

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CI

JANUARY, 2023

NO. 1

“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.

WE HAVE MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR:

The Wisdom of knowledge

The Peace of God

The Family we love

The Friends we find

The Blessings of health

The Wonder of nature

The Faith we hold dear

The Life we're given

The Vision of Opportunity

The Beauty of the rainbow

The Joy of Grace

The True Word of God

The Gift of Jesus

The Powerful Resurrection

The Joy of Singing

The Hope of Heaven

May all of the above remain in us as we enter the New Year!

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”

Psalms 119:105

Shirley Frick
Greenville, OH

THE PASSING OF ANOTHER YEAR

As we turn the calendar to a new year, we simultaneously close out the old year. And at the stroke of midnight on December 31, another year is in the books. Depending on how you count time, one year is 12 months; 365 days; 8,760 hours; 525,600 minutes or 31,536,000 seconds. On leap years, we get a little extra. When we think about it this way, we might wonder what we did with all that time.

In this season, many often consider the events and achievements of the past year. For our family, major landmarks of the year included weddings for two of our children, our youngest starting to drive, the Lord's hand of protection in a major auto accident, the news of more grandchildren on the

way and new responsibilities for me as a new editor for the Bible Monitor. Each of us probably have at least a few landmarks by which to remember this passing year. In some of these things, we can clearly see God at work in our lives.

While God was certainly at work in our lives through the big events and achievements of the past year, wasn't He also at work in the little things; the things we often trivialize and forget? Interestingly, for most of us over the course of a year, the vast majority of our time is occupied by the trivial things with a few landmarks sprinkled in. When we look back over a passing year, we tend to remember the landmarks and mostly forget the mundane.

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While we may praise God for his guidance, protection, mercy and blessing in the big things in our lives, may we not forget that He's at work in little things too.

In Matthew 28:20, Jesus said to His disciples "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." If we believe that this applies to believers today, that means that God was with us when we washed the dishes, cleaned the house and kissed the children and tucked them into bed. He was with us when we did our daily work, mowed the grass and encouraged a neighbor. He was with us when we did our schoolwork, did our chores and hung out with friends. He was with us when we were awake in the middle of the night, when we worried about our grandchildren and prayed for our great grandchildren. That means he was with us when we did all the countless ordinary things that we do in a year.

Maybe in these little things, we don't often recognize God's work. But is He at work here too? Perhaps here is also

found the Spirit's workshop for developing and maturing fruits of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Further, Philippians 1:6 tells us to be confident that "... he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." That should greatly encourage us. God started something with us and He will finish it. Scripture indicates that He is at work transforming believers, building up a spiritual house with lively stones. We are new creations that in glory to glory, He is fashioning after His own image (2 Cor. 3:18). What an awesome Lord and Savior we have!

So as we say goodbye to another year and ring in a new one, may we remember to praise the Lord for His love and attentiveness in being with us always and for His work in transforming us through the big things and perhaps especially through the little things.

Bro. Ken Brock,
Stryker, OH

THE CITY OF DAVID

Is the City of David Jerusalem or Bethlehem? The answer is yes. More than forty times in the Old Testament, Jerusalem is referred to as the City of David. In the New Testament, Luke says the City of David is Bethlehem.

Let's start with Bethlehem. You can imagine the consternation of Herod when wise men from the east were asking, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" Herod needed no replacement, but he knew the Jews had their prophets. The Jerusalem wise men could search the Scriptures and let the eastern wise men and Herod know what this was all about. They found what they were searching for in Micah 5:2 "But thou, Bethlehem, Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting." Micah's book is a puzzling mixture of doom for the northern tribes (fulfilled very shortly), the birth of an everlasting king of Israel (fulfilled after 700 years), and a reign of peace in Israel (yet to be fulfilled).

Perhaps the most disturbing

to Herod was the statement, "Out of thee (Bethlehem) shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people, Israel." (Matthew 2:6b)

The men from the East had assumed the star led them to Jerusalem, the religious center of Judea. Bethlehem and Jerusalem are five miles apart. How accurate can a guiding star be? Evidently as accurate as a laser because that light in the sky was still beaming the way when the wise men left Jerusalem. With amazing accuracy, the star stood over where the young child was.

We come now to Luke 2:4, "And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David)." David's lineage was Bethlehem; his place of rule was Jerusalem. Joseph was to report for taxing at the birthplace of David, his ancestor.

We can now go to the City of David in the Old Testament, which is Jerusalem, but not the Old City of today. I live in the Old City behind walls built by Sulieman the Magnificent

500 years ago. King David conquered Jebus 3000 years ago, directing a clever march through an underground dry gutter. David called it the City of David and moved the center of government from Hebron to Jerusalem. (II Samuel 5:5-9).

The Temple Mount of today is the same as when Solomon built the first temple, but Jerusalem or the City of David was to the south. Sulieman's walls include the Temple Mount but are to the north. There was no reason for Sulieman to put walls around the City of David because it was nothing but a ruin and mostly buried.

The Jerusalem that Jesus of Nazareth knew was not the God-honoring Jerusalem of David's time. Mary alluded to the corruption of the scribes and Pharisees when she said in the Magnificat, "He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent away empty." (Luke 1:51-53)

Excavation of the City of

David began some twenty years ago, and it is still ongoing. A three-hour tour of the City of David has you walking through David's gutter that was the pathway to conquering Jebus. You can slosh through Hezekiah's tunnel (II Kings 20:20). This remarkable underground tunnel and the death angel that killed the Assyrian army in the nighttime hours (II Kings 19:32-35) made Israel feel that God would always protect His Holy City. The northern tribes had already been carried away and every other Judean city was captured. Only Jerusalem's walls were still standing. (Isaiah 36:1) This gave the Jews the false impression that God would always protect Jerusalem, after all His Temple was here. Isaiah said Babylon would carry them away (II Kings 20:17).

The most recent excavations have brought the Bible to life when parts of houses and government buildings of the City of David have been exposed. The most exciting find was three bullae (clay seals) with the names Gedeliah and Jucal inscribed. Jeremiah 38 mentions these two names as part of a quartet that wanted Jeremiah put to death because he was proclaiming that Jerusalem

needed to surrender. King Zedekiah and his court (here in the City of David) felt that God would protect them as He had in the days of Hezekiah. Jeremiah and Isaiah were right; the Temple was destroyed, and the Jews taken into captivity.

In 2007, remnants of Nehemiah's rebuilt wall were

uncovered in the City of David. This would put the City of David as the place Jesus called Jerusalem.

All this is exciting and wonderful, but the most important is that Jesus is my Lord and Savior today.

Sis. Mary Sue Moss
Jerusalem, Israel

BETTER THAN LIFE

Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Psalm 63:3

What a beautiful scripture is Psalm 63: especially, "thy lovingkindness is better than life." It puts everything in perspective. If we study mythology: the ancient Greeks and Romans and the polytheistic religions of today, the gods show very little compassion toward their earthly subjects. Look at those heathen gods of the Old Testament like Baal and Dagon. Generations of ignorant souls sacrificed their infant first-born. The One True God sacrificed His only Son once and for all for the sins of all mankind. This is hard to understand. How can God love us so much? How can such tiny carnal minds comprehend the love of God? It is like trying to

explain eternity to one bound by time.

The fact is there are so few that understand God's love, and we can see this by how few Christians actually follow Him as the disciples did. We regard so many things more important in our lives than the blessings of God. We love so many things in this life more than God's love, yet David, the apple of God's eye, said, "thy lovingkindness is better than life." We must teach it. What is our life? It is only a vapour – a moment compared to life with God. Will we risk losing eternity for a little party time down here? History teaches us that our forefathers of a century ago were concerned about acculturation. It is a big word which means that if we are not careful, the world and all its sinful features will rub off

on us. Are there things that you love more than God? Are there people that you love more than God? Or can you put yourself in the category of David and say “better than life” to the attributes of God?

A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing. - *Martin Luther*

Bro. Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

ACTIVE OR PASSIVE

We are born with a personality. Some of us are outgoing, some of us are quiet and reserved. We were made like that, or our circumstances taught us to be that way. I am not here to say which is better or which is worse, however I would like to challenge you in this area. When you come to church, are you passive or active? What I have observed in the many years that I have taught Sunday School and am present in church, that most people come to receive instead of being ready to share or give. The conservative people have chosen acapella singing in church services as a chance to let everyone participate. I appreciate this but you can soon realize that some, if not most, have taken a passive seat when it comes to this. You can argue that not all can sing or enjoy singing, but the point of it is not only for the individual,

but to worship and glorify God. God demands worship and praise. Psalm 33:1” Rejoice in the LORD, O ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright.” Definition of Comely: “agreeable; suitable”. Verse 3” Sing unto him a new song; play skillfully with a loud noise.” I am not promoting disrespect and obnoxious commotion, but rather an active role in worship. Revelation 5:12 “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” God wants us to praise Him out of a heart of gratitude, however the reason we praise Him is because He is worthy and right! Psalm 33: 4 “For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.”

1 Corinthians 14: 26 “How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath

a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying." Another version says it this way," All these things must be done to build up the church." CEB. When there is opportunity, such as Sunday School, don't come expecting the teacher to talk the whole time. It is not a sermon, but rather a discussion to better the group. Study ahead of time, pray, ask the Lord to show you what there is for you in the lesson. Be prepared to share a testimony or a prayer request. These are things that build up a body. If participation wasn't wanted, there would not be a schedule of the lesson given beforehand. Time will not always allow everyone to talk and add to the discussion, but I can tell you from experience, that if you come prepared, you get much more value from your time spent than if you just come to sit and be seen.

I do believe there are seasons where each of us have nothing or very little to give. At those times we rely on others to pour into us, but if that becomes the norm for us, I believe we should do some serious business with the Father. Ask Him to show us why

we have lost our joy. Ask Him to bring it back and to fill us to the point of overflowing so we can be a blessing to others.

Psalm 100 "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

I believe that God wants and needs our praise. In Luke 19:40, When Jesus was asked to make the crowd that was singing and praising Him be quiet, He answered "I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out." It is your responsibility and mine that when we enter God's presence, we are there ready to worship Him. He after all is KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS. Both in Revelation 19:16 and 17:14 this title is used. In the context of those

verses, I believe we will not be satisfied to be passive. There will be much rejoicing, praising, and shouting. Let's not wait until then to be active and purposeful in our worship!!

Revelation 17:14 "These shall make war with the Lamb,

and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful."

Bro. Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

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.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

In this sentence there are two sides to compare and contrast. On one side is the Law given by Moses. On the other side is Grace and Truth that Jesus provides. What side is of greater value and why? The answer dominates throughout the New Testament. In the face of great resistance only one answer is victorious. John is not going to back away from this conflict. In his own unique way he has already given his answer. One word suggests the inequality that exists between the two. It is the word "but". It implies a greater value in what Jesus provides. How can we test out this thesis

as to which side has greater value and ultimately is more desirable to you and me?

Law should not be undervalued. Entire societies depend on the law. Its purpose is to free people to pursue those things that are desirable to themselves without hurting or endangering other members of that society. We are not specifically referring to the Mosaic laws though there may be many similarities. Nevertheless, the law, mosaic as well as others, brings order to the society in which it exists. Its intent is to allow us to live together as good neighbors.

However, in order for the law to have the maximum benefit for any society there must be a means to enforce the law. Without the enforcement of the law the tendency of the society leads toward anarchy. In biblical language, "Everyone does what is right in their own eyes." Imagine for a moment the result of all laws related to the driving of motor vehicles no longer being enforced. Chaos would reign. Absolute freedom makes everyone a captive of tyranny.

The cycle between adherence to the law and anarchy is played out frequently in Israel's history. Included in these cycles is tyranny. A leader gains power, such as a king, and rules on the basis of his own law, ignoring the law of Moses. In whatever form law exists, by its very nature, law is external. We may let it rule over us. We may obey it but we are frequently irritated by it. There is a rebellion going on internally in spite of the outward compliance. Even if God is the author of the law our hearts feel the loss of the freedom we desire.

Grace and Truth are complementary values that bless the lives of those who are willing to receive them. Let us note immediately that neither Grace

nor Truth are the result of Law. In other words no law can take credit for creating them. Nor can we ourselves take the credit for their existence in our lives. Rather, we have been asked to receive them. They come as a gift not as a reward. They are offered to us by God Himself as part of the relationship He desires to have with us. As we receive these gifts and exercise their power in our lives they provide opportunities for our faith in God and His Son, Jesus Christ, to grow. This growth begins internally in our spiritual hearts. As it matures the fruit of our relationship becomes evident externally.

Grace continually reminds us that God is the author of our lives. His purpose for our life is to reveal His glory. Truth intensifies both our awareness of God's grace and the depth of sin that the law cannot purify. For example the Law tells us not to commit adultery. Jesus tells us that if we have lusted for someone then we have already committed adultery in our heart. Keeping the law does not solve the problem of sin. Nor can we hide in the darkness of our sins while hoping to change. Walking in the light of Christ is the only means of transformation. The Truth is not

merely information that we need to know. It is experiencing Jesus as a daily reality. The disciples of Jesus were not transformed in a moment of time. Sometimes they were clueless and scratched their heads in bewilderment. Other times they were amazed at his power and his teaching. The Truth makes us free. Jesus will never fail us but will guide us daily into eternity.

24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, 25 To the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 24-25)

Bro. Phil Franklin
On behalf of the Bible Study Board

PHIL'S PONDERINGS

As we “study to shew *ourselves* approved unto God...”

January 2023 Study Questions

January 1 – Behold the Glory of the Word that Became Flesh - John 1:1-18

What do we learn in the first five verses about the Word?

What does the phrase, ‘In the beginning’ have reference to?

What reminds you that you are in the light?

How do you know that you are a child of God?

How does John summarize the Christmas story?

How does John summarize the difference between the Old and New Testaments?

In v.18 how is the contrast between all men and the Son portrayed?

Commentary: As we begin our study of John it becomes evident that John’s gospel is written very differently from Matthew, Mark, and Luke. While all three of these gospels have their own peculiarities, it is evident that they started with very similar information and

teachings that are the foundation of their account of Jesus, the Messiah. John differs from them in the way he presents the truth of Jesus. His overarching thesis is the identity of Jesus. In the synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) the identity of Jesus is frequently realized by those he ministers to but Jesus counsels them to keep it a secret. John, on the other hand, is shouting it loudly in the very first sentence, “and the Word was God.” (John 1:1) He was in the beginning with God and co-creator with Him. (v2,3) Critical to our faith and understanding is the personhood of Jesus. And the Word became flesh.... (John 1:14) The miracle of the incarnation, God becomes man in Christ Jesus, is the ultimate basis of the spiritual truth we proclaim. Jesus has no peers in human history to be compared to. Just as important as what He has done is who He is. God alone in the person of Christ reveals His ultimate nature. In revealing Himself to the world He reveals ultimate truth which resides in Him perfectly and completely. Only Jesus can bear the titles of Son of God, Son of Man, Lord, Savior, Priest, and King. He is Emanuel (God With Us).

January 8 – The Voice of One Crying in the Wilderness - John 1:19-34

How do you respond when someone asks you, “Who are you?”

Why does John seem reluctant to answer?

What primary reasons drive the questions concerning John’s identity?

What significance do you see in John’s answer?

Why is baptism such a big issue?

What are the implications of John’s response when he says, “... there stands One among you whom you do not know.”

Commentary: Many of us have found ourselves in conversations related to finding a job. Human wisdom frequently decrees that, “It is not what you know but who you know that determines who gets the job.” Sometimes the inference is that someone had an advantage because a relative or good friend recommended them. Yet, we often ask for

recommendations for car mechanics, doctors, restaurants, plumbers, and so on. But in the realm of politics and the power structures that develop within that realm the primary purpose for favoring someone is the help they provide in gaining or maintaining power. John the Baptist is under surveillance by those in power. Is he a threat or someone who can be used to strengthen their control? "Who are you," they want to know. His name is not a mystery. But his spiritual identity is. Why is he baptizing Jews when no law requires it? Is he the Messiah (Christ)? Is he Elijah or another Prophet now returned? John confesses he is not Christ, nor any other prophet of old. He makes no claim for fame. Rather, he is just the voice of the one who proclaims a call for repentance as preparation for the Lord's coming. John sees himself as just the setup man who baptizes with water. The Messiah is already in their midst and He will baptize with the Holy Spirit. The conflict between the existing religious authorities and John will only intensify with Jesus. The cross is the penultimate result by those who seek to control God for their own purposes. "Who are you," we may be asked? Like John we may respond that we are but "a voice crying in the wilderness" of this sinful world. There is nothing special about us. But Jesus, who came and will come again, is everything we need.

January 15 – Come and See Christ - John 1:35-51

In v35 who are the two disciples?

Does John understand Jesus as we do when he refers to him as the "Lamb of God?"

How do you respond to Jesus' question, "What do you seek?"

In comparison with the other gospels what are some similarities and differences in how Jesus first meets his disciples?

How do Nathaniel's comment about Nazareth and Jesus' about Nathaniel make sense?

What difference is there between Nathaniel's profession of faith and Peter's in Matt. 16:16?

Commentary: We know the story but do we feel the excitement? John the Baptist' part in the story will decrease rapidly. Yet, he rejoices in presenting the main character: the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John feels no betrayal as some of his disciples leave to follow Jesus. In quick succession we meet several of the disciples who are part of the network of those on the lookout for the Messiah. John, the gospel writer, provides some brief vignettes of several of the future apostles. In spite of these highly personal introductions John remains quiet about himself. It is possible, perhaps very likely, that John is one of the two disciples who begin to follow Jesus in this passage. Regardless, John wants the focus to rest upon Jesus. Since identity, especially the identity of Jesus, has been the focus of this 1st chapter, we must recognize the infancy of the disciples' faith in Jesus as the Messiah (Christ). It won't be long before John the Baptist is wondering if Jesus is really the Messiah or whether they should "look for another". John is disappointed and unsure of what Jesus' reply means. For Jesus the cross is always before him and the final destination of his earthly life and ministry. On that cross dies the expectation of a Messiah who will conquer Israel's enemies while throwing out the corrupt leadership inhabiting the Sanhedrin. But for this moment let us enjoy the excitement that Jesus brings and rest in the expectation that Jesus will exceed every disappointment we endure as we follow him gladly on the path to life.

January 22 – Water to Wine the Beginning of Signs - John 2:1-17

Was Mary invited to the wedding or was she there for special purposes?

How long might a wedding last?

What is Mary's concern and who is it for?

What is Jesus' objection to solving the problem?

How many gallons of wine did the pots hold?

How does Jesus' miracle affect the wedding?

Commentary: There seems to be a great number of explanations for this passage concerning the miracle of turning water into wine. Some of them make sense for some rather limited reasons. Nothing really jumps out in a way that provides firm conviction or answers all our questions. The most benign reason for Jesus turning water into wine is saving a bride and bridegroom or those responsible, the embarrassment of running out of wine during the feast. Wedding celebrations often lasted seven days. That is a lot of feasting and drinking to plan for. We have no clue how many days have already passed or have yet to come before the end of the celebration. Given the amount of wine created by Jesus, about 150 gallons, it seems like an abundant amount. But what spiritual truths can we apply to this miracle? With Jesus there is always enough no matter how many are involved. As with the feeding of the 4,000 and again the 5,000 there was plenty left over. But our primary interests are not temporal but spiritual. Perhaps this first miracle performed by Jesus serves as a template of his power that is revealed in all of his miracles. Is there enough grace (wine) to cover my sins? Do I have enough faith in Jesus that I am saved? Why do I come so short, so often, in my walk with the Lord? Am I learning that there is an abundance of grace available, not only for my sins, but also for my growth spiritually? Do I taste a deeper, fuller richness in His grace as I submit more readily to His calling in my life? In spite of all of life's tribulations and personal failings there is always the supremacy of his presence that by faith I can hear him say, *in all these things you are more than conquerors through my Son who loves you.* (Rom 8:37)

January 29 – Born Again by Water and Spirit - John 2:18-3:12

What is the purpose of the temple?

What is a house of merchandise?

If you have something to sell, what is your desire as the seller?

How had the temple sacrifices been corrupted?

Why does John tell us it was night when Nicodemus came to see Jesus?

Why is it so difficult for Nicodemus to understand ‘being born again’?

What is the primary point in Jesus comparing ‘being born of the Spirit’ with the blowing of the wind?

Commentary: There are times when a succession of events don’t immediately seem connected to each other. But John has purpose in the way he organizes and prioritizes his material. Remember that at the end of his gospel he writes that if everything Jesus did were written down the world could not contain all the books that would be written. Part of our task then is to follow the thread of thought and action that connects them together. We backtrack to Jesus driving out the money changers and the animals for sacrifice. There is more of the character of Walmart taking place in the temple except for the exorbitant prices being charged. The money changers aren’t merely taking money for what is bought. You can only buy with the pre-approved currency used in all temple sales. Of course all dollars or pesos or pounds are devalued in the process meaning you are paying more with less. Nor can you bring your own animals for sacrifice. So only pre-approved animals can be used which of course cost more. The High Priest is in charge of the whole process. He determines who can sell and gets plenty of kickbacks from those who are approved to sell animals or change money. The stench in the temple isn’t the animals but the greed of men’s hearts. The Jews demand a sign from Jesus to somehow justify his actions. What he offers in return is referred to as the sign of Jonah in the other gospels. John makes this more personal as Jesus refers to his own death and resurrection, which only becomes clear to his disciples after he has risen from the dead. But the connection with the temple and Jesus’ resurrection is deliberate. As grand and permanent as the temple appears it is flawed like its builders and caretakers. The work of many hands over many years is temporary. The only temple that endures is the one built by “... Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord, in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20-22) The earliest dating for the writing of John’s Gospel is typically around 90AD. The temple was destroyed by Roman troops in 70AD. The temporary nature of the temple in Jerusalem was already a well-established reality for the earliest readers of John’s Gospel.

John then refers to unknown miracles performed by Jesus. While many begin to believe in him their faith is not yet rooted in fertile soil. The kingdom of God cannot be built on the changeable whims of the crowd. Even as knowledgeable a man as Nicodemus struggles to understand the new birth. His identity as a Jew must be replaced with an identity built upon Jesus Christ. Without that change a life led by the Spirit of God makes no more sense than the aimless blowing of the wind that comes and goes where no one knows.

OBITUARY

Eldon Mallow, 88, of Clearville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Wednesday, November 23, 2022, at home.

He was born on September 7, 1934, in Onego, West Virginia, a son of the late Owen and Ollie Mabel (Harper) Mallow. On February 3, 1956, he married Rachael Lenora (Forrester) Mallow; she preceded him in death on March 18, 1969. He then married Angeline Joy (Shaffer) Mallow on January 2, 1971, in Greencastle, PA; she preceded him in death on March 28, 2022. He is survived by children Rachael "Darlene" Clark; David W. Mallow, married to Leah; Michael E. Mallow, married to Yvonne; Daniel O. Mallow and Benita J. (Mallow) Bollman, married to Robert; 13 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson.

Along with his parents and wives he was preceded in death by siblings Evelyn (Mallow) Moyer, Loma (Mallow) Price; Ilda (Mallow) Valentine; Mildred Mallow; Manfred Mallow; Retha (Mallow) Matthews; Clara Jane (Mallow) Beegle; Naomi (Mallow) Bickerstaff and Ollie (Mallow) Noecker.

Eldon completed 8th grade at Glade Lick School in Clearville, Pennsylvania. He was a logger and retired from Foremost Industries as a finish carpenter.

On October 9, 1955, he gave his life to The Lord and was baptized. He was installed into the ministry on August 8, 1965 and became

an elder on October 9, 1983. He served as minister of Clearville Dunkard Brethren Church.

He loved hunting and fishing and telling his hunting stories. Eldon enjoyed making wooden projects such as bird houses, airplanes, chain-saw bears and any little projects he could think of. He was a loving, caring, giving husband, father, grandfather, who was dearly loved.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, November 29, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel at Akers Funeral Home in Everett, Pennsylvania with Elder Keith Snyder officiating.

NEWS ITEMS

Notice

In preparation for the February issue of the Bible Monitor, please send me any corrections, additions or deletions regarding the Ministerial List, the Deacon List or contact information for the congregations. This information should be supplied by the Presiding Elder or his designate by the first few days of January so that the February issue can be as accurate as possible.

Thank you,
Bro. Ken Brock

Thank You

We want to thank everyone for the cards that were sent for our 60th birthday. It has been a great milestone to achieve and thank you all for helping us enjoy this time, for now and for the next year!

Bro. Don & Sis. Mabel Chupp
Dallas Center, IA

2023 CASP Project – Forestry

Our fifth CASP Pilot Project is being planned for the month of February in 2023. We recently received confirmation that this project will take place at the South Cumberland State Park, near Monteagle, Tennessee. The exact dates are not yet determined.

This project is an opportunity for young men of draftable age (18-25) who are members of the Dunkard Brethren Church to develop spiritual growth, grow in maturity, enjoy the satisfaction of service, and develop new, deeper, and lasting friendships with like-minded young brothers from across our Brotherhood. The cost is taking a month out of the volunteer's life from a job or whatever else he might be doing. The experience will be somewhat stretching but rewarding. Usually it is when we get outside of our comfort zones that real growth occurs.

Along with the work projects, emphasis will be made throughout the time of service on outreach in the community, personal spiritual growth, times of Bible study and singing, recreation and other activities to promote spiritual development.

Young men who are interested in serving on this project should contact Bob Lehigh at rlehighdb@gmail.com or 717-817-6025 (cell # for texts only) or 717-225-4928 for voice (leave a message). (Sorry, my cell number is not accepting voice calls right now.) As of this writing, several young brothers have expressed interest in serving. We need at least eight young men who are willing to serve in this way. You can help by spreading the word among the young men in your life or in your congregation.

We are also in need of staff persons who can devote four weeks to this project. We deeply appreciate the prayers and financial support of the Brotherhood during our past projects!

If you have questions (or if a young man has questions), feel free to get in touch with the Civilian Service Board member from your District or Bob Lehigh.

Thanks so much for your prayerful support and cooperation in this effort.

Sincerely in Christ,
Bro. Bob Lehigh
Spring Grove, PA

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

February 5 - John 3:13-26 - God's Love, God's Giving, God's Everlasting Life

1. What was Jesus' point in relating this story of the bronze serpent to Nicodemus?

2. How would the Son of Man be lifted up?

3. We understand there is only one way to God. The question is not, "Why is there only one way?" but, "Why is there even one way?"

February 12 - John 3:27-4:10 - The Bridegroom Meets a Samaritan Woman

1. What do you have that you have not been given?

2. List the benefits that Christians receive because of "Belief on the Son" (vs. 36).

3. What is the condition of those who do not believe in the Son?

February 19 - John 4:11-30 - Living Water for a Thirsty Sinner

1. How do we receive Living Water today?

2. The Samaritan woman tried to find happiness with five husbands. How do we try to find happiness today?

3. In verse 28, the Samaritan woman left her water pot at the well. What have you “left behind” to tell the Good News?

Feb 26 - John 4:31-54 - Many Samaritans Believe, then One Nobleman

1. What was the “Meat to eat” that the disciples did not know of?

2. How do we reap the benefits today of that which we did not sow?

3. How have Jesus’ words healed you?

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