell others, “I'm .... and I love Jesus. He is my Lord and I long to serve Him every day.” In doing so we are not seeking to brag about ourselves but to honor Him who loved us so much that He died for my sins and yours.



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**April 14 - I Tim. 1:12-20 – Glory to God for His Grace**

Do you ever marvel at the pathway which you walk in this life? Paul gives thanks to Jesus Christ for counting him faithful and enabling him to become a minister. Jesus has done this in spite of Paul's persecution of the church. His injurious behavior toward the infant church did not outweigh the grace and mercy shown by God as He blessed Paul's life and ministry. We sometimes falter when considering our own sins and wonder how God can forgive us or use us for the purposes of His Kingdom. Paul shouts out to us in terms of his own sinful behavior and calls himself the chief of sinners. If God can forgive Paul's sins, then surely He can forgive ours as well. So let us be continually reminded of how great is the grace, mercy and forgiveness of God as He overcomes our sinful nature.

**April 21 - I Tim. 2:1-15 – Pray for All**

Most of us are well aware of the upcoming presidential election that will culminate in early November. As is typical there is much vilifying of various candidates. There is also the hope that "our side" will win the day and provide the best solutions to many of the important issues of our day. We may not vote or campaign for any particular candidate. But we are certain who is the best to govern and lead our nation.

During this season of political tug of war, we do well to remember and respond to Paul's admonition to pray for all men. Why all men? Because God desires all men to be saved. At a time such as now, our focus tends to fall on just a few. We lose sight of praying for all to be saved. Regardless of who wins or loses in an election we must keep in mind the far greater and more glorious reality of each one's election through Christ. As we pray for kings and presidents and others in authority, we will be reminded that peace on earth is a rare reality in all mankind. The men who often rule the nations frequently shed the most blood. Our prayers are enlisted in the warfare that we as Christians are called to wage. Our warfare brings neighbors together to live in peace with one another and with all men. As we pray, we exalt the one man, Je-

sus Christ, who is worthy of our worship and will always be the only candidate who can win our vote as well as our heart.

### **April 28 - I Tim. 3:1-13 – Qualifications**

Stating the obvious is one way to begin studying a passage. The obvious part is that as a body of believers we have no office of Bishop to aspire to. We have simply changed the name to Elder. All that is said about becoming a Bishop applies to the office of an Elder. Paul makes it clear that desiring the position is desiring a good work. However, that is only the beginning of a lengthy list of qualifications that need to be met in order to be fully qualified. These qualifications are diverse. Many are related to his home life as a husband and father. Likewise, this chapter lists the qualifications for Deacons, which are quite similar to those for Bishops. Clearly, there needs to be other people outside of the church who recognize the godly behavior of these men. They are approachable and able to respond to conflict with others in a way that people feel heard and not run over or dismissed. They are not greedy for gain nor overly fond of drinking much wine.

As a matter of speculation, if the Bishop is someone that we think of as an Elder and Deacons are Deacons what of the Office of a Minister? Scripture would suggest that the word “minister” was a verb in the 1<sup>st</sup> century more than it is generally a noun today. As a possible explanation of this change, the first few decades of the early church were filled with the work of the Apostles and those who worked closely with them. Many of Paul’s followers who traveled with him also were sent out to various congregations to help them in a variety of ways. Since many of the converts during that time were Gentiles, they may have lacked capable leaders with strong biblical knowledge. One might argue that the return of Christ no longer felt as immediate or imminent. A concern of the church at the time was likely developing leadership from within. As the message of the gospel penetrated into the hearts and minds of 1st century Christians a larger core of leadership was probably needed to face an uncertain future. The office of a Minister may have developed as the apostles died or were killed so that the church could continue to grow in the latter part of the 1st century.

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## OBITUARIES

### **Miriam Burkholder**

Miriam G. Burkholder, 79, of Womelsdorf, Pennsylvania went to be with her Lord, on Monday, February 26, 2024, at her home surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with cancer. She was the wife of Donald E. Burkholder. On October 30th, they celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary.

Born in West Earl Twp. on October 18, 1944, she was the daughter of the late Jacob B. and Emma R. (Good) Martin. Miriam was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by her sons Dervin J. (Laura) Burkholder of Sinking Spring, Ernest R. (Jessan) Burkholder of Bernville, and Kevin L. (Amy) Burkholder of Dallas Center, IA; daughters Anita J. (Llewellyn) Moyer of Bernville and Karen L. (John) Rissler of California, MO; brothers Edwin G. (Arlene) Martin of Leola, Clarence G. (Arlene) Martin of Ephrata, Mahlon G. (Lois) Martin of Denver, and Irvin G. (Eleanor) Martin of Alexandria; sisters Minerva G. Martin of Stevens, Esther G. Martin of Denver, Mabel G. (Gary) Weaver of Reinholds, Evelyn G. Sensenig of Denver, and Viola G. Herr of Newmanstown; thirty grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her brother James G. Martin, sister Verna Sensenig, and brothers-in-law Aaron S. Sensenig, Lewis Martin and James Herr.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 2, 2024, at the Fairview Reception Center, Lebanon, Pennsylvania with interment following at the Myerstown Mennonite Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church School, 5450 Four Point Rd., Bethel, PA 19507.

### **Alexis Meyers**

Alexis Grace Meyers, 20 months, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, February 29, 2024. She passed away peacefully at Hershey Medical Center, with her parents by her side.

She was born on June 27, 2022, in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania and was the daughter of Noah A. and Beth D. (Gayman) Meyers, members of the Chambersburg Dunkard Brethren Church.

Along with her parents, Alexis is survived by one brother Skylar Andrew Meyers, of Chambersburg, her grandparents, Kenneth E. and C. Viola Meyers of St. Thomas, and Gerald A. and Jane C. Gayman of Shippensburg, with many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Funeral services were held on Monday, March 4, 2024, at Portico Meeting House, Chambersburg. Bro John Eberly, Bro. Caleb Heckman and Bro, Gerry Priest officiated the services with interment following at the Brechbill Cemetery.

### **Urania Flory**

Urania Amanda Williams Flory was born December 3, 1930, at the old home place 6 ½ miles South of Quinter, Kansas. She had a stroke on March 7 and passed away early the afternoon of March 15, 2024, at home with her husband, son, and daughters Donna and Ruth at her side. She had lived a full life of 93 years.

Urania moved with her family to Westphalia, Kansas in 1937, Eldorado, Ohio in 1944, Grimes, Iowa in 1946 and Dallas Center, Iowa in 1950, where she was living at the time of her death.

In her early teens she accepted Christ as her Savior and became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church. And she remained faithful to her Savior until death.

Urania became a Registered Nurse and spent a number of years on the mission field in New Mexico. During her service there, she met Marvin Flory who became her husband on March 11, 1967. She spent her life being a faithful, wife and mother as well as serving as head night nurse at Dallas County Hospital. She enjoyed nature and kept several flower beds and quite a few well stocked bird feeders. In her spare time, she loved to read.

Urania was preceded in death by her parents, John and Flora (Jamison) Williams, 4 sisters, Velora Fiscel, Alvina Williams, Pauline Williams & Kathryn Williams and 1 daughter, Roxanne Flory.

She is survived by her husband Marvin Flory, 1 son, John Flory, 3 daughters, Donna (Dan) Wagner, Ruth (Jim) Archer & Susan Flory, 2 granddaughters, Amanda (Jonathan) Carlin & Elizabeth Wagner, 7 grandsons, Daniel, Benjamin & Jonathan Wagner, Seth (Jamie), Devon, Chase & Riese Archer and 1 Great Grandson, Emerson Carlin.

Funeral services were held on March 22 at the Dunkard Brethren Church in Dallas Center, with internment in the Brethren Cemetery in rural Dallas Center.

Memorials may be directed to the Dunkard Brethren Church or Gideons International.

## NEWS ITEMS

### **Dallas Center, Iowa**

Please join us in prayer as Bro. Caleb Heckman from the Chambersburg, Pennsylvania congregation comes to bring us God's messages March 31-April 7. May there be a revival in our hearts, minds and souls. May this revival touch our lives, our families, and our communities!

March 31 Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. with preaching at 10:30 a.m., followed by a carry in meal. Sunday evening service at 6 p.m. Each evening the services will start at 7:30 p.m. Saturday April 6 services, 10:45 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. communion service. We will conclude our week of meetings on Sunday April 7 with morning worship at 7:30 a.m., followed by breakfast. Sunday school and church at 9:30 a.m. with the last service at 1:30 p.m. Join us in person or in prayer that Satan will be defeated and Warriors for Christ will rise up and be strong!

Mabel Chupp, Cor.

**Lititz, Pennsylvania**

The Lititz congregation plans a spring revival meeting with Bro. Phil Gish from the CornerStone, Ohio congregation, April 4 - 7, closing with the Sunday morning service April 7. Evening services 7:30 p.m., Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. for Sunday school with preaching to follow. Please remember this in your prayers and attendance.

Arlene Birt, Cor.

**West Fulton, Ohio**

The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation will be holding their spring lovefeast meetings, April 19 - 21. Bro. Brad Wertz from Quinter, Kansas will be our evangelist. Friday evening service at 7:30 p.m. Saturday examination service is at 2 p.m. followed by lovefeast at 7 p.m. Sunday services are at 7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. All are welcome to attend. Please pray for Bro. Brad as he prepares for these services.

Joy Reed, Cor.

**Berean, Indiana**

The Lord willing, the Berean congregation welcomes Bro. Paul Skiles from the Juniper Hills, New Mexico congregation for our spring revivals beginning Wednesday, April 24 and ending Sunday, April 28. Weeknight services begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday morning at 10 am. Lunch will be provided for the Sunday meal. We welcome all to come and all to pray for our brother as he prepares God's message and travels to us. May The King of Kings be honored in all we undertake.

Donna Wray, Cor.

**Garnett, Kansas**

On behalf of the Garnett congregation, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our first revival meeting to be held April 24 - 28. Bro. Gale Turner from the Cornerstone, Ohio congregation has consented to be our evangelist. Meetings are scheduled Wed., Thur., and Fri. evenings at 7 p.m. Examination service Saturday at 11 a.m. with lunch to follow, and communion at 3 p.m. with supper afterward. Sunday morning worship at 8:30 a.m. and the final service at 10 a.m. Please come and worship with us!

Jena Hawbaker, Cor.

**General Conference**

2024 General Conference will be held June 8 through June 12 at Roxbury Holiness Campgrounds located at 13763 Cumberland HWY, Orrstown, Pennsylvania 17244.

You will need to bring your own sheets and pillowcases. If you are flying and in need of these items, please let us know when registering.

There is plenty of room for campers and trailers. The campground will be available for occupancy Friday afternoon, June 7.

You can make your reservations through the church website, <http://www.dunkardbrethrenchurch.com/conference/registration/>

Randall Reed  
Conference Lodging Committee

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR May 2024

### May 5 – I Tim. 3:14-4:6 – The Mystery

1. What does it mean to behave yourself in the house of God?

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2. What are some experiences you have explaining the mystery of godliness to others?

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3. What are we doing in our lives to keep our hearts from falling away?

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### May 12 – Exod. 2:1-10 – Mother's Day

1. Why was Moses called a goodly child?

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2. What do you think went through the sister's mind when Pharaoh's daughter came?

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3. Why was Moses given to Pharaoh's daughter?

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**May 19 – I Tim. 4:7-16 – A Good Servant of Christ**

1. What are some ways to exercise godliness?

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2. Who are called to command and teach in verse 11?

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3. As you study verse 12, which area is the most challenging for you personally?

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**May 26 – I Tim. 5:1-16 – Honor True Widows**

1. How has taking care of widows changed from Bible times to now?

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2. What does verse 11 mean when it says, "*but the younger widows refuse*"?

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3. Why do younger women no longer desire to marry, bear children, and guide the house?

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