

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CII

JANUARY, 2024

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.

HOPE FOR A DYING CHURCH

The old folks stay home on Sunday mornings now.
Church is not the same as it was, somehow.
The foundations are gone, entertainments abound.
Even good morals can scarcely be found.

The Word of God very seldom is heard.
Commandments of God disappear in a word.
People look for new ways to draw people in.
They forget who they worship, and the evil of sin.

What should we do, then, to draw people in?
We must make our God sovereign and preach against sin.
We must enter our closet and close the door.
And call out to God like never before.

Make Christ your Savior and follow Him well.
He will make straight your path and in Heaven you'll dwell.
Church isn't church any more, some folks say.
But it really need not be that way.

Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

LGBTQ+

(Part 1 of 2)

Here we are again, at the beginning of another new year. Our human nature tends to like new things, such as the hope and expectations for a new year. We naturally like new things in God's creation that have intrinsic beauty, such as the dawning of a new day, the crispness and brightness of a new fallen snow, the wonder of the vernal bloom or the joy of beholding a new life coming into the world. Even man-made things hold an allure to their newness. Whether a new book, a new bike a new car or a new house. Who doesn't like new things? Clean and new and they often even have a good smell!

However, not everything new is good. Specifically, the

characteristic of newness does not guarantee goodness. This seems especially true with ideas. For every good idea, there seems to be an equal or greater number of bad ideas. Living in a fallen world, that should come as no surprise.

One such bad idea is condensed within an acronym which is relatively new in the timeline of western civilization. Perhaps you haven't heard of LGBTQ+ before and it is now new to you. Most however, have heard of it in the last decade. This acronym stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, etc. While this acronym is relatively new, it does not represent a new idea. We all know that the idea

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of sin, including the sexual and immoral sins of LGBTQ+ have been around for millennia and perhaps since very near the beginning of time.

In our time, what is new about this is the push to normalize the idea, including the behaviors which accompany it. As is often the case within the social fabric of secular group thinking, adoption of new ideas takes time while they are pushed along a common trajectory. Initially, society is asked to simply tolerate the idea. The next stage is then to accept it as something with value. Then those that don't accept it are shamed as bigots and finally, all opposition is crushed.

In considering these stages, we might be able to identify where we are on the timeline. While it might seem that society is quickly evolving on this topic, the foundations of the movement have been in place longer than one might think. The first use of the word "gay" to refer to homosexuality occurred around 1950. For those old enough to remember, the former meaning of the word "gay" was limited to: joyful, carefree, bright and showy. In

trying to push society to tolerate an obvious sin, what better way than to relabel it as something pleasant? Stage 1 complete. Then in 1970, the first Pride March took place in New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago. Again, with the word "pride", a word that society generally sees as positive was used to mask the evil underpinnings of the movement, that contrarily are rooted in shame.

This is one account of how we arrived at where we are today. However, scripture gives us another account in Romans 1:20-32: *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them*

up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable,

unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

While our culture tolerates "gay" and "pride" and even accepts these as things of value, and may label opposers as bigots, God states what these things truly are: uncleanness, dishonour, vile affections and unrighteousness. Further, that these things are an eventual outcome of a people that knew God but didn't glorify Him as God, weren't thankful and became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened. Sound familiar? I believe it should as it seems we find ourselves within such a people today.

So what are we to do? What are we to think? Where are we to stand? Simply put, we must choose to stand in the Kingdom of Man or the Kingdom of God. The first is like a house built upon the sand that will be washed away and the latter like a house built upon the rock that will stand when the winds blow. We can choose foolishness or wisdom.

And as with any sin, we are to love the sinner but hate the sin. *"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with*

fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

To be continued in Part 2 in next month's issue of the Bible Monitor.

K. Brock

THE INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Tim. 3:16

It has been called the information superhighway. Millions, perhaps billions, use it every day, yet how reliable is it? Most people I have talked to feel that it is infallible. They believe that everything on the internet is true. What do you think? I believe there is only one book on which you can rely one hundred percent and that is the Word of God.

Unfortunately, since the advent of Darwinism and Modernism, most Bible "versions" have been unreliable. The first major translation since the King James Version of 1611 was the English Revised Version of the 1880's. Those who translated the Revised Version were Papists (Roman

Catholics) that believed in the overthrow of the European Royalty and who made use of witchcraft. Most translations since then have used the same Greek translation as the Revised Version.

Aside from the King James, there are very few which use the Greek Textus Receptus. It is unfortunate when you tell people that you believe God's Word is totally reliable, they will ask, "Which one?". The answer is simple. It is the Bible that will furnish the following outcome: *"That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* II Tim. 3:17 Be honest with yourself when you consider this: do all modern versions direct the reader to a

life of holiness? Do all modern versions lead the reader to the outcome just referenced in II Tim. 3:17?

"Now unto God and our

Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen." Phil. 4:20 Do we seek to glorify God in everything we do? God's Holy Word is reliable. Let us glorify God by seeking out His word.

Thou art my portion, O my God;
 Soon as I know Thy way,
 My heart makes haste to obey Thy Word,
 And suffers no delay.
 Now I am Thine, forever Thine,
 O save Thy servant, Lord;
 Thou art my shield, my hiding place;
 My hope is in Thy Word.

Issac Watts – 1719

Lynn H. Miller
 Newmanstown, PA

STOP BUILDING YOUR KINGDOM AND BUILD MINE!!

We were privileged to attend an awareness/fundraiser event for Ananias House. Their mission statement, *"Ananias House bridges the distance between believers in the West and the growing body of Christ in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through prayer, Bible training, and physical and spiritual resources to build up God's global family in an increasingly hostile world."*

Website <https://ananiashouse.org>

We heard from boots on the ground, video interviews and pastors from the persecuted church of the Middle East. The stories of God showing up and miracles happening are undeniable. The Islamic world is being turned upside down, they are seeing visions, they are hungry for the word, and they are seeing the church stepping up and helping to fill the needs on every level; praying, pastor lead-

ership training, women's leadership training, marriage training (Islamic background people often don't know how to value and love women), physical resources, spiritual resources.

Some of the takeaways from the speakers: *"Don't just pray, join the fight!"* Be intentional about fasting and praying, get involved in giving, giving of our time and resources. Stop complaining and start fighting. Don't fight your fears but take them to the alter (cross) and kill them there. Make the focus Jesus and His Kingdom.

The pastor couple from the Middle East said that to do this, they had to be willing to put their lives and the lives of their children on the alter and tell God they are all His to be used as He sees fit. They see violence and bloodshed, but also miraculous happenings and safe keeping. They no longer face fear but have a peace that only Jesus can bring. They were seeking the face of God on how to grow their church and be effective in the Kingdom and they clearly heard God say, *"Stop trying to build your kingdom and build Mine. Stop working to build numbers or denominations and build the church."* These people are facing life or death in real time, every day. They are putting their life on the line for the sake of the gospel. Most of us will not have the same opportunity but we are not to stand by and do nothing. The list of takeaways above is a start. Go to the website, look around, pray into the situation and listen for God to tell you how to proceed.

God is shaking the Islamic world and ushering in an unshakeable KINGDOM!! Let's go out and be part of it.

Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

BROKEN, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

Fanny Crosby was one of the great hymn writers of all time. She wrote approximately

6,000 hymns, although she was completely blind from birth. One day her pastor Dr. A. J. Gordon,

who was very much involved in the ministry of healing and praying for the sick, approached her and said, *"Fanny, would you like me to pray that God restores your sight?"*

Without taking a breath, Fanny said, *"No, pastor, I want the first face that I see to be Jesus."*

It is hard to believe anybody would have that kind of an attitude and yet we find that she did. She did not allow her condition to define who she was. She was able to serve God in spite of the human limitations that others might see in her.

Everyone is broken somewhere in their life. Discovering the real source of that brokenness can only be effectively done by the leading of the Holy Spirit. We need to keep in mind that even though we may be broken in many regards, God has not forgotten us. God can use us not because of who or what we are, rather he uses us because of who He is and our willingness to surrender to His leadership in our life.

I believe an attitude of personal perfection hinders us from living the reality of the Christ life. Too many people

have the idea that God is expecting perfection from their life. Every aspect of their life has to be absolutely perfect in order for God to bless and use them. This really is not the truth at all. Too many focus on the outward appearance, rather than on the inward relationship. Many allow their brokenness to define them.

Being broken is not the end of the world. In fact, everyone in some regard experiences some aspect of brokenness. If I take it from a Christian perspective, brokenness reminds me of how much I need God's grace. If I am perfect, I really do not need God. However, recognizing my own imperfection throws me on the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. He did not die in vain. He did not die for the perfect, for none are. He died for those who would surrender their lives, whatever that life may be, to Him without any conditions attached to it.

When I acknowledge my brokenness, I then can come to God and restoration can begin. As long as I am focused on what I cannot do, God cannot do what He can do in my life. Some Christians refuse to accept the reality of

imperfection. Somehow, they have the idea that God does not honor them if they have aspects of imperfection in their life. Find someone who is imperfect and I will find you someone who knows the imperfection of his own life to the point where he can experience the perfection of God's grace. When we embrace our brokenness and imperfections, we then open up ourselves to God to begin his work.

People struggle trying to deal with their brokenness, trying to hide it, trying to cover it up, trying to pretend it is not there, when all they need to do is surrender to God, brokenness and all.

One problem we might have in this area is if we look backwards to trace the roots of our brokenness. When we look backwards, we find ourselves stumbling and miss what God is doing right now. My brokenness does not define me, but rather allows me to experience the restoring power of God Almighty and move towards God's future for me.

One thing to keep in mind is that God's restoration is not a simple fix-it-up quick kind of a

thing. Rather, it takes a lifetime for God to work in my life and the restoration that begins today does not end until I come face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Today is the day God is restoring me and tomorrow will be a new aspect of that restoration and so forth throughout the rest of my life until I see him face-to-face.

My restoration is not rooted in now, but in eternity. I rejoice in what God is doing in my life now, but that is not the end of the story. I look forward to what God is doing in my life and what God will be doing in my life and each day becomes a joyful expectation of the restoring power of God in my life.

There is that day that we look forward to when the restoration will be completely finished. Right now, my spirit has been redeemed, but my body still struggles with the imperfections of sin. I am going to have this body until the day I die, however, until then I can experience God's grace to overcome those imperfections.

What a day it is going to be when we escape this life and the burdens of this life and come

into the presence of God and
see him face-to-face and begin
to rejoice that the restoration
program in our lives has been

completed to the glory of God.

James L. Snyder
Ocala, FL

FLAME OF GOD

From prayer that asks that I may be,
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher,
From silken self, O Captain, free thy soldier who would follow thee.

From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakening,
(Not thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified)
From all that dims thy Calvary, O Lamb of God, deliver me.

Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn with fire;
Let me not sink to be a clod;
Make me thy fuel, Flame of God.

Amy Carmichael

Selected by Maddy Cordrey
Ceres, CA

CONNECTIONS

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

Elected of God 1 Thessalonians 1:4,5

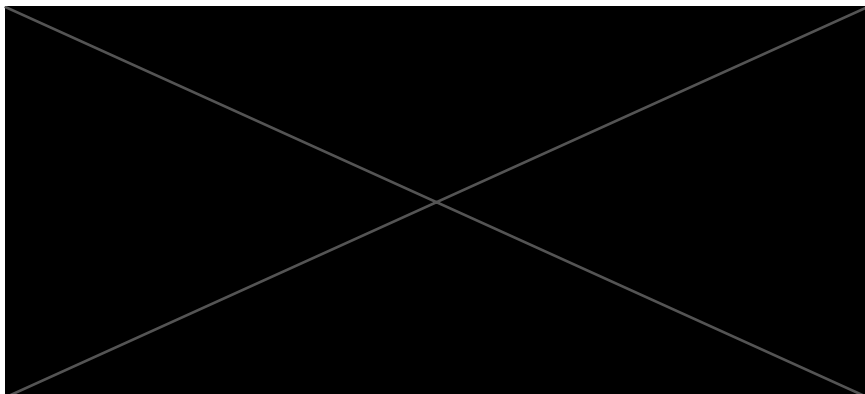
As Paul writes his letter to the church at Thessalonica, he starts off his letter with a challenge of "Knowing their election/calling of God". As we study through Thessalonians, we see Paul living out his election of God. As we know Paul's commitment to God's calling was far from easy. There were probably days when Paul wrestled with God and wondered what God was doing with him. Paul was human, not some super-natural being that God placed on earth. I believe Paul was able to walk the path that he did because he daily recognized what his calling was and where he stood with God.

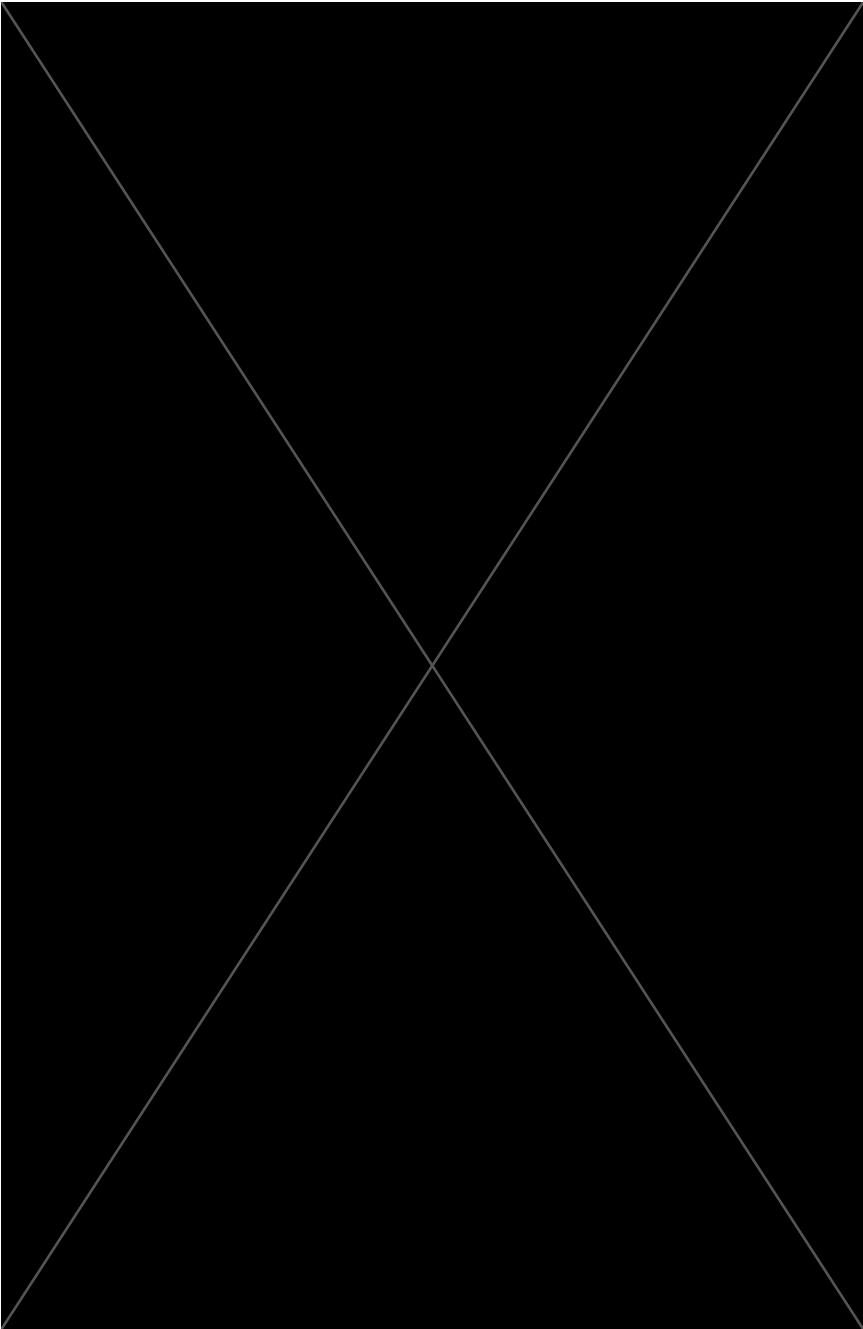
I also believe God has a calling for each of us that really doesn't look much different

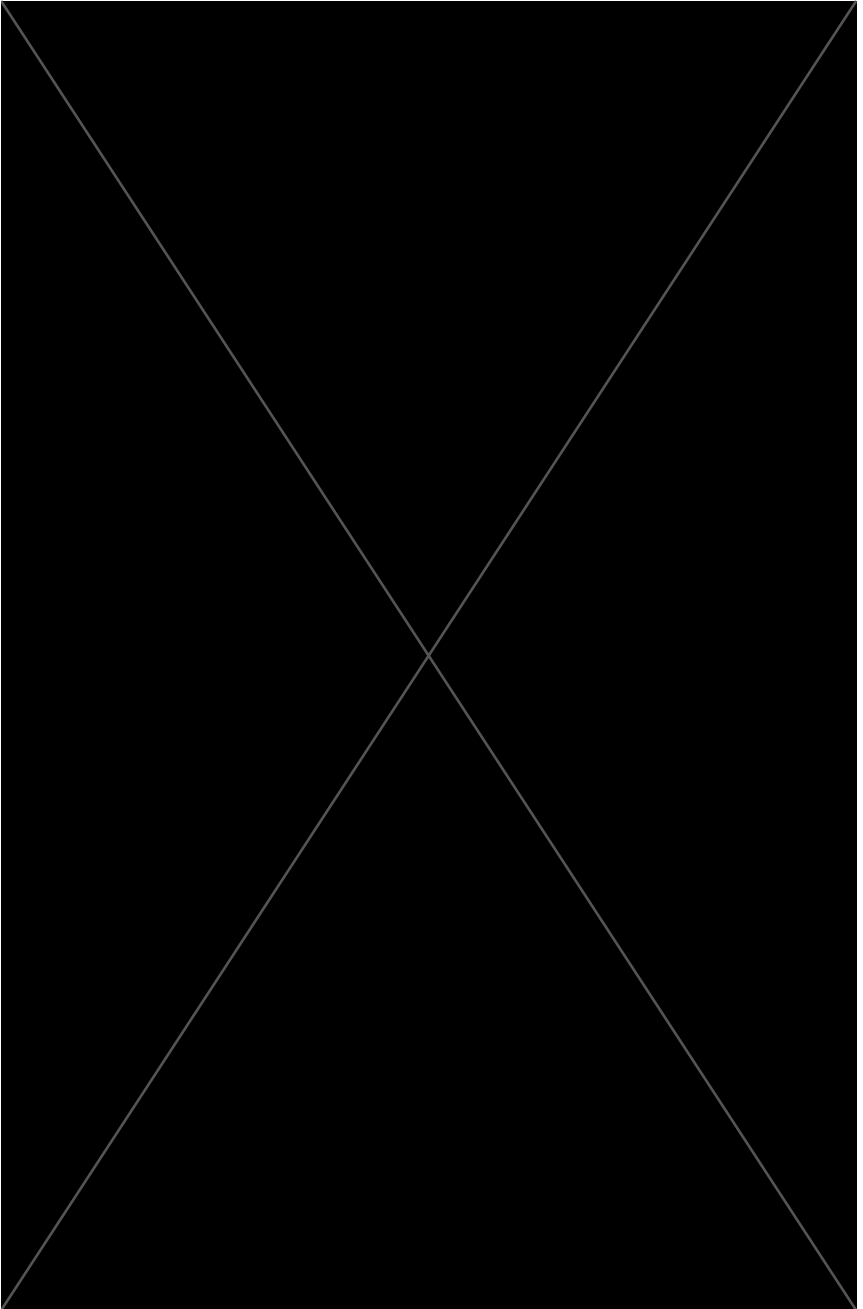
than what God had for Paul. Verse 5 needs to be a reality in our walk like it was for Paul. Paul challenges us to walk in the power that Christ gives us, knowing the scriptures, and being led by the Holy Spirit. That to me is so important for us to fulfill God's calling in our daily walk of life.

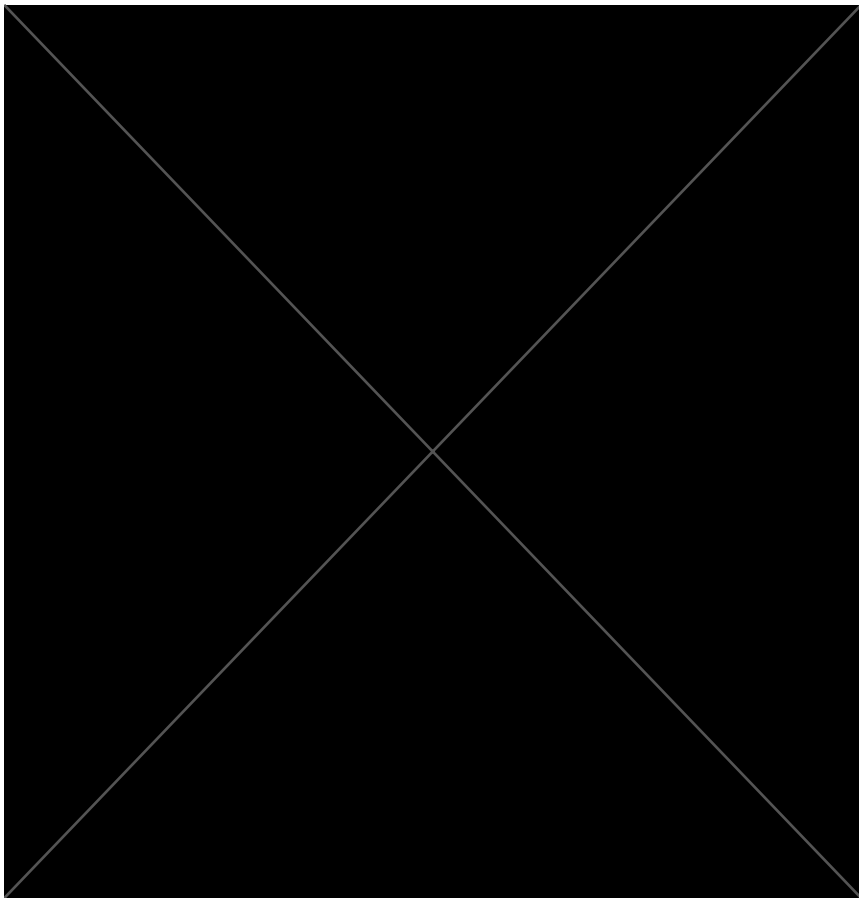
So as we embrace the challenging situations ahead of us, let's not forget How Paul walked through the hardships that God had for him. God has placed a calling upon each of us. Let us not grow weary with the road He has for each of us to travel. Let's be encouraged by the life of Paul.

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Caleb Heckman









OBITUARIES

Dorothy M. Noecker

Dorothy M. (Fidler) Noecker, of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, passed away Saturday, November 11, 2023, at Stone Ridge Towne Center, Myerstown. She was the wife of the late Daniel M. Noecker, Sr., who passed away January 1, 2020. Dorothy, a daughter of the late Herman and Verna (Wessner) Fidler, was born in Auburn.

She is survived by 10 children, Darlene M., wife of Michael Keeney, Red Lion, Brenda L., wife of Robert Wesner, Pine Grove, Daniel M.

Noecker, Jr., husband of Marie, Schuylkill Haven, Wanda A., wife of Marvin Marks, Montrose, Colorado, Karen S., wife of Arlyn Litfin, Ault, Colorado, John W. Noecker, husband of Lisa J., Myerstown, Tim D. Noecker, husband of Valerie, Quinter, Kansas, Teresa A., wife of Scott Snook, Etters, Denise A., wife of Brent Longenecker, Bernville, and David L. Noecker, husband of Barb, Lebanon; 49 grandchildren; 57 great grandchildren; one great great granddaughter; a sister, Eydie (Fidler) Courtney; a brother, Bruce Fidler; and a sister in law, Mary Bartlet. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Sharon G. Beck; three grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and a brother, Floyd Fidler.

She was a member of the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church. Services were held on November 20th, at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church with burial following in the church cemetery.

Jolene Andrews

Jolene Andrews, 83, passed away November 19, 2023. Born February 26, 1940, in Sayre, Oklahoma to Milton and Iva Teakell, Jolene moved with her family to Grandview, Missouri in 1947. Jolene graduated from Grandview High School and married her high school sweetheart Larry Andrews March 8, 1958.

God blessed them with five children: Brenda (Alan Meyers), Mark (Theresa Beck), Laura (Russell Kasza), Curtis (Deena Applegate), and Jason (Lisa Myers).

Jolene accepted Christ as her Saviour and was a faithful member of the Grandview Dunkard Brethren Church until her death.

Jolene especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren. She loved having all her family together. She was a capable and willing hostess who enjoyed having family and friends around her table. She recently had company for Sunday dinner and prepared a birthday dinner for her son Curtis four days before her passing. Jolene also enjoyed sewing and made beautiful quilts.

She leaves behind her husband and five children as well as 18

grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her sister Darla Buttram, one grandchild, Jamie Lee Andrews, and one great-grandchild, Shaniah Meyers.

Services were held November 24 at Park Lawn Funeral Home in Kansas City, Missouri, with burial following in Green Lawn Cemetery.

WEDDINGS

(2023)

Riley Rissler & Mattea Klinedinst. Riley, son of John & Karen Rissler and Mattea, daughter of Dennis & Jaclyn Klinedinst were united in marriage at Manheim, Pennsylvania on April 23. They reside in Latham, Missouri.

Oliver Todd & Jayla Lavy. Oliver, son of Luke & Melanie Todd and Jayla, daughter of Aaron & Wendy Lavy, were united in marriage at New Carlisle, Ohio on May 20. They reside in Bradford, Ohio.

Johnny Rolle & Riley Edgecomb. Johnny, son of Kurt & Arlene Rolle and Riley, daughter of Johnathan & Karen Edgecomb were united in marriage at Centerville, Kansas on June 24. They reside in Arcanum, Ohio.

Travis Alspaugh & Kirsten Zimmerman. Travis, son of Mike & Lisa Alspaugh and Kirsten, daughter of Dale & Jolene Zimmerman were united in marriage at Myerstown, Pennsylvania on August 26. They reside in Myerstown, Pennsylvania.

Logan Brubaker & Maggie Alspaugh. Logan, son of Jason & Sandra Brubaker and Maggie, daughter of Matthew & Mindy Alspaugh were united in marriage at Richland, Pennsylvania on September 23. They reside in Robesonia, Pennsylvania.

Carter Edgecomb & Raina Priest. Carter, son of Lonnie & Julie Edgecomb and Loraina, daughter of Tom & Dawn Priest were united in marriage at Greencastle, Pennsylvania on September 30. They reside in Garnett, Kansas.

Caleb Cordrey & Alicia Guisinger. Caleb, son of Mark & Beth Cordrey and Alicia, daughter of Kevin & Lynette Guisinger were united in marriage at Quinter, Kansas on October 21. They reside in Modesto, California.

Wesley Manuel & Chloe Flory. Wesley, son of Rudy & Susan Manuel and Chloe, daughter of Dallas & Teri Flory were united in marriage at Yakima, Washington on December 2. They reside in Zillah, Washington.

Please note that newlyweds can receive a free 1-year subscription to the Bible Monitor if their address or email address is provided to the Editor.

NEWS ITEMS

Sunday School Lesson Plan

The Bible Study Board would like to inform all readers that the annual Adult Sunday School Lesson Plans will be posted in a downloadable file on the Dunkard Brethren Church website from now on. The goal is for this to become the primary avenue of distribution going forward. Electronic copies have also been distributed to elders across the brotherhood. It is our desire that one of these avenues will be an available source to all members. If needed, an e-mailed copy of the file can also be requested by e-mailing ns-meyers11@gmail.com

On behalf of the Bible Study Board,
Nathan Meyers, Secretary

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,
Ken Brock, Editor

Card Shower

Sister Etta Pearl (Wertz) Clayton will be celebrating her 95th birthday on January 14th. Let's shower her with cards of love! She now lives in Quinter with Val and Tim so here's the new address: 313 Castle Rock St., Quinter, KS 67752

Thank you,
Valerie Noecker
Quinter, KS

Subscription Price Increase

For 2024, the subscription price for the Bible Monitor by mail has increased to \$10 per year. Subscribers can still receive the Bible Monitor by both mail and email (e-Monitor) upon request. For subscribers that don't want a paper copy and only want the e-Monitor, the subscription price remains \$5 per year.

Don't know if your subscription is up to date?

If you see your street address below (arranged in numerical order), our records indicate that your subscription is overdue.

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3964 Franklin St	2020	7441 County Road X	2020
4005 Buckneck Rd	2022	7730 W Marlin Rd	2020
42 Doe Run Rd	2020	809 Bills Rd	2020
435 Lantern Ln	2022	819 W 4th Ave	2021
473 Swopes Valley Rd	2020	855 Valley River Dr	2022
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5733 Newland Rd.	2022	870 Rock Rd	2021
602 Clear Creek Dr	2022	94 Orchard Rd	2020

If you want to continue your subscription but will have difficulty paying, please ask the Editor for a complimentary subscription.

Bible Monitor Exchange

Do you have some old copies of the Bible Monitor that you would like to donate? Or are you looking for some old copies that you don't have? We might be able to help.

The Brethren Heritage Center in Brookville, Ohio is looking for copies from 1922 into the 1950s and from 2015 forward. If you have some of those copies and wouldn't mind donating them, please contact Shirley Frick at the Brethren Heritage Center at (937) 833-5222 or at sfhistorybutterfly@gmail.com

Also, if you are looking for copies from the late 1950s or early 1960s, Simon Schrock of Virginia has most of these issues and is looking for a new home for them. If interested, please contact Simon at (703) 282-9281.

Wedding and Birth Announcements

You may have noticed the announcement of recent brotherhood weddings (see above) as well as in the December 2022 issue of the Bible Monitor. It is probable however, that some weddings were missed. One purpose of the Bible Monitor is to share good news within the brotherhood and weddings and births are very

good news! So, I encourage people to share the news of weddings and births. To have a wedding or birth announced in the Bible Monitor, please notify me by phone, text, email or mail (see contact info at bottom of page 2).

In addition, please note that newlyweds can receive a free 1-year subscription to the Bible Monitor if their address or email address is given to me.

Thank you,
Ken Brock, Editor

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR February 2024

February 4 - I Thess. 4:1-12 - Called to Holiness

1. What "Fornification" have you abstained from?

2. Do you possess yourself in such a way to honor Jesus?

3. Have you "Defrauded" a brother?

February 11 - I Thess. 4:13-18 - The Dead in Christ Shall Rise

1. Where do you put your Hope?

2. Does Christ's second coming bring you comfort, and do you share that comfort with others?

-
3. Are you listening for a heavenly “Shout?”
-
-

February 18 - I Thess. 5:1-11 - Children of Light

1. What false peace do you give to sinners?
-
-

2. How do you show others that you are a “Child of Light?”
-
-

3. “Put on the breastplate of faith and love.” Is everything you do surrounded by love?
-
-

February 25 - I Thess. 5:12-28 - Quench Not the Spirit

1. Do you have patience for the feeble-minded and weak?
-
-

2. In what ways do we quench the Holy Spirit?
-
-

3. How do you abstain “From all appearance of Evil?”
-
-

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