

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

NOVEMBER, 2024

NO. 11

"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.

LOOK UNTO JESUS

See a poor sinner, dearest Lord,
Whose soul, encouraged by thy Word,
At mercy's footstool would remain,
And then would look, and look again.

Ah! bring a wretched wanderer home,
Now to thy footstool let me come,
And tell thee all my grief and pain,
And wait and look, and look again!

Take courage, then, my trembling soul;
One look from Christ will make thee whole:
Trust thou in him, 'tis not in vain,
But wait and look, and look again!

Samuel Medley

Selected by Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

As we come into the month of November, the minds of many in America pivot towards the season of Thanksgiving. This often stirs warm memories of seasons past. For many in the nation, these thoughts are firmly seated in the 5 “Fs” of Food, Family, Friends, Festivities and Football. In each of these, people often give thanks; whether in the blessings of food, relationships gained or strengthened or simply to enjoy the moments of various activities. While such things are all worthy of thanks giving, we understand that these are only a few of the blessings we are granted by God.

Even though we sing praises such as “Count your blessings,” we realize that in reality, our blessings stretch well beyond our ability to number them. We

are instructed in this song to “Count your blessings, name them one by one. Count your blessings, see what God hath done.” Yet God blesses us so thoroughly in so many ways that we find ourselves at a loss to see or comprehend the expanse and depth our blessings reach.

If you’ve ever actually tried to sit down and list out your blessings, you probably found it rather easy to begin, with what you consider as significant blessings. But after your list grew to say, 100 or 200 items, perhaps you hesitated to continue as the list seemed to be trending towards the trivial. After all, who lists something as insignificant as the blessing of “having socks”? But then, after a little pondering, such a blessing may actually be quite significant,

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as life without ever having socks would be rather difficult. And then perhaps this caused you to be thankful that indeed, you have two fully functional feet on which to put socks or that you are physically able to put on and remove your own socks from both feet every day. Need I say more? Where does your blessing list end?

Yet even after making a long list of our blessings, it seems we often don't realize their full value unless we are separated from them; whether from a possession, good health or loved one. Most of us have experienced this phenomenon. As the saying goes, "You don't know what you've got until it's gone." This saying appears to have stood the test of time for humanity and brings me to another question. That being, if we have a tendency to undervalue our tremendous blessings from God, are we then inclined towards not being appropriately thankful to Him?

Mercifully, the Lord does not frequently remove blessings from our lives that we are either unaware of or are only mildly appreciative to Him for. Where would we be without His

blessings and mercy? That's an easy but grim question to answer. But on occasion, the Lord does intentionally remove blessings from lives. We see such in the example of the warning given to the Israelites in Deut. 8:11-20. God desired to bless His people bountifully and He told them so. But if they would choose to forget the Lord their God, these blessings would be removed. One outcome of this, by God's design, was that His blessed people that turn away from Him, subsequently turn back to Him. *"Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God..."* And we know from this story and other Biblical accounts that the hearts of the Israelites were repeatedly lifted up, they turned from God and blessings were removed.

As we consider this history

as well as the present time, we can see that humanity does not deserve its merciful God that lavishly blesses but warns of the consequences of lost blessings to those who don't return His love, again primarily for the purpose of restoring relationship with His people.

So in this season of giving thanks to God, may we count our blessings as best we can. May we praise God for the blessings we see and allow the Holy Spirit to praise the Father for things that only He sees. May we praise God for the blessings we might see as small but are likely significant. May we express our gratitude to the Lord and take a lesson from the account in Deuteronomy. As we sit in our good houses that we've well lived in and have eaten and are full, and when we consider how our possessions and wealth have grown, may we not let our deceitful hearts whisper that these blessings result from our

strength, ability, wit and resolve. Our pride would like to brightly shine and convince our mind of our accomplishments. That's fruit of a heart that's lifted up in pride...and may soon forget God.

In this season of giving thanks to God, may we remember the warning above from the Old Testament as well as remember some applicable teachings from the New Testament:

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." I Thess. 5:18

K. Brock

HOW DO I MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS?

The following is Part 3 of a loose transcription of a discussion between Zach Funk and Todd Castle in episode #002 of the Surrendered Soul Podcast of the same title. Zach and Todd are from the Dallas Center, Iowa congregation. See the September and October 2024 issues of the Bible Monitor for Parts 1 and 2.

Part 3 of 3

Doing the Uncomfortable Work

The third core principle in knowing that we are making right decisions, is doing the uncomfortable work. In this, we see the action portion of the principles. We are going to find that as we incorporate these principles into our lives and allow Jesus to do His work in us, there is going to be a lot of uncomfortable work that needs to be done. We are going to have to speak to strangers about the salvation of their soul. We are going to have to go to a brother or sister and help them see errors and then help them carry their sin back to the Cross. We will ourselves need to often allow others to point out sin in our lives and help us plead the Blood of Jesus. We are going to be placed into situations that will test us. God greatly desires us to be conformed to His image and wants to take us deeper and deeper to that end.

Our flesh will often revolt at the work that God calls us to for a few reasons. First, Satan is determined to keep us in our comfort zone so that the work God wants to accomplish in us does not materialize. Secondly, God allows for us to be uncomfortable as the pressure of it exposes us to our real selves and our weaknesses and that realization pushes us to rely on Him. He loves that in us. There is no greater way for the created to glorify the Creator than for the created to realize and confess his desperate reliance on the Creator.

So if I am not living authentically, I'm likely wanting to control the outcome. I may not believe or fully trust God. I might wear masks and be terrified that someone will see the real me. Perhaps I long for true peace or I long for true freedom yet I feel so stuck and scared. How do I escape this trap?

First, it's time to agree with God that how I have been living is sin. The sin of pride is the root of all this. If the Holy Spirit doesn't control my life, then someone else does, either me or Satan. God hates pride. This pride is affecting my relationship with God, others and the destination of my soul. I must confess my sin, repent and begin the walk of repentance in my life. I must start today by being real with God. Baby steps of being rigorously raw, authentic, vulnerable and willing to humbly follow the Holy Spirit's course-correction in my life. Even if it is to my detriment or loss or being labeled a total failure.

Each decision, each conversation, each interaction, each choice is submitted to Jesus. Each time we course-correct and bring it back to raw truth we are helping our minds and our hearts in correcting our "muscle memory" and bringing into alignment our conscious and subconscious mind.

Our hearts have a direct correlation to our speech so we must be quick to repent. I may need to go to others and apologize to them, being rigorously authentic in my confession and humbly asking for their forgiveness for what I said wasn't the whole truth, or maybe it was true, but I slanted it in a way that led them to a conclusion that suited my desires. I must repent to God and to men, surrendering the outcome of each encounter with men to the Holy Spirit. I have come to love repentance; it is a beautiful gift from God.

So I see that if I am living in rigorous authenticity, completely surrendering the outcome to the Holy Spirit and doing the uncomfortable work that God is calling me to, if I am authentically and truly His child, then I have NOTHING to fear.

Over time and through the working of the Holy Spirit, this will become our true nature; His nature in us. Our old man is dead, and we are now a new creature in Christ Jesus. Oh, the beauty of holiness and the lightness of living in the light! Our conscience is at peace at last. This is truly and fully the mercy of Jesus. Thank you, Jesus, thank you!

EXPERIENCES FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF NICARAGUA

It was a privilege to go on a mission trip to Nicaragua in August of this year. My cousin, Kelly, and I signed up for this trip six months in advance so there was plenty of time for anticipation to build up! Nicaragua is one of the most beautiful places I've been to in the world; the countryside as well as the people.

I write to encourage you to be actively involved in the work of the Lord. As believers, our work can be anywhere, whether close to home or far away. One of the things discussed on this trip was that there is no retirement from the work of the Lord. Our team ranged in age from college age to eighty-three years!

I would encourage those of you who are able to go on an organized mission trip to do so. There are several reasons for this. Most importantly is to share the Good News of God. Also, there are new experiences, memories and friendships. Additionally, such trips often pull us out of our comfort zone and produce personal and spiritual growth. This might not

sound exactly fun, but it is good. Further, experiencing different cultures, seeing what people in a third world country do just to survive, is a reminder of just how blessed we are in America.

This trip had several goals and specialties, including providing general medical care, pharmacy, dental care, eyeglasses, children's ministry and pastoral mentoring for the locals. People traveled on foot from as far away as two hours to get help and participate in the different activities.

There was a heavy spiritual emphasis on this trip that I really appreciated. Before we left on the trip, we were encouraged to be in prayer and fast, that what the Lord wanted to be done, would be accomplished. During the trip, we were encouraged to show the love of Jesus and share the message of the Gospel to those we interacted with, pray with individuals and strive for spiritual growth in our own lives.

This trip wasn't an easy one, but it left memories that will last a lifetime. Riding in the

back of a straight truck up and down the mountain on rough, muddy roads and on one night, riding back to town in the back of a pickup truck in the rain are just two of my memories. Our hotel was not comfortable, but it met the need for a shower (with either cold or scalding hot water) and a place to sleep. The electricity would frequently blink off, causing the fan in our room to stop. So, I would get out of bed, stretch as far as I possibly could (because the fan was high and I am short) to turn the fan back on and get back in bed until I finally fell asleep. I really didn't mind. I soaked up the many experiences and loved them all!

It was special to be able to go on some home visits with the medical provider. One visit is particularly memorable. The lady was quite sick and weak, most likely with pneumonia. She couldn't even sit on the side of the bed in her simple home with dirt floors. With her vital signs and poor physical condition, had she been in America, she would have been admitted to the hospital for treatment. We

left her with some antibiotics, prayed with her and gave her family some advice on how to care for her. Upon our return the next morning, and to the surprise of all of us, she sat up on the side of the bed and started engaging in a conversation! This wasn't the only answered prayer for physical healing on the trip. God continues to be the Great Physician and we are thankful!

It is always a blessing to participate in the worship service with the local congregation. I stand in awe, knowing it is the same God, no matter where I am in the world. I love meeting new people, who are reading out of the same Bible and discussing the same things we do at home. They are in a remote location of the work that I never knew existed. God is there, alive and working!

Lives were changed on this trip by the power of God and the work of the Holy Spirit. It is truly a blessing and a privilege to serve Him!

Owen Meyers
Adel, IA

PRAISE CHANGES THINGS

“Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD...” Ps. 150:6

Our God desires that His people not only pray, but also praise Him. The Bible is full of true accounts of men who emerged victorious because they praised God. The walls of Jericho fell when Israel praised the Lord. Paul and Silas were delivered from prison and won others to Christ because they praised God.

Praise changes things! You kneel in prayer yet have no contact with God! Try praising Him and He will flood your soul with His divine presence. If there are needs in our lives, or if we desire God's intercession for others, we must pray, and continually praise Him in order

to be assured the victory.

Praise does not need to be undignified or appear foolish. In Ps. 98:4, David exhorts the people to make a loud noise, rejoice, and sing praise unto the Lord. The world rejoices in its recreation; likewise the church, commanded to praise God (as it is in our text), does so in spirit and in truth. *“...his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* Ps. 34:1

If we do not feel like praising Him, *“...let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God...”* Heb. 13:15. Our text shows us that all the creation, of which man is a part, is commanded to praise Him.

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy name to sing,
Help us to praise:
Father, all-glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.

Help us, Lord, to praise Thee. We have fallen and only God can help us get up again.

O for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace.

My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name.

Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb,
Your loosened tongues employ;
Ye blind, behold your Savior come;
And leap, ye lame, for joy.

Charles Wesley

Albert Barnes wrote: "One who is saved from peril, rescued from long captivity, pardoned at the foot of the scaffold, or recovered from dangerous illness, will have an appreciation of the language of joy and triumph which can never be

understood by one who has not been in those circumstances."

"And they sang a new song before the throne..." Rev. 14:3

Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

THE BLESSING OF SECOND CHANCE

Often, I find myself wallowing in the past. There are things in my past that I am grateful for but there are also things I really regret. Those things bother me the most. If I'm not careful I can become so weighed down with my past mistakes that I'm not functioning today and therefore I'm probably making mistakes that years down the road I'm going to regret.

What do I do with those past mistakes that I cannot do

anything about? That has been my biggest problem. I try to fix things that just cannot be fixed. This has become the source of my frustration. I know that everybody fails. However, I am not concerned about everybody's failure. I am concerned about my own failure. That is what bothers me most. I know that my past is not worse than everyone else's but in my own eyes, it is. And I believe this is the trick of the enemy to get me focused on the past rather than on the present.

While I can't change the past, I can do something about the present. One of the great things I have appreciated about God is that he is the purveyor of second chances. I think he may have invented it.

As a child, we used to play games and then we would shout "do-over" and if we shouted it soon enough, we then had the opportunity to do that play over again. I have often thought this would be wonderful if it worked in real life. As soon as I found out I did something wrong, I could shout "do-over" and I could correct that wrong. Perhaps that is my obsession. Trying to correct what is wrong in my life, particularly in my past. It really does not work that way.

Our God is the God of second chances. God is not concerned about me wallowing in my past. Certainly, he wants me to acknowledge it as sin, repent, confess it and allow the Lord Jesus Christ to cleanse me. However, after that I need to move on. I only need to ask God's forgiveness one time, and he does it.

The second chance aspect of God enables me to deal with the past in a sense of finality and

then move on to the present. *"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."* (Ps. 118:24). That should be my motto every day.

What keeps me from really processing this is that I sometimes believe my past is bigger than God's ability. I do not say it and I am not thinking it, but I act as if that is true.

One day I had enough of that and said to God, "If you're not bigger than my past how can I trust you for my future?" When I got that out of my system, a release enabled me to turn my back on my past and walked forward in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. When I understand my failure in the perspective of God's grace, I can overcome the court. If I am trying to understand my failure in the perspective of my strength, I get nowhere. The more I get to know God and his amazing grace the more I can begin focusing on my life with him today.

I know the enemy of my soul, the devil, wants me to focus on anything but my relationship with God today. I think he even wants me to focus on my past successes and gloat over that

if it will keep me from really focusing on what God is doing in my life today.

When I accept this aspect that God will give me a second chance and I exercise that right, it then enables me to pass it on to someone else.

Is it possible to live one day without being hurt by someone? Maybe not. There are family members and people I work with and neighbors and so on that fail most miserably. If I judge them, I am failing to realize that God has given me a second chance on a whole lot of things in my past. Now when somebody fails, I do not have to take it personally, but I can offer them a second chance. Sometimes a

person needs a second chance to get things right in their life. And sometimes, that second chance needs to be repeated a number of times.

I have noticed that people who struggle with forgiving others often wrestle with accepting God's forgiveness in their own lives. I think that is a sad state of affairs. To embrace God's forgiveness is to experience the energy of God's love.

The greatest blessings in my life have been those times that God has given me a second chance and I took it.

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.

I personally find that love can be easy, and love can be extremely difficult. The interesting aspect of both those opinions is, they are just opinions. I'll unwrap that a bit. If we think about love as just an emotion, we set ourselves up for failure.

The human spirit judges what is easy and what is hard by our own whims and preferences. However, the Christian is called into a very different paradox. Christ brought a new and radical type of love, one that disregarded

race, creed, or political status. One that is even extended to our enemies. This type of radical love is what compelled our savior to the cross for you and for me.

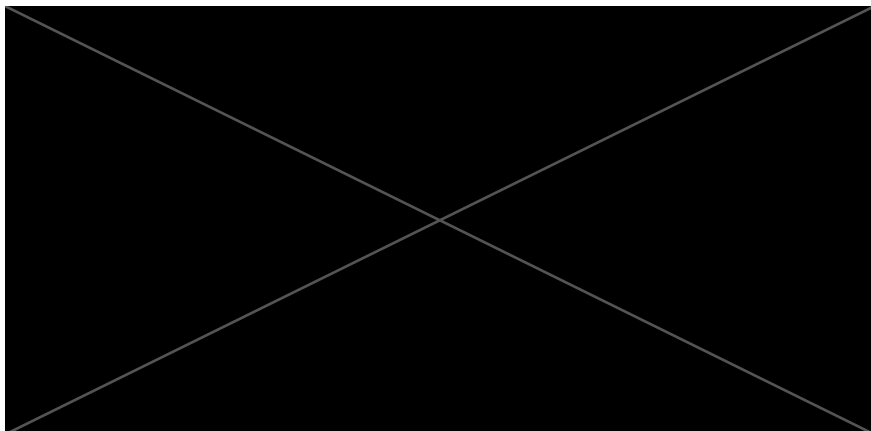
John reminds the Christian that we are a people of hypocrisy and of inconsistency. Often, we judge the value and worth of others based on superficial and inconsequential values, rather than the values which God places on us all.

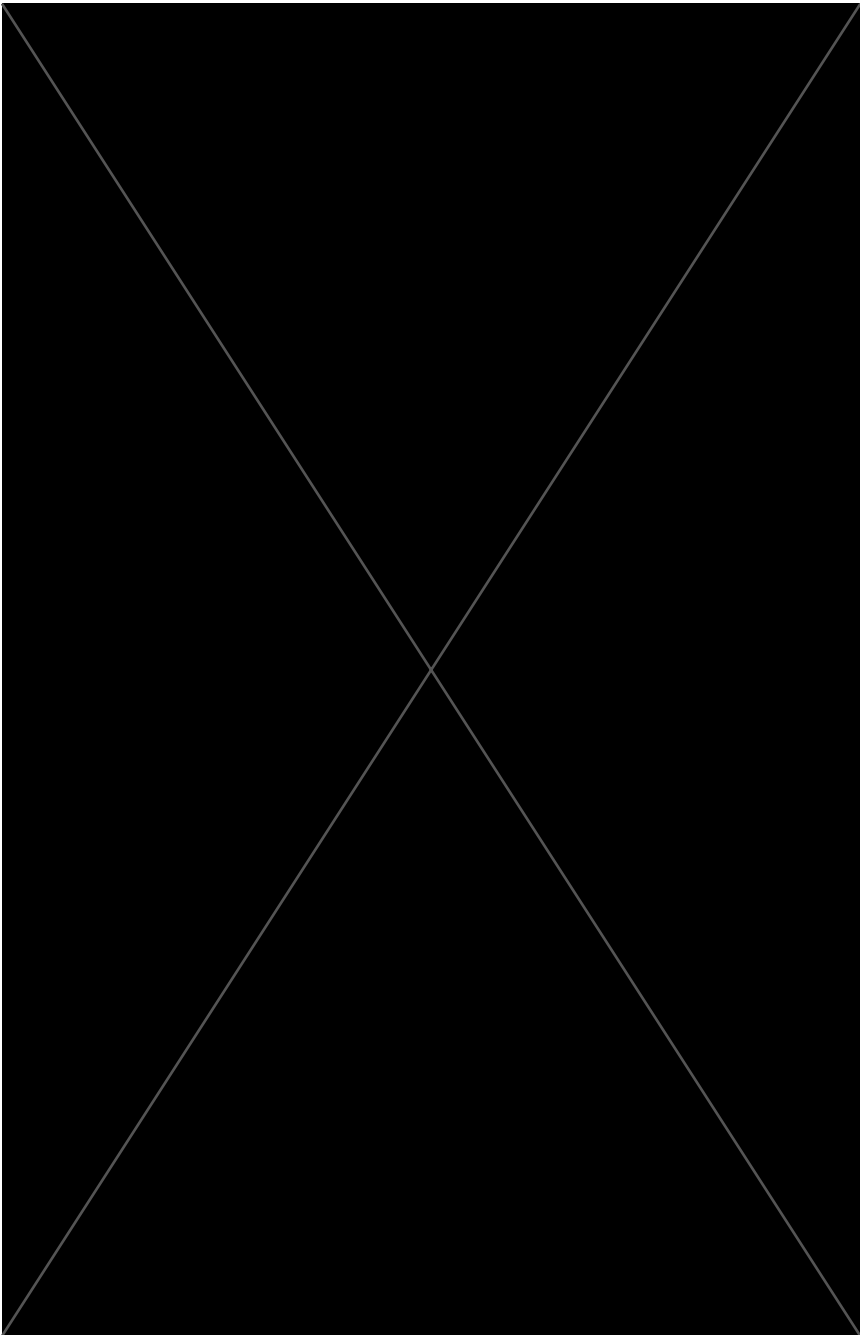
The love which Christ gives the Christian is more than a base emotion. This love is a part of God himself and this love is covenant based. If we can love with a covenant love; and a heart which seeks to obey God, rather than self, love becomes easy. This is indeed

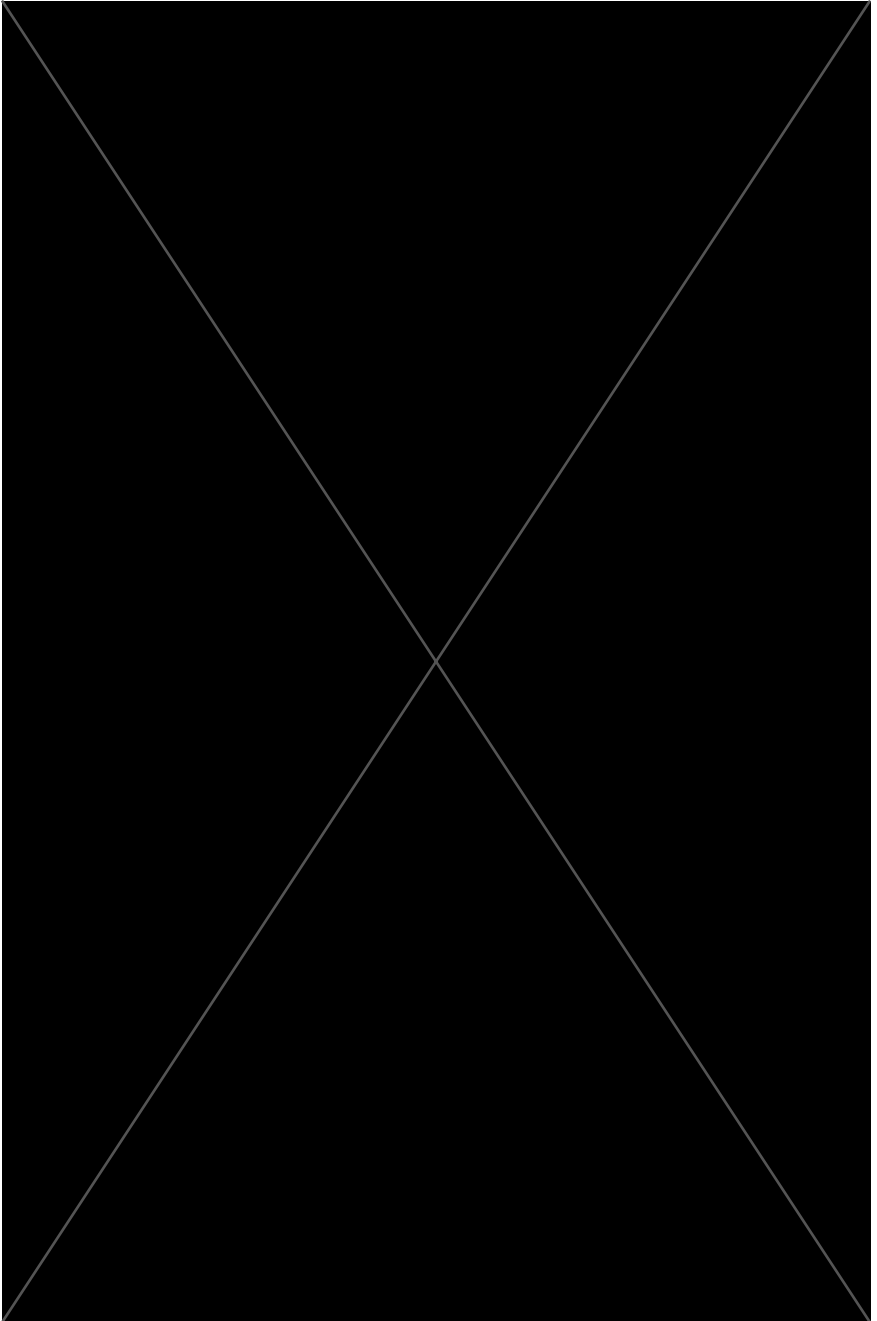
a tall order while here on earth and in this corrupted flesh. However, through Jesus' blood we are overcomers.

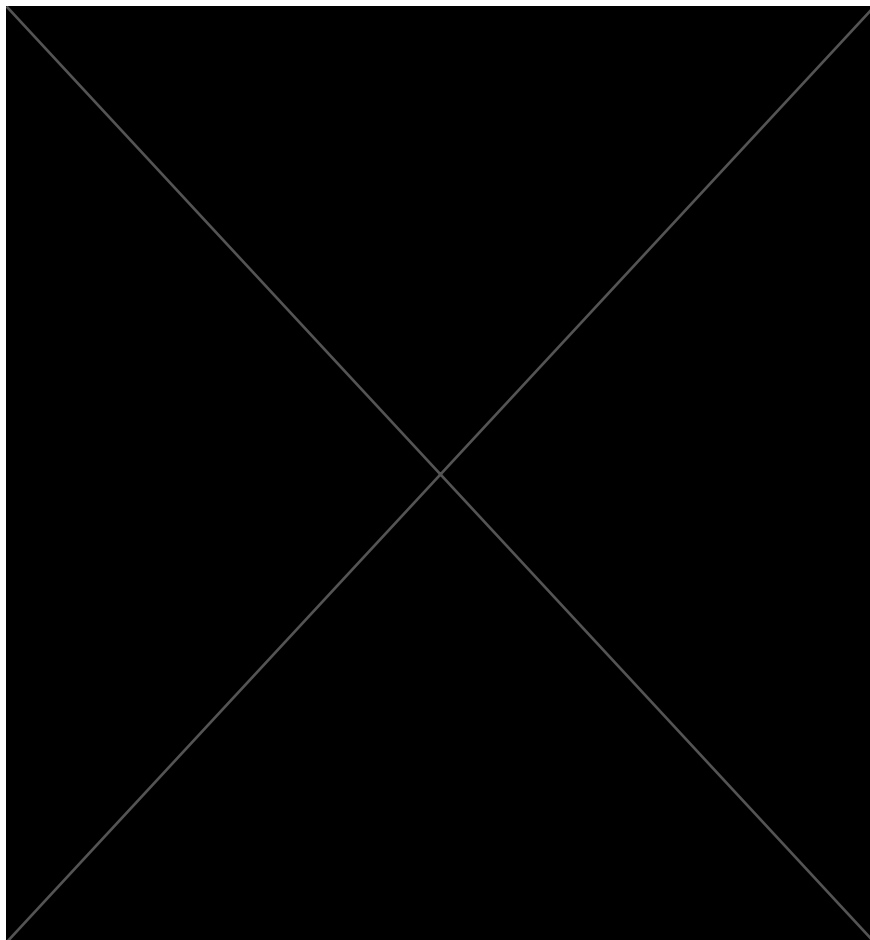
Jesus calls us to a love that goes beyond the limits of the base human emotion. A love indeed strong enough to break the strongest bonds of human suffering, and of sin. We are called to agape love, this love is fearless in its efforts to feed the hungry, heal the sick and clothe the needy. Through Christ we have overcome the world! Do we love humanity enough to share the love of God? As we study the final chapters of I John what are we doing to emulate the agape love of God?

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Mark Cordrey Jr.









OBITUARY

Butch Wills

Lewis A. “Butch” Wills, 73, of Covington, Ohio, passed from this life to be with Jesus on Friday afternoon, October 4, 2024, at Ohio’s Hospice Inpatient Unit, surrounded by his wife and children. He was born December 15, 1950, in Piqua, Ohio, to the late Lewis R. and Billie Anne (Hill) Wills.

He was united in marriage to Marcia Ann (Peters) Wills on August

14, 1971; enjoying over 53 years together. He was baptized on May 17, 2009, committing his life to Christ, and joined his membership to CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church. In June 2019, he was diagnosed with cancer and endured five years without complaint. On Sunday, March 10, 2024, he was anointed and submissive to God's will for his life.

Butch was a 1971 graduate of Covington High School. He owned and operated Butch's Painting for many years. In later years, he worked for Fullmer Landscaping and The Service Company. He was especially friendly and could start a conversation with anyone and was always ready to help at a moment's notice. He loved flowers, music, people and work. He loved company and when his family was all together. He especially loved his Savior, and always gave himself in service of the church. He loved attending all the services. During his last two weeks here, he seemed to have a special interest and strong desire to attend Harvest Meeting, which he did five days before going with Jesus.

Together with Marcia, he was blessed with six children, all of which survive: Lincoln and Jill, Jaclyn, Trevor, Ashley and Ron Kohus, Destina, and Grayson. Also surviving are siblings Cathy and Jim Hoover, Tom and Debi Wills, and Melissa & Scott Gray. Having had a close relationship to his in-law family, he is also survived by Ron and Susan Bowman, Rodney and Mary Peters, Roland Peters, Chuck and Yvonne Brunk and Bill and Mary Kate Peters.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Billie Wills; brother David Wills, sister Elizabeth Bayman, his in-law parents Raymond and Evelyn Peters, and sister-in-law Patricia Peters.

Funeral services were held Thursday, October 10, at CornerStone Dunkard Brethren Church, in Covington followed by burial in Highland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Ohio's Hospice of Miami County. Online condolences may be left for the Wills family at moorefh.com.

NEWS ITEMS

Leadership Conference

Officials and their wives are invited to attend the 24th annual Dunkard Brethren Leadership Conference. This year's theme is "Reconciliation: The Way Through Christ Jesus". The conference will take place November 8-10 at the Pleasant Home Congregation in Modesto, California.

For lodging reservations please contact Evelyn Cordrey via text or call at 209-638-3502 or email at ejbrock444@gmail.com. If you have any food allergies or restrictions, please let Evelyn know.

New Deacon

Back in May at the Lititz congregation, Bro. Marlin Martin was elected to the Deacon's office. Please pray for Bro. Marlin & Sis. Melissa in their new responsibilities. The Martin's address is 6 Mace Lane, Newmanstown, PA 17073.

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. The last week of October, the family is trying to travel 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.

Subscription Renewal

As we approach the end of another year, it may soon be time to renew your subscription to the Bible Monitor. 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.

New Polity Booklets

Fifteen years have passed since the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity was last published in booklet form in 2009. After a number of revisions since that time, it was time for a new edition.

The June 2024 edition of the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity was recently published and is now available in booklet form. Booklets were recently mailed to the congregations. If you have questions or need additional copies of the polity booklets, please contact a member of the Publication Board (see Directory of Boards at the end of this issue). Note that the polity is also available digitally on the Dunkard Brethren website.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR December 2024

Dec. 1 - II John - Walking in His Commandments

1. What is the truth? How can I know the truth?

2. Love & Truth: Is one more important than the other?

3. How can a deceiver be identified?

Dec. 8 - III John - Love for Brethren and Strangers

1. What is love in the truth?

2. What is "the truth that is in thee" (verse 3)?

3. How can a person walk in truth?

Dec. 15 - Jude 1-13 - Contend Earnestly for the Faith

1. Are you sanctified, preserved, & called?

2. Why doesn't Jude need to identify by name the "certain men"?

-
3. Can a person be saved by God out of sin, then fall into unbelief?
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-

Dec. 22 - Isa. 53 – Christmas

1. Who is going to believe this good news?
-
-

2. Who is willing to declare this good news?
-
-

3. What does God's righteous servant know that justifies so many?
-
-

Dec. 29 - Jude 14-25 - Building Yourself Up on Your Most Holy Faith

1. How much longer will God allow the last time, with it mockers, to continue?
-
-

2. Can we contend without being contentious?
-
-

3. How does God our Savior keep us from falling? Preserve us faultless?
-
-

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