

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. XCIX

SEPTEMBER, 2021

NO. 9

"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.
---	--

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NOW I RESOLVE WITH ALL MY HEART

Now I resolve with all my heart.
With all my pow'rs to serve the Lord;
Nor from his precepts e'er depart,
Whose service is a rich reward.

O be his service all my joy!
Around let my example shine,
Till others love the blest employ,
And join in the labors so divine.

Be this the purpose of my soul,
My solemn, my determined choice,
To yield to his supreme control,
And in his kind commands rejoice.

O may I never faint nor tire,
Nor, wand'ring, leave his sacred ways;
Great God, accept my soul's desire,
And give me strength to live thy praise.

—Anne Steele

PLEASING GOD

As people move through life, they may wonder about their purpose in life. Their days may seem unchanged from day to day. They may consider their journey to be unproductive. There may be a few days that lighten life, but they may seem few and far between. Why should they continue to struggle? There does not seem to be much purpose for their lives.

That is a natural response when our minds are on our own little corner of this world. When our journey is only about our needs and celebrations, it may be viewed as a useless journey. When life's focus is on our daily journey it may feel somewhat futile. Chasing the dollar signs of life, chasing the ideals of human beauty, chasing earthly power, chasing fame, only end up in frustration, failure, and

lack of fulfillment. The promises of the tempter will lead to ruin rather than glory.

How can the boring, tedious, and exhausting events of daily life lead to something that surpasses the supposed rewards often promised those in their daily struggle? That struggle is not very exciting while it is happening, yet each day's effort is a piece of the product that emerges from that labor. The incremental details that seem so unimportant daily become cogs in a larger life. Our efforts in what seems unimportant may be the basis of what can bring joy, relief, or blessing to someone else.

Although our part seems small, when added to other's small parts, it becomes something larger than our efforts. It is good to have a vision of what we are doing as a part of

THE BIBLE MONITOR SEPTEMBER, 2021

Published monthly by the Board of Publication of the Dunkard Brethren Church in the plant of Haines Printing Company.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Haines Printing Company, 10575 West Main Road, North East, PA 16428.

Terms: Single subscription \$5.00 a year in advance.

Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor; 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223. (951) 845-6231

KEN BROCK, Assistant Editor, 20845 County Rd H50, West Unity, OH 43570.

PAUL SKILES Associate Editor, 6561 Mountain Hawk Loop NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144

KEVIN FUNK, Associate Editor; 24107 N Avenue, Dallas Center, IA 50063.

a group effort to bring a blessing to one in need. Whether this effort is done in a factory, a school, or a hospital, it is needed.

A greater vision shows how our meagre labors are connected in fulfilling our purpose of pleasing God. God created the world and all that is in it for His own pleasure. He did not seek the advice or input of any other creature. It was by His own design. As the crowning part of His creation, He made man and woman. They were His highest creation because He not only formed their bodies out the dust of the earth, but He also gave them His Spirit. He gave them eternal life. They conspired through disobedience during Satan's temptation to break that connection. The earthly temptation proved more enticing than what He intended for them. Although they were driven away from the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, He continued to provide spiritual blessings that ultimately led to the giving of His Son as the propitiation to cover their sin and bring them into fellowship with Him as He had intended.

His Grace and Mercy had been shown through the centuries as He led them toward the time of His Son's incarnation. He sought their faith and obedience throughout that time. He instituted His plan to

offer eternal life to those who would humble themselves and accept His Ultimate Gift and restore the fellowship He originally desired. Sending Jesus, He instituted the Plan that He had in mind all along.

His Grace and Mercy has prevailed to bring this offer to the fallen men and women, whom He had intended to be in that fellowship throughout all time. There had been no other sacrifice or offering that could accomplish His desire without the sending of His Son to fulfill the only perfect sacrifice that He could accept.

What was His desire for the men and women who accept that perfect sacrifice? He desired that they would fulfill His original intention when He had created men and women. He had created them for His pleasure. He wanted them to enjoy the blessings and joys of being His children and to bring honor to Him through their voluntary service and thankfulness. There are many blessings that accompany that journey. Being directed fully by His Holy Spirit, they could bring pleasure to Him by not only their obedience, but also through their worship of Him and their fellowship with Him throughout eternity.

Their fulfillment of His pleasure has nothing to do with good works

but is their destiny as the children of God. He has equipped them for that relationship through the Holy Spirit in their lives. In Heaven it will be the norm. His desire is that we please Him while we are still in our earthly bodies. This desire to please Him should motivate us

as we work through the small and troublesome situations of our daily lives. Our service to Him through the meanest tasks and lack of honor pleases Him.

Are you willing to please God?

M. C. Cook

PLAIN TALK

James 3:1-12

Do you control your tongue, or does it control you?

The Bible talks a lot about the tongue and the importance of controlling it. Proverbs and the Psalms are full of good instruction for us. We can find verses scattered throughout scripture with wisdom about the tongue and the difference between fools and the wise. The way we use our tongue is important to God, and here in James 3 we find the most comprehensive instruction about it. Here James breaks it down into four subjects or headings.

#1. The responsibility of using our tongue. Verse 1

Verse 1 says that we should be cautious of teaching. Teaching in a right and true manner is good, but teachers are held to a higher standard than those that don't teach. They have a greater opportunity, a greater

responsibility and therefore greater accountability. Good, God based teaching is priceless. When a person opens his mouth and teaches, he has opened himself up to a special kind of judgement by others. Teachers are under a greater responsibility to do exactly as they teach!!!

James says to teach only because we want the influence and authority that comes with it is something we should avoid. Don't let this be a deterrent from teaching if you have the right motives, but if you are in it only for the power and status, please refrain from it.

#2. The tremendous power of the tongue. Verses 2-5

Verse 2. We all stumble or offend in many areas of life; however, the tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control and if a person can control his tongue, he is also able

to control his whole body. One reason that the tongue is so hard to control, is that we use it more than any other member of our body. We speak on average 16-20,000 words per day so the chances of saying something we shouldn't are greatly increased in comparison to our other activities.

James moves on to making a comparison of large objects that are controlled by small objects. A horse and a bit, a ship and a rudder. In comparison, both of these "controllers" are relatively small and insignificant to the mass of the horse or the ship, but they are used to control the direction of both. A huge fire that burns for days or weeks, lots of times was started with just a careless spark or ember. The same is true of our tongue.

Luke 6:45, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." The way we speak is an indication of our heart condition. Our tongue is a small member but has the power to speak lies, gossip, railings, accusations, and wreak havoc wherever it goes.

On the contrary, our tongue

also could speak life, blessing, and encouragement. The statistic is this; It takes ten positive compliments or blessing said to erase one negative word! Let us be a people of blessing speakers.

#3. The seriousness of careless talk. Verses 6-8

Here James is describing the tongue of an undisciplined person. The human tongue by nature, acts like an out-of-control fire, leaving a path of destruction and desolation. A "world of iniquity" speaks to the vastness of evil an unregenerated tongue has the potential to produce. A tongue left unchecked, will defile the whole body and put the soul in jeopardy of hell.

James mentions all the creatures of creation. Man has been and is taming them and controlling them, but the tongue cannot be tamed by any man. It is full of deadly poison. It is shut up behind a row of teeth and sealed lips, but it still manages to get out and stir up strife. Unkind, untrue, or other hurtful words, put husband and wives, employee and employers, parents and children and family members at odds with each other.

It has been said that a poisonous drug does not need to be taken in large doses to

be effective. A drop or two on a continual basis usually does the trick. Same for the tongue. A few ill words here or there will spread poison and can do more damage than a long speech.

The good news in this passage is that James does not say that the tongue cannot be tamed. He says no man can do it. God can and will tame our tongue if we will ask Him and allow Him to work in our lives. Psalm 141:3, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Psalm 120:2, "Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue." We need to be alert, crucify the old man in us and let the Lord have His way in our lives, specifically in our words.

#4. The importance of consistent speech. Verses 9-12

James refers to several things in nature that we would think absolutely strange if they produced several different things instead of just the one thing, that the Lord created them to do. A well or spring produces either good or bad water, not some of each depending on how it "feels" that day. A fig tree, grapevine, olive tree, they all produce after their kind. We would never expect something different hanging on their branches. James argues that the same amount of ridiculousness is found in a

tongue speaking both blessing and cursing. We praise God, then turn and curse man who was made in God's image.

The word curse here I believe includes using coarse or foul language, but it goes beyond that to wishing bad or disaster on a person. Psalm 35:27-28, "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant." God commands and expects us to praise Him, and we should, but to curse the ones created in God's image would be inconsistent.

We should have love, concern, and blessing toward our fellow human beings. With God's help we can turn this unruly evil, this out-of-control, uncontrollable fire, this world of iniquity this deadly poison into something that speaks blessing, peace, grace, and truth. God wants it therefore we should want it. God's ways are right. Psalm 15: "Lord, who shall sojourn in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a

vile person is condemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money for usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved."

If we want to see God and dwell with Him, we must die to self, and in doing so we willingly remove our spirit and ask God to put a piece of His Spirit inside us and rule our thoughts and our tongue. Our words are important enough to God that Malachi 3:16 tells us He is writing a book that contains our words. "Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name."

Revelation 20:12, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

I believe that our works are more visible than our words but everything we do and speak is important. If we are judged by

those things, I would say they are important to God. Transforming the tongue takes supernatural strength. Strength that only is available through God and His redemptive work. It should be the goal of all believers to carefully guard the tongue and lips. Proverbs 6:16-19, "These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

Do any of you think these things are equal sins? To God they are an abomination – (Definition: - a thing that causes disgust or hatred). Three out of the seven abominations mentioned, involve the tongue. I would say that the way our tongue acts is important to God.

Verse 2 says, "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." James 1:26-27, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before

God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” Pure talk is not commonplace in this

world. Pure clean conversation sets us apart and is a witness to the world. With God’s help we can become builders and not ones that cut and tear down.

The Builder verses The Wrecker

I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho-heave-ho and lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.

I asked the foreman, “Are these men skilled,
The men you’d hire if you had to build?”

He gave me a laugh and said, “No indeed!
Just common labor is all I need.
I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do.”

And I thought to myself as I went my way,
Which of these two roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?
Am I shaping my deeds by a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?

—Edgar Guest

Brother Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD

When I was young in the faith (50 years ago) things looked different than they do today. When we were assembling pictures for the Dunkard Brethren History Book we saw a lot of old photos going back nearly fifty years or more. It seems that we are more prone to show off our muscles nowadays than to show off our lack of pride.

Another thing I remember well is the Brethren's explanation of why we wear plain, conservative clothing. It keeps us out of the wrong places. It helps us avoid temptation, and it helps us to witness for our Lord more effectively.

We knew a man that grew up in the world and was gloriously saved in adulthood. He should have attached himself to a Godly church, but he did not at first. He stayed with his occupation as a bartender and enthusiastically witnessed to his customers who enjoyed a hearty laugh with their drinks. They knew that the two did not go together, but our friend did not.

Plain clothing and being careful where you go are not subjects being preached on anymore. As a Brotherhood we should look out for each other. There is a right way and a wrong way.

Once one of the Brethren saw

me come out of a bar. The gossip got unbearable. I stood up in front of the congregation and told them my car had quit when I was on the way to work. The only place around (this was before cell phones) was the bar. My wife took me to work. If my Brother had come to me and talked to me, just think how it would have turned out. If we cannot stay out of trouble, then we have Brethren to help us, if they are not prone to gossip.

Our weakness is one way to give the devil a step up. We cannot afford to show our weakness. In our day and age, people have forgotten this. Therefore, the Brethren must love one another and help one another. Small things, like speeding while driving, littering, and reckless driving are all illegal, but not everyone knows this. At least three times in the past two weeks I have seen plainly dressed women driving while talking on a cell phone. We do not know what church they were from, but they either forgot the law or did not know it.

Proverbs 20:9, "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" Are we perfect? We are perfect in Christ, yes. His blood has saved us, but we must persevere. We are His witnesses.

The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing. There are many people to pray for. It is our duty. We hear many people praying for our country. It is perhaps more prudent to pray for THE CHURCH.

If the church is effective, then the country will turn to GOD. Make that our prayer.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

DELIGHTING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Everybody talks about God, even those who say they don't believe in God. It's interesting to listen to someone who claims they don't believe in God, and they talk more about God than some Christians I know. Of course, the God they are talking about doesn't even exist.

Based on the evidence, some of these people bring about God; it would be hard for me to become an atheist. I think I understand why so many people are atheists or even agnostics. With the information that's floating around today concerning God, I can appreciate this.

Now the reason I'm not an atheist is that I know the truth about God. I'm not a special person; I just have read the Bible and have put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ. I'm not sure it is possible to really believe in the real God without an experience with Jesus Christ that we call born-again. Apart from this, there just is

no way to understand who God is.

Some people admire God from a distance, just like they would some celebrity in Hollywood. All they know about God is what other people have told them, the same as some celebrities. With celebrities, the more you get to know them, the less you like them. However, with God, the more you get to know him, the more you like him and want an ongoing fellowship with him.

There is quite a big difference in talking about God and talking with God.

This applies, of course, to prayer. Everybody prays when they are in trouble. My thought is, who are they praying to? And do they ever get any answer to their prayers.

All this boils down to one crucial thing: a personal and intimate relationship with God. This is not religion. You can have religion without any fellowship or relationship with God. With religion, all you must do is simply obey the

rules and do the best you can.

Many people talk about God but have not really experienced God's awesome presence in their daily life. God has made no impact on their personal life.

To delight in the presence of God, several things must be in order. The first important aspect is that our relationship with God must be on God's terms and not ours. God is not coming into our world; rather, God wants to bring us into His world.

In our world, we resume the status of Lord, so we can snap our fingers and get God to do whatever we want Him to do at the time. That is not how God works.

Another important aspect is that my relationship with God must not be based upon convenience for me. It is not me making room for God, but rather surrendering my whole life to God and allowing Him to be the God He wants to be in my life.

In the Old Testament, I think of Moses along this line. For Moses to meet with God, he had to meet with Him on God's terms. God did not come down the mountain; rather, Moses went up the mountain and encountered God.

I rather think that was inconvenient for Moses. How long was he up there away from the

rest of the Israelites? Moses spent forty days and forty nights on that mountain to encounter God on God's terms.

Amid all this, we need to focus on a certain question. That is, how do we today set ourselves apart to meet with God?

God has not called us to go up a mountain for forty days and forty nights. That's not part of our relationship with God. The key element here is what is necessary for me to separate myself from the world to spend personal time alone with God?

The key to Moses going up that mountain is simply obedience. God called, and Moses answered.

The key to our intimate fellowship with God is the same, obedience. What is God calling me to do? How is God speaking to me today.

I'm not sure there's a cookie-cutter answer to this. I think this is something each Christian needs to wrestle with continuously. As I read my scriptures and have my quiet time with the Lord each day, I need to be listening for his voice. What is God saying to me today, and how does that impact my life today?

If I'm just reading my Bible each day to read my Bible, I might as well not even read my Bible. If

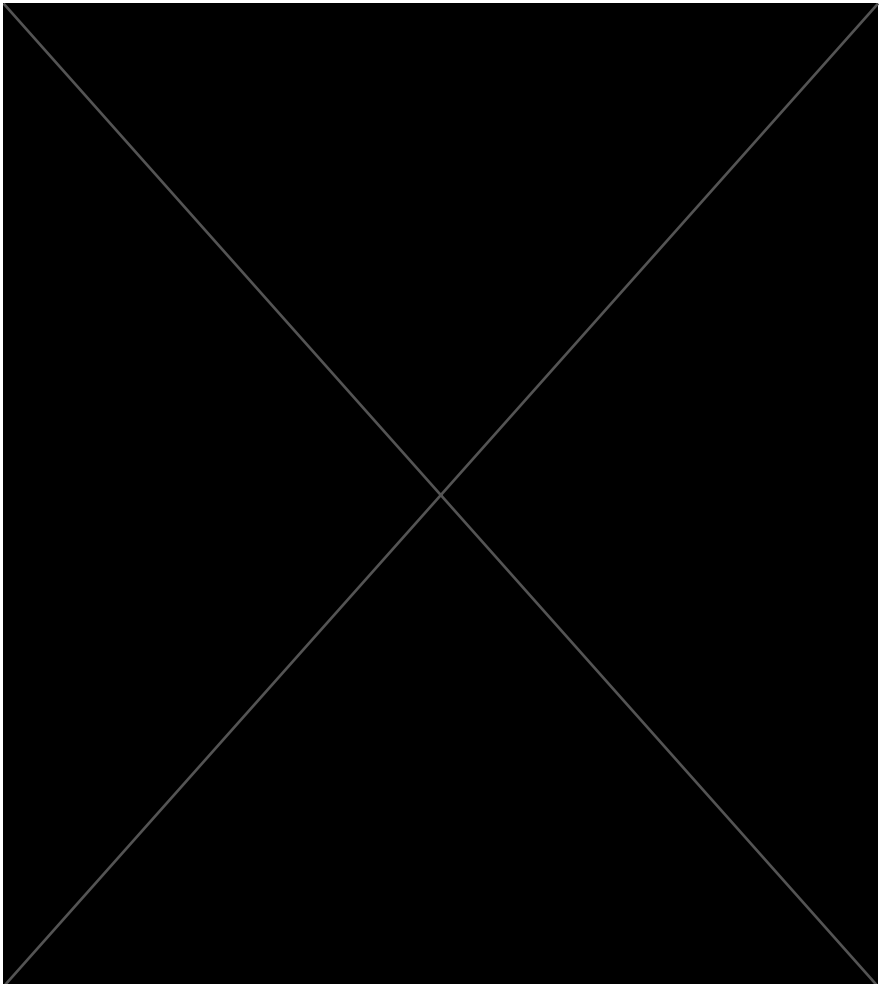
I have not really encountered the Living Word in reading my Bible, I am doing something wrong, and I need to correct it.

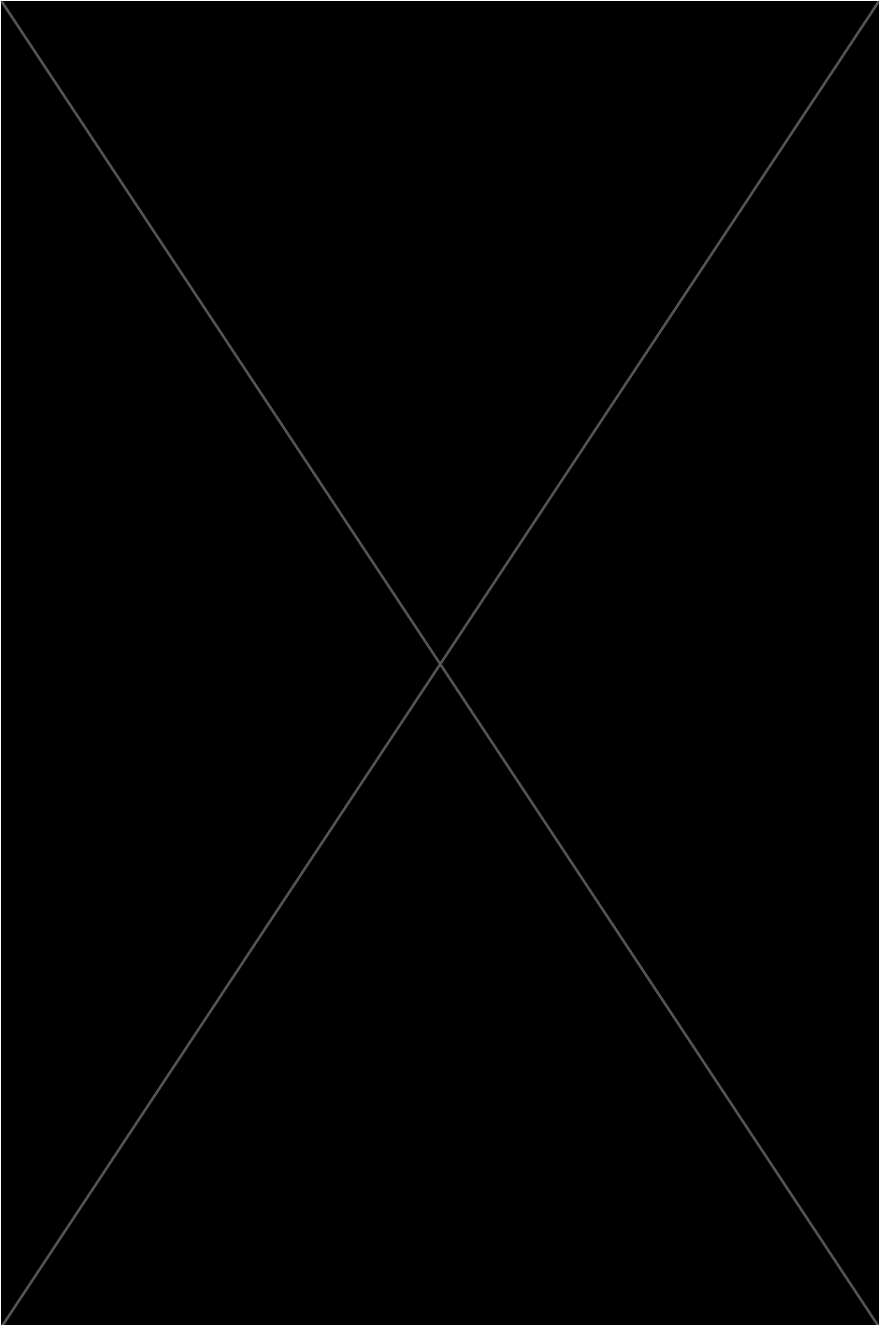
Between the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, I have intimate access to God. Am I using it? Am I taking advantage

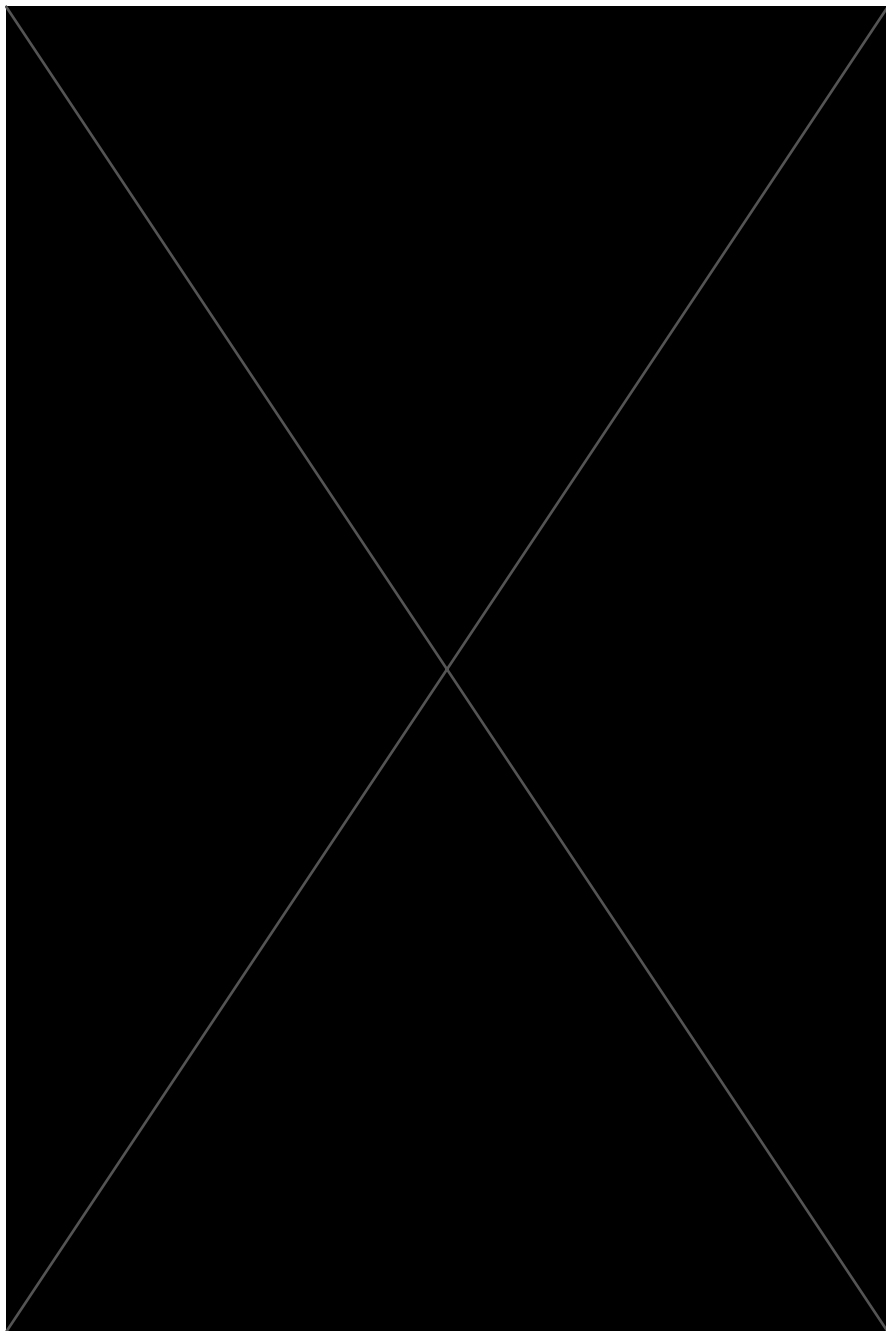
of the access I have to God?

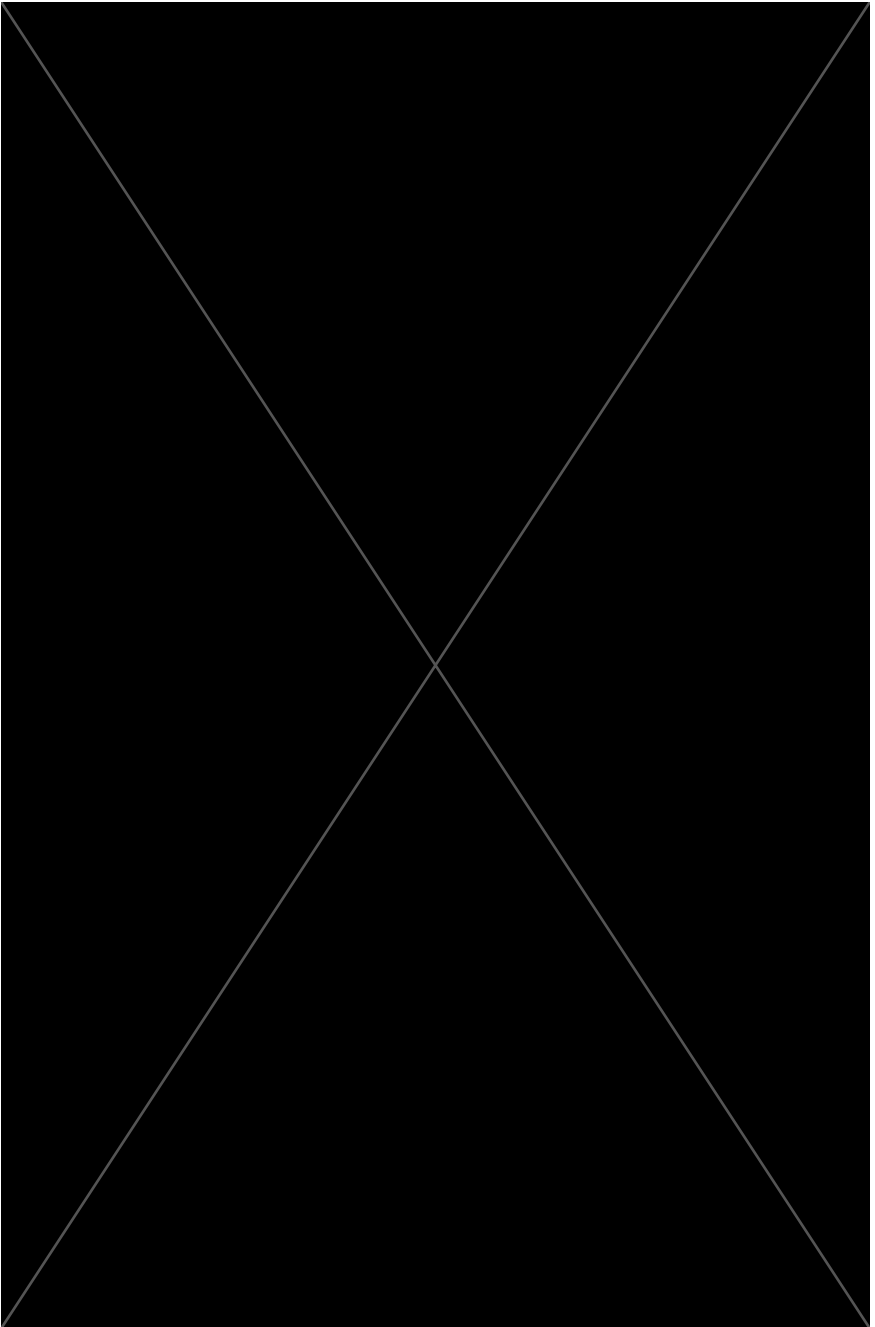
If I am going to delight in the presence of God, I need to make that a daily priority.

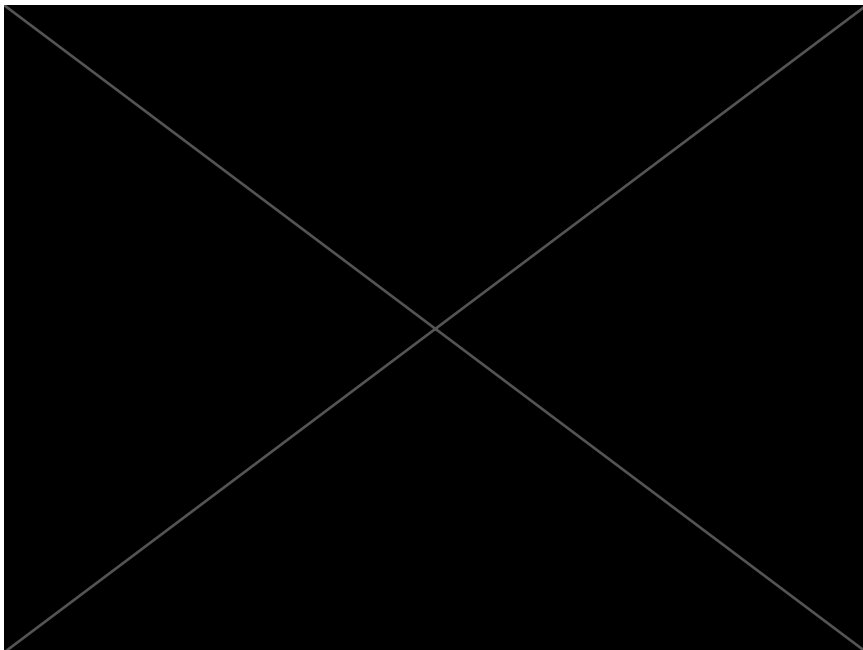
James L. Snyder
324 Bahia Circle
Ocala, FL 34472











THAT GOOD PART

Rudy Cover

Luke 10:38-42

Bethany was a small town near Jerusalem, where a family, whom Jesus loved very much, lived. The family consisted of a brother, Lazarus, and his two sisters, Martha and Mary. Many times, Jesus came to this home. I'm sure that this family loved Jesus.

One time, Jesus came to visit, and it seems that only Martha and Mary were home. Martha was a very industrious person and a good housekeeper. She met

Jesus and invited Him to stay for a meal. Martha knew that Jesus often went without food, and she was determined to prepare a good meal for the Master, whom she loved.

Mary was probably younger than Martha and helped her with the housework. Martha was used to having Mary help get the meals, but this time Mary was so interested in Jesus and what He was saying that she apparently had forgotten all about helping

her sister. Jesus could tell things no other man could tell. As Jesus spoke, Mary was concerned with nothing but the wonderful words of her Lord.

Martha was having quite a time preparing a good meal and she knew Jesus was hungry. Naturally, she expected Mary to help her. Seeing Mary sitting at Jesus' feet, she said to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her to come and help me."

Jesus said to Martha, "Marta, Martha, you are careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful; and Mary has chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her."

Jesus came into this world to die for the sins of the people and teach them how to live that they might have eternal life. This was

the important thing. Having food to eat is necessary for the body, but Jesus was here to save souls.

Jesus loved Martha but He wanted to show her and Mary, and us too, that being interested in His teaching was far more important than preparing or serving food or doing anything else.

The good part that Mary had chosen was for everybody. We can all listen to Jesus. We can't see Him as He was when Martha and Mary were alive, but we can read His Word and do what He says. We, too, can choose that good part that will not be taken away. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away."

Selected from the
March 1, 1981
issue of the Bible Monitor

FOUR EXCEPTS

J. F. Britton

In that Great Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:20) Jesus said unto his disciples, in the presence of a vast multitude of people, "EXCEPT your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in NO CASE enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

Jesus had been discoursing about the nine indispensable requisites, and also some other principles which constitute the foundation of the Christian Church. He then exalted the Character and Mission of the Church, through the administration of the Holy Spirit. In verse 20, he sets up

an irreproachable standard of spirituality by saying, "Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

Thus, we see that Jesus set the standard of Spiritual Righteousness on a high plain where superiority and excellency dwell, and free from the defilements of carnality. Hence, it stands to reason that it is not enough, for God's people to measure up to the "World's Great System of Righteousness", for if they do not surpass this, then it follows that they are still in the "beggarly elements" of the world. Therefore, Jesus said, "except" which signifies, "unless" "your righteousness shall EXCEED the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in NO CASE enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

In Matthew 18:1-3, we read, that the disciples came to Jesus with the question: "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of Heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him and set him in the midst of them and said, Verily I say unto you, EXCEPT ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall NOT enter into the kingdom of heaven." It follows then that conversion must be through; not

only must the heart be turned to God in general and from earthly to heavenly things, but in particular, except ye be converted from that carnal ambition which still rankles within you, into that freedom from all such feelings which ye see in this child, ye have neither part nor lot in the kingdom at all; and he who in this feature has most of the child, is highest there. Whosoever, therefore, shall "humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of Heaven." For he that is willing to humble himself, and make an unconditional surrender to God, and cry from the depth of his heart, Lord, "make me, what thou would have me be", "shall be exalted."

It should be noted that Jesus expressed those two "Excepts" to the disciples, who had responded to the call of Jesus, and had enlisted in His service, but who had not been quickened and endued by the Holy Ghost, hence had not yet had the vision of the beauty of Holiness in the kingdom of righteousness. No wonder Jesus said to Peter, "When thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."

In Luke 13:1-5, we read, "There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate

had mingled with their sacrifices, and Jesus, answering said unto them, suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you Nay: but EXCEPT ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all man that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." This third "Except" has under consideration, a Spiritual Reformation, which comes through Repentance, deep contrition and sorrow for sin, and leads to a new life, converted by the Holy Spirit of God. Therefore, repentance is applicable and imperative to all classes, "for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23.)

Hence it is logical and stands to reason, that every man, irrespective of who he may be, who has gone counter to God's will, and is living out of union with Christ, must repent, and come back to the fellowship of Christ, to get into the kingdom of Heaven.

John 3:1-5 presents a case where a very noted man, who was a ruler of the Jews, and a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus, with a wonderful recognition of the

Divinity of Christ, and his power and work. But Jesus replied in very positive and humiliating terms, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee EXCEPT a man BE BORN of WATER and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." No doubt Nicodemus had the idea that Jesus was going to inaugurate and launch some new reform in civic righteousness and economies, for world betterment, but the "Great Teacher", "who spake as never man did", disappointed and discomfited his ideas altogether, Nicodemus tried to argue matters with the Great Teacher, but it was no use. Jesus gave that great scholar to understand that his kingdom, was a spiritual kingdom of righteousness, and was populated with spiritual citizens, who had been BORN into his Kingdom through faith, that worketh by love, and repentance that turns from a life of sin unto God and is baptized into the Kingdom of Christ.

These four "Excepts" as presented by Jesus Christ; will determine every man's future destination. No wonder Peter wrote, "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" "Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God

raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people." (Acts 3:22-23.)

Lord, breathe upon thy people,

and quicken their souls, that they make their "calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." (II Pet. 1:10) Amen.

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

REFUGE

Paul Stuber

Let us study Psalm 46 to see the confidence a Christian should have in God and God's church. V. 1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." This is wonderful assurance, to know that if all men were to forsake us, we have One who will never forsake us. One who will lift us up when things become very dark. A refuge for the soul and the strength to go forward though all things seem to come to naught, especially in these days of turmoil and distress. Is there anyone who could not sing and shout, Praise God for His mercy and love for His children.

V. 2-3, "Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the

waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." Here we have the confidence of a man or woman, who has fully accepted the Word of God and made God the refuge of their soul. One has no fear and no worry, though the earth be removed and the mountains be carried in the midst of the sea. The true Christian does not fret and worry about the threat of atomic war. He or she trusts only in the Lord for their safety. "They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever." I care not if one reads all books in the world or seeks advice of the greatest man, such comfort and consolation cannot be found there. It is only in God's Word, praise His Holy name.

V. 4-5, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early." The true church of God is in the Midst of this city. Jesus Christ said in Matt. 16:18, "And the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." Though men have tried and are trying very hard today to destroy His church, but God will help her. Assurance, assurance, bless His Holy name. Fear not children, only trust Him.

V. 6, "The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted." Yes, the heathen is raging, plotting, and planning how they can destroy the anointed of God. But they need not fear as God will be with them to the end of this world and then comes the great reward, everlasting life. Isn't it worth the persecution and trials of life? I feel sure all can say amen, amen. But woe upon such as work against this great God. He uttered His voice and the earth melted. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall

pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

V. 7, "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." Yes, He is surely with His own and He has prepared a new Heaven and a new Earth. Rev. 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away and there was no more sea." Only a true child of God will ever behold these wonderful things.

V. 8-9, "Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth, he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire." Yes, He will make desolate all sin and lay waste to all unrighteousness. He will bring into being that blessed peace which His children seek, bless His Holy name.

V. 10-11, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the brethren, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." There is a time coming when God will be

exalted, and man will realize his littleness. Isa. 2:11, "The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the Lord alone shall be exalted, in that day." I am sure that the true child of God will not wait until that day, to exalt the wonderful

name of the Lord but he is already holding it high daily. "O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard." Psa. 66:8.

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

WHAT OF OUR FUTURE?

Howard J. Surbey

"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?" I Pet. 3:12-13. The world is greatly stirred up over the perils of the future. Even religious faiths are concerned about their future, how bad they will be persecuted and can we remain true to our faith. People hardly know what to do or how to plan because of the uncertainties of life.

If one has enough sincere faith in the New Testament and enough determination to follow the New Testament teachings, regardless of the outcome, there is no question of the future. We have sufficient details of the dealings of God with humanity, throughout

the Old and New Testaments to definitely know of the wisdom and power of God. Our text tells us plainly that "the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers" then why should we have any fear? If we believe and practice precisely enough to be called "righteous", there is no question but that God will care for us and protect us. Can you find any place in the Holy Bible where God failed His people, when they actually were true to Him? God has taken great effort to deliver unto us all the details of what is good, just, and right in the sight of the triune Godhead. He has sent the Holy Spirit unto us that we might know and believe what God's Will requires of us. He has sent prophet after prophet to continually remind us of His Holy Will.

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5-6. The great trouble with people is definitely, that they are leaning unto their own understanding. Man's understanding is uncertain, changeable, and often lacks even the wisdom of experience. "It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer. 10:23. Is it any wonder that man is losing faith in himself and is failing to cope with the problems of life? In how many of our ways do we truly acknowledge God? How faithfully do we allow God to direct our paths?

"Thus saith the Lord, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord." Jer. 9:23-24. How much are men and women of 1961 glorying in their wisdom and their riches? I have heard some claim that money will get me anything, do you really think this is true of "the security of the future"? The present-day man

is very proud of his wisdom and his accomplishments, then why should he be uncertain of his future. As long as the Lord exercises: loving kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, what have we to fear? Could it be that our real fear is brought about because we realize that: We are not serving our Lord as faithfully as we should, we are not as separate from the evils of the sinful world as we should be, and we are not striving to be as true to our vows unto God as we should be?

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being." Acts 17:28. We have many times the necessary proof to convince us of the greatness of our God. If we are as much a part of Him as much dependent upon Him as much guided by Him as this phrase tells us, we have nothing to fear of the future. The future is entirely up to God, and we are convinced that God will finally control it. Let us therefore commit ourselves wholly unto His Will, His honor and His glory and we will be saved much worry besides being able to live happier lives while yet upon this earth.

Selected from the
September 1, 1961
issue of the Bible Monitor

OBITUARIES

BETTY JANE SHELLEY

Peacefully at home and surrounded by family, Betty Jane Shelly, age 87, went to meet her Savior and rejoice with her Sweetheart on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2021. Born May 12, 1933, in Taneytown, Maryland, Betty was the daughter of the late Jesse Albert and Emma Jane (Bowers) Sauerwein. For fifty-four years, she was the wife of Emmert O. Shelly, Jr. who passed into eternity on June 30, 2009. They were married in 1955, and Betty worked in the maternity ward at Lancaster General Hospital while Emmert performed his 1-W Service. In 1960, the couple purchased a farm in Littlestown, Pennsylvania. Betty was a devoted wife, mother, seamstress, homemaker, and caregiver for family members. She loved to garden and spent many hours canning food for the family's pantry. Life on the farm was her greatest desire and joy. Betty accepted Jesus as her Savior early in life and was baptized. She was very active in the Walnut Grove Dunkard Brethren Church, supporting her husband who was a Minister and Elder. She also taught many children's Sunday School Classes and was known for her hospitality. In later life, Betty and Emmert were members of the Upper Conewago Brethren Church in Abbottstown, Pennsylvania. Betty resided with her primary caregiver, Dorcas, and actively participated and thrived in Wellbrook Adult Day Service's Program at Cross Keys Village at the Brethren Home Community, New Oxford, Pennsylvania. Betty had a zest for life, and in later years, she was especially known for her infectious laughter and peaceful spirit. She will be dearly missed by those whose lives she impacted so greatly. However, it's just an interruption of relationship...NOT a termination! Mother had these verses marked in her Bible: Revelation 21:4-7.

Surviving are her children: Marilyn Faye Shelly of Maysville, West Virginia; Dorcas Ann Shelly and Glen Scott Shelly of Littlestown, Pennsylvania; her two grandchildren who were greatly anticipated and brought joy into her life, Gage Oliver and Grayden James Shelly, several nephews, and a niece. Betty was predeceased by her sisters, Dottie V. Pifer and Ruthanna G. Sauerwein, and her brother Jesse J. Sauerwein.

A Celebration of Betty's Life Service was held at the Upper Conewago Church of the Brethren (Mummert's Meeting House) on February 19, 2021, with Brethren John Shelly and Daniel Miller officiating. Interment was in the Mummert's Cemetery.

If You Could See Me Now

If you could see me now, you wouldn't shed a tear,
Though you may not understand why I'm no longer there.
Remember my spirit, that's the real me.
I'm still very much alive, oh, if you could only see!
I've beheld our Father's face. I've touched my Savior's hand.
The angels all rejoiced as I entered the Promised Land.
Beyond the gates of pearl, I walk on golden streets.
I've touched the walls of jasper, dipped my foot in the crystal sea.
The beauty is beyond words, nothing can compare.
I've even seen your mansion; someday I will meet you there.
Allow Jesus to be your guide, His word will show you the way.
So, please, don't cry! We will meet again someday!

(Poem written by Pasty Stambaugh Deskins)

EDWIN ST. JOHN

Edwin Laverne St. John, 91, of Pioneer, Ohio passed away July 4, 2021, at Parkview Nursing Home in Edgerton, Ohio. He was born on November 28, 1929, in Bryan, Ohio to Samuel and Nellie (Clapper) St. John. On June 23, 1951, he married Clara Tate and she preceded him in death on April 4, 1995. On August 16, 1997, Edwin married Matie Miller, and she survives.

He was a 1947 graduate of Bryan High School and went on to further his education at the Palmer Chiropractic School in Davenport, Iowa from 1970 to 1974. Edwin owned his own Chiropractic practice in West Unity, Ohio for forty-two years until his retirement in 2016.

He was a member of the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church in West Unity, Ohio. For many years Edwin was involved in mission work in Haiti through International Fellowship Haven.

He is survived by his wife Mattie; five children, Beverly St. John of Hart, Michigan, Tom and Susie St. John of Alvordton, Ohio, David and Becky St. John of Pioneer, Ohio, Carol and Lloyd Lorenz of Peru, Indiana, and Janet and Louis Hunkapiller of Alvordton, Ohio; three step children, Anna and Gary Miller of Goshen, Indiana, Joe Miller of Shipshewana, Indiana and Jay Miller of Indianapolis, Indiana; thirteen grandchildren, seventeen great grandchildren, eight step grandchildren and eleven step great grandchildren.

Services were held at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church on July 9, 2021, with Bro. Bart Hoblit officiating. Interment followed at the Floral Grove Cemetery, West Unity, Ohio.

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, Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

If you haven't already registered for the Symposium through the website or through Brother Ken Brock, you may 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@icloud.com. There are also hotel accommodations listed on the website's conference brochure near Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

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

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Pleasant Ridge will be hosting our Harvest Meeting on September 12, 2021, with Bro. Phil Gish from the CornerStone Ohio congregation. Services will begin at 9:30 A.M. followed by a carry in lunch. We will conclude with a 2:00 P.M. service. All are welcome.

Sister Teresa St. John, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel, Pennsylvania congregation will be holding their revival meeting starting September 19 through 26, 2021 with Bro. Mark Cordrey as the Evangelist. Bro. Mark is from the Pleasant Home, California congregation. Pray for Bro. Mark as he prepares for these services.

Sunday evening, September 19, services will start at 6:00 P.M., throughout the week starting at 7:30 P.M. Sunday, September 26, there will be a fellowship meal for lunch. The concluding afternoon service

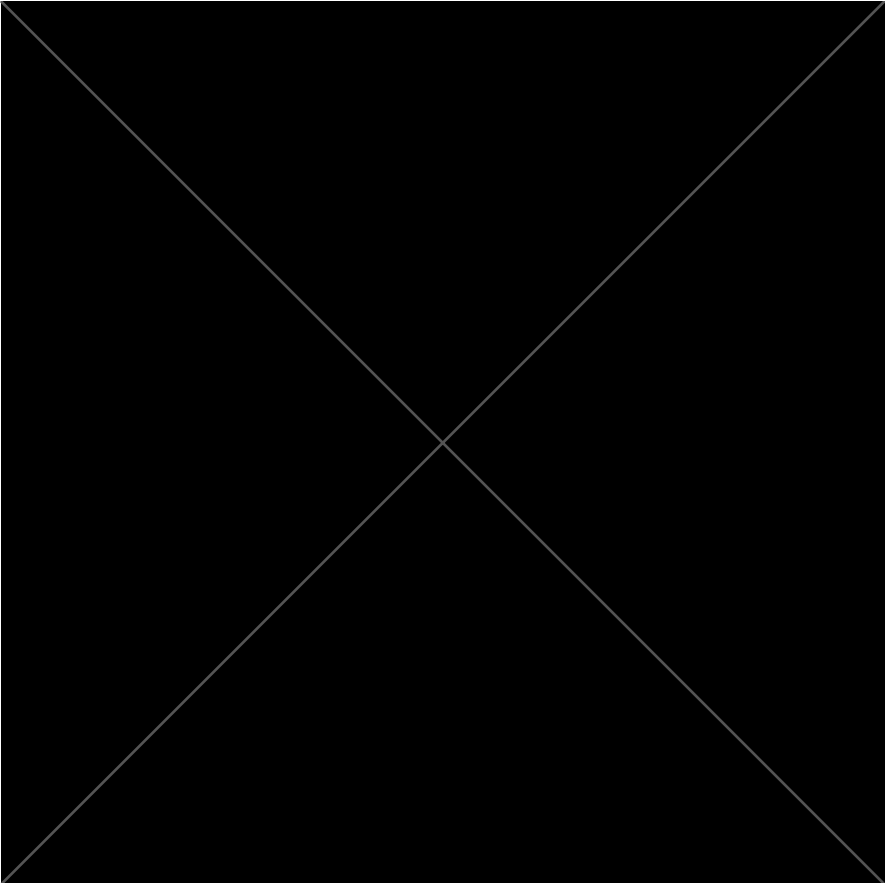
will be at 2:00 P.M. All are welcome. Come and enjoy the fellowship.
Sister Darlene Longenecker, Cor.

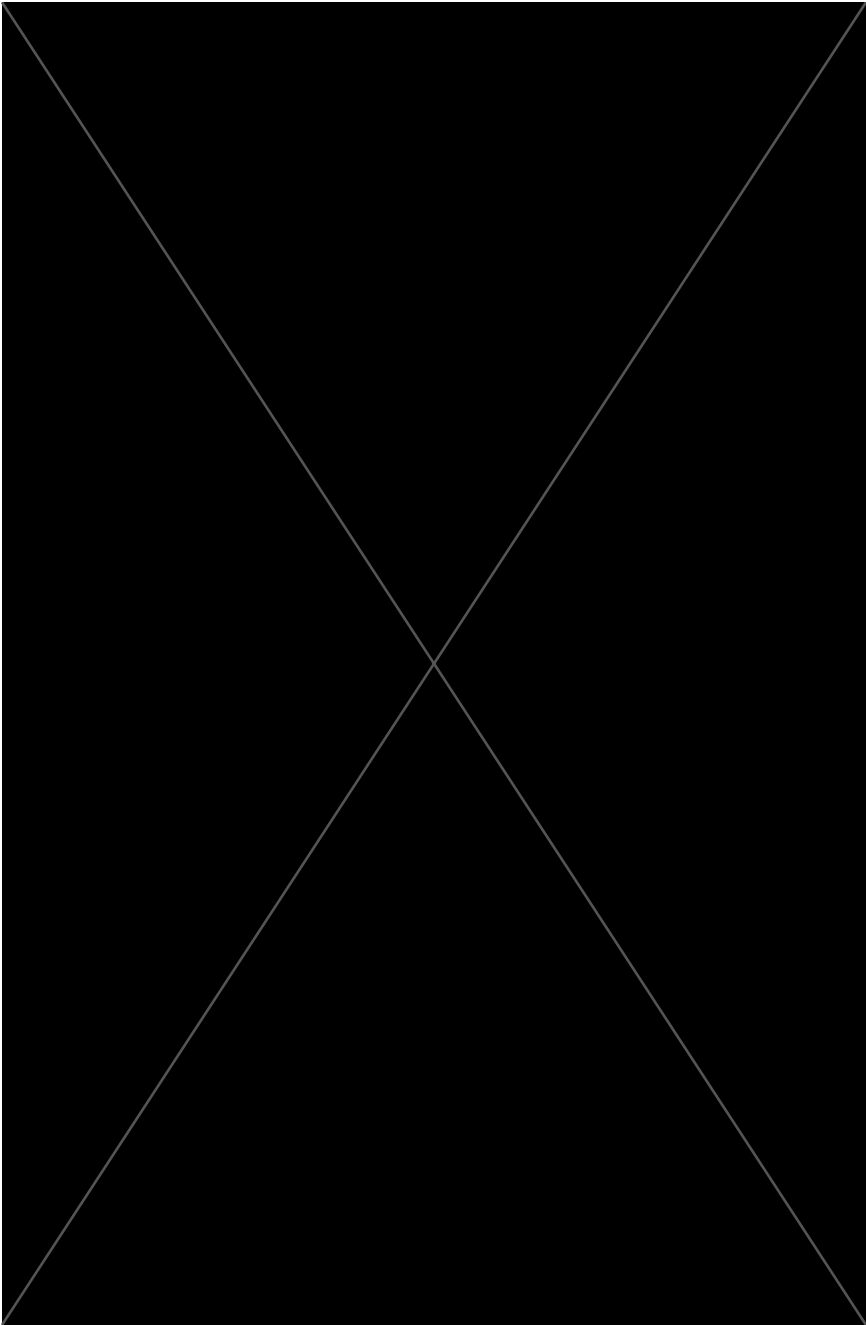
WEST FULTON, OHIO

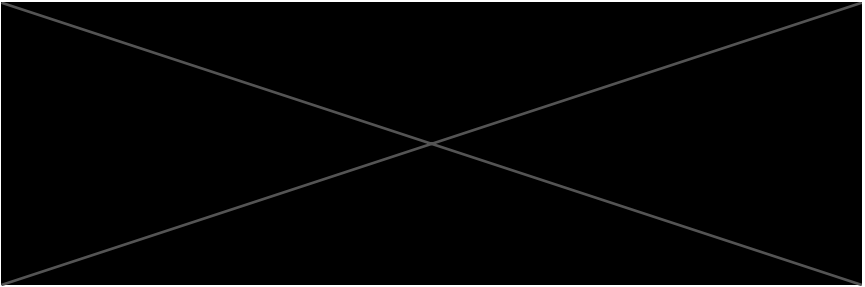
The Lord willing, the West Fulton Congregation will hold their fall meetings September 29 to October 3, 2021, with Brother Justin Beck from Bethel, Pennsylvania as our evangelist. Services are at 7:30 each evening. Sunday service is at 9:30 A.M. with a potluck dinner to follow.

We invite you to come and attend these services with us. Please pray for Brother Justin as he prepares for these services.

Sister Joy Reed, Cor.







ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 2021

Oct. 3 – The Wrath of God Yields a Bloody Harvest and Seven Bowls Full Of Plagues – Rev. 14:14-15:8

1. Who is doing the harvesting?
2. What is the harvest?
3. Who is victorious in Chapter 15?

Oct. 10 – Six Plagues and Gathering for Battle – Rev. 16:1-16

1. Why do the water sources turn to blood?
2. Who is judged for the martyrs' blood?
3. What is the significance of three unclean spirits?

Oct. 17 – What Battle? And an Abominable Mother – Rev. 16:17-17:6

1. What is the significance of “It is done?”
-
-

2. What influence does your voice have on those around you?
-
-

3. How powerful is a seductive spirit?
-
-

Oct. 24 – A Ten Horned Mystery – Rev. 17:7-18

1. At what do you marvel?
-
-

2. Will you be faithful to being chosen and called (verse 14)?
-
-

3. What has God put in your heart to fulfill His will?
-
-

Oct. 31 – The Earth Mourns the Fall of Babylon – Rev. 18:1-20

1. How much self-gratification is in your life?
-
-

2. How devastating would it be to lose all the fruit of your hands?
-
-

3. How tight do you hold your earthly possessions?
-
-

DIRECTORY OF BOARDS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fred Pifer, Chairman
17354 240th Street
Adel, Iowa 50003

Tom St. John, Secretary
20380 County Road R
Alvordton, OH 43501

Dennis St. John, Treasurer
21397 County Road B50
Bryan, OH 43506

GENERAL MISSION BOARD

Paul Skiles, Chairman
6561 Mountain Hawk Loop NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87144

Justin Beck, Secretary
480 Schubert Road
Bethel, PA 19507

Dennis Myers, Treasurer
23999 268th Lane,
Adel, IA 50003

Verling Wolfe
451 Schubert Road
Bethel, PA 19507

Milton Cook
1138 East 12th St
Beaumont, CA 92223

Ronald Marks
1813 North 136th Ave.
Hart, MI 49420

Mark Cordrey
525 W. Grayson Road
Modesto, CA 95358

Jeremiah Johnson
1773 North 136th St.
Hart, MI 49420

BOARD OF PUBLICATION

Ken Brock, Chairman
20845 County Road H-50,
West Unity, OH 43570

Kevin Funk, Secretary
24107 N Avenue
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Marlin Marks, Treasurer
429 Summit Drive
Red Lion, PA 17356

Dennis Myers
23999 268th Lane
Adel, IA 50003

Bart Hoblit
2846 Gettysburg Pittsburg Rd
Arcanum, OH 45304

BIBLE STUDY BOARD

Philip Franklin, Chairman
1520 Brannon Ave
Modesto, CA 95350

Brant Jamison, Secretary
14970 SH 120
Lyons, OH 43533

Nathan Meyers
26331 U Avenue
Woodward, IA 50276

Jason Carpenter
9821 S 450 E
Amboy, IN 46911

Gerry Priest
20207 Marsh Haven Lane
Hagerstown, MD 21742

RELIEF BOARD

Duane Priest, Chairman
51 Hillside Ave
Manheim, PA 17545
(717) 446-1756

Ward Deaton, Secretary
2620 Thacker Rd.
Zillah, WA 98953
(509) 391-0685

Rodney Kimmel, Treasurer
6625 E 100 S
Flora, IN 46929
(765) 491-8598

Tom Hawbaker
7121 KS Highway 7
Mound City, KS 66056
515-745-0174

Kurt Rolle
52398 Byreley Road
Bradford, OH 45308
(937) 448-2217

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION

Devin Meyers, Superintendent
HCR 79, Box 8
Cuba, NM 87013

Dale Meyers, Chairman
23753 F Avenue
Redfield, IA 50233

Rick St. John, Secretary
2578 County Rd 20-2
Archbold, OH 43502

Johnathan Edgecomb, Treasurer
14302 NW 2100 Rd,
Garnett, KS 66032

Nelson Hawbaker
27268 270th Street
Dallas Center, IA 50063

Brian Kegerreis
90 Orchard Lane
Bernville, PA 19506

Jeff Davison
23766 NW Iowa Rd
Welda, KS 66091

AFRICAN MISSION BOARD

Merle Sweitzer, Chairman
13227 Fishel Road
Felton, PA 17322

Jonathan Pifer, Treasurer
22025 Midland Trail
Minburn, IA 50167

Jeremiah Johnson, Secretary
1773 North 136th Avenue
Hart, MI 49420

Andy Lichtenberger
484 Shed Road
Newville, PA 17241

Alan Meyers
17614 R Avenue,
Minburn, IA 50167

All contributions to the various boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Dunkard Brethren Church
10575 West Main Road
North East, PA 16428

Address Service Requested

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit # 227