

BIBLE MONITOR

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"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.

O LORD HOW FULL OF SWEET CONTENT

O, Lord, how full of sweet content
My years of pilgrimage are spent!
Where'er, I dwell, I dwell with thee,
In heav'n, in earth, or on the sea.

To me remains nor place nor time;
My country is in ev'ry clime;
I can be calm and free from care
On any shore since God is there.

While place I seek, or place I shun,
The soul finds happiness in none;
But with my God to guide my way,
'Tis equal joy to go or stay.

Could I be cast where thou art not,
That were indeed a dreadful lot:
But regions none remote I call,
Secure of finding God in all.

—Jennie M. B. Guyon

KING SAUL'S FAILURE

When God's chosen people decided to resist God's will, they chose to have a King rather than Samuel's ministry. Despite Samuel's misgivings and God's desire, He allowed what they wanted. Samuel secretly anointed Saul to be their King. At the time of Saul's coronation, he could not be found for he had hidden himself among the stuff. Perhaps that signaled his humility, or it may have shown that his heart desired stuff rather than serving the people.

After being king a short time, Saul lost his sense of humility, considering himself in control. Saul suffered from a common fault of humans: desire to be in control rather than yielding to God. Eventually he was rejected by God because he had failed to carry out His explicit orders when dealing

with the Amalekites. Previously, he had failed to wait until Samuel arrived to offer the sacrifice, which presaged civil authority trying to displace God's spiritual authority.

Samuel admonished Saul for his failures and warned that God had withdrawn his anointing. He was reminded that it was better to obey God rather than offering a sacrifice seeking forgiveness. How often have people attempted to cover their misdeeds with sacrifices of apology, money, or gifts rather than seeking repentance? Saul's life was clouded with mental anguish, spiritual failure, and moral decay.

We can benefit if we take warning from the missteps and sins of Saul. God has extended His grace and mercy toward us. Graciously, He provides the cure for our sins, mistakes, and

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provocations. He asks us to respond with love towards Himself and others. He loved us before we were even capable of loving Him.

We need to develop faith toward God to respond to what He provides for the eternal wellbeing of our souls and lives. That faith when matured will show by its obedience to His desires for our lives. That obedience is not a payment nor a sacrifice for our soul's salvation. Obedience is the natural result of faith operating within our hearts, minds, and souls.

In Micah chapter 6, the prophet writes, "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." God prefers these responses to His grace rather than sacrifices. He prizes obedient hearts that react from the impulse of our inner faith. He values humility that allows us to accept His will and direction. He prefers that we are not like Saul. He wants us to humble ourselves and allow Him to have His way with us in our lives.

In Matthew 11, Jesus speaks to the struggles and battles that limit our lives. Whether physical oppression or hardship, mental stress and foreboding, or spiritual battle or weakness, He offers the

rest, comfort, and satisfied service that comes only from Him. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30. Jesus offers to be yoked together with us. Our part is to humble ourselves allowing Him to bear most of the load. He already has done the hardest part of the work; He has borne our sins on Calvary.

The Apostle John further encourages us by sharing Who has provided for our redemption, salvation, and glorification. I John 5:1-3. Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed Savior, provided by God. When our faith grasps that great truth, we will be in a very special relationship. Faith brings our birth into God's family, which produces a love for all the family.

Our love for our Yokemate will inspire our obedience of His commandments. He has given those commandments for our spiritual benefit. Our obedience will not be hard, harsh, or grievous, although it may seem inconvenient at times. Thinking of Who God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are, why would they give us

commandments that we should find grievous?

The love, grace, mercy, and wisdom of God would dictate that all He would give to us would be given to provide spiritual blessings and expansion of the spiritual

benefits of being His child.

Are you willing to allow God to nudge you into the ways that not only please Him but also blesses and improves your spiritual life?

M. C. Cook

HALLOWEEN, SOMETHING A CHRISTIAN SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN?

I have been seeing a disturbing shift in "Christian" people in the last few years. I see more and more Christians participating in Halloween. It has been on my mind for some time and with it coming up the end of the month, I decided to put some of my thoughts on paper.

I see nothing but Satan in the beginnings of Halloween. It was the night of celebrating witches, demons, and the like. Like all things that come from the devil he has thrown in some "innocent" fun to make it appealing to those who should know better. Masks and costumes for example (no matter how cute or funny they may look), just fun and games right? They were originally put on to mimic or appease the evil spirits.

What part of hanging skeletons, witches, ghosts, disfigured and bloody bodies,

evil and darkness and so forth, would you as a Christian want to associate with? Ephesians 5:11 says, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." I see a direct contradiction with this verse and participating in this evil. We get a look at what God's opinion of a witch is in Exodus 22:18, "Thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."

In Deuteronomy 18:9-12, "When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you anyone that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do

these things are an abomination unto the Lord: and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee." Since our God is the same yesterday, today and forever we must conclude that if He thought these things were an abomination once, He still does.

Even the founder of the church of Satan, Anton Levey, said, "I'm glad that Christian parents let their children worship the devil at least one night out of the year."

The next few paragraphs are from an interview with an ex-witch named Carol Kornacki. Here is what she has to say about Halloween.

"I see images of Christians being slaughtered for their faith--blood everywhere, children--young adults--grown men/women willing to die rather than deny Christ---it takes my breath away.

"What I don't understand is when Christians celebrate Halloween, decorate with gory bloody images, put up skeletons and images of death and darkness, without a second thought! And they will argue and debate trying to make it okay and refuse to give up celebrating that night!

"I am an ex-witch, saved by the blood of Jesus Christ.

When I was practicing witchcraft, Halloween was the biggest night of the year for those practicing the occult. People try to say it's about the candy and fun, it goes way deeper than that!

"The roots of this highly pagan holiday remain the same, it's a night of death -- darkness -- gore -- and no matter how much you dress it up to make it pretty, no matter how many excuses you make, it's a night to celebrate Samhain -- the god of the dead!

"I don't recall those who practice paganism coming on Christmas morning to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ the Lord of life.

"Yet Christians will celebrate the pagan ritual of Halloween -- the god of death and darkness."

I believe that our children are the most precious gifts that God has entrusted us with and Satan eyes them as the most valuable "trophy" he can get. If they are truly a valuable gift, why would we for one second teach them that it is okay to dabble with the things of the devil? Why would we dress them up and deliberately put them on parade for the evil spirits to lust over and target them? Satan is looking for any and every place to get just a fingernail hold on their lives

and from there get a complete grasp on our souls. He would like nothing better than to ruin our children before they have a running start.

The idea of "trick or treat" is something that we should not even start with our children. It plants the seed that if you do not give me what I want I will "trick" you or damage your property. Children pick up the art of manipulation on their own, not only do we need to teach it OUT of them, we for sure need not to teach it TO them.

I don't say all this to be controversial or point fingers, but to encourage everyone to be vigilant. Maybe you have never thought about it from God's viewpoint and have done it innocently. If you are a parent preparing your child to participate in Halloween, I encourage you to seek out God's will through scripture. Sit down with your

child and explain why we do not do these things. A little sadness and disappointment now, is better than losing them to Satan. If you are a church leader where your church is planning a Halloween event, please step up and stop this open celebration of the darkness!!

If you have participated in trick or treat, or Halloween parties, either as a child or as an adult, these actions need to be taken to the cross, repented of and put under the blood of Jesus. Participation in these activities, whether done innocently or otherwise, has left open a door to the evil spirit world and they see it as an open invitation into your life.

God bless you as you put on His whole armor and fight the darkness!!!

Brother Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE THERE IS NO COMPETITION

"So neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour." I

Corinthians 3:7-8

There is no competition in Christian work. It is God's work, we merely follow. If others are more successful than we are, we need to rejoice with them. If others have greater gifts, we must thank God for

them. We must pray that through our work we give honor and glory to Him. All we are, after all, are unprofitable servants. Whatever we do, God gives the increase.

We must pray for those other workers, and encourage them however we can, because we are workers together with Christ. We pull in the same direction. We push in the same direction. There

Enter, Jesus bids thee welcome
In the fulness of His grace;
With this hand of love, we give thee
In our hearts the warmest place:
Hence together
Let us run the Christian race.

Trials hard may oft beset thee,
Crosses fill the path you trace,
But a victor's palm awaits thee;

is no pulling or pushing in opposite directions.

Experience has shown us that divisions and church fights are usually a result of power struggles. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. There is no difference. With Jesus at the forefront, and His followers following, "Let us run with patience the race that is set before us." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

Slacken not thy heavenward pace:
Firm together,
Let us run the Christian race.

Welcome then to joys and sorrows,
Every foe and danger face;
God is with us, we shall triumph,
Hallelujah to His grace!
O what glory,
Crowns the blessed Christian race!

—*Sidney Dyer, 1883*

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Mohler's Congregation

THE TALE NOT OFTEN TOLD

Charlie was a retired missionary from North Africa when I first met him. His wife had died several years before and when I first knew him, he was very discouraged. He would walk into church on a Sunday and the atmosphere

would almost plunge.

As I got to know Charlie, I began to understand his discouragement. His wife and he spent their entire missionary service and did not see one person come to Christ. Their ministry was in a Muslim area

of North Africa. According to Charlie, his life was a complete failure. Nothing I or anybody else in the church could do would encourage him.

Then, one Sunday we had a missionary conference, and the speaker was from North Africa. When he came, he asked me if Charlie was a part of our church. When I answered him in the affirmative, he wanted to know if we could go and visit with Charlie. I figured maybe it would encourage Charlie, but I was not holding my breath.

Arriving at Charlie's house we were greeted and invited to come in and sit down in the living room. The missionary stood up and said, "Charlie, I bring greetings to you from _____. Then he listed names that I could not even pronounce and said something that brought tears to Charlie's eyes.

"Charlie, these men wanted me to tell you how much they appreciated your ministry and each one of them are Christians today because of what you and your wife did. These men that I bring greetings to you are elders in the church."

Charlie broke down and

cried like I have never seen him cry before. It was the turning point in Charlie's life. It was then he realized his life and ministry along with his wife's was not a failure. From then on it was impossible to keep Charlie from smiling when he came to church on Sunday.

The reason people think their life is a failure is because they do not have the whole picture. Charlie only had a portion of a picture, but when he saw the whole picture, he realized how God had used him.

The devil delights to discourage us, but when our faith and trust is in Jesus Christ, the devil can never defeat us. If we are doing what God has called us to do, we do not have to see the whole picture. Yes, it is encouraging when we do see some consequences of our ministry. That is not necessary. There will be a day when we will see the whole picture and that will be when we are in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ himself.

I believe that is why it is important to encourage people to really respond to God's call in their life. It is not always easy, and you will not always

see the impact that you are having. The important thing is to know that you are where God wants you to be, doing what God wants you to do.

Remember, God does not call the qualified, but He qualifies the called. And God calls us for His purposes and not ours.

This is something quite difficult for us to get a hold of. We need to understand God is calling us into His work, we are not calling God into our work to bless our work. Unfortunately, many people think that way. Our prayers reveal the truth that our work is what is important, and we want God to bless our work.

The important thing is that we have been called to do God's work. And I think the beginning part is that we need to get ourselves in a position where we can hear God speak to us and call us to His work.

Once we have that call in our hearts and understand God is calling us to His work we then can respond quite positively. I do not have to rely upon the circumstances or even the outcome of my work if I understand that it is God's work, and He is really

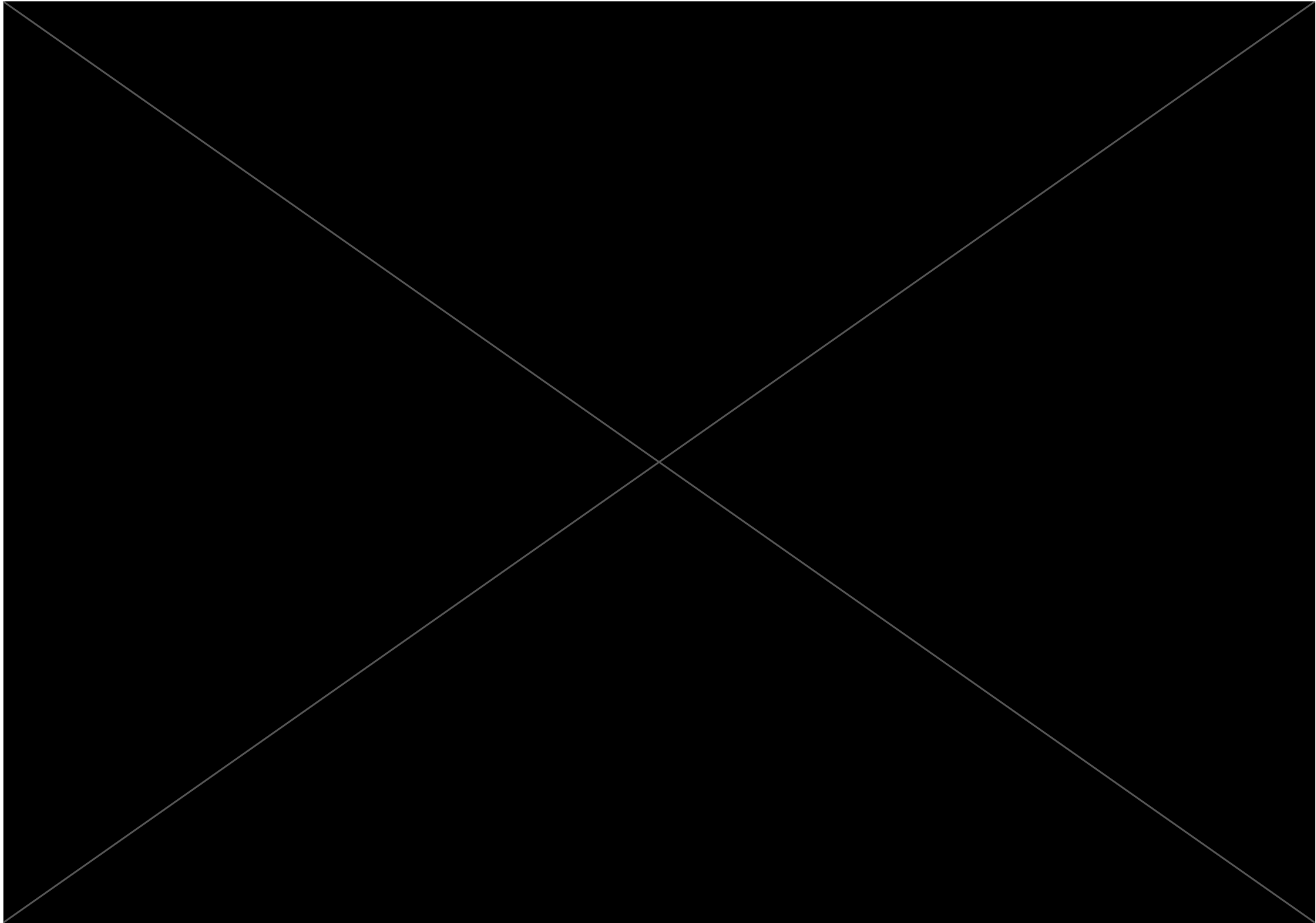
in charge. It is wonderful to really trust God when you do not have any tangible reasons to trust God.

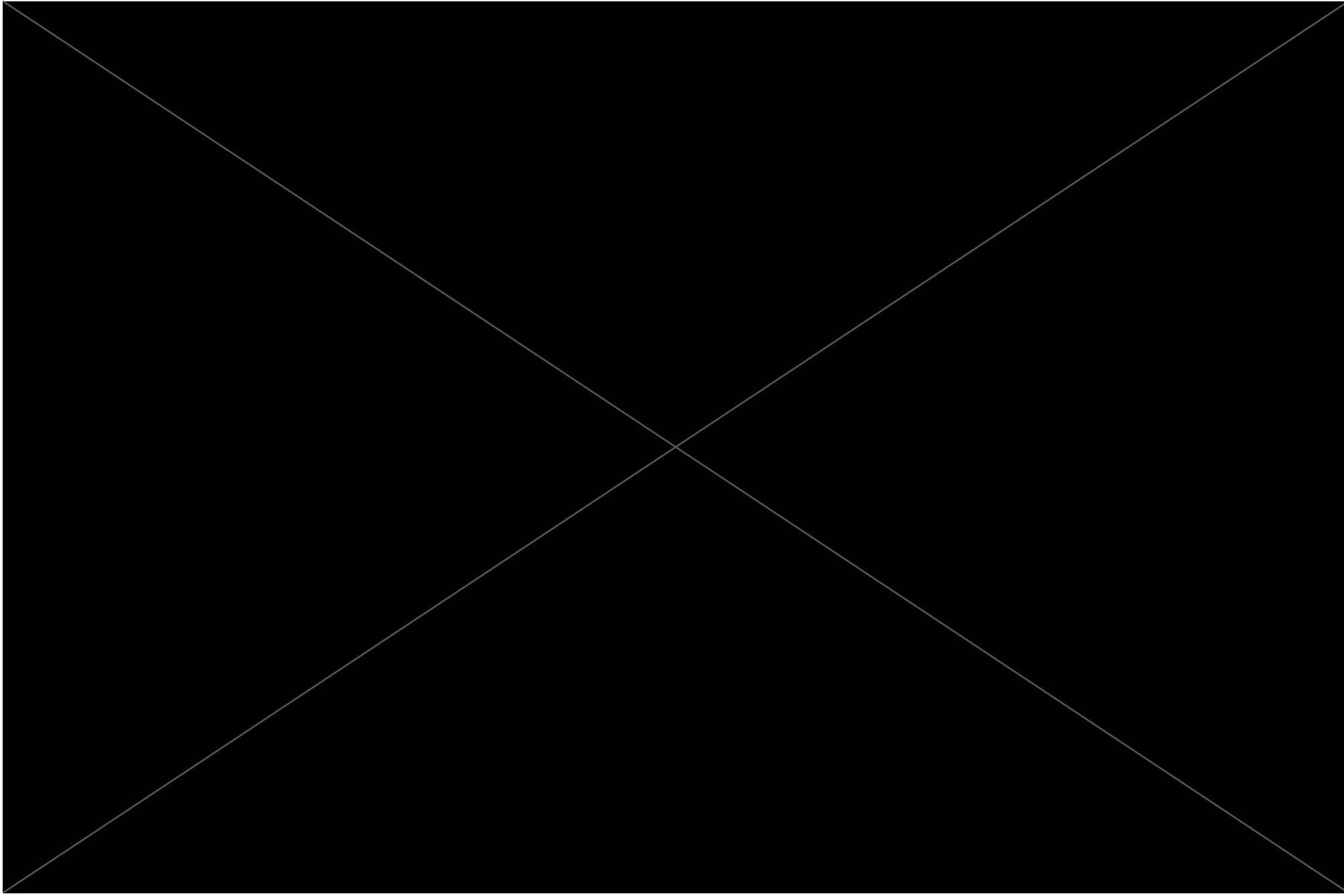
Along with that comes the aspect of allowing God to direct us. Because it is God's work, He is the one that is in charge, and He is the one that is directing us to where He wants us to be. If I am where He wants me to be I will have all the resources necessary to do the work for His glory.

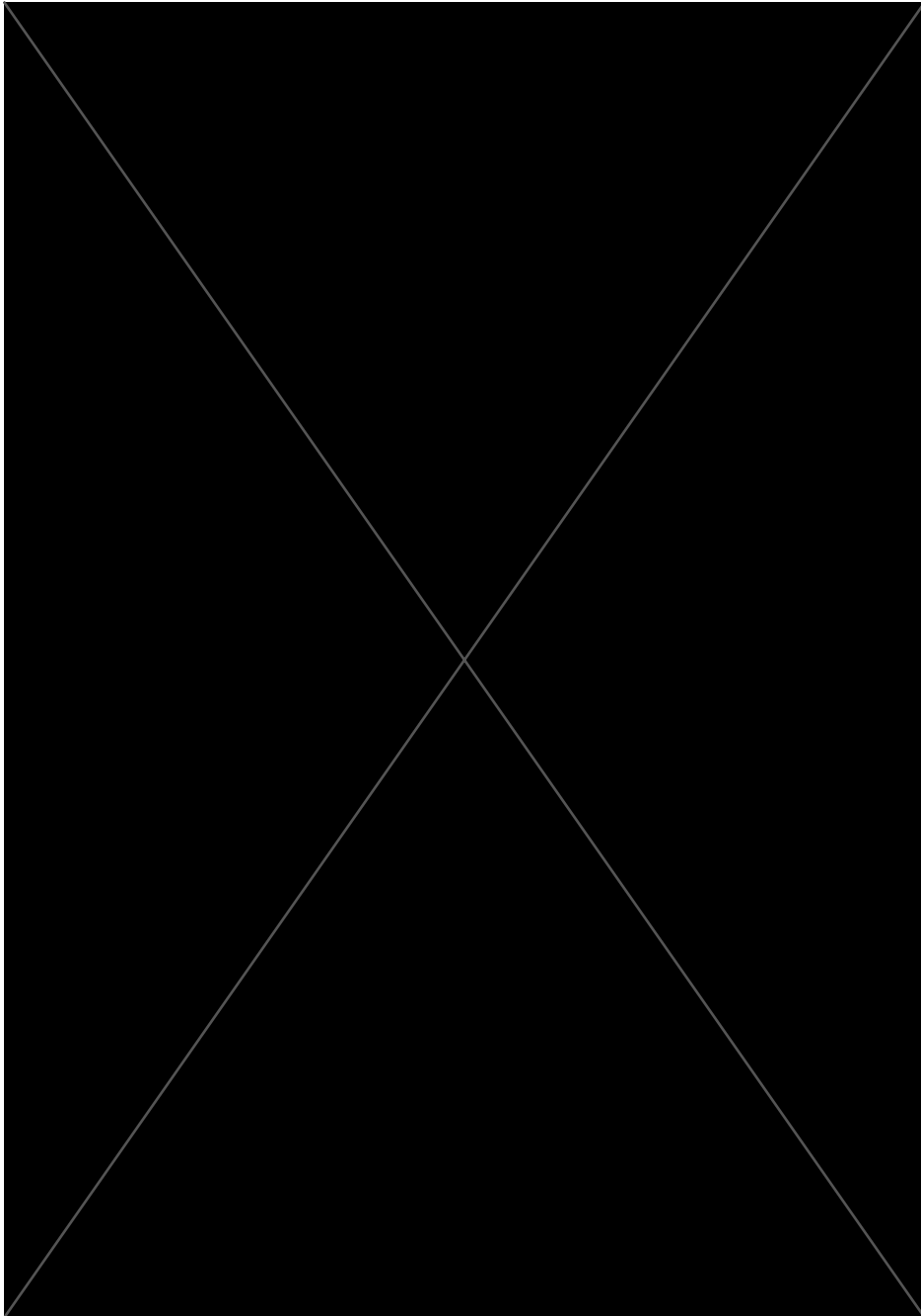
That brings me to the last aspect, which is trusting the outcome to His grace. Since it is God's work, He is the one who will be the final evaluator of the work. I may not know the total picture and therefore I am not qualified to evaluate how God is using me. I need to trust God in this area.

Very often, we hear success stories, and we can appreciate all that God is doing. However, behind every success story is a story we never hear because, like Charlie, we do not really know the outcome and are not qualified to make any kind of an evaluation.

James L. Snyder
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HE SAW THE SON OF GOD

Rudy Cover

John 9:1-41

A long time ago a man was born blind. He couldn't see anything. As a child he never saw the blue sky, the sunshine, the stars at night, or the moon. He didn't know what a flower looked like, or a bird, or all the beautiful colors. What must it be like to be blind? Those of us who have good eyes and can see, cannot realize what blindness is. Even if we were to go blind, we would know what it was to have seen — but this man had never seen.

Doctors could not help this man, but he was a very fortunate person. One glad day Jesus passed his way. The disciples were along, and they asked Jesus, "Who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither has this man sinned nor his parents."

Then Jesus spat on the ground and made clay and put the clay on the eyes of the blind man and said, "Go wash in the pool of Siloam." I don't know how he got to this pool of water. Maybe he had friends who helped him, but he did go

and wash the clay from his eyes, and he could see! Surely this had to be the happiest day of the man's life. Now he could see his mother and father and friends. How wonderful it was!

His neighbors just couldn't believe it. Some even thought he was another man that looked like him, but he said, "I am he."

It was the Sabbath day when the man received his sight, and the Jews were very careful about what they did on the Sabbath. They asked him how he had received his sight and the man said, "A man that is called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said, 'Go to the pool of Siloam and wash: and I went and washed and I received sight.'"

This was just too much. They took the man to the Pharisees. Surely the rulers could understand and explain. The Pharisees asked him how he had received his sight and he told them the same thing. Then some said of Jesus, "This man is not of God because he keepeth not the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man that is a

sinner do such miracles?" Then they asked the man, "What do you say of him who opened your eyes?" The man said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews were not convinced that the man had been born blind, so they asked his parents, "Is this your son who was born blind? How does he now see?" They answered them, "We know this is our son and that he was born blind: but by what means he now sees, we know not. He is of age; ask him."

Then the Jews said to the man, "Give God the praise; we know that this man, who you say healed you, is a sinner." The man answered, "Whether he be a sinner, I know not: one thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see."

They kept asking the man how he was healed, and the man said, "Will you also be his disciples?" This really upset them, and they replied, "You are his disciple; but we are Moses' disciples." The man said, "Why herein is a marvelous thing that you don't know where it is from. We know that God doesn't hear sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth His will, him He heareth. Since the world began it was not heard

that any man opened the eyes of one born blind! If this man were not of God, he could do nothing."

The Jews would not believe in Jesus, and they cast the man out of the synagogue and said, "You were altogether born in sin, and do you teach us?"

Jesus heard that they had cast him out and when He found the man, said unto him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" The man said, "Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on Him?" And Jesus said, "You hath both seen Him and it is He that talks with you." The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Jesus.

The man who had been born blind received his sight. He could see the many beautiful and wonderful things around him but the greatest thing that he or anyone could see was Jesus. He saw the Son of God.

The man who had been born blind was made whole by the healing power of Jesus. He believed that Jesus was the Son of God. If we believe in Jesus and do what He has commanded us, someday, we too can see Him face to face.

Selected from the
March 15, 1981
issue of the Bible Monitor

CASTING OUT THE BEAM AND PULLING OUT THE MOTE

B. E. Kesler

Once upon a time a certain woman was brought to Jesus with the accusation that she was "taken in adultery, in the very act." Whether brought by force or without resistance we are not told, perhaps by force for had she been a party to the plot Jesus would have known it and would not have exonerated her.

Anyhow, they said, "Moses commanded us, that such should be stoned, but what sayest thou?" And with an air of self-righteousness, they waited for his reply. He was a little slow in answering. So "they continued asking", perhaps thinking they had him puzzled. Finally, he lifted himself up from his writing on the ground and said, "He that is without sin among you, let him cast the first stone at her." How they must have cringed, "being convicted by their own conscience."

As he continued writing, one by one they slipped out until the last one of them was gone. Lifting himself up again he said to the woman, "Where are thine accusers?" Without waiting for her answer, he continued, "hath

no man condemned thee?" She said, "No man Lord." "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more."

Now Jesus did not mean to condone sin in the woman, but to uncover the hypocrisy of her accusers. Comparatively their sin was a beam compared with hers as a mote. They were not only guilty of sin as great as hers but added to this was their hypocrisy of which each was conscious and constituted the beam of which each was self-convicted.

To those self-righteous hypocrites, Paul would say, "Thou that sayest a man (or woman) should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery?" An old adage says, "Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones." So those Scribes and Pharisees, self-condemned took the hint, and not a stone was cast. Their sin may not have been adultery but something equally bad, and, if so, they had no pretext upon which to throw stones. Anyhow, no stones were cast.

One of the weaknesses of mankind is to see the faults of others; and, at the same time, be

unconscious or oblivious to their own. And how much bigger the sins of others look when seen through our eyeglasses, when at the same time, that huge beam in front of our optic nerve may greatly obscure our vision.

It always looks cowardly and hypocritical for a man as guilty as the bunch, to "turn state's evidence" upon which his pals are convicted while he goes free, though guilty as the rest.

A brother or sister may have some special gift or accomplishment, natural or acquired, and may use it at a time, place, or in such a manner as to arouse a spirit of envy in me. At once that ugly old beam of jealousy looms up and how inexcusable and detestable the conduct of this brother or sister looks from behind this beam in my eye of which I may or may not be conscious. Me thinks Paul would say to me, "Thou that seest the mote in thy brother's eye, canst thou not see the beam that is in thine own?" Or as Jesus would perhaps put it, "Physician, heal thyself."

In all domestic, civil, and religious troubles, by which families are broken up, neighbors estranged, friendships alienated, strifes engendered,

churches disrupted, brethren are at variance and confidence destroyed, it will be found that beams and motes have figured more or less largely and beams most largely.

Strict adherence to established principles of right is to be commended, but to be sticklers for trivial things, things about which honest minds may differ, is not conducive to peace and harmony. At the same time some things may be lawful but not expedient; and while my brother should not do or say anything to cause me to stumble or be offended, yet my feelings should not be so sensitive as to cause me to stumble or be offended over trivial things or minor weaknesses in my brother. In such case a large dose of charity would work wonders in both of us. In him, not to do anything by which my feelings would be disturbed, in me, not to allow my feelings to be ruffled at little mistakes in my brother.

"In many things we offend all", we are told. This being true, and he that is without sin is to cast the first stone, mudslinging, fault-finding, and stone throwing will soon become lost arts.

Nothing is easier than fault finding. No faith, no hope, no

charity, no consciences, no self-respect, no brotherly love, no knowledge, no sympathy is required to do a good job of it. It is often accompanied by slander, villainy, back-biting, reproach, evil reports, evil speaking and lying.

Let's cast out the beams,

stop magnifying ant hills into mountains, sweep before our own doors, then we may do effective work in pulling out motes, if any are discovered.

Selected from the
October 15, 1931
issue of the Bible Monitor

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

J. F. Britton

In the third chapter of the Gospel of Saint John, we have an account of a very influential, and noted man, whose name was Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who came to Jesus with great compliments and recognitions. But Jesus responded in very piercing explicit and positive terms. "And said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he can not see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus was so stunned, and confused, that he asked, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?" Jesus answered, "Veril, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom

of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again."

In these Scriptures Jesus sets forth in unmistakable terms the new birth or regeneration. The phrase in the 5th verse, "I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God", shows that Jesus had reference to a Spiritual birth. And, by virtue of Adam's transgression in the garden of Eden, he incurred Spiritual death on himself and his posterity. Hence Paul says, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (I Cor. 15:22.)

The word born, means brought forth or into being,

as offspring which is clearly expressed in the explanations of regeneration, and conversion. Therefore, it stands to reason that man in his carnal unregenerated state, is unfit for citizenship with the Redeemed. Hence Jesus, who said, "The words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are Life." Jno. 6:63, said, "Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again."

And God, through Jesus has ordained that man must be recreated, and this re-creation comes by faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. Hence Conversion means, the turning or total change of a sinner from his sins to God. God is the author of this change, by an infusion of faith, repentance, love, and grace in the soul, which brings about an invisible confluence with the sinner and the Holy Spirit, whereby he is inducted or born through baptism into the Kingdom of God. Regeneration denotes the change and renovation of the soul by the Spirit and Grace of God, and is called the new birth, and consists in the infusion of Spiritual life in the soul and is inducted or born through baptism into the visible Kingdom of God.

The reader should carefully note that Jesus did not say, ye must be born of CIVIC righteousness and SOCIAL regeneration, nor "Of Blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of "GOD". (Jno. 1:13.) Therefore, it stands to reason that the great International Movement that is so elaborately emphasized and stressed at the present time is just a little too short at each end, and not quite long enough in the middle to land their constituents safely upon the Evergreen Shore, where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. For no stream can rise higher than its level or fountain.

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be." (Rom. 8:7.) Hence there is no other way, but the way specified in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 3:11.) Jesus gives the true interpretation of the new birth or life, when he said, men do not "Put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out and the bottles perish; but they

put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved." (Matt. 9:17.)

No wonder Peter says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." (I Pet. 1:23.) Therefore, it should be borne in mind that

there is no salvation out of Christ, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Gal. 3:27.) "Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again." Amen.

Selected from the
October 1, 1931
issue of the Bible Monitor

JOY FILLS MY HEART?

Howard J. Surbey

"And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11. God sent great joy to all people and this great joy is still offered to all people if we will only accept Him. We could go to great length with thoughts and quotations of great joys offered unto us, and why they should be great joys for us. However, we ask each one to think on this themselves, while we proceed to note a few important joys which we all should be enjoying.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my

Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." John 14:23. Without a question the hope of salvation is our greatest joy. If we are fully convinced that we have this hope, most everything in life will be a joy to us because it brings us closer to realizing this hope. The method of getting this hope of salvation is simply stand by our Lord and Saviour. If a man love me, what can keep us from loving Him when He first loved us and made things so easy for us. Naturally it follows that if we love Him, we will keep His words. This injunction, with its many problems is made easier because we have the Holy Spirit, to guide us in the way of truth. If we know that

the Father loves us and that the Godhead will come and abide with us, why should we not have joy in our heart?

“That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” I John 1:3. It should be a great joy to us and a reason for much thankfulness, that the Apostles declared unto us the things which they saw and heard while with Christ. The privilege of fellowship with those of like precious faith should bring much joy to each of us. Through the church which Christ established, we not only have fellowship with one another but also with Christ and with God. Are not we privileged mortals, and should not we joyfully praise God for our blessings?

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.” Luke 15:7. Sin and punishment do not bring joy but when we have the privilege to repent, restore, be forgiven and once more recognized with those who are free, it brings

us much joy. If repentance and forgiveness of sins is so important that it brings joy in heaven, should it not bring great joy in our hearts? God cannot look upon sin, but He is well pleased with those who will repent and come unto Him. Is this not a joyful privilege which we have upon this earth?

“For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him (Christ) therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.” Heb. 13:14-15. What a joy are worldly things if we never know when they will be taken away from us, or when we will be taken away from all things earthly? Do you think God is pleased with any other praise than joyful praise? We have many, many reasons to joyfully praise Him, do we do it? Continually?

Christ prayed for us, “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou loved me before the foundation of the world.” John 17:24. Should the petition of our Saviour give us joy? Will these preparations for

us be a joy? Dear reader I feel this joy will be so wonderful that our carnal minds cannot realize its value. “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” Rev. 21:4. This prophecy alone shall fill our hearts with joy unspeakable. All things which hinder our joy will be taken away.

Many things in this life which might look pleasing, satisfying and perhaps joyful, but they only last for a moment and usually

bring great sorrow later. Please read Rom. 1:29-32. How many of these things have hindered joy in your heart? True joy comes from hearts which are in fellowship with God. Joy fills my heart because I have tried to allow the Lord to have His way in my life; to reveal to me what He is to mankind and what joys are realized in His service; and what is in store eternally for those who unreservedly love and serve Him.

Selected from the
October 15, 1961
issue of the Bible Monitor

OBITUARIES

NATHANAEL FIDLER

Bro. E. Nathanael “Nate” Fidler, 51, of Manheim, Pennsylvania passed away on July 31, 2021, at his residence. Born in Mount Joy, Pennsylvania, he was the son of David Fidler of Manheim, Pennsylvania, and the late Naomi (Shirk) Fidler. Nate was the husband of Michele (Castle) Fidler with whom he would have celebrated twenty-eight years of marriage this coming October 30, 2021.

Surviving in addition to his wife, Michele and father, David, are three children, Alyssa Meyers, wife of Devin of Cuba, New Mexico, Derrick Fidler and Cody Fidler of Manheim, Pennsylvania; two granddaughters, Alana and Leia Meyers; and five siblings, David Luke Fidler, husband of Tammy of Gap, Pennsylvania, Priscilla Stolfus, wife of Mark of Gap, Pennsylvania, Lois Wingert, wife of Wayne of Berkley Springs, West Virginia, James Fidler, husband of Leah of Manheim, Pennsylvania, and Joanna Meyers, wife of Nevin of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

A funeral service honoring Nate's life was held on August 6, 2021, at the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church. Interment was in the Mennonite Cemetery (adjoining the church).

GERALD L. ROYER

Gerald Lavern Royer was born February 23, 1936, to Nathan and Grace (Moss) Royer at home near Dallas Center, Iowa, where he also entered his eternal rest, August 26, 2021.

Gerald chose to surrender his life to God twenty-four hours before he met his Lord. The peace and joy he experienced was wonderful!

Gerald grew up as a farm boy which included farming the land and milking cows. He continued this occupation most of his life. Gerald milked cows for over fifty years, which included helping milk cows for neighbors when they were on vacation. He did crop farming until 2018.

Gerald was always ready to lend a helping hand, whether it was neighbors needing help with crops or others needing his services. He was there and quietly assisting in the need. He also gave his sound advice when asked.

Over the years he was a "father" to many foster children.

He was preceded in death by his parents, "Auntie" Anna Mary Winger (who helped raise him) and sister, Mary Ellen Chupp. He is survived by a loving sister, Lois Royer who faithfully served him until his death, brother Elden (Judy) Royer of Adel, Iowa, brother-in-law Alvin Chupp, foster son Steven Luce; nephews, Dan (Darlene) Chupp, Don (Mabel) Chupp, Anthony (Lynn) Royer, Duane Royer, Brian (Susanna) Chupp, and Ryan (Charmaine) Chupp; nieces, Cynthia Chupp (Nathan) Keeny, Brenda Royer (Chris) Handel, and Laura Chupp(Sam) Dinius; thirty five great nephews and nieces and twenty five great-great nephews and nieces.

We were blessed to have him in our lives. We will miss him but are very thankful we will see him again in heaven!

Funeral services were held August 30, 2021, at the Dunkard Brethren Church, Dallas Center, Iowa with Bro. Jim Meyers and Bro. Kevin Funk officiating, burial following in the Brethren Cemetery, Dallas Center, Iowa.

WHO IS GERALD?

Who is Gerald?

Someone might say.

He is my uncle.

God made it that way.

Who is Gerald?

Someone might ask,

He's someone who is quiet,

But dependable to the task.

Who is Gerald?

Someone might say,

He's someone who cares,

His own special way.

Who is Gerald?

Someone might ask.

He's someone who likes history,

And that is a fact.

Who is Gerald?

Someone might say,

He is someone who helped

With many children,

Who came his way.

Who is Gerald?

Someone might ask.

He loved to farm

That was his favorite task,

Where is Gerald?

Some might want to know,

In HEAVEN with Jesus

At last, we know.

—Laura Dinius

LETTER TO THE CONGREGATIONS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Greetings from the Church Growth Board in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We pray that you are well in the Lord and feeling His grace and grip on your life.

During General Conference 2018, Standing Committee approved the formation of the Church Growth Committee to explore how the brotherhood could do better at supporting our small or needy congregations and forming new ones. After a year of research, the committee received more direction from Standing Committee and spent the next year putting together a framework for how to proceed. As you may be aware, a query was submitted through Fourth District for General Conference 2020 and action was taken this year to turn the committee into the Church Growth Board. This letter is to help explain the purpose of the board and some goals we hope to accomplish.

The Dunkard Brethren Church has both the responsibility and the privilege of promoting the Kingdom our Lord Jesus established. The Church Growth Board's mission is to facilitate the growth of the Kingdom of Heaven through church planting and help for existing small congregations. As Anabaptist believers, we desire that this vision for growth will guide us as it did the early New Testament Church. The CGB's wish is to provide support to church planters or helpers in any way we can. (For example: providing information about the cost of living, local jobs, land/home values, cultural differences, searching out the area, and so forth.) On a case-by-case basis, we can potentially help those who feel called to move but need some limited financial support. Individuals who would like the support of the CGB must work with and be approved by the Board. This Board has not been formed to function as a "gate-keeper" that members must go through. In other words, anyone is still welcome to move to a smaller church or to plant a new Dunkard Brethren congregation if led to do so, with the blessing of their local leadership. They do not need to be approved by the CGB if they have all the resources they need. We will only assist when asked.

As the first members of the CGB, we are excited about this new outreach within the brotherhood and are praying that the Holy Spirit will move in a mighty way. Please join the Church Growth Board in prayer for guidance, direction, and the ability to hear the voice of the Lord. We also ask that you seek God's will about providing financial support for this new board. If you feel led by the Lord to give, please contact Brother Mark Andrews for details. Any input you wish to share concerning congregations that need support or potential locations for church plants would be welcome.

Eph. 3:20-21, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

Please feel free to reach out to the CGB if you have questions or if we can help in any way. God bless you in His service!

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NEWS ITEMS

2021 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The 2021 Leadership Conference will be held, November 11-14, 2021, and will begin with the Anabaptist Awareness Symposium on Sexual Abuse in Ephrata, Pennsylvania. The Symposium will take place at the Ephrata Business Center, 400 West Main Street in Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

Thursday is formulated as a pre-conference for church leaders, while the ladies will fellowship together in planned activities. As our wives join us on Friday and Saturday, the Symposium will focus on the many different problems and Christlike responses to sexual abuse. The Symposium is scheduled for a full day on Friday from 9:30 A.M. until approximately 8:30 P.M. and on Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until approximately 3:30 P.M. Meals will be provided at the Symposium for the men on Thursday evening, and for the men and women on Friday (lunch and supper) and on Saturday (lunch).

On Saturday as the venue switches to the Lititz church, there will be an evening meal served at 5:00 P.M. at the church, followed by public preaching at 7:00 P.M. There will be preaching times on Sunday morning at the Lititz church followed by a noon meal. All are welcome to attend the preaching services on Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

If you haven't already registered for the Symposium through the website or through Bro. Ken Brock, you can still register through the website <https://www.anabaptistawareness.org/>.

Lodging reservations should be made with Sister Tena Priest by text at 505-771-2974 or by email at duaneandtena3@cloud.com. There are also hotel accommodations listed on the website's conference brochure near Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

We are looking forward to hosting all who will attend the 2021 Leadership Conference.

The Leadership Conference Committee

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address for Brother Ken Brock is: 1520 Co Rd 22-60, Stryker, Ohio 43557. The phone number remains the same.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

We are planning a weekend meeting, October 15-17, 2021, with Bro. Mark Hawbaker as the speaker. Services are at 7:30 P.M. on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is Lovefeast, with the self-examination service in the morning, lunch, and communion at 6:00 P.M. There is no Sunday afternoon service. Please remember the meetings in your prayers and attendance.

Sister Arlene Birt, Cor.

CONNECTIONS

Contributed by the Bible Study Board in reference to this month's Sunday School Lessons. Our hope in writing a monthly article is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

In Revelation 16, the seven plagues are poured out on the earth. A lot of sorrow and trouble is waiting for those who are not protected from God's judgement. The Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Christians do not need to fear God as a tyrant, but as a loving and just father who leads us in wisdom. Since God is a just father, we know He will discipline us when we disobey and break His rules. If we carelessly break His rules, He will remove privileges completely. That is what the world is facing in this chapter, and despite the power of the plagues, people will curse God rather than praise Him.

We are to expect the coming of Christ at any time, but we are to work for peace and harmony with those with whom we worship, and to love our neighbors even as we love ourselves. Above all else, tell all people the story of Jesus since He has made all the difference in your life.

Brother Gerry Priest for the Bible Study Board

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 2021

Nov. 7 – The End of the Seductress and the Adorning of the Lamb's Wife

Rev. 18:21-19:10

1. Verse 3 of chapter 19 mentions her smoke rose up forever. This seems out of place for eternity. Will we see this or not?

2. Explain the statement in Rev. 19:10 "for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy".

Nov. 14 – Battle Summary for Vultures: Fine Dining – Rev. 19:11-21

1. Why have a name that no one knows?

2. Why is the sword wielded with the mouth instead of a hand?

Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving – II Cor. 9:1-15

1. Explain bounty and covetousness. How are they different?

2. Do we really believe God is able to make us abound to every good work? Or do we doubt in some way and maybe quench God's work?

3. What are the fruits of righteousness?

Nov. 28 – Satan Bound, Saints Reign; Final Judgement – Rev. 20:1-15

1. Are Gog and Magog actual places or symbolic of something else.

2. Why would earth and heaven flee away from the one on the throne?

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When donating to any of these Boards, please send the donation to the Secretary of the Board for his records. When writing a check, make payable to the Board, not to any individual on the Board. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these Boards.

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