

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

DECEMBER, 2024

NO. 12

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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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## WINGS OF FAITH

Give us the wings of faith to rise  
within the veil, and see  
The saints above, how great their joys,  
how bright their glories be.

Once they were mourning here below,  
their couch was wet with tears;  
they wrestled hard, as we do now,  
with sins and doubts and fears.

We ask them whence their victory came:  
they, with united breath,  
ascribe their conquest to the Lamb,  
their triumph to his death.

They marked the footsteps that he trod,  
his zeal inspired their breast,  
and, following their incarnate God,  
possess the promised rest.

Our glorious Leader claims our praise  
for his own pattern given;  
while the long cloud of witnesses  
show the same path to heaven.

*Issac Watts*

## A VOICE FROM ABOVE

It was a cold December evening nearly 40 years ago. I had finished my last final exam for the semester earlier in the day. As college Christmas break was just starting, I had packed up my things, gotten dinner and was making the one-hour drive home. A light snow was falling in the darkness and I was familiar with this stretch of road with short hills that is particularly scenic in the daytime. As traffic was light, I had my high beams on to maximize the visual of the falling snow and was just starting to come up a short hill.

And then it happened. It was not audible, but I heard a voice in my head say “There might be a deer, so slow down.” Prior to that moment, I had never heard such a clear voice inside my head telling me to do something. So, I

immediately started braking. Mind you, I had never and haven’t since that time changed my driving behavior without a visual or other reasonable basis. As I started coming up the short hill, I was probably going about 60 mph but within a few seconds and nearing the top of the hill, my speed had dropped to probably 15 mph. As I rounded the top of the hill, there gloriously illuminated in my high beams, was a beautiful buck, standing square in my lane. As I quickly came to a stop, there he stood, motionless about 10 feet in front of my car. After a long few seconds of staring at me, he bounded off.

Several things raced through my mind. I most certainly would have hit the deer had I not slowed down well before seeing him. But the thought that impacted me

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most was, where did this voice that told me to slow down come from?

You see, at this point in my life, I did not believe in God. I was taught at home, by TV and in school that all life on earth was a product of evolutionary processes. I believed this and not too surprisingly, was an atheist. I believed that once we died, our consciousness simply ceased. I did not believe in a God that created, loved or cared for His creation.

So...who told me to slow down? Not only that but who told me to slow down at precisely the right time and did so loud enough that I actually listened and obeyed? I knew instantly that I had not generated the voice myself, in my own mind. Even if I had, the probability of such a coincidence was essentially nil. I knew that the one who spoke to me could see what I could not. Further, that they apparently cared about me and didn't want me to continue toward danger. Lastly, that they had the ability to speak into my mind without using an audible voice. Within seconds, I began questioning my conclusion about the inexistence of God.

While I did not instantly start believing in God that night sitting in my car, it got me thinking. And this memory was still in the back of my mind when I finally accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior approximately 9 years later.

When I look back at this account in my life, it helps me to remember that God looks after humanity, even after those that don't know Him or aren't thankful to Him. He has plans for people's lives. While He doesn't save us from all danger, He's always there and sees our situation and we know that He works all things together for good to those that love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).

I am so glad that on that cold December night many years ago, even though I didn't believe in Him and wasn't thankful to Him, that God decided to save me from the danger. He used a deer and a voice to get my attention (whether His voice or an angel's, I don't know). Years later, He used people and His word to get my attention to again save me from danger. He opened my eyes to His Gospel truth to save me from the path to eternal

damnation and called me to a new path of salvation and to be part of His eternal Kingdom. For that, I am so thankful!

Throughout this Christmas season, may all believers remember that, while not deserved, God called them to Himself. Also remember that there may be people in your life that He's calling and wants to involve you in the work. Perhaps they need to hear your voice of encouragement, need your help or a loving touch. As we are daily about the Lord's business, let's be looking and listening for His leading as we speak into the lives of others.

*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Isa. 41:10*

*"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." Ps. 32:8*

*"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." II Pet. 3:9*

*"Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: 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," II Tim. 1:9*

K. Brock

## **THE INSPIRATION, PRESERVATION, AND SUFFICIENCY OF SCRIPTURE**

### **(Part 1 of 2)**

One of the weightiest questions one must attempt to answer regarding Christianity is the place of the Scriptures in the believer's life. Some elevate the Scriptures as almost the fourth person to the Trinity, while others view it as a book of quips and antidotes to live a happy life. Most Conservative Christians would agree that the Bible is authoritative for the believer and esteem its writings as

sacred. Why do we treasure a book finished almost 2,000 years ago and believe its pages contain God's words? This book has impacted nearly every society on earth and is the most loved and hated book of all time. Its words cut to the hearts of individuals, revealing the condition of mankind while promising glory to those who repent and believe.

*"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." Heb. 4:12-13*

The pages of the Holy Scriptures expose the pride and fallen condition of people while disclosing God's holy and righteous character, who has chosen to reveal Himself through the pages of sacred writing. The Bible is the most published and read book ever, surviving vicious attacks to extinguish its light. Yet, by God's special providence, each of us has a copy of His words within reach. We've been entrusted with the treasure of Scripture, precious rubies of truth buried in a pile of the gold of God's righteous character. The Apostles esteemed the Scriptures, employing them regularly in their writings and referring to them often.

The Scriptures were generated by the Holy Ghost as we see in II Pet. 1:20-21, *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."*

Peter here is making the case that Scripture has a divine interpretation. He says that no prophesy of the Scripture is a matter of any private interpretation. Now, there is a debate about whether Peter meant one's own origin (instead of interpretation), meaning that the writings did not originate from the men who wrote them. This is a true statement, but I believe the case he is making is that we cannot just apply any interpretation to Scripture because they

are of divine origin. As such, he tells us that since it was not the will of man that produced the Scriptures, it cannot be the will of man to determine their interpretation, for holy men penned words wrought through them by God.

Men in their historical settings were used as instruments in God's hands to put forth His words. God, through His Holy Spirit, moved on these men, and they spoke not words from their own minds but the mind of God. Thus, they were set apart men (holy) who spoke and wrote the words of God as a fitting revelation for their present time and the time to come. Men penned the words but make no mistake, the Author of Scripture is God. God is the Author of both the Old Testament and New Testament Scriptures as we see from Heb. 1:1-2, "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.*"

The Author of Hebrews tells us that God is the generator of revelation. In times past, God spoke through the prophets. When we think of prophets, we often go straight to future predictions, but to prophesy is to proclaim the words of God. The Old Testament contains the words of God, each book having its place for a reason: to edify the body of Christ. God spoke long ago to the Fathers through the prophets. The Book of Hebrews is a book for Jewish people and Jewish Christians, so when he refers to the fathers, he refers to the patriarchs and Jewish Heritage. God revealed Himself to the Patriarchs and Israel through prophets. One of the points Paul makes in Romans that gives the Jews tremendous benefit is that to them were committed the oracles of God. "*What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*" Rom. 3:1-2

God worked in the Old Testament and Spoke through the prophets, including Moses. But as John says in John 1:17, "*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.*" This aligns with what we already read in Hebrews that God "*hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son.*" God is the Author of

Christ's ministry and teachings. He is the author of the Old and New Testaments, and He has inspired holy men through the Holy Spirit and the Son of God, who has spoken to us in these last days.

Jesus promised to inspire the New Testament through the Holy Spirit in John 16:12-15 *"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."*

This statement by Christ would have sounded familiar to the disciples because in John 12:49-50 Jesus said that He spoke what was given to Him: *"For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."* And in John 14:10 and 24 Jesus said *"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works... He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me."*

So, the Holy Spirit continued this revelation to (and through) the Apostles. The path of inspiration was from the Father to the Son, from the Son to the Spirit, from the Spirit to the Apostles, and from the Apostles to the church. God has a purpose for all revelation, but God also has a purpose for the timing of revelation. God revealed things to them as they were ready to receive them. Jesus, being God in the flesh, knew this. His disciples weren't prepared to accept the Truth He desired for them to understand or to speak. This prompted Jesus to teach that the Holy Spirit would continue speaking to and through them. Jesus was going away, and the Spirit was going to come. I don't have the space to discuss everything the Spirit does, but concerning revelation, He was going to lead

them into all truth. They would build on and from the Revelation of Christ and speak from God. Jesus makes a few things very clear:

- The Spirit will speak what He is given.
- The Spirit will reveal things as they are revealed later.
- The Spirit glorifies Jesus and will reveal what He receives from Jesus to the disciples.
- Jesus and the Father are One, and as Jesus revealed the Father and spoke His words, so the Spirit will reveal Jesus and speak His words.
- The Spirit will continue revelation through the Apostles, who will speak as Holy men in their time and circumstances to those they write to and to future generations.

This is the basis of believing the New Testament is inspired literature. The New Testament is Authored by God in Christ through the Spirit by the Apostles.

*To be continued and concluded in Part 2 in next month's issue of the Bible Monitor.*

Jonathan Kinner  
Brookville, OH

## **THE CONTRACT OF FAITH**

We live in a society where contracts abound. We have to have a contract for everything and most contracts are very well detailed with lots of fine print. Don't forget to read the fine print! At one time a handshake was all that was needed, but not so today. Even in some marriages, there is what has been called the prenuptial agreement. Contracts have influenced everything we

do and everything we do not do.

When both parties agree and then sign a contract, it is then binding. Did I say "binding"? It is binding until some lawyer gets his fingers on the contract. Almost any lawyer can nullify any contract if integrity is not an issue. Even in a business deal, if it is not going the way you wanted to go you can file for



bankruptcy. Then start all over again. I do not think we will ever get back to the strict integrity that once dominated our country. At least not across the board. As individuals, we can implement this kind of integrity when we stand by our contract.

As Christians, we can get into a lot of difficulty if we don't really understand the contract God has with us. We might not understand that there are certain ramifications and consequences involved in our contractual relationship with him.

Some people find themselves in a lot of difficulty and discouragement because they made a wrong choice and are now suffering the consequences. At that point, they believe their contract with God will force Him to get them out of that trouble. Because of their "contract" with God, they think they should not have to deal with the consequences of their wrongdoing. All I can say is, how is that working?

In the Old Testament, Israel discovered this for themselves. When they were obedient to God and walking with him, God was taking care of their needs. However, when they struck out

on their own, the consequences that came to them were not part of their covenant with God. If you read the Old Testament, you discover that God allowed them to make their own choices and then suffer the consequences of their choices.

All of this ties into our personal relationships with God. We may not like to think of it this way in our relationship with God, but we have a contract with Him based on our faith in Him. Our level of understanding this is reflected through our prayer life. If I can understand the dimensions of my prayer life, I can begin to understand my relationship with God. I need to evaluate my prayer life and make sure that it is in harmony with this contract of faith. My prayer life is a window into my personal relationship with God. Is it artificial or is it authentic?

If I am basing my relationship with God on the covenant He established through the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross, I will begin to see a difference in my daily life. One of the aspects of this is confession. Most people do not like to confess because that means they were wrong about

something. Yet, it is this active confession that opens the door to my covenant with God.

As with any good business deal, we review the contract before signing, occasionally go back, and make sure we are in line with the contract. I am thinking this is also a good idea with our contract of faith with God. Before I begin trusting God, I better know who in the world He is and I better know what I'm getting into before I sign this contract. The only way to get to know that is to immerse myself in the Word of God. I need to know what I am getting into.

Once I am in this contractual relationship with God, I need to review it on a regular basis to make sure I am holding up my end of the deal. Again, this will be reflected in the dynamics of my prayer life. My prayer life will not be just asking God to help me get out of trouble, although I need to do that on occasion. If that is the sole focus of my

prayer life, I have not really understood the contract I have with God.

The biggest benefit of this contract of faith with God is a ministry of intercessory prayer. This is praying for other people and other situations. Yes, I have needs. But I need to get beyond that and begin working in my prayer closet for other people. If my life is consumed with my own problems, I have not really understood the contract I have with God. I really do not understand from that contract what God has promised to do in my life. Once I get that understood and clarified, then I can move on in the dynamics of intercessory prayer. What is desperately needed in today's church are people who are given to intercessory prayer. My prayers should be making a difference in the lives of others and not just in my own life.

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.*

When I pick up the books of II John, III John, & Jude it is like reading a stack of post cards. These letters are short and to the point. They open with a heartfelt greeting and close with the same sentiment. Also similar to most post card messages, John states his intention to come and see the recipient in person. However, the short message contained in each of these letters is still today of the utmost importance, just as it was the day it was written.

The loving greeting at the beginning of each of these letters should not be mistaken as an effort by its author to soften the stern message it brings. It is their love for the believers that has motivated the writers to reach out and give warning on concerning issues. In earlier writings of Paul and Peter, which Jude references in verses 17-18, we are taught that deceivers and mockers will come in the last days. Jude has written to say that those days have arrived. John gives clear directions on how to handle situations and even names names. In his letter, Jude doesn't include specific names of false doctrines or of certain men. Yet, his description of these apostates is so clear that

it still can be very helpful to the Christian Church today.

The truth is paramount to John and upholding it is the purpose of his second and third letters. The word truth appears five times in the first four verses of II John. John continues in III John using the word truth four times in the first four verses.

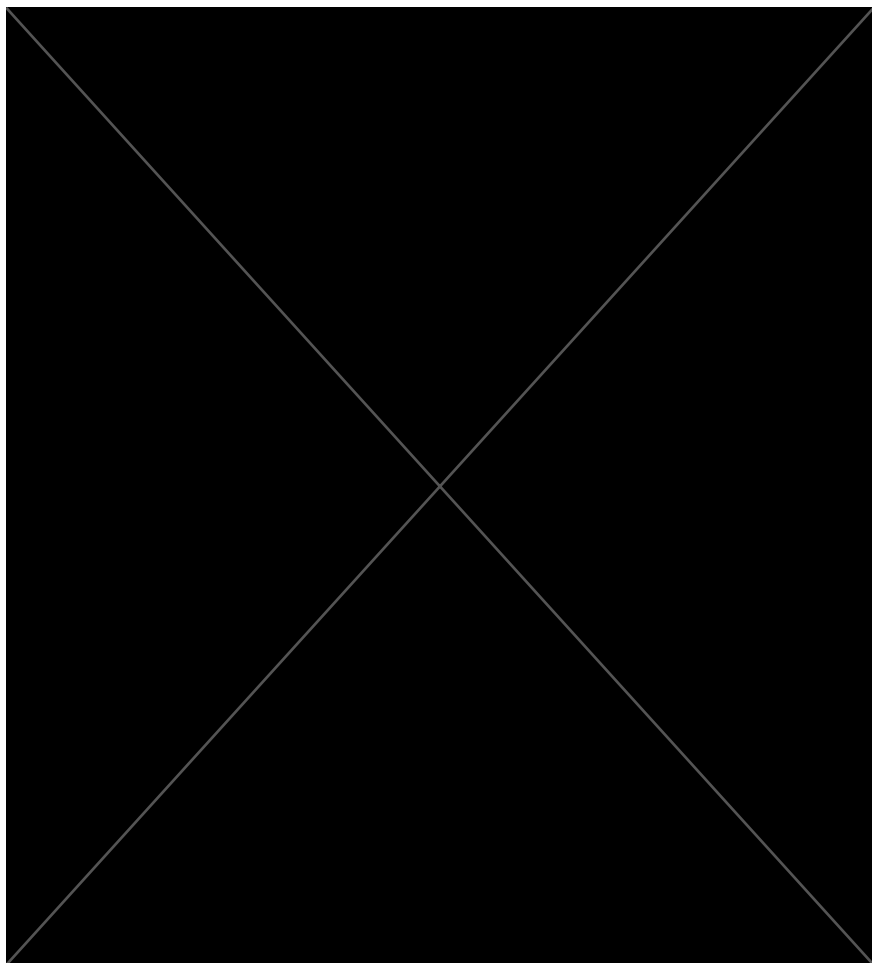
In contrast to the repetition that is typical of John, Jude's letter comes as more of a blunt directive to defend the truth without even using the word. Jude says in verse four of his letter that certain men deny the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, we know from John's record of the gospel that Jesus is the word of God. We also know that it was Jesus himself that said that he came to bear witness to the truth and that the word of God is truth. Even Isaiah's prophecy of God's servant, that was given hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, said "neither was any deceit in his mouth". Therefore, Jude indicates that when anything in any way denies Jesus, it denies the truth and does so to its own detriment.

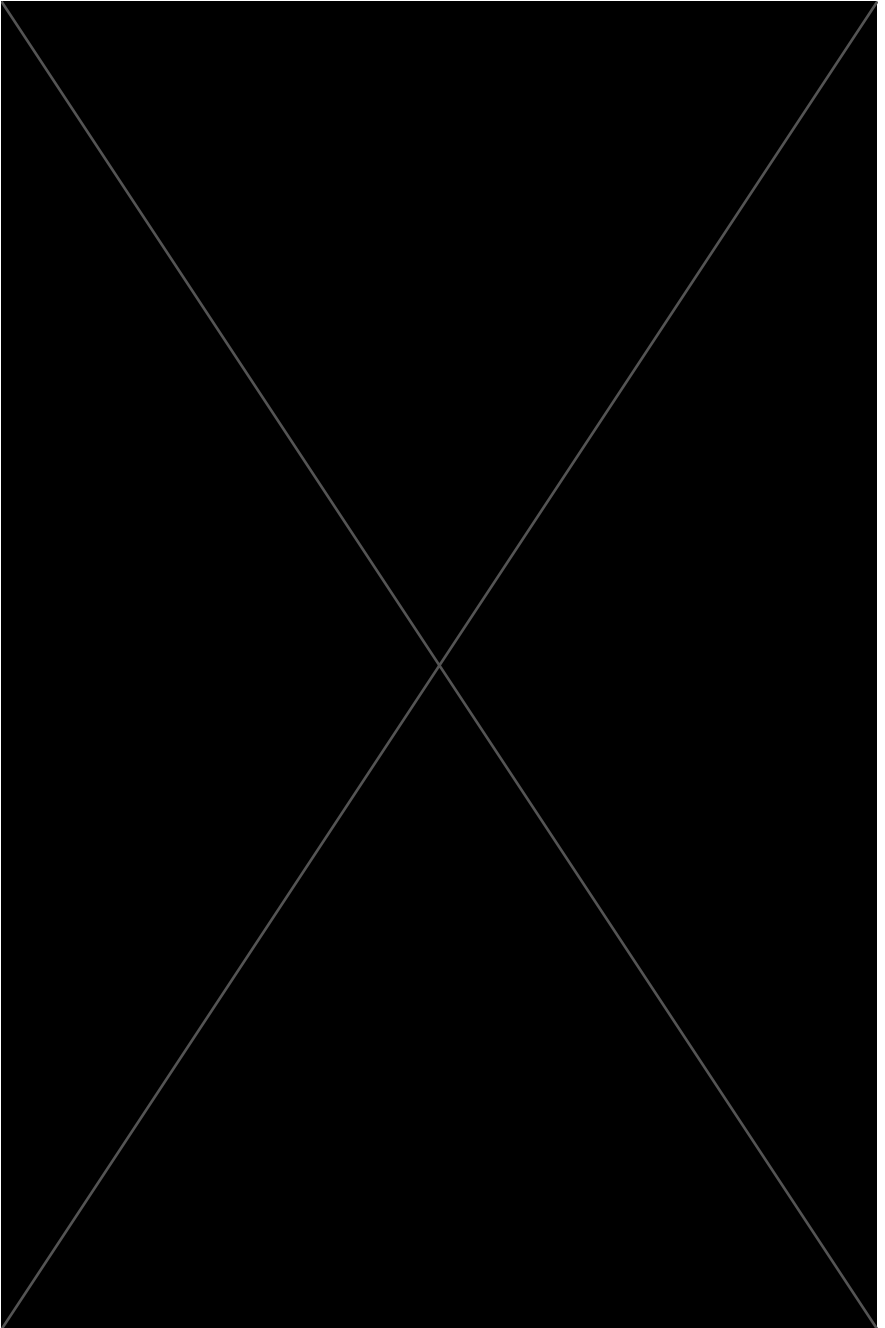
So, beloved, we should not quickly glance over these books of the Bible because

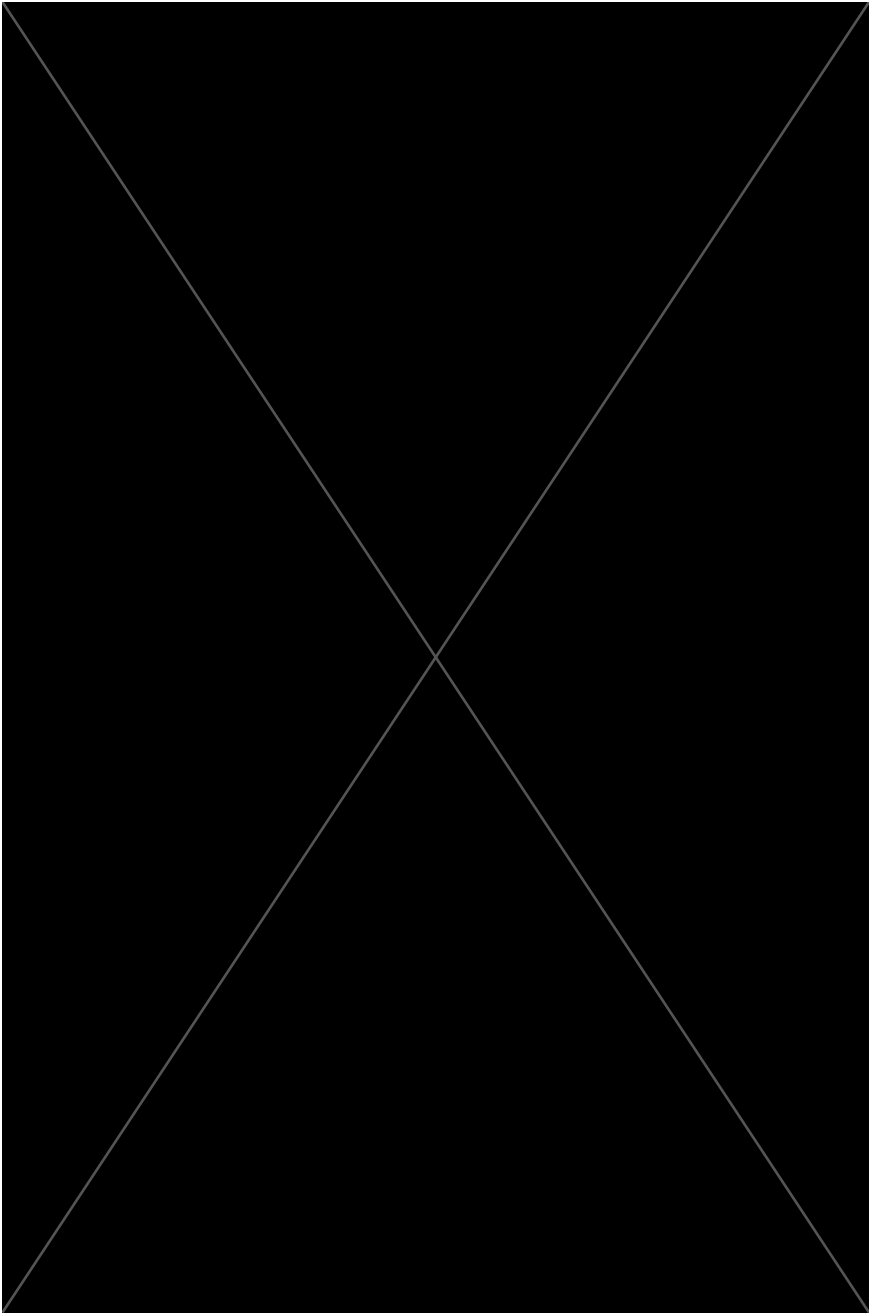
of their brevity. We need to consider them intently and hear the call to live in the truth. It is surely no coincidence that these letters are in the New Testament directly preceding The Revelation of Jesus Christ. They form an excellent prologue

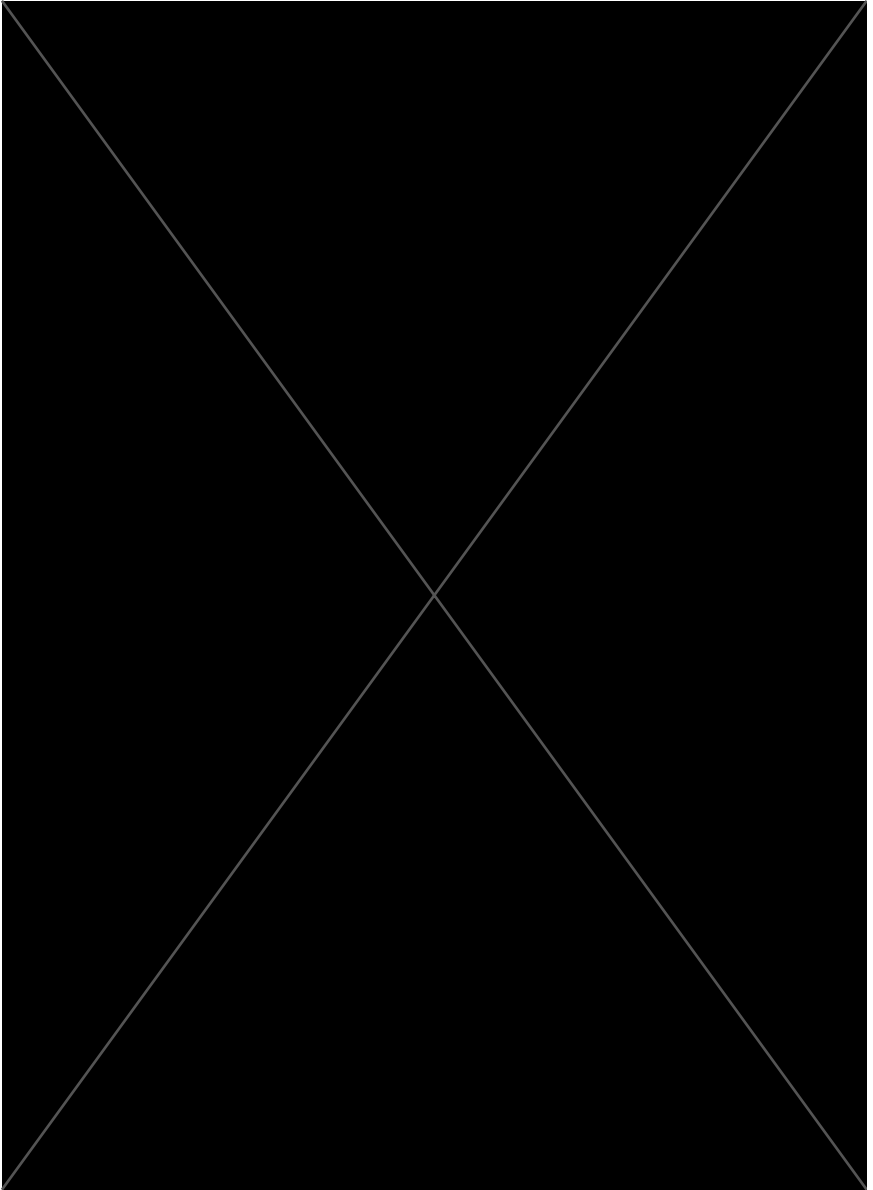
for the things which must shortly come to pass. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*  
Brother Kidron Crist









## OBITUARIES

### Raymond Weidman

D. Raymond Weidman, 103, of Ephrata, Pennsylvania passed away Saturday, October 19, 2024, peacefully in his home surrounded by his loving family. Born at home in Denver, Raymond was a son of the late John & Eva (Mohler) Weidman and the loving husband of 58 years to Dorothy K. (Rollman) Weidman until her passing in 2004.

Raymond was a U.S. Navy veteran and served on the USS Weeden as a coxswain in WWII. His lilt led to a service nickname of "Dutch" which stuck for a long time. When Raymond came home from the war, he married Dot, who had been anxiously awaiting his return since they began dating in 1940. He stayed connected with the men he served with, often attending the anniversary gatherings of the USS Weeden. Raymond, along with his brother, Paul, took over the family business, John Weidman & Sons Inc. after returning from WWII. His entrepreneurial nature and dedication to serving his community has made the business a trusted household name for all heating, cooling, and fuel delivery needs. Raymond was a talented musician. He played bluegrass on the mandolin and fiddle with the Garden Spot Pioneers and local radio stations. He made each of his children their own mandolin with his crafty woodworking skills.

Raymond was a man of faith and was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Lititz for over 61 years. Raymond leaves a legacy of strong family values and service to his community.

Raymond is survived by three daughters, Carol Hill (Paul) of Ephrata, Dorothy Long of Ephrata, and Betsy Alspaugh (Andrew) of Lititz; a son, Raymond R. Weidman (Kim) of Ephrata; 14 grandchildren; 32 great grandchildren; 8 great great grandchildren; sister, Elizabeth Haws (Howard) of Akron; and a sister in-law Lillian Weidman. In addition to his wife, Raymond was predeceased by daughter, Teresa King; son-in-law Harold Long; and two brothers, E. Paul Weidman and Galen J. Weidman.

Services were held at Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church, in Lititz,



Pennsylvania on October 23 with internment in Mohler Church Cemetery, Ephrata.

### Rhoda Shaffer

Rhoda E. Shaffer, 75, of Manheim, Pennsylvania, died peacefully at home on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Born in Lebanon, she was the daughter of the late Ammon and Mary Eberly Keller. Rhoda was the loving wife of Rudy A. Shaffer and they observed their 56th wedding anniversary in September of this year. She was an active and faithful member of Millbach Conservative Brethren Church.

Surviving in addition to her husband Rudy, is a son Ron husband of Elie Shaffer of Manheim, a daughter, Rhonda wife of Kevin Benito of Manheim, three grandchildren: Kaitlyn, Kirsten, Kristopher, and a brother, David husband of Ruth Keller of Manheim. Preceding her in death is a son, Randall C. Shaffer, two sisters: Betty Stauffer, Dorcas Myers, and two brothers: Titus and Fred Keller.

Services were held at Fairview Reception Center in Lebanon, Pennsylvania on October 31 with internment at Millbach Community Cemetery.

### Linda Stitely

Linda F. Stitely, age 73, of Greencastle, Pennsylvania, went home to be with the Lord at the Chambersburg Hospital on Sunday, October 27, 2024. Born in Stoystown, Pennsylvania on February 16, 1951, she was the daughter of the late Frank D. and Martha Ebersole Shaffer.

Ms. Stitely was a 1969 graduate of Greencastle-Antrim Senior High School. She worked as a foot reflexologist. She was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Chambersburg. Linda enjoyed gardening, spending time with family and friends, cooking and baking.

Surviving are three children, Mark Stitely (wife Angie) of Greencastle, Bryan Stitely of Greencastle, and Karla Jones (husband David) of Greencastle; two grandchildren, Jeffrey and Amanda Jones; and a brother, Myron Shaffer (wife Joyce) of West Virginia. In addition

to her parents, she was preceded in death by two siblings, Angelina Mallow and Frank E. Shaffer.

Funeral services were held November 1 at the Upton Church of the Brethren, Greencastle with Bro. Ray Stuber officiating. Interment followed in the adjacent church cemetery.

## **NEWS ITEMS**

### **New Minister**

At the Grandview, Missouri congregation, Bro. Tom Hawbaker was elected to the Minister's office. Bro. Tom's address is 7121 KS Hwy 7, Mound City, KS 66056.

### **New Deacons**

Also, at the Grandview congregation, Bro. Britton Andrews, Bro. John Rissler and Bro. Daniel Wininger were elected to the Deacon's office.

Bro. Britton's address is 4817 NW Woody Creek Ln, Kansas City, MO 64151

Bro. John Rissler's address is 36316 Hwy 87, California, MO 65018

Bro. Daniel's address is 36331 Hwy T, California, MO 65018

Please pray for the Lord's blessing and guidance for each of these men and their wives as they step into their new responsibilities and carry out God's work:

Bro. Tom & Sis. Kaitlyn Hawbaker

Bro. Britton & Sis. Ashley Andrews

Bro. John & Sis. Karen Rissler

Bro. Daniel & Sis. Rachel Wininger

### **New Elder**

Bro. Gerry Priest of the Chambersburg congregation in Pennsylvania was recently ordained to the eldership. Please pray for Gerry and his family as he steps into and serves in this position.

**Help for Ukrainian Family**

Since mid-July, the Pleasant Ridge congregation has been preparing to help a Christian family from war torn Ukraine, to come to America through the Uniting for Ukraine sponsorship program. The father has not been called to the war as they have 3 children. Generally, Ukraine does not require conscription in the military for fathers with 3 or more children. However, the Berin family lives in a suburb of Kyiv, which is frequently the target of attacks. Their schedule to leave Ukraine has been delayed and the family now plans to travel soon to Poland to buy flight tickets to America. They have to first travel to Poland to be able fly out as Ukrainian airspace is closed to commercial air traffic. While the father has not been called for military service, it can sometimes be difficult for men to leave Ukraine.

Please pray for their (Vadym, Victoriia, Davyd, Daniel and Eleonora) protection and safe travel and for the Pleasant Ridge congregation to share God's love as they welcome the family and get them established here in America.

**Sunday School Lesson Plans**

The Adult Sunday School Lesson Plan for 2025 is available for viewing and download on the Dunkard Brethren Church website. There is also a topical lesson plan for youth classes for any who would like to use that lesson format instead. May God bless and direct our study of His Word in 2025.

The Bible Study Board

**Subscription Renewal**

As we come to the end of 2024, it's time to renew your subscription to the Bible Monitor if you haven't already. For 2025, paper subscriptions remain \$10/year. Paper subscriptions also come with a free email subscription upon request. Email only subscriptions remain \$5/year.

Please send all subscription payments to the Editor (see information at bottom of Page 2). Make checks payable to "Dunkard Brethren Church". Please contact the Editor with any questions regarding your subscription.

**Men's Retreat**

Attention men...young and old. Mark your calendars for Men's Retreat, February 21-22 at Michindoh Conference Center in Hillsdale, Michigan. The planned speaker is Peter Heck of Jerome Christian Church in Greentown, Indiana. More information will be on the way.

**Notice**

In preparation for the February issue of the Bible Monitor, please send the Editor any corrections, additions or deletions regarding the Ministerial List, the Deacon List or contact information for the congregations. This information should be supplied by the Presiding Elder or his designate by the first few days of January so that the February issue can be as accurate as possible.

**Wedding and Birth Announcements**

To have a wedding or birth announced in the Bible Monitor, please notify the Editor 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 provided.

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR January 2025**

**Jan. 5 - II Sam. 1:1-16 – David Gets Word of Saul's Death**

1. After all that Saul had done to David, why was David so emphatic that no one should kill him?
2. Who has God placed over you that he expects you to respect?
3. Is there room for improvement in the area of respect for each other in the church?

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**Jan. 12 - II Sam. 1:17-27 – David's Lament for Saul and Jonathan**

1. Why did David not want Saul's death broadcasted?
2. As we look at the relationship between David and Jonathan, what does it take to cultivate that level of relationships today?
3. What does verse 23 mean where it says Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives?

**Jan. 19 - II Sam. 2:1-17 – David Anointed King of Judah**

1. What are some of the key attributes that David displayed in his life leading up to his king ship?
2. What was relationship like between David and Abner?
3. How do we respond when we have an Abner in our lives that seems in our eyes to get in the way of God's will in our lives?

**Jan. 26 - II Sam. 2:18-32 – The Battle of Gibeon**

1. Why did Asahel pursue after Abner?
2. What was the purpose of Abner calling the truce?
3. What was the undermining conflict between Judah and Israel?

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