

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

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NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

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

WITH MY SOUL HAVE I DESIRED THEE IN THE NIGHT

'Twas in the night, when troubles came,
I sought, my God, for thee,
But found no refuge in that name
That once supported me.

I sought thee, but I found thee not,
For all was dark within;
Thy tender mercy I forgot
To me when dead in sin.

With cords of his eternal love,
'Twas thus my soul he drew,
And taught my wretched heart to prove
His oath and promise true.

At length my Sun's refulgent beam
Through the dark cloud appeared;
My night of woe was like a dream;
My soul was blessed and cheered.

John Kent

Selected by Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

WHAT NOW?

Each month in trying to come up with something for the editorial, I ask the Lord to plant an idea in my mind or lead me to develop an idea I already have. I hope for something new for the audience that isn't too similar to something I've written recently and yet might be relevant to recent happenings, will in some ways bring encouragement or a positive challenge and will bring new insight to the reader regarding their role in God's Kingdom and their walk with the Lord. In my mind, the sweet spot is where all of these merge.

I suspect most ministers can relate to this and in their duties may frequently ask "What now? Lord, what should it be this week?". As the years roll by and their sermon tally and diversity grows, they may

periodically wonder what they have to offer their congregation that they haven't already shared previously. "What now, Lord?" In the hope of bringing something fresh or at least sharing new insight of the Lord, how is this accomplished week in and week out in a congregation that thoroughly knows God's Word? What can a minister preach that the congregation hasn't heard before?

In this regular pondering, searching, asking and struggling, some might question why the Lord doesn't often give us long-distance vision. Maybe He lets us see what He has for us today and tomorrow but generally not far beyond. If the Lord can already see the future, why doesn't He just show me today, what he wants me to write

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about or preach for the next few years? And the same goes for all issues of life. If the Lord can see our future, why doesn't He simply reveal the path ahead to us for the rest of our lives? Afterall, Lord, if you show us what you want us to do in the time we have left here on earth, we'll just do it. Right? Well... perhaps therein lies the rub.

I can think of two responses to this question and there are likely more. First, as my favorite verse (Ps. 119:105) would suggest, the Lord regularly gives us enough light to see the next few steps on the path in our walk with Him, but not the entirety of the path. Why not the entire path, we might ask. I think I can understand the answer to that question looking at my own life. Had the Lord revealed all of my future walk with him at the time that I became a born-again believer at the age of 28, I suspect I might have responded as Jonah did and made tracks for Tarshish. But no, the Lord didn't reveal that. He just showed me the next few steps. And then once I took them, showed me the next few and so on. He just showed me what I could handle at the time and grew me as I stepped

with Him. Today I so much appreciate where the Lord has led and how He walks with us in this way.

Secondly, I think we can take a lesson from how the Lord served up manna in the wilderness in Exod. 16. The Israelites were to take up an omer each day and two omers on the day before the holy sabbath (in modern terms, it appears an omer is roughly the equivalent to 10 cups). What we see specifically in this story was not only the miraculous provision of bread from the Lord but the frequency of it; it was DAILY. And does "daily bread" remind you of anything? It should. In the teaching of the Lord's prayer, Jesus did not say... give us this day our occasional bread, annual bread or bread for the rest of our lives. No, we need daily bread. I believe this speaks to not only our daily physical needs but also our daily spiritual needs. As Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."* John 6:35 Further, it appears the Lord desires that we come to Him and commune often. *"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing*

give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thes. 5:16-18

Again, why doesn't the Lord reveal the path ahead for the rest of our lives? Perhaps we aren't prepared for the distant path yet; until the Lord draws us and grows us closer to it. Also, the Creator God is a loving God who desires regular

interaction and relationship with His created people. As we partake of our daily bread, let us always remember its source; from the Lord our God who loves us, provides for us, bought us, forgives us, sanctifies us, transforms us and reveals His path for us as He leads us daily onward in His Kingdom.

K. Brock

WHEREIN KINDNESS BECAME A JOY

Once upon a time there were three young teens who went out into the world to meet new people. If you are wondering if this is the beginning of a fairy tale, then let me tell you that it is not. This particular story did not have a happy ending. You see, these girls were insecure and shy, but they had worked up the courage to do something out of their comfort zone and attend a youth camp. Now they were sitting in the dining room waiting for lunch to be served and hoping that someone would join them at their table so that they didn't feel so awkward and out of place. During the next several days, every meal was the same. If they sat down first, no one joined them, but if they

sat at someone else's table, they were ignored. They were not only ignored by their fellow peers, but also by the staff members.

The story I just relayed is a true one that happened to a woman at a Christian youth gathering a long time ago, but when this story was passed on to me, I could still hear pain in her voice. Not only did she have difficult memories of mealtimes there, but there were other occurrences even more painful that she experienced from people who said they loved Jesus, but somehow were not able to show it to their "neighbor" when it mattered the most.

Indignation rose in me for

the pain that all three of these girls experienced. Later, after hearing their story and thinking about how our kindness or lack thereof affects others, I did an online search for verses on this topic. What did the Bible say about it?

A few of the verses I read were these:

Luke 6:31 *“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”*

Col. 3:12-14 *“Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.”*

Lev. 19:33-34 *“And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not vex him. But the stranger that dwelleth with you shall be unto you as one born among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”*

John 13:34-35 *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

Jas. 2:1-4 *“My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?”*

Gal. 5:13-14 *“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”*

Matt. 25:40 *“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch*

as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Phil. 2:3 *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."*

Yet, despite these scriptures, I found that there were a number of people speaking out on the epidemic of unkindness and cliques happening in their churches from many different denominations.

A clique, by definition, means: a narrow, exclusive circle or group of persons, especially one held together by common interests, views, or purposes.

Some felt that church people seem more focused on condemning sins like homosexuality or murder, but fail to see gluttony, pride, or unkindness as sins. In fact, when I was still in youth group, I remember bringing up the subject of cliques with someone and being told that "everyone can't be best friends with everyone else" as if that somehow justified exclusion.

Saleama Ruvalcaba had

a good rebuttal of that line of thought, though, when she said, "There's nothing wrong with healthy, godly friendships at church; however, there is nothing godly about groups that exclude others."

It seemed very black and white to me. Yet, what could really be done about this problem? I had been taught that we can always be ready with a smile for others and say hello. (Disclaimer: just because I had been taught it doesn't mean I always succeeded in doing the right thing myself.)

So how can Christians really understand the seriousness of their treatment of others, either for good or bad, and how it can even influence someone for eternity?

I had started on my journey of researching this subject with a certain viewpoint, but it took me on a path that I wasn't expecting. I was looking at it from the mindset that churches need to be different from the world by showing the love of Christ with kindness to others, and they do. But what ability do I have to change the viewpoint of others so that they would begin to genuinely care and feel

real compassion for the lonely and neglected in their pews? Maybe God would call me to articulate to those around me the seriousness of this topic, but I was beginning to realize that there is another side to this that I had never considered seriously. Not one of us has an indubitable force on our own that can change the hearts of others, but we do have power, through Jesus Christ, to change ourselves. I began to see that there were things that I could do in my own life that could have a huge impact on myself and hopefully others as well.

The first thing I need to do is pray, pray, pray. I need to pray for myself and for the church; that we would grow in our loving kindness just like our Savior first showed us. The Holy Spirit can change hearts and can bring conviction in ways that a person cannot.

I can look for others who need encouragement and be free to give it with generosity. I should never excuse myself from being friendly or making conversation just because I'm not as gifted as some people at conversing well. This is something that I can pray about

ahead of time, asking God to strengthen my faith in His ability to be with me even if a situation is out of my comfort zone.

Donna Jones said, *"Being other-centered is not a function of your personality; it's the fruit of your heart. Jesus was the ultimate other-centered person. He initiated conversation with the woman at the well; He saw Zacchaeus in the sycamore tree and invited him down to talk; He called Matthew to follow Him while Matthew was sitting at the tax booth. And even though Jesus had an inner circle of 12 disciples, their closeness never isolated people from Christ; instead, their closeness to Christ served to bring others close, too."*

If I am the one who is feeling lonely and ignored, then I have been given the perfect solace in the Psalms. The words from this treasured book show me that God is there in times of loneliness, just waiting to give comfort. The Psalms also show that my hope and joy should be in God (Ps. 71:5-6 *"For thou art my hope, O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth. By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me*

out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee." (Psalm 16:11 *"...in thy presence is fulness of joy..."*) and that my loneliness and rejection from others can be used by God to draw me unto Himself. I can pray as David did in Psalm 25:16, *"Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted."*

Bill Gaultiere said, *"... when I was in a group situation where I found myself left out of conversation, I found that I naturally turned my attention to Jesus and trusted that he was with me caring for me — I was at peace! Secure and confident in my belovedness to my Lord, despite being alone in a crowd, I was then free to pray, 'Lord, show me who needs a blessing right now. Use me to be your instrument of love.'*

"Then I looked for someone I might encourage, or I stood alone with Jesus, carrying on a secret conversation with him!"

If you are that lonely or rejected one, know that you are not alone. If God is with the sparrow when it falls, then he certainly is with you and longs for you to find joy and fulfillment in Him.

Yes, there will probably always be cliques in the church and people who forget to be kind, but the actions of others don't define you. God has created you for a purpose; He has plans for you. First, He wants you to surrender your life to Him and humbly accept the forgiveness He so lovingly offers. Only then can you follow His example by showing loving-kindness to your brothers and sisters in Christ... and unto the world.

Gal. 6:10 *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

Amber Carpenter
Peru, IN

HOLY BIBLE, VALUED TREASURE

Some of us hear encouragement every Sunday as we are dismissed; "Remember to read your Bible every day."

As our world is rapidly changing, surely this question comes to our mind. What should we do to help prepare our

children for persecution? We should also ask ourselves, "What should I do to prepare myself *for* persecution?" We consider the possibility that we may no longer have written copies of the Word of God. Someday we may be separated from our written copies of the Word of God.

We need to ask ourselves some questions, questions such as, if the Word of God was taken away from me:

- Would I still have enough in my heart to remain faithful?
- Would I still have enough to share with others, those I meet on the street?
- Would I have enough of the Word in my heart to help resolve conflicts?
- Would I have enough in my heart to teach my children the way of Life?
- Would I have any regrets about the amount of time I've spent in the printed Word?

A hymn we sing says, "Holy Bible valued treasure." Is the amount of time that I have spent in the Word of God enough to bear testimony back to God that

it is valued by me? That says something about how much value I put on His Word.

We can think of what the other daily distractions are and compare. What do I pick up first in the morning? What if the Bible was like my cell phone? Would I be seen eating my breakfast with one hand and my Bible in the other? How about when I am walking along the street, or sitting and waiting some place or riding in the car? How about other reading material? One aged elder told his wife, "By the time I get done reading my Bible, I don't have much time to read anything else." We could surely say the Word of God is precious to him.

What do I go to when I am winding down in the evening? Am I going to the Bible when my heart is sad, or when my heart is joyful?

Do my choices reveal that I am longing for it? "*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*" Ps. 42:1-2 We don't know when we are going to appear before God. And verse 4,

“When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God. with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.” Reading the Word of God everyday will help us find ourselves with the multitude, in the holy place, on the holy day.

Psalm 119:11 says *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”* And verse 14 says *“I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.”* Are we rejoicing in the testimonies of God? Are we seeking them as much as all riches? Are we rejoicing in the Word of God? As in verse 16, *“I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”*

Another thing about the Word of God, it is not age specific. A brother once said, “I just like to read the raw stuff to my children; sometimes Bible stories are good but sometimes I like to just read the plain Word of God; just like it is written.” Do I love that? This is a reminder to every one of us. What I have read in the Word today, has it been enough?

How often have we told

ourselves that we have too much to do and will read the Bible later? Maybe we’ll get to it this afternoon or evening. And then we realize that we put it off the last few days as well and didn’t read it.

In II Pet. 3:1-5, Peter wanted to stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance. To remember the Word of God, it must already be there. *“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: 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. For this they are willingly ignorant of,”* Have you seen scoffers this week walking after their own lusts? Are we scoffers? Maybe that’s me saying, “Where is the promise of his coming?” Do we say, “I will get to that?” TODAY IS THE DAY.

May none of us have regrets about how much time we spent in the Word. It is God’s heart that none should perish. No matter

what happens in the future, when times change, things may look a lot different, and we may not be able to read the Word every day.

May our hearts be drawn to His Word. Scriptures will come

flooding in as we hear the Word read and preached from. Going forward, may the Word of God be hid in our hearts!

Myrna Nachatelo
Mauston, WI

THE MOTHER AND THE DAUGHTER

Exod. 20:12 *“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.”*

It was my first visit to the brick meetinghouse. I enjoyed the sermon very much and made a few remarks myself. I was much pleased with the hearty greeting I received after the meeting. When one is away from home, it does his soul good to find kindred spirits.

I accepted an invitation to dine with one of these good old deacons. His wife seemed the perfection of kindness. She introduced me to their daughter, a real intelligent young lady. I was pleased to find such an entertaining daughter in a brother's family. As we drove down the pike, she seemed perfectly delighted with some good steps taken by the District

Meeting, just then over.

The carriage had hardly stopped in front of the commodious house, till she was out and passed up the graveled walk on a run. By the time I reached the house with her mother, she had the fire in the baseburner in a perfect glow, for it was yet cool, and was ready to take my overcoat and hat, and helped me to the best rocking chair in the house.

For one solid hour she entertained me in a real, brilliant way. She understood music, history, had a good stock of general information and knew almost as much about the Brotherhood and our leading writers and preachers as I did. Her father seldom said anything, though he seemed interested. All the while I could hear the quick steps of the mother in the kitchen. I must confess that

I did not altogether enjoy the conversation, for somehow, I thought the young lady ought to be out in the kitchen, helping her mother.

When we walked out into the dining room, and I saw that good old mother wiping the perspiration from her face and neck with that long blue apron, I could not help pitying her. The table was literally piled full of good things. While eating it occurred to me that it would have looked a great deal better if the young woman could have prepared the meal, and let the good mother have a little rest. Possibly the meal might not

have been as well gotten up, and then, possibly, the mother could not have entertained me so well.

However, let that be as it may, one thing is certain. If I had been a young man, looking for a wife, I believe I would never have stopped at that place. Somehow, I have very little confidence in daughters who will not help their mothers and will not do what they can to make their burdens lighter.

From Our Saturday Night (J. H. Moore)

Selected by Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

EVERYBODY GETS WHAT THEY DESERVE

The essence of immaturity is believing that you can always receive what you deserve, even if you didn't actually earn it. Or, some people think, they deserve the very best regardless of what they are doing or not doing. It's rather easy going through life thinking that you are doing the best that you can and therefore, you will never reap any bad consequences. Some people believe that they should get exactly what they deserve.

The truth of the matter is, everybody does get what they deserve. The problem with that is, most people do not believe they deserve what they get. They have this fantastic idea that no matter what they do or where they go or what they do not do, they will get a reward that will be very pleasing and happy for them. I wish that was true, but it isn't.

I can go up to the top of the roof of a building, jump off and

believe that I am going to float and land very nicely on the ground. However, gravity will give me what I deserve, which is a crash landing at the bottom.

We cannot live a life without consequences. We always get what we deserve because life has a way of paying us back for what we do or don't do.

A preacher had a famous sermon he preached called, "Payday, Someday." What he was trying to get across was that payday will come someday, but we can't determine when that someday will be. Usually, that someday is when we least expect it.

It is very inconceivable that everybody knows what everybody else should be doing and how they should be doing it. But sometimes we can think we have other people all figured out. However, just because I think I know what's good for someone else doesn't mean it's actually good for them. Rather, than spending too much time examining the lives of others, I need to have a focus on myself and realize that my actions will create certain consequences.

I went to my granddaughter's soccer game the other week,

only to discover there are no winners or losers. Nobody keeps score. How can you play soccer like that and not know who's winning or who's losing? In doing that, aren't we teaching the young ones that you can do whatever you want to do and there are no consequences to what you are doing? Maybe, but, "Payday, Someday."

I think another aspect of this is I need to be careful that other people are not sowing into my life seeds that will carry with it a surprise factor. One day we may wake up to a certain consequence and wonder, "How in the world did this happen?" Looking back over our life, sometimes we can figure out that this is a result of something that happened to me and I failed to deal with it at the time. I cannot live through life and not deal with situations as they come to me on a daily basis.

I need to be focused on my life and my walk with God that I'm not allowing other people to dilute my life and bring me to a point of some dire consequence that I'm not prepared for. I also need to be careful that I am not doing that to anyone else. Why is it that I know what is best for

somebody else and then I try to manipulate them in a certain way without their knowing what I'm doing? I need to be honest with people and I need to be honest with myself.

Some people have the idea that no matter what happens, it is the will of God for me. Yet I have not found that to be absolutely true. For example, it is not God's will that any should perish, but that all should come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ (II Pet. 3:9). Yet we find that there are many people, the majority of people, who are

perishing without Christ and going out into an eternity without Christ.

We need to understand that the consequence of depravity is a separation from God and his will. Everything happening in my life is not necessarily the will of God. As a believer, I need to keep myself on that single path where I am experiencing every day, the will of God. Then at the end, I truly will get what I deserve.

James L. Snyder
Ocala, FL

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.

Paul's emotional thanksgiving starts in II Tim. 1:3, and as he prays, he remembers Timothy's sincere faith. Paul also prays that Timothy would serve God boldly, lovingly, and diligently, according to his God-given gifts.

Just like Timothy, we all face difficult situations. When is the most demanding hour of your

day? Is it dinner time when you are trying to finish cooking and everyone suddenly gets home at once?

Everybody has had a day when the requests have outnumbered the results. There's probably not a secretary alive who hasn't groaned at the assignments that appeared on their desk. Maybe for teachers,

it starts as the first student arrives and doesn't stop until the last student leaves for the day. Difficult hours: parents have them, bosses endure them, secretaries dread them, teachers are controlled by them, and Jesus taught us how to live through them successfully. We must get strength from the Lord to deal with daily stresses and the pressure to abandon our faith.

Can you today, take encouragement from verse 7?

Here, Paul tells us to accept the power that God gives us which enables us to do the ministry to which He has called each one of us. He admonishes us to use God's love to reach those around us and to help the body of Christ stay faithful. Like Paul and Timothy, let's remain faithful to God's Word, even amid life's struggles.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Gerry Priest

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we "study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God..."
June 2024 Bible Study Commentary

June 2 - I Tim. 5:17-25 – Honor Your Elders

It is interesting to come across a scripture that we may not practice. It poses no difficulty in understanding it. Nor do we merely ignore what it says. We do not disagree with its teaching nor think poorly of those who practice its precepts. Paul writes, "*17 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.*"

Paul is advocating financial support for elders especially for those whose teaching challenges our hearts deeply. Are we ignoring this clear instruction in God's Word? First of all, I don't believe we ignore this teaching. I suspect there are more than a few who regularly donate a certain amount to their elder(s). I also suspect that

some elders simply forward what is given to them to the church fund. But perhaps the most important reason is tied directly to what Paul practiced rather than what he taught. He refused to accept any payment for his preaching. He did not want to be a burden to the church congregations that were developing under his pastoral care. Nor did he want anyone to have some foundation in truth suggesting that Paul was preaching for his own financial gain. It is in this spirit that historically we have practiced, hopefully, a deeper awareness of God's gracious provision for all our needs.

June 9 - I Tim. 6:1-10 – Honor Your Boss

Once upon a time, perhaps 30 or more years ago, a particular bumper sticker could be seen frequently. It said, *The One With The Most Toys At The End Wins*. If we believe in such fairy tales, material greed will dominate our thinking and our actions. I recall a young couple telling me about a vehicle they wanted to buy. It met all their needs as well as their desires. It also would severely strain their financial means. So they laid hands on that vehicle claiming it in the name of Jesus Christ. I wondered if the Lord might answer their prayer affirmatively and bless them with the hefty monthly payment that would accompany their decision.

Now none of us are perfect in defining our needs. There are times we have made poor financial decisions. Yet, we have also experienced the unexpected blessing that God has provided in material ways. Paul's concern is the belief that financial and material gain are indicators of our godly character. Our focus is all upon ourselves and what we have done to gain what God bestows upon us. The reality is that greed has gripped our heart. *6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.* Jesus Christ is what we need for all of life. Our needs, financial and otherwise, are in His care. As we grow spiritually, we learn to recognize the tug of greed. Our sure defense is the contentment that Jesus provides in the midst of our growth and struggles.

June 16 - Deut. 6:1-15 – Father’s Day

My grandfather had a radio that had many different band widths. It could pick up broadcasts from different places around the world. As a child I enjoyed playing with it because of all the variety of electronic squeaks it produced that made my imagination soar. Its actual purpose was to allow my grandparents and other relatives to hear my aunt Edna speak once every month about her life as a missionary in Ecuador. At times we could hear her clearly. Sometimes the fuzzy reception drowned out her voice.

Our hearts are much like that radio. At times who we are is broadcast without distortion. But sometimes what people hear is just fuzz. In order to avoid distortion our hearts need tuning every day. Within the passage we are studying is just such a tuner. It is called The Shema and it is the Jewish confession of faith. It begins, “*4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart.*” (Deut. 6:4-6) As we meditate upon The Shema, and a great many other scriptures as well, our hearts will become more finely tuned to all that Christ Jesus wants to teach us, show us, and calls us to be.

June 23 - I Tim. 6:11-21 – Instructions for the Rich

In the verses just before our lesson this week, Paul writes about the dangers associated with the love of money. It is the root of all kinds of evil and leads us into a destructive lifestyle. How can we overcome such dangers? We are to flee from them. Repentance means to turn around from the way we are going. We are to make a 180-degree course correction. But we are not simply to run from but to also run toward.

Paul’s instruction to Timothy is to pursue the fruits of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the powerful evidence of our life in Christ. We become rooted in the realities of the righteousness of Christ and His power over the sin that seeks to destroy the profession of our

faith. We are engaged in a deadly conflict that has eternal ramifications. But just as Jesus professed his deity to Pontius Pilate, so are we to be ready to stand before this world proclaiming His everlasting and eternal kingship no matter the cost to ourselves.

June 30 - II Tim. 1:1-12 – Not Ashamed of the Gospel

As we begin our study of II Timothy, notice the tender bond that exists in the apostle's heart for Timothy. Paul refers to Timothy as a son in his opening salutation. This is not a biological reality but expresses the depth of care that binds the two of them in a very special way. Paul acknowledges the influence that Timothy's grandmother and mother both have had in the shaping of Timothy's faith. Nothing is mentioned about Timothy's biological father. But Paul has stepped into Timothy's life as a father figure. Timothy also seems to have a certain timidity about his character that Paul seeks to strengthen.

Though not yet evident in this first lesson, Paul assumes that his death is imminent. Those who have surrounded Paul have left him or been sent to minister in other localities. Therefore, Paul desires Timothy's presence for a multitude of reasons. Paul wants the opportunity to spend time with his protege one last time. But he also wants to encourage Timothy's faith in the struggles that lie ahead for his spiritual son who will no longer have the benefit of his spiritual father. Paul's tenderness for Timothy is a fitting close to Paul's ministry by way of this, his last written epistle.

SUMMER

To praise the ever bounteous Lord,
My soul, wake all thy powers;
He calls, and at His voice come forth
The smiling harvest hours.

His covenant with the earth He keeps;
My tongue His goodness sing:
Summer and winter know their time,
His harvest crowns the spring.

Well pleased the toiling swains behold
The waving yellow crop:
With joy they bear the sheaves away,
And sow again in hope.

Thus teach me, gracious God, to sow
The seeds of righteousness:
Smile on my soul, and with Thy beams
The ripening harvest bless.

Then in the last great harvest I
Shall reap a glorious crop:
The harvest shall by far exceed
What I have sowed in hope.

Words by John Needham

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NEWS ITEMS

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

Correction

In last month's issue of the Bible Monitor, I included lists of Ministers and Deacons by district. Unfortunately, I had several errors in the lists. Corrected versions of both lists are included herein. If you see any other errors, please let me know. Thank you.

Ken Brock, Editor

Wedding and Birth Announcements

You may have noticed the announcement of recent brotherhood weddings in the December 2022 and January 2024 issues of the Bible Monitor. It is probable however, that some weddings were missed. One purpose of the Bible Monitor is to share good news within the brotherhood and weddings and births are very good news! So, I encourage people to share the news of weddings and births. To have a wedding or birth announced in the Bible Monitor, please notify me by phone, text, email or mail (see contact info at bottom of page 2).

In addition, please note that newlyweds can receive a free 1-year subscription to the Bible Monitor if their address or email address is given to me.

Thank you,
Ken Brock, Editor

Invitation to Write

Avid readers of the Bible Monitor know that most of the content of the Monitor comes from a handful of regular writers and a handful or two of occasional writers. We very much appreciate those that diligently contribute material for the Monitor. There have recently been some new writers contributing, including some younger writers and that is very encouraging.

If you haven't written for the Monitor before or haven't in a while, this is an invitation to consider doing so. We welcome appropriate articles, poetry and news items. While many of our articles are devotional, other topics for publication may highlight topics such as youth, parenting, outreach, women's interests, etc. If you aren't used to writing and struggle with sentence structure, grammar or the flow of writing, the editor can help with rewording, corrections and general polishing before publishing.

Please send all materials for intended publishing to the editor by email at kenbrockbd@gmail.com or by regular mail to 1520 County Road 2260, Stryker, Ohio 43557. Any questions can be sent to the editor by email, mail or phone (text or call) to 419-515-3396.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR July 2024

July 7- II Tim. 1:13-2:13 - Guard the Deposit Entrusted to You

1. 1:13. What is the “form of sound words” in Christ Jesus?

2. 2:7. In verses 1-6, what are some things for us to consider?

3. 2:14. Do I understand the “amazing grace” of, “Jesus cannot deny himself.”

July 14 – II Tim. 2:14-26 - A Worker Approved unto God

1. 2:15. How does studying help us from entering vain conversations?

2. 2:20. What does the “great house” represent?

3. 2:25. As we are instructed to teach those who oppose us, what does “meekness” look like?

July 21 – II Tim. 3:1-13 - Godliness Foretold

1. 3:1-5. What is the “form” of Godliness that these people have?

2. 3:7. In what ways can people be “ever learning, but not able to come to the knowledge of the truth?”

3. 3:12. What are the persecutions that Godly people suffer in free “Christian” countries?

July 28 – II Tim. 3:14-4:8 - All Scripture is God Breathed

1. 3:14. Why must we continue in the Holy Scriptures if we expect to finish well?

2. 4:2. What does “being ready out of season” look like?

3. 4:8. Should we have the assurance of salvation that Paul had, as he came to this point in his life?

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