

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. C

NOVEMBER, 2022

NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ALMIGHTY GOD

Almighty God:

Today you seem so far away.

Your presence I seek every day;

Deliver me again.

Unto my God,

Who blesses me with all good things,

And gives my weary soul its wings.

Please bring me nigh again.

To all that seek

A God of truth and righteousness:

His grace abounds, His love does bless,

All those that call on Him.

I, like David,

Need fellowship from God above.

Delight to glory in His love.

Please make it so Lord God.

Bro. Lynn Miller,
Newmanstown, PA

INFLATION

In June this year, the annual inflation rate in the U.S. hit a rate of 9.1%. This was the highest inflation rate since the early 1980's when inflation peaked at 14.8%. If you are in your late 50's or older, you probably remember the high inflation rates in the early 1980's.

From groceries to gas, from school supplies to airfare, everything costs more now than it did a short time ago. The experts say that there are many facets to inflation and that it is a complex situation. However, in the end, inflation is not so much that prices are increasing as much as it is that the value of the currency is decreasing. Prices of certain goods or services can naturally fluctuate with the laws of supply

and demand. Also, a widescale factor is the government's ability to indiscriminately "print" money to fund special programs and budget shortfalls. This results in an artificial increase in the money supply, which in turn causes each dollar to be worth less. No matter the cause, in the last year many have felt the financial pinch.

So what are we to do? How is the Christian supposed to respond to inflation? Should the believer even be concerned about inflation? Afterall, here in America, we still enjoy far more material wealth than much of the world.

With these things in mind, an article from *Christian Century* (May 30, 1979¹) titled

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How Christians Can Cope with Inflation caught my eye. Regarding inflation at the time and how people tend to respond to financial crisis, the authors stated "The basic point is that success and failure, satisfaction and dissatisfaction are relative to our prior experience. We use our past to calibrate our present experience and to form expectations for the future. If our achievements rise above those expectations, we experience success and satisfaction. If our achievements fall below the neutral point defined by prior experience, we feel dissatisfied and frustrated... If, however, the improvements persist, we adapt to them. Material progress does not sustain a sense of increased well-being, since our experience is recalibrated so that what was formerly seen as positive is now only neutral and what was formerly neutral becomes negative."

I found these observations interesting and I suspect there's quite a bit of truth in them. However, this paints a picture of the human mind that it continually expects more and better things and any decrease in them breeds discontentment. Again, there

is some truth here. However, is this the proper perspective to have? We strive to succeed and hope for progress but how much of a role should "material progress" play in our sense of satisfaction and well-being? Should our expectations for the future include financial success and continued prosperity? God may choose to bless us with financial prosperity but what if he doesn't? What if he even allows financial ruin to come our way? Will we be content?

This is a material world that we live in and many seek their treasures here on the earth. In our conservative circles, we may tend to think that materialism is a sickness that frequently plagues the rich but isn't something we really need to concern ourselves with. However, if we're honest, most of us would probably have to admit that we try to store up some amount of treasure for ourselves here on earth. Having wealth is not sinful but as we're told in I Tim. 6:10, the love of it (the love of money) is the root of all evil. In Matt. 6, God tells us that the treasures of this earth are temporary and can be taken away from us. Not only that but rather than earthly treasure, we should lay up treasures in

heaven that are eternal and cannot be taken from us.

Further, I Tim. 6:6-9 states "But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition."

Here in America, in the land of plenty, where does the church fit in these verses? Where are we laying up treasures? In the world or in heaven? Are we characterized by godliness with contentment or are we overly focused on obtaining and maintaining riches? I have wondered a number of times, if I was stripped of almost everything except food and clothing, would I be content?

How do we answer these questions? If we aren't sure how we would answer these questions, I think the recent inflation we are seeing might be a good bellwether to help us find the answers. Has the recent

inflation tarnished our plans for our future financial prosperity to the point of our anxiety? Or have we viewed it more as Job did that the Lord both gives and takes away but blessed be the name of the Lord? Are we distressed that rising prices may take away some of our riches or even cause us to make changes to downsize our lifestyle? Or as we read in Timothy, are we content in the Lord?

When we are faced with financial challenges, it can be a time to learn and grow in the Lord, a time to reflect on the state of our hearts and can present us with opportunities to reach out with help to others in need with the love of Christ. In these times, can we have a heart like Job and in truth and contentment say, "The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away, but blessed be the name of the Lord?"

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Bro. Ken Brock,
Stryker, OH

BLESSINGS OF RAIN

Is. 55:1a Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters,

As we went through a very dry July and August, everything seemed to be drying up in our area. The cornfields looked pitiful, as they were short, brown, scorched and sad looking. The flowers in their beds were droopy even with watering them. Grass was brown and crunchy. Our pastures were without grass.

In the paper, the question was asked, "When does dry turn to drought?" Everything looked like it was thirsty. Then September came and with it came Rain! What a gift from God! I went out on the patio just to feel it on my bare feet and wonderful little drops were coming down on my face. I

said, "Thank you, Jesus." It was beautiful and felt so refreshing and good. It sounded like music to my ears. I thought of lands where it doesn't rain for months and prayed for them. We still had plenty of running water at our fingertips. My thoughts went to our nation and the spiritual drought we are in. Are we praying and longing for a spiritual rain? There are many who are withering from stress and drying up in their sinful ways. Oh that we might pray for the spiritual rain to come down and quench our thirsty souls. Let's encourage each other to keep the faith.

Grateful,
Sis. Lucy Siegrist
Manheim, PA

ARE YOU WINNING?

This phrase has been said around me several times the last months. Sometimes to me, other times to ones working around me. The question begs the definition of "winning". Google defines it like this: "Winning; gaining, resulting in, or relating to victory in a contest or competition". No doubt the

Christian is in a battle. We have a prize to win. We must fight on towards it. Philippians 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Jude 1:3 "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you,

and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

The aspect I want to focus on is how we go about life. Our conduct with those we meet, associate with, and do business with. Does it seem if you don't get some advantage in your dealings, you feel like you got the short end or cheated in some way? Do you always have to ask for a cheaper price? Do you always make an offer? Do you leave too small of tip for the waitress? I am not saying we should not be good stewards of our money; however, I think when we do business, we should just try to be fair. I once heard it this way, "I will do business with you if it is a win for you and a win for me. I am not interested in it only being a win for one of us, because that is not a win, it is a loss." Philippians 2: 4 "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." The CEB says it like this, "Instead of each person watching out for their own good, watch out for what is better for others." If everyone is trying to make sure the other party gets the things that are best for them, the whole deal is a win.

Luke 6: 38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." These are just a few of the verses where the Bible has something to say about fair dealings. God is a God of justice, and He wants us to show the world how to be just and fair in our dealings.

I know a race car driver that lost a race because he chose to slow down and lose, rather than to go on to win while he caused harm to another driver. I say, "A clean loss is better than a dirty win". If we must fight and bicker for everything we have, God is not glorified. We are to be generous. Generous with our time, our resources, our money, and our abilities. God has given us everything we have, and we are to use them for His honor and glory. We are to be responsible and conscientious with how we spend our money, but I say we have taken that too far. We should not be stingy. We should give as if it was God's, after all it is! We should be in business to make a profit, but not at other people's expense.

Our business motto should be something on the lines of this: "We deliver a superior product at a reasonable price, and we don't apologize for the profits." The profits, however, are not ours to hoard or keep for us.

Invest in others. Give to God's Kingdom. Tip more than you should and make a wait

person's day. Stop at the street side lemonade stand and tell the kids about Jesus. Leave a \$20 bill for the opportunity and the below average glass of lemonade. Make the circle you live in a better place today than yesterday. I call that winning!!

Bro. Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

WHAT KIND OF FRIEND WAS I TO JOHN STEVENS?

Be ready always... I Peter 3:15

I worked with this man for nearly ten years, and yet I never spoke to him personally about the Lord Jesus Christ. There were many opportunities to do so. We worked night shift and often were alone together. There was no excuse. We had a lot in common. We often talked about religion. What was it that caused me to keep my mouth shut when the Word should have been presented to him? Why could I not speak to him about his great need and the coming judgement?

The above scripture reads this way in its entirety: "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope

that is in you with meekness and fear:" When we are saved all things change. The bad things become new. We are told to sanctify, or set apart in a special place, that is, in your heart. Place Him in the most prominent place, where He is always seen and felt. Those that worship idols give them a prominent, important place in their home, so that they are always seen. But we keep God in our heart so that we are always ready to share Him with others.

John 14:15 tells us that if we love God, we will keep His commandments. Verse 16 continues, "and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever." It is the Holy Ghost that abides in us and teaches us all things. With

the Holy Ghost abiding in us we can be always ready to give and answer to anyone who wants to know in whom we trust. There is not much trust in today's world. People are suspicious of everybody and everything. The only Hope we have is God displayed in the person of Jesus Christ.

I learned my lesson. I did not speak to John Stevens about his soul. We spoke about many other things, but not salvation.

We do not tell others in order to earn our salvation, but because we love Jesus and want to share Him with others. Yet there is another reason. "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men." II Cor. 5:11 Those who are truly intimate with God are familiar with His judgement. Look at the world swirling around us. Loved ones, which we all have, are caught up in it. What must we do?

*Haste, Traveler, haste! The night comes on,
And many a shining hour is gone;
The storm is gathering in the west,
And thou are far from home and rest.*

*The rising tempest sweeps the sky,
The rains descent, the winds are high;
The waters swell, and death and fear,
Beset thy path, no refuge near.*

*O yes, a shelter you may gain,
A covert from the wind and rain;
A hiding place, a rest, a home
A refuge from the wrath to come.*

*Then linger not in all the plain,
Flee for thy life, the mountain gain;
Look not behind, make no delay,
O, speed thee, speed thee on thy way.*

—W.B. Collyer

Bro. Lynn Miller,
Newmanstown, PA

OBTAINING THE PRIZE

Schoolteachers sometimes have their students run races at recess. All the students line up at the starting line with their faces toward the finish line. The teacher says, "One, two, three, go!" and the runners are off. There is a spiritual race for each one of us, as Christians, to run as well. This begins at our conversion and ends when God calls us through death or at Christ's second coming. When running the race, there are prizes for the winners.

When one of my grandsons was little, he would say, "Grandma! I'll beat you to the house!" or "Grandma, I'll race you around the house." I would reply with, "OK, GO!" Away we would run and Grandma would always win. I would see that little fellow running towards me and I'd gather him up and give him a big hug! My grandson would say, "Grandma, one of these days I'll win." Now he is becoming a blossoming youth and he no longer wants to run a race with Grandma. I'm trusting God that he is looking for that better prize.

Now picture with me a playground race where the

pupils start out right, but they run in all directions, some running in circles, some going out of the boundaries that are set up, some going backwards and even crossing the starting line. What confusion that would be! Now the schoolteacher is really concerned. "Don't they want to win? But what about us? Can an aimless runner, in the Christian race, expect a prize in the end? The Apostle Paul wrote "So run," -undistracted by the sights and sounds of this world and unconfused by all the different and mixed-up directions that others may be running - "that ye may obtain" (I Corinthians 9:24b).

Jesus Christ is our teacher and he runs with each of us every day if we invite Him. He is always beside us to help us get a good start, to help us in keeping our minds focused on His blessings, His wisdom, His eternal values and to persevere onward and upward, in His Word, without stopping! He is there to give us a prize after we cross the finish line. Thankfully, with Christ and the Holy Spirit's aid, we all can reach the goal and win the prize as we run

today. Don't become weary of working to obtain the crown, which is ours, every day of our lives. There might be those who don't believe like we do, don't think like we do and don't really care where they are traveling, who want to cut corners without running for their prize. We need to sing the song, "*I'm pressing on the upward way; new heights I'm gaining every day*" and fully believe in the words that we are singing so that some day we may obtain our prize in Glory!

What is the prize for all the winners? Well, it is certainly HEAVEN! The Bible also speaks of crowns: "of righteousness," "of glory," "of life," and "an incorruptible (crown)." Jesus said, "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown" (Revelation 3:11). Run with the Son till the prize is won.

Shirley Frick
Greenville, OH

IT TAKES A REAL MAN TO TRUST GOD

One special ingredient lacking in today's family is a father. By that I mean a father who truly stands as a man in his family, in his church and community. My question is simply, where have all the men gone?

Our culture has declared war on manhood and this has affected the fathers in our country. Somehow we need to turn this around and defeat these who are destroying fatherhood. We need to cultivate a new generation of fathers.

What our families need today are real men who know how to take a stand for God.

We find ourselves today fighting against the culture and sad to say, in many cases we are losing. We don't have to lose because we have all the resources necessary to not only fight this war, but to win it for God's glory. To do this we need men who are willing to access these resources and make a stand for God.

Studies have shown that fathers are an important ingredient in the family today. I don't need to talk about those statistics; I think you know where I am coming from. A growing number of families are single-parent families. This is

not a good trend. Even secular psychologists warn that single parent families are not a good environment for children to grow up in. Young boys, in particular, are greatly affected by not having the proper father figure in their life when they grow up.

Throughout our culture today, there is an undermining of the family. This movement can be seen in television programming to movies to music to electronic games and so forth. A purpose in all of this is to compromise the purpose of God for the family.

As Christians, we need to stand against this movement of the culture. However, we are finding similar statistics in the Christian church as we find in the secular world. As Christians, we need to define what the family is all about from God's perspective and not allow the culture or society to redefine it.

A godly father lays a firm foundation for the next generation to build upon. What this generation has today is a result of yesterday's fathers. It is important that Christian fathers stand up and be everything that God desires them to be because

the health of the next generation is in their hands.

The good news is, we do not have to live in the past. Regardless of the past, we can change our path today. Sometimes, when we do make changes in our lives for good, our children and grandchildren may notice and be encouraged by it. And there's more good news! We are not doing this alone. God is with us. We must become the godly fathers that our families need but we can only do it through the power of the Holy Spirit in our life.

As a father, I need to clear my life of any obstruction that would keep the Holy Spirit working in my life. I'm not talking about sin here. I'm talking about things in my life that are cluttering my ability to be what God wants me to be.

The next generation of Christians needs this generation of fathers to live in the power and demonstration of the Holy Spirit. Make a vow with me that our best father days are ahead of us.

James L. Snyder,
Ocala, Florida

CONNECTIONS

As members of the Bible Study Board our hope in writing monthly articles related to the Adult SS Lessons is that we all see afresh different points of connection that reveal the Word made flesh.

1Sa 27:1 And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

1Sa 27:6 Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.

We know of David as the man after God's own heart, demonstrating immense faith especially in his dealings with Saul. What just happened in the verses above? In the last chapter he was acting out of faith by not killing Saul, making the statement that "As the Lord liveth, the Lord shall smite him; or his day shall come to die; or he shall descend into battle, and perish" (1Samuel 26: 10b). God would take care of His anointed, and David's role was to trust in the plan of God.

It is not immediately apparent that David's solution to escape to Ziklag was wrong. I think that his intentions were good. He wanted to live without the fear of death hanging over

his head, and he also had the responsibility of caring for his men and their women and children. However, under the weight of his duties, David became tired. He was tired of running, tired of not knowing if he was safe, and tired of not having a home. The natural remedy for this was to find a place to rest.

David, and his response to this tiredness, feels very relatable to me, as mental, emotional, and/or physical exhaustion can wear down one's spiritual strength and give one a myopic view of God's plan. Granted, I have never faced the ire of a lunatic king that was seeking my life, but I think we have all

experienced how fatigue can lower our spiritual defenses. It is easier to develop a self-reliant life strategy without seeking input from God than it is to practice faith through constant communication with our Provider. David did not seek God for a remedy to his weariness, and this ultimately affected his leadership and placed him in an even more precarious position.

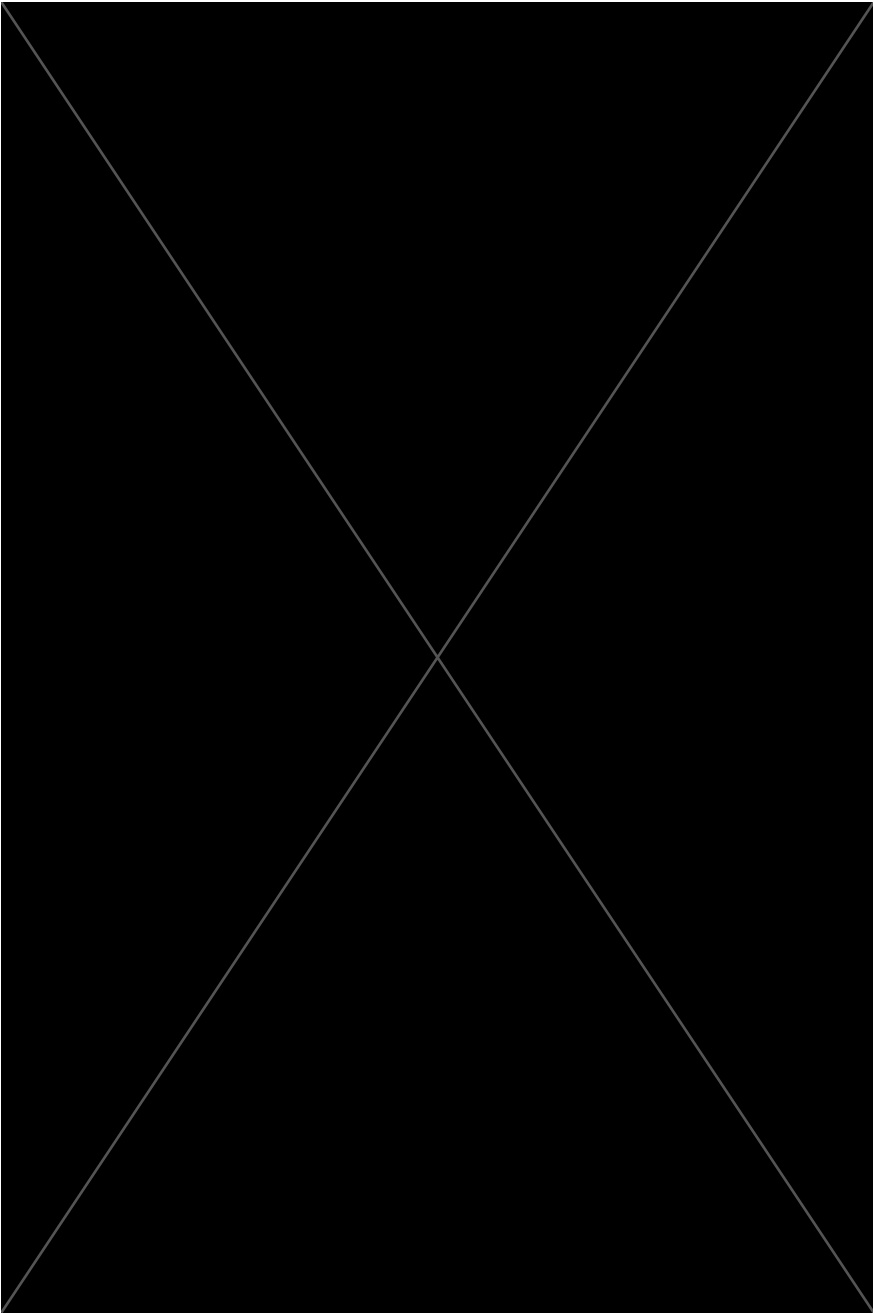
David chose Ziklag to temporarily fix his problems, but settling there could have ultimately cost him a kingship over Israel. Running to Ziklag made sense. It seemed secure, and promised rest. If everything proceeded as planned and David remained there indefinitely, imagine the future he would have missed out on. If not for the enduring love of a God who wanted better things for the fleeing outlaw, David might have traded his imminent reign over Israel for an insignificant piece of property in the middle of Philistine territory. God knew all that David could become and

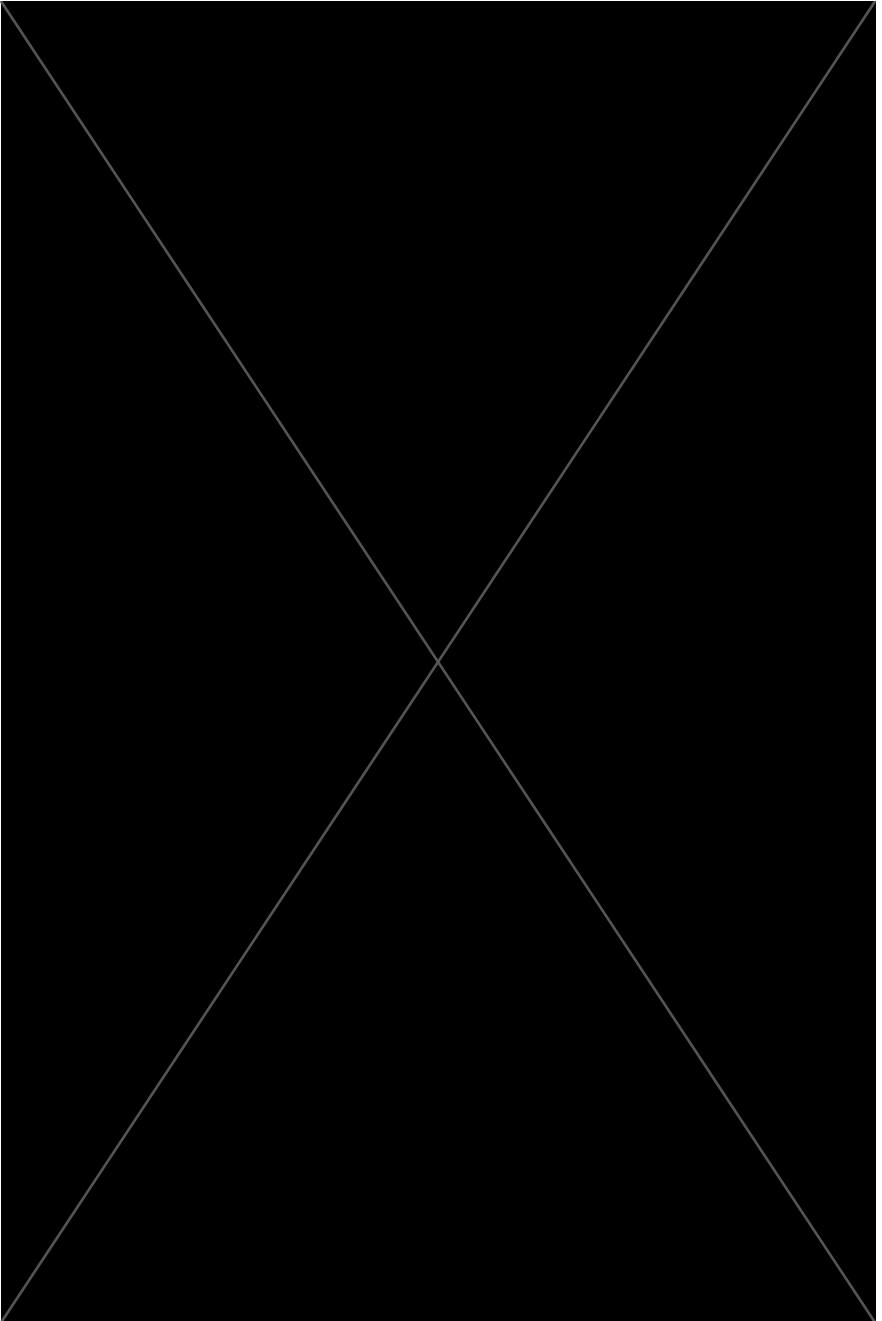
it was in His mercy that Ziklag was burned.

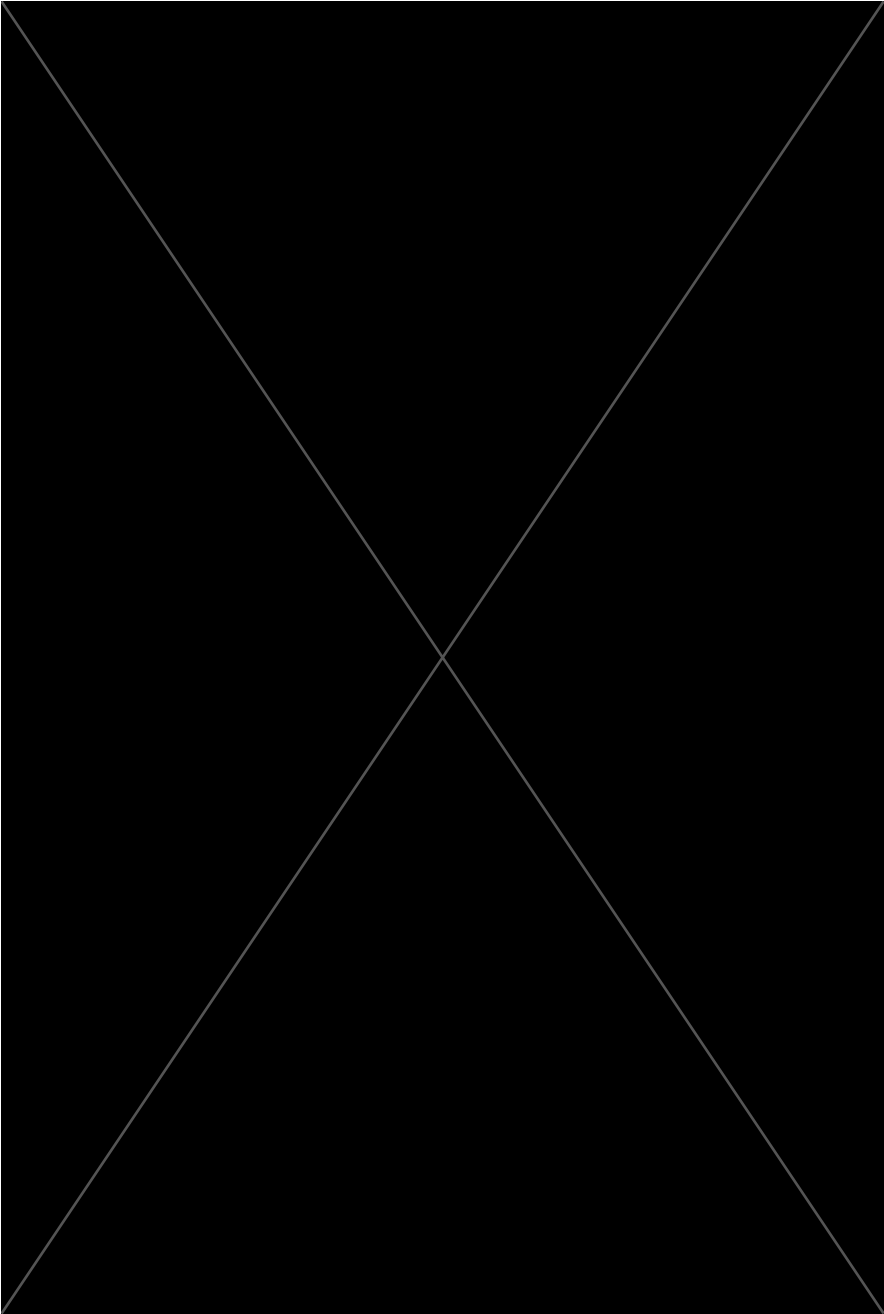
Like David, we all face problems that are easier to focus on rather than the relationship God is seeking to have with us. When we try to come up with solutions to our problems outside of God, we are not seeking His face. Lack of foresight and weariness led David to trade Israel for Ziklag, and we can allow the same to affect our own vision of the future and ultimately persuade us (quite easily, sometimes) to follow in Esau's footsteps and trade a birthright for a bowl of hot stew. What could we be missing out on when we lean on our own understanding?

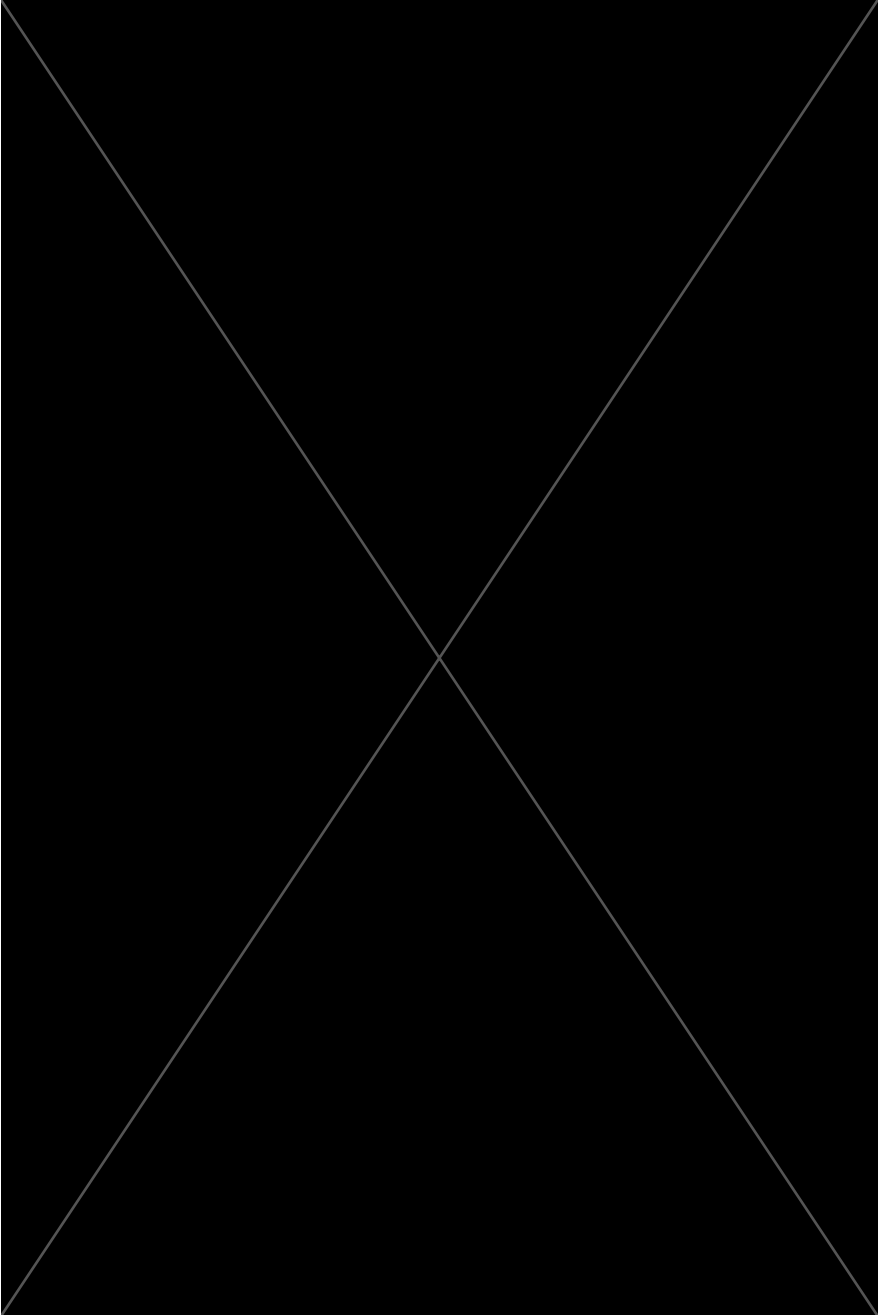
How can we keep the exhaustion of life from letting our guard down to temptation? Let us remain steadfast and aware, that we may not neglect our relationship with the Almighty, pursuing our own self-destructive plans instead.

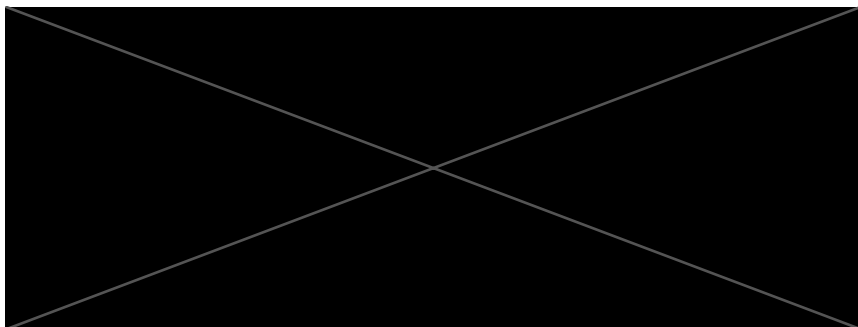
Bro. Micaiah Johnson
On behalf of the Bible Study Board











OBITUARY

William “Bill” E. Armstrong, age 78, of Wauseon, passed away in his home on September 16, 2022. Bill was a farmer and a mechanic.

Bill was born on October 9, 1943, in Morenci, Michigan to the late William “Bill” and Vera (Eby) Armstrong. On October 26, 1963, Bill married Sandra (Hostetler), and she survives. Bill was a truck puller during the 1970s and 1980s. He was also known for retrofitting Chevy Suburbans with Duramax engines. Bill was known for his sweet corn and his peanut butter popcorn. He was a member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church of Wauseon, where he actively served in the annual Dunkard Brethren Youth Retreat.

Surviving Bill is his wife, Sandra; son, JR (Lilly) Armstrong of Lyons; daughter, Beth (Mark) Cordrey of Modesto, CA; daughter, Amy (David) Bliss of Wauseon; and son Brian (Stacie) Armstrong of Archbold. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Michael, Mark, Christopher, Caleb, Jacob, Wade, Megan, Miranda, Morgan, Dakota, Wyatt, and Walker; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Dorothy (Carl) Lorenz; sister, Lue (Don) Hostetler; sister, Carol (Dave) Niese; and brother, Clair (Dyann) Armstrong. Bill was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Shirley Zimmerman; and brother, Albert Armstrong.

Funeral services were held September 23 at West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church, Wauseon, Ohio with Bro. Brant Jamison officiating. Internment followed at North Pettisville Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

Leadership Conference

Officials and their wives are invited to attend the 23rd annual Leadership Conference. The theme of this year's conference is "A 1st Generation Believer in Jesus Christ" Eph. 1-2. The conference will take place November 11-13 in Garnett, Kansas and is being hosted by the Grandview, Missouri congregation. If you plan to go but haven't yet confirmed your attendance registration, please contact Johnathan & Karen Edgecomb by call or text to 785-204-1859 (Johnathan) or 785-204-1860 (Karen) or email at jkedgecomb@gmail.com Karen is also your contact if you have any lodging questions or need directions.

Berean, Indiana

All are welcome to join us for our Fall Lovefeast services beginning on Friday evening at 7:30 pm, November 4 through Sunday morning November 6. Communion service on Saturday evening at 6:00 pm. Let us all be in prayer for Bro. Phil Gish who will be our guest speaker.

Sister Donna Wray, Cor.

Minister - Address Change

The new mailing address for Bro. Jonathan Skiles is PO Box 1990, Cuba, NM, 87013.

Publication Board - Book Releases

After a number of years of work toward publishing the Rudy Cover Bible Story Book, the Publication Board finally plans to have the book available for purchase beginning November 1 through Amazon (in hardback, paperback or eBook format including Apple Books, Barnes & Noble and Kobo). The book includes approximately 240 of Rudy's Bible stories and approximately 20 illustrations by Sis. Bethany Johnson (Manuel). If you are active in writing product reviews on Amazon and would like a copy of the book (as

a .pdf file or paperback proof copy) in exchange for your honest review, we invite you to participate in this book release. For details contact Bro. Marvin Lorenz at dbcpublishing@gmail.com. In requesting a copy for review, please indicate to Marvin your preference for a .pdf document or paperback proof copy.

Coloring Book

Additionally, a coloring book featuring Sister Bethany's drawings will also soon be available through Amazon. Look for more information on these books in next month's issue of the Bible Monitor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 2022

December 4 - 1 Samuel 30:1-15 - Ziklag Destroyed

1. When David was distressed, what did he do? What do we do with our distresses?

2. Why did 200 of David's men stay behind?

3. Who led David to the Amalekites? Why?

December 11 - 1 Samuel 30:16-31 - David Recovers All the Amalekites Had Taken

1. Why was David so passionate to bring down these Amalekites?

2. How did David treat his 200 men who did not go into battle with him?

3. What can we learn from this account of David extending mercy to them?

December 18 - 1 Samuel 31:1-13 - Saul's Tragic Death

1. Why was Saul losing everything he had?

2. 1 Samuel 26:21 gives a summary of Saul's life. Was his tragic death a result of this?

3. How will Saul be remembered, in comparison to David?

December 25 - Isaiah 7:10-16, 9:1-7, and 11:1-10 - The Birth of Christ

1. What are some of the divine attributes this man-child would possess?

2. How do these attributes affect our lives today, when we know Jesus?

3. God's sign of the coming Messiah was very descriptive. Why did they miss His coming?

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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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