

# BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

SEPTEMBER, 2024

NO. 9

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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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## O FOR A HEART TO PRAISE MY GOD

O for a heart to praise my God,  
a heart from sin set free;  
a heart that's sprinkled with the blood  
so freely shed for me:

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,  
my great Redeemer's throne;  
where only Christ is heard to speak,  
where Jesus reigns alone:

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,  
believing, true, and clean,  
which neither life nor death can part  
from him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,  
and full of love divine;  
perfect and right and pure and good -  
a copy, Lord, of thine.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,  
come quickly from above;  
write thy new name upon my heart,  
thy new best name of Love.

*Charles Wesley, 1742*

Selected by Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## THE WRONG WAY

In driver's education class in high school, I had heard that my instructor had the reputation of trying to trick his students into turning the wrong way down a one-way street. I knew the instructor as he also taught one of my math classes and this rumor didn't surprise me at all. However, it did rattle me a bit. A week or two into the class, he started teaching us how to watch for one-way streets ahead and, as he did, we could feel the anticipation of an attempted trick building. Sure enough, before long, with me at the wheel, he tried his ploy. But I didn't fall for it. Why? Because being forewarned, I had been paying special attention to his instructions on how to look for one-way streets.

That day, I wasn't fooled

and I didn't turn the wrong way. But several years later, I did turn the wrong way down a one-way street because I was lax in looking for the signs. If you've ever done this, you may recall from that time, very briefly entertaining a question in your mind as to why everyone else was going the wrong way, and then quickly realizing you are in the wrong and need to stop, turn around and go the right way.

Rather simple, isn't it? Perhaps in the matter of driving it is, but it may not always be so simple in areas of sin. While I wasn't misled by the driving instructor to turn the wrong way that day long ago, there have been many days in my life that I did turn the wrong way.

Scripture tells us that sin is deceitful. Unlike the instant

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shock and trepidation of realizing that we turned the wrong way down a one-way street, sin can be much more subtle, slowly creeping its way into our hearts and lives. Once it is established, the deception can take hold and cause our hearts to become callous and hardened and then enslave us to the extent that we become a justifier of our sin and even its defender.

*"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"* Jer. 17:9

*"But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."* Js. 1:14-15

Whether on the road or in our hearts, there is only one way of correction. We have to first admit our error. Next we have to stop moving in the direction we had been and actively turn and go the right way. This is the essence of repentance. Repentance is sincere regret or remorse for our wrongdoing. As it is sincere, it is accompanied by admission of our iniquity followed by the correction of our course.

At times in life, most of us

have experienced being caught in a misdeed, then admitting our wrong, yet didn't try to fix the issue going forward. Why is this? Is it because we weren't sincerely repentant? Was it that we didn't really regret our wrong, we just regretted that we were caught? When we are sincerely repentant, our heart will desire the right way.

As the driving instructor taught us how to watch for one-way streets ahead, God's word teaches us to watch for snares, both that lie ahead as well as those that may already entangle us. As we learn how to identify the traps, His word and Holy Spirit teach us how to sincerely repent so that by His mercy and grace, we can be made free!

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Ps. 119:105

*"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* Gal. 5:16

And as Jesus said to the Jews who believed in Him, *"If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; Any ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* John 8:31-32

K. Brock

## HOW DO I MAKE THE RIGHT DECISIONS?

*The following is 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.*

### Part 1 of 3

#### Practicing Rigorous Authenticity

Life is full of decisions. You might even say that life is a series of decisions. Some are easy, while others are more difficult. The results of these decisions vary greatly in their effect on our life and the lives of others. Some decisions will be life changing, even to the point where the destination of our souls is at stake.

So how do we make the right decision? How do we know if we are making the right decision? What if there isn't a wrong outcome to our decisions? Let's deep dive into this thought process.

There are three core principles that seem foundational to understanding how this works. The first is to practice rigorous authenticity (I John 1:7). The second is to surrender the outcome (Rom. 8:28; I Thes. 2:4; Col. 3:17). The third is to do the uncomfortable work (II Cor. 5:18). To be fair, there is a lot of overlap in these concepts, as there isn't really a clear delineation between them.

As we consider practicing rigorous authenticity, it's about going the extra mile in making sure that individuals you are communicating with are actually understanding the content, context, motive and meaning behind what you are talking about.

There are many times or situations where we are conditioned to accept the use of white lies. We hear a lie, and we just filter it, accept it and interpret what it means. We have gotten used to people lying to us. To a certain extent, we are conditioned to have you tell me what I want to hear rather than just telling me what is real. When you find someone that is real, truly authentic and transpar-

ent, it is very refreshing. Yet we may prefer to hear what is desirable to us as opposed to seeking the truth at all costs. Scripture talks a lot about walking in the light. *“Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.”* (Ps. 139:23) This is being searched and known at a very core level; being authentic and real all the way through.

To walk in the light, is to walk real, even if it is going to make me look bad, or even if it is to my own detriment. Am I willing to lay my reputation down and walk authentically and be real? That is who we are to be as Christians. True followers of Jesus will practice rigorous authenticity.

It is our carnal nature to filter our responses. We try to look ahead at the consequences of the response before we respond, rather than just tell the truth and surrender the outcome. How is this going to sound? How are they going to receive it? What are they going to think about me after they hear it?

We are pretty good at telling the truth, but sometimes we may slant it to make it not sound as bad as it is or in some way, lead the hearer to a different conclusion than what the raw and real truth would allow. This is seen in various areas of life. We have come to expect this level of lying and duplicity in the field of sales, but does this permeate our brother-to-brother relationships and conversations?

The spirit of self-preservation pride is at the root of this duplicity. We respond to others with a subconscious slant of protecting our reputation and attempt to lead others to think more highly of us than would be justified. It is a mask that we put on and in truth, we have gotten comfortable wearing it. It is actually hypocrisy. So what does it look like to live a truly authentic and transparent life? How do I overcome the fear of the required vulnerability?

To live that authentic, to live that real and raw, requires a lot of vulnerability. This really gets to just how surrendered I am to Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit in my life. Am I surrendered enough

to allow you to hurt me or to be hurt by anyone? Do I trust the Holy Spirit enough to surrender the outcome of any given conversation or situation? Am I willing to surrender what others think about me, how others see and perceive me? Am I willing to give up control of the outcome and surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit?

It comes down to this one question. Do I believe in and fully trust God? The purposeful surrendering of my security, my identity, of who I am as a child of God, to God. Another way to consider this is to allow Jesus to pull down the idol of the fear of man and replace it with His desire, the fear of the Lord. Vulnerability becomes a way of life for the true believer. Jesus is enough.

The fear of man was one of the biggest idols that I had to surrender to Jesus. One principle that has really been helpful for me is the stunning realization and truth that I am a son of God and that I can, without reservation or fear, trust that nothing can happen to me that doesn't first flow through my Father's fingers. Because my Father is good all the time, and only gives good gifts to His children (Matt. 7:11), nothing can or will ever happen to me that isn't for my ultimate good. The only prerequisite is that I actually am His son. He is able and willing to protect me in my raw vulnerability. God actually desires vulnerability for me because it exposes my weaknesses. It destroys self and lets Him do the work that He is wanting to do in my heart and life. We can rest in the identity of the righteousness that Jesus has imputed to us. It removes the fear and replaces it with peace. This cannot be overstated!

*To be continued in next month's issue of the Bible Monitor*

## **HOW GOOD?**

Brethren, how good and how pleasant is it for brethren to dwell together in unity! Ps. 133:1

Usually when people find

out that I am a Christian, or a preacher, I get an unsolicited comment like this, "I do not go to church, I find God in nature."

The fact is, God is in nature. A person can feel His Spirit in the lake or in the woods, but we are told to worship together in unity. Where is everybody else when you are in the woods? If the woods is the place to meet with God, why do we go alone? Why not take others along? It is a wonderful thing to share spiritual experiences with others.

The psalm writer knew the

importance of Children of God worshipping together. It is like sacred ointment flowing down, or the dew of the morning. It soothes and refreshes. The community of believers worship God and walk in the Word, and we support each other in good times and in bad. Being united in the Spirit and united in the physical is the most wonderful situation. We are doubly blessed.

Lo! what an entertaining sight  
Are brethren that agree!  
Brethren, whose cheerful hearts unite  
In bands of piety!

When streams of love from Christ the spring  
Descend to every soul,  
And heav'nly peace, with balmy wing,  
Shades and bedews the whole;

'Tis like the oil, divinely sweet,  
On Aaron's reverend head  
The trickling drops perfumed his feet,  
And o'er his garments spread.

'Tis pleasant as the morning dews  
That fall on Zion's hill,  
Where God his mildest glory shows,  
And makes his grace distil.

*Issac Watts*

Lynn H. Miller  
Newmanstown, PA

## IS THAT REALLY WHAT IT SAID?

Whatever Jesus was, He certainly was not a religionist. Throughout his whole ministry, He came against the religionists who tried to modify His work to conform to their agenda. I wonder how many times Jesus really got tired of these religionists getting in His face and trying to get him to do that which was applicable to their religionist viewpoint?

Throughout His ministry, Jesus did what was necessary to help people who were hurting. One important thing we get from the life of Jesus is that He helped people despite some objections. I know we can get off balance with this idea of helping people and putting everything else aside, but an important thing in Jesus' life was reaching out to people who normally would not have been reached out to; people who the Pharisees would certainly have ignored and did on a consistent basis.

Consider, for example the parable of the Good Samaritan. The religionists ignored the needs of the hurting, while the Samaritan came and helped as best he could. The Samaritan had every reason not to help

but he helped anyway despite the inconvenience.

If you would listen to the Pharisees, you would never have enough time left over to do anything. They had so many rules and regulations and if you did not abide by all of them, you were an outcast. Just ask the blind man that Jesus healed (John 9).

Sometimes we get all caught up in what we should or should not do that we fail to have any time left over to do what needs to be done. That is the problem with religionists. If the Pharisees had known what Jesus was really doing, I do not think they would have objected to it. It appears that they were so focused on their agenda and their reputation that they could not see anything good in the life of Jesus. They looked on Him as a threat, and, of course, He was in the long run.

This brings me to the point that sometimes there is a danger of interpreting God's word in the context of our culture. At times, we might allow our culture, the religious aspect, to dictate what we can and cannot do. We are called to be followers



of Jesus. We need to have such a passion for lost people like Jesus had, that we will do anything and everything in order to reach them. We must not allow popular opinion to hinder us in any regard.

It was the apostle Paul who said, *"For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh"* (Rom. 9:3). The fact of the matter is, Jesus already died and we are now messengers to go out into a lost world and tell people that the solution to their problem is Jesus Christ.

Sometimes I hear people quoting verses of scripture out of context. I guess the most infamous one to me is, *"the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). Usually, it is put in the political context. That could not be more misused or misinterpreted. The implication of that verse is the truth, which is, of course, Jesus Christ will make you free from the threats of the world around us. The freedom that we need is the freedom from all of these rules and regulations the religionists impose upon us in order to fulfill their agenda.

The saying goes that when something is repeated enough times, people begin to believe it. All you need to do is tell a lie over and over and over again and a certain group of people will begin believing that lie. Look back through history and see how many people have manipulated and dominated whole countries because of misrepresenting the truth. Simply put, a lie is twisting some aspect of the truth.

Jesus set the record straight that we are not here only to obey the laws as much as we are here to infiltrate our world and reach people who desperately need to be reached. The most desperate people are those who are ignored by the religionists. Just as the Pharisees ignored many people, their answer was that their rules and regulations do not allow them to do that, or they would. Well, of course they would.

No matter how many times Jesus explained what was happening, the Pharisees could not hear, because all they had in their ears was their rules and regulations in the sound of their own voice. If you study the Old Testament, you will find that the Pharisees, the Sadducees,

the scribes and all the religious leaders added to God's law over and over again until it was beyond the ability of the ordinary man to perform. Jesus Christ did not come to use the law to his advantage, but rather to fulfill the law and reach people that needed help.

Some people are so anxious to keep the letter of the law that they have somehow lost the spirit of the law. The law was never meant to enslave people, but rather direct them in a direction God wants them to go.

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.*

As we open the book of I John, we see a life of joy that comes with seeing God's handiwork in the lives that follow him! John is enjoying a delightful fellowship with God and he desperately desires that others enjoy that same fellowship!

We probably all experience, from time to time, a pull away from that sweet fellowship with God or those around us. Satan wants us to lose that joy, and to do so he tries to get our focus off our Heavenly Father and His plan for us. We easily find ourselves seeing our differences instead of the blessings in others.

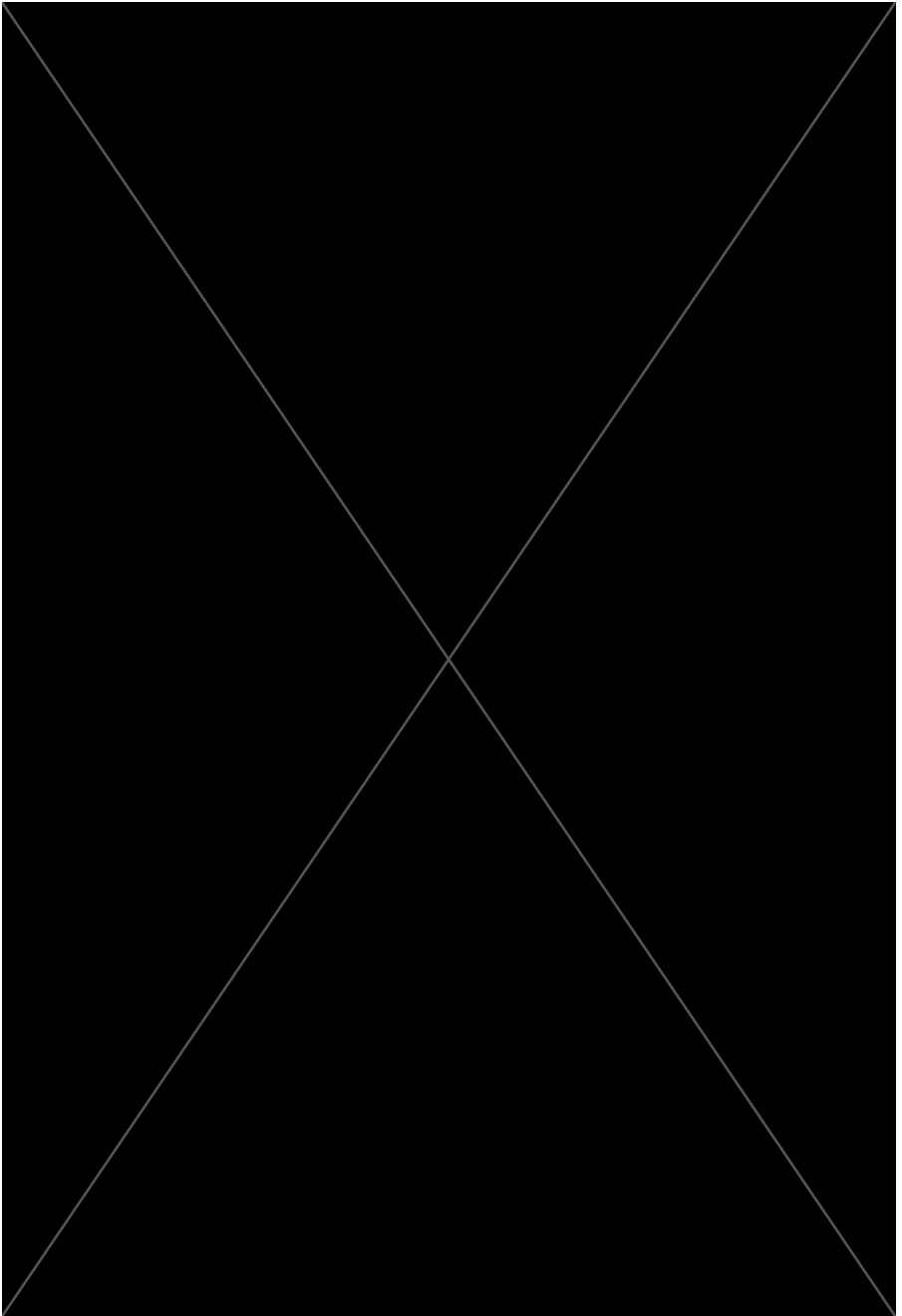
Often we need to step back

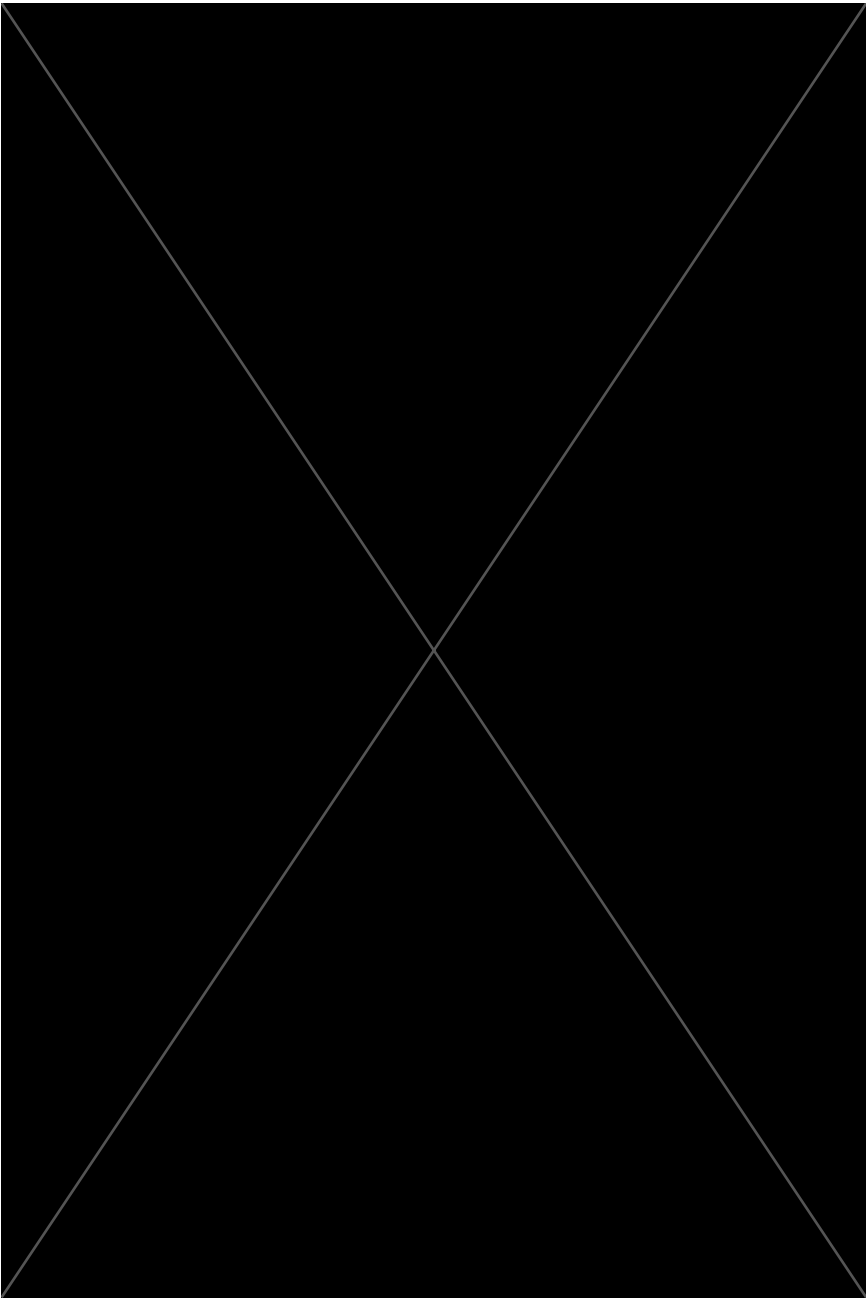
and ask, what is the reason for why I am placed here on earth? John's reason for joy was that he had seen God work and move in his life, and that He desired a close relationship with him!

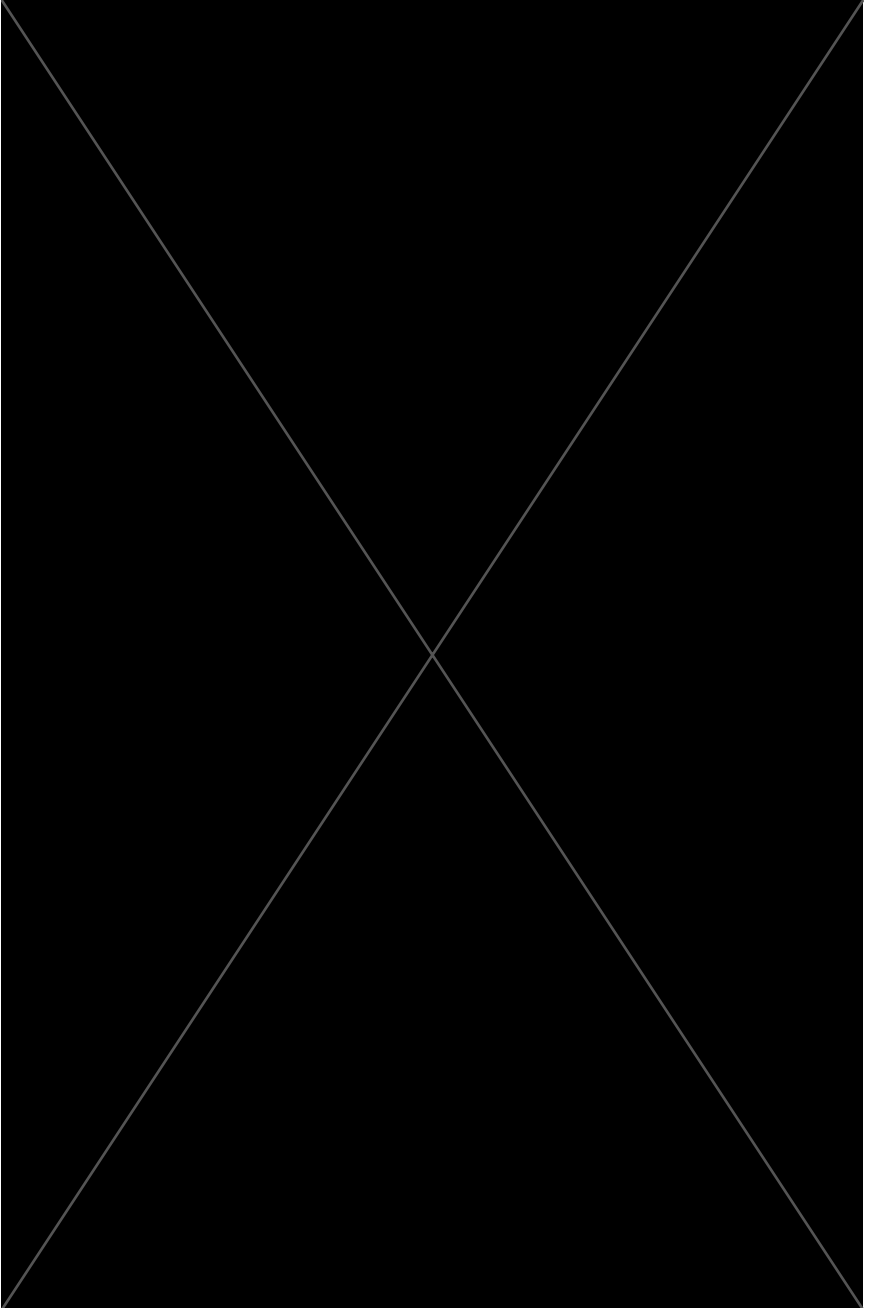
Let's not get our focus off the true reason that we are here today! And if we can daily commune in that calling, we will live our lives in joy beyond anything this world can offer!

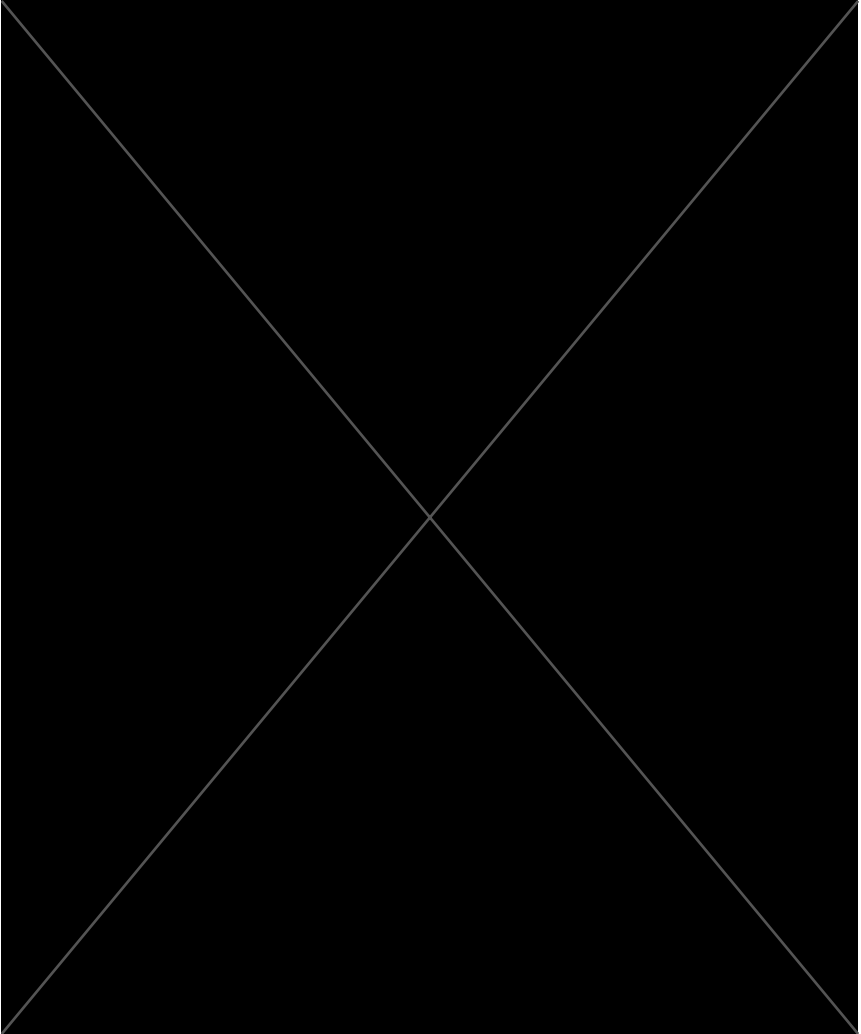
Let's not let our adversary steal our joy. Christ alone can bring true Joy! After all Christ is the author of JOY!

*On behalf of the Bible Study Board*  
Brother Caleb Heckman









## OBITUARIES

### **Myrtle Bashor**

Myrtle Elaine (Wise) Bashor was born on December 16, 1939, to William and Ruth (Fisher) Wise, in Modesto, California. She departed this life for her heavenly home on January 4, 2024, at Hospice House in Hughson, California at the age of 84 years and 19 days.

Myrtle had a happy childhood with her brother Marvin and many cousins and extended family members. She attended Ransom School just down the street from her parents' home and graduated from Modesto High School in 1957. She was united in marriage to William Michael Bashor on February 25, 1961, in Ceres, California. They shared almost 63 years of loving marriage together and were blessed with a son and three daughters. Myrtle was baptized on November 23, 1961, by her Uncle Howard Oyler and was a member of the West Modesto District of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church - New Conference at the time of her passing. Myrtle's life changed course dramatically when their firstborn daughter Marcia became ill, soon followed by their son Michael. This illness led to both Marcia and Michael living in care facilities for the majority of their lives. Marcia passed away at age 7 in 1971, and Michael at age 19 in 1984. Even though she suffered tremendous grief, she still had more love to give. In 1973 and 1979 she and Bill adopted two daughters, filling their home again with love and happiness.

In addition to being a loving mother to her children, Myrtle also enjoyed working at Salas Brothers Funeral Home alongside close family friend and cousin Lowell Beachler for 17 years. She was an amazing cook and baker and kept her home immaculately decorated for each season. Her grandchildren have many cherished memories of holidays, shopping dates and tea parties with grandma. Myrtle spent many hours relaxing along the coast, her special place to enjoy God's creation. She also treasured her dinners and weekend trips with a group of special friends. In the later part of her life, Myrtle suffered from the effects of dementia but always maintained her cheerful spirit and beautiful smile. In recent years, she spoke often of her loving parents and looking forward to seeing them again. The family would like to thank Susan Kelley and Lissa Holder for their loving care of our mother.

Myrtle will be missed and remembered by her husband, Bill; and two daughters, Melissa and husband Jon Brunk and Michelle and husband Adam Wilkinson; four grandchildren, Darcy Brunk, Clay Brunk, Tori and husband Alex Bowman, and Alexa Brunk; sisters-

in-law Peggy Wise, Betty and Henry Walker; brothers-in-law Jim and Connie Bashor, Tom and Jeannie Bashor; a host of cousins and friends and beloved dog Sami. She is preceded in death by her parents, parents-in-law William and Verta Bashor, brother Marvin Wise, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Martha Jean and Dan Skiles and two precious children, Marcia and Michael Bashor.

The funeral service was held January 12, 2024, at West Modesto Old German Baptist Brethren Church in Modesto, led by the home brethren of West Modesto. Burial followed at Wood Colony Cemetery.

### **Lizetta Bittinger**

Lizetta Anna Bittinger, 71, of Mount Solon (formerly of Oakland, Maryland), passed away unexpectedly on Monday, July 15, 2024, at Sentara RMH Medical Center, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

She was born on August 29, 1952, and was a daughter of the late Douglas and Dorothy (Vibbard) Rausch.

Lizetta had worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and had been a member of Dayton Dunkard Brethren Church. Her favorite hobby was quilting. Growing up, Lizette had worked on the family farm. She graduated from Southern High School in 1972

She was united in marriage to Lester Bittinger, who preceded her in death.

Lizetta is survived by sisters, Henrietta Lyons and Nora Paugh; brother, Miles Rausch; niece, Jane (Termite) Gank; nephews, Robert Moats, Douglas Lyons, and Kevin Lyons; and several great nieces and nephews.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by sister, Alma Cosner; and nephew, William (B.J.) Lyons, III.



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## NEWS ITEMS

### **New Minister**

At the Bethel congregation, Bro. Clint Alspaugh was elected to the Minister's office. Bro. Clint's address is 22 Wintersville Rd., Richland, PA 17087.

### **New Deacons**

Also, at the Bethel congregation, Bro. Jesse Alspaugh, Bro. Marcus Alspaugh, Bro. Scott Weaver and Bro. Grant Wolfe were elected to the Deacon's office.

Bro. Jesse's address is 430 Bordner Rd., Richland, PA 17078

Bro. Marcus' address is 352 Moyers Station Rd., Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

Bro. Scott's address is 667 Monroe Valley Drive, Fredericksburg, PA 17026

Bro. Grant's address is 461 Schubert Rd., Bethel, PA 19507

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. Clint & Sis. Rachel Alspaugh  
Bro. Jesse & Sis. Jessica Alspaugh  
Bro. Marcus & Sis. Kristy Alspaugh  
Bro. Scott & Sis. Laura Weaver  
Bro. Grant & Sis. Susanna Wolfe

### **Bethel, Pennsylvania**

Lord willing, the Bethel congregation's Fall Revivals will be September 15-22 with Bro. Mark Hawbaker from the Dallas Center, Iowa congregation as our evangelist. Please pray for Bro. Mark as he prepares and delivers the messages. Also please pray that we will be strengthened and that sinners will be saved. Morning ser-

vices on Sunday, Sept. 15 start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a basket lunch and 7 p.m. evening service. Weeknight services at 7:30 p.m. Morning services on Sunday, Sept. 22 start at 9:30 a.m., followed by a basket lunch and 2 p.m. concluding service. All are welcome!

Karen Gingrich, Cor.

### **Quinter, Kansas**

We, the Quinter Dunkard Brethren Church, issue an invitation to join us for our Fall Revival Meetings, September 25-29 with Bro. Paul Skiles from the Juniper Hills Congregation in New Mexico. Weeknight services will be at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, Examination service is at 11:00 a.m., followed by a planned lunch and Communion at 3 or 3:30 p.m. and fellowship time and a light supper afterwards. Sunday includes Sunday school at 10 a.m. with a preaching service at 11 a.m., followed by a planned lunch. A Sunday afternoon service is yet to be determined. Please pray with us as we look ahead to fellowship and spiritual growth through these meetings.

Beth Jamison, Cor.

### **Pine Grove, Pennsylvania**

You all are invited to Pine Grove Weekend Meetings, September 27-29 with Bro. Ray Stuber, from Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania. Services are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday evenings and at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning with a delicious basket lunch afterwards. Come praying and bring others!!

Rachel Noll, Cor.

### **CornerStone, Ohio**

All are welcome to join us for our annual Harvest Meeting, September 28-29 with Bro. Mike Wray, from Peru, Indiana. On Saturday evening, a service will be held at 7 p.m. On Sunday morning, Sunday school will be held at 9:30 a.m. with the concluding service at 10:30 a.m., followed by a carry-in lunch. Please pray for the Wrays as the meeting approaches. The CornerStone meeting house is located at 5430 Greenville Falls Rd., Covington, Ohio.

Arlene Rolle, Cor.

## **Women's Retreat**

Ladies...don't forget to mark your calendars for Women's Retreat October 4-5 at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, Indiana. Please join us for a time of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, worship (and excellent food!). This year's theme is "Women of Reconciliation" and the speakers are Jill Skiles, Marlene Oberholtzer and Bev Ann Bowman. Make sure to see the brochure for information regarding registration. Please pray for this year's retreat and for the speakers as they prepare.

## **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](mailto:ejbrock444@gmail.com). If you have any food allergies or restrictions, please let Evelyn know.

## **Revised Polity and Manual**

Both the Dunkard Brethren Church Polity and Manual were recently revised by action of General Conference 2024. Both of these revised documents are now available on the Dunkard Brethren website at <https://www.dunkardbrethrenchurch.com/>, in the "Publications" section.

## **Minutes in One Volume**

As decided by General Conference 2023, the Minutes from General Conferences 1976-2023 is now available on the Dunkard Brethren website.

On the website:

- Scroll down to "Publications"
- Click on "Learn More"
- In "Dunkard Brethren Church Minutes", click "Download"

This digital version of the Minutes is quite useful as the Table of Contents has a live feature. When a topic is selected, it will automatically take you to that section of the document.

A special thanks to Bro. Marvin Lorenz for the many hours he has invested in this project. Marvin continues work on this project to keep the digital version up to date with new conference Minutes and to incorporate the older Volume of Minutes (1927-1975) digitally.

### **Bible Monitor Archive**

Ever want information from a previous issue of the Bible Monitor, only to realize that you already pitched it? We might be able to help. Older digital issues of the Bible Monitor are now available on the Dunkard Brethren website. Currently, the digital archive consists of issues from 2018 through June 2024 and will be updated periodically. There is also a search function available within the archive.

On the website:

- Scroll down to “Publications”
- Click on “Learn More”
- In “Bible Monitor”, click “Bible Monitor”

## **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR October 2024**

### **Oct. 6 - I John 2:18-29 - Abiding in the Son and the Father is Always Present Tense**

1. In what ways are we being deceived today?

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2. What is the main difference between the believer and the unbeliever in these verses?

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3. How can we be prepared for Christ's second coming?

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**Oct. 13 - I John 3:1-9 - Not Yet, But When, We Will...**

1. Hope in Christ calls us to do what?

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2. What is sin?

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3. Can the new birth keep us from committing sin? How?

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**Oct. 20 - I John 3:10-20 - How to Know if You Have Passed from Death to Life**

1. What is hate? How does it affect humans?

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2. How do we, "Lay down our lives for the brethren," like in verse 16?

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3. Is it important to show love to those around us by our actions?

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**Oct. 27 - I John 3:21-4:6 - Test the Spirits**

1. When will God answer what we ask of Him?

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2. How do we, "Try the spirits?"

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3. What makes Christians overcomers?

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