

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. CI

SEPTEMBER, 2023

NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.
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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.

THANK YOU, LORD

Lord help me be more thankful every day
For little blessings that come my way
I thank You for the food I eat
And for the shoes that cover my feet

I thank You for my friends so dear
Whenever I need them they are near
To listen when I need to talk
And guide me on my daily walk

Thank you for the strength to work
Help me my duty not to shirk
Help me as the years go along
To keep in my heart a joyful song

Thank you for food – enough and to spare
And with those less fortunate let me share
Of the abundance so richly given
And may I help some souls to heaven

Edna Carlin
Ney, OH

WHERE IS HAMISH?

The RMS Titanic sank on April 15, 1912, on her maiden voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean, just five days after leaving Southampton, England en route to New York City. More than 1,500 passengers were killed in the disaster: still the greatest peacetime loss from such a catastrophe. Given the extreme depth of the ocean at the wreck site (approximately 12,500 feet), the exact location of the ship's remains went unknown for 73 years until finally discovered on September 1, 1985. With this scale of disaster, loss of life and infamy of the sinking of the 'unsinkable' ship, the story of the Titanic has drawn significant mystique over the years. Those captured by intrigue and wealthy enough to afford the \$250,000 per seat price, could take a ride

on the Titan submersible and see the Titanic up close. That is, until recently.

You may have heard the tragic story of the Titan submersible. The five passengers on the Titan were killed on June 18 when the submersible imploded from the extreme pressures in deep water, on approach to view the Titanic.

One of the passengers on board the Titan had been Hamish Harding, British billionaire, successful businessman, entrepreneur, and world-renowned explorer. This was not Hamish's first trip to the Titanic. He had ventured to the ocean floor 35 times previously to see the wreckage. He had even dived

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far deeper at Challenger Deep in the Mariana Trench, to depths exceeding 35,000 feet. Hamish was a member of The Explorer's Club; an elite group devoted to unraveling the mysteries of uncharted territories. His other accomplishments included multiple trips to the South Pole, venturing into space on Blue Origin's Shepard rocket and holding the Guinness World Record for fastest circumnavigation of the world by plane. All of these feats are quite impressive. Hamish was truly an explorer and adventurer extraordinaire.

But where is Hamish today? Where will Hamish spend the rest of eternity? While we don't know the answer to that question, we should know what the answer depends on. We should also know what the answer doesn't depend on. The world will remember Hamish for his earthly achievements; and great they are. But those achievements, even collectively, do not determine Hamish's eternal destiny. No, the only thing that determines where Hamish is today is quite simply, during his life in this world, what he did with Jesus Christ.

There is intrinsically nothing wrong with being a businessman, entrepreneur, and world-renowned explorer. But when boiled down to its elements, if such a life doesn't include faith in Jesus Christ, the son of God, then there is nothing eternal remaining. No matter how great they may be, our accomplishments in this world must stay in this world when we pass into eternity. Yet even our most meager accomplishments, when part of a life lived for Jesus Christ, will gloriously remain into eternity. As we consider this, we should be reminded of what Jesus asked His disciples to consider: *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* Matt 16:26

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Matt: 6:19-21

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt: 6:33

So where is Hamish? It depends on what he did with Jesus Christ. Did he accept Him, the Son of God, or reject Him?

We don't know. However, we can know the answer for ourselves. We can know what we do with Jesus Christ, and depending on what we do with Him, where our eternal destiny lies.

K. Brock

THE CHURCH OF TOMORROW, WHEN TOMORROW IS TODAY

The final of 4 parts. See the June, July and August 2023 issues for Parts 1, 2 and 3.

Part 4 of 4

Call to Young People

We must not fear responsibility. We have an epidemic of young people fearing leadership roles, not knowing where to start. Among my friends and peers, there have been many jokes made, and much complaining about roles in the church. It's funny to vote for your friend for Sunday school teacher. It's annoying to get put in for song leading. Many people in my age group are beginning to be drawn into leadership and ministry and are plagued by feelings of inadequacy and fear. How do we proceed in this time of turmoil?

We have no choice but to return to the basic hierarchy of order. Raise a family and get your house in order. If you can manage a small thing, the only natural progression is upward. Embrace responsibility and be diligent in the search for opportunities to take more. Not to sound like I'm the shining example, but recently I moved into my own apartment purely for the added responsibility. It's uncomfortable to take that step forward and move away from comforts, but exposure therapy is the best way forward.

The older generation needs to be ready and willing to give over leadership as well. I was once told when I was much younger that the point of management is not to lead well; but to lead in a way that you raise people up to the point where you are replaceable. The fact that there is so much reluctance to shoulder these mountainous roles lays bare the reality that we have not been raised up to replace.

The young people are the church of tomorrow, but increasingly tomorrow is becoming today. The young people may not be comfortable with taking leadership, and the older people may not be comfortable with giving it. We must work mutually to smoothly integrate.

Is there fear of failure residing within us? We are scared to go on missions because what if we go broke or someone we love dies? We are scared to take leadership because what if I mess up, or say the wrong thing? Fear paralyzes and kills. We must weed it out and live with total faith in the Lord.

Another fear is one that is very close to my own heart, one of not feeling ready. If I do not live perfectly, if my relationship with the Lord is not pristine, how can I hope to tell others how to live and act? I am naught but a hypocrite and a fraud.

No one is perfect, no one has been perfect. All of humanity is flawed and broken, hypocrisy is an unavoidable side effect. It is vital to recognize that morals are morals, right and wrong are recognizable by anyone for anyone. You don't have to be sinless to tell someone that sin is wrong. Pull the log from thine own eye before attending to your neighbor's splinter, but never hesitate to proclaim God's word and His morality. Never be ashamed of His message.

To finalize, I would like to posit an analogy. The church as it stands is a boat in the middle of the ocean. Our sails are lowered, and we are floating dead in the water. Behind us, we can see the port we departed from, and before us lays an ocean of possibility. Why

would our sails be lowered? It is for we know we don't want to return to port, as we left it for a reason. But before us lies endless possibilities, and we cannot know if it will bode worse for us than the port we left. So we drift in place.

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” - Revelation 3:16.

Even if the waters ahead are worse than the port we left, does that make it better to drift? To drift is to be lukewarm, and to be lukewarm is worse than to be cold. We will be spewn out of His mouth should we continue to drift.

So where do we go? There are endless directions to go, and surely only one is the right way, right? Go anywhere. The beauty of a boat in the ocean is that if you start going the wrong direction, a quick adjustment of course will get you back on track. The important part is to move. If you check your maps and sextant while sitting still, it will read the same day after day. So raise the sails, take a reading. If you start going the wrong way, fix it. Try new things. If they don't work, stop doing them. The important thing is to move.

I don't have all the answers. All I know is what my Lord and Savior has blessed me with, and that is an incredibly critical and cynical mindset. I may not know where to go, but I at least know it's not here. If reading this has stirred something in you, convicted you to make a change, then congratulations. You are a captain of the ship. Stand up and effect change. Steer the boat in the right direction, embrace responsibility.

The Church of tomorrow must lead and take charge tomorrow. Be prepared for when tomorrow is today.

Ashton Koval
New Carlisle, OH

ENVY

Have you ever been tempted to be envious of another person? First, we need to endeavor to define it. Envy is to resent the success, advantages or blessings of another. We can envy someone based on practically anything. We can resent another's position of authority. We can be envious of another's abilities. We can resent another's appearance because we think the other is more attractive, or we may believe the other has more of the things in life we always desired to possess.

We know this to be a terrible sin, yet we all deal with this temptation at some time or another. How would I know this to be true? Because the Bible says that there hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man. (See 1 Corinthians 10:13)

Where does envy come from? It is a demonstration of our old nature, the flesh. (James 1:13-14). Every believer battles that old nature; it is one dimension of spiritual warfare! But what would nurture envy in our lives? One way it creeps into our lives is through the error

of comparison. I may compare my life or some aspect of it with another person who seems to be more gifted, more attractive, more blessed, more in the spotlight than I. Then I become dissatisfied with myself, and my life and I begin to resent that person, simply because I think I just do not quite measure up. And then I blame God for the mess!

The Bible says those who compare themselves with others are not wise. (2 Corinthians 10:12) Comparison leads to covetousness; desiring what the other person has. The spirit of envy can hiss into the ears of those who compare themselves with others. "I should have gotten that promotion at work." "That brother was elected to the church position I should have gotten!" Or by comparing ourselves with others, we can envy those who seem more talented, or more attractive, or more blessed than I.

The scourge of envy can affect any area of life and if left unchecked can grow like a cancer affecting every area of life! You see, the envious person could begin to view the other

person as being “in the way” of their blessing or promotion, and so the way to deal with that is by several ways. One is to avoid the person, so as not to be reminded of the thought of him or her being “better” than I. Some may go as far as to begin attending another fellowship. Frankly and sadly, there are Biblical and more recent accounts of unchecked envy leading to murder! Really!

At the trial and subsequent crucifixion of Jesus, Pilate knew that the Pharisees had been motivated by their intense envy toward Jesus. (Matthew 27:18). And how many churches have been split apart, not by concern over important doctrine, but by the sin of envy that had affected brothers and sisters to the point that Satan was able to divide them? There will always be others who seem to be more gifted, more talented, more blessed in various areas of life. But God has given to every believer abilities and spiritual gifts to equip the saints to fulfill the calling and purposes God has for them.

Rather than comparing ourselves to others, let us look to Christ. Let us endeavor

to walk with Him daily and seek to follow the path He has prepared for us. God has given us specific abilities to fulfill tasks that only we can do. Let's learn from the teaching found in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12. In that chapter, Paul writes, inspired by God, that everyone has a place to fill in the body. Obviously, not everyone is called to fill the same place or position. Paul uses the analogy of a human body to make his point. I encourage us to read the entire chapter but let me quote a few verses in this article. *“But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him...That there should be no schism (division) in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another”.* (1 Corinthians 12:18,25) Let us submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Let us seek to do what He has called us to do. And by using the diverse talents and gifts He has given to each one of us, let us rejoice in those abilities as we learn to work together for Christ and His church!

Edward Trone
Hanover, PA

KNOWING GOD'S WILL

"If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." John 7:17

The key to knowing the will of God is being willing to follow it regardless and to persevere in it wherever it takes you. *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* Prov. 3:5-6

The best way to know if we are willing to follow God's will is if we are already following that which we know is His will. If He reveals something to us and we follow it, He will reveal more to us. As a young Christian, we begin to know and understand those things which are given to

all Christians in general. When we know and obey these things then He will provide us things for us on a more personal level.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Ps. 119:105

If we acknowledge Him in all ways and trust without wavering, this will be the result: *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."* I John 5:14-15 This is the way we continue in the faith and in His will: *"...men ought always to pray, and not to faint."* Luke 18:1

Lamp of our feet, whereby we trace our path when wont to stray;
stream from the fount of heavenly grace, brook by the travelers way.

Word of the everlasting God, will of His glorious Son;
Without thee how could earth be trod, or heaven itself be won?

Words by Bernard Barton, 1826

Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

LITTLE THINGS MATTER

I have a piece of equipment that we sent to the mechanic. It was new to me, but needed serviced so we took it straight from the seller to the shop for service. When he was done it had a terrible “popping” noise in the front end that I had not noticed before. I was disappointed that I had not worked the machine enough to notice it before I bought it.

I decided I was going to need to tear into it and find out the cause. Before we tore into it, he serviced my other almost identical machine, and it came home with the same noise. I do not believe in coincidence, so I asked him what he did to make them both come away with this “popping” noise. He had no idea and told me that when I was ready, he would tear it apart and investigate. I was unwilling to tear it apart until we had an idea of what was going on. I asked mechanics, googled for answers and poured over the manuals I had available. No answers.

Fast forward to these past few weeks, I finally asked the right guy. He did not know the answer, but he did know who to talk to. The seasoned mechanic

knew right away what it was. He said we needed 16 ounces of “torque modifier” in the front end. Its oil capacity is around 10 gallons. I put in the modifier and within 10 minutes the “popping” that I had put up with was gone. I tell the story to make this point: little things matter! The additive is less than 2% of the total capacity but it was what was needed to make everything run smoothly.

John 6:1-13 tells the story of a little boy with a little lunch. He offered it to Jesus, and with it, Jesus met the hunger of over 5000 people. We can never underestimate the value of the little things, when done for God.

There is a man who was an alcoholic, homeless, stinky and dirty. He spent his time begging for enough money to buy another bottle. He was in a park one day with a fresh bottle, ready to drink it and pass out in a drunken stupor. All at once a little girl ran up to him and said these 4 words. “Mister, Jesus loves you!”, and she ran off. He couldn’t get those words out of his mind. He couldn’t drink his bottle. He finally went back to the spot looking for the girl. She was nowhere to be found.

He poured out the bottle, got on his knees, and cried out, "Jesus, I don't know who you are or what you want from me, but you can have anything you want." Today, that man is a born-again believer, helping others in conditions like how the little girl found him. He preaches the word, buys them showers and food and tries his best to help them find the Jesus he has.

He has never seen the girl again, he has no idea where she may be, but he does know that the 4 words she said to him that day changed his life. Maybe she was an angel, sent from God to say those words, but I like to think she was only doing what she had been taught to do. I like to think she had parents that knew the value of a smile, a kind word, a simple act of kindness, or a few simple words of truth, spoken in love. On this side of heaven, we will never know the impact of those words, but I hope that when I get to heaven, I can witness the long line of souls that have been saved from hell as they thankfully file past a girl who has no idea the impact her 4 little words made on humanity.

Colossians 3:23 *"And*

whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" This includes anything that is needing done. Taking out the trash, pulling weeds, tidying up, washing dishes, whatever and whether anyone notices or not. Go out of your way to smile, say a kind word, encourage, pray with someone, send a note of encouragement, anonymously pay a bill for someone in need. The list is endless. Get your children involved, they will have a fun time doing it and it teaches them important life lessons. God sees the little things and blesses them. Matthew 6:4,6 both say, *"And thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly."*

I recently heard testimony from people who have been suicidal. Many of them said they were on their way to kill themselves when someone went out of their way to smile, make conversation or in other ways make the individual realize that maybe life wasn't so bad to end it all, after all. We will never know all the details of our actions; however, God does. He knows them before we do them and He also knows the outcome. We are to be God's hands and feet, His mouthpiece.

We are to be wearing the shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace. This is a readiness to share the gospel or maybe just a kind word. Remind people God loves them. When judgement day comes, I want the KING to turn to me and say, *"Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* Matthew 25:34,40 I believe the reason the people on the right ask the KING, "When have we done these things?" is

because it had become a way of life. They weren't doing it for show or glory but because they realized the gift that Jesus had given them and were motivated by love to care for others. The opportunities are endless. There is need everywhere. We have the answer to all the world's problems. *"And as ye go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."* Mathew 10:7-8

Joe Cover
Dallas Center, IA

A FELLOWSHIP DIVIDED GETS THINGS DONE!

I believe we have the wrong idea about unity in our culture today. We all want to believe that everybody is equal and yet we do not define what we mean by equal. One phrase that we do not understand today is our national motto "E Pluribus Unum": out of many, one.

Some people's idea of equal is everybody is the same and yet that is not a reality.

We need to get a hold of the idea, particularly as Christians,

that if our fellowship is divided, we are going to be able to get God's work done. If we are all doing the same thing at the same time nothing is really going to get done.

Take a factory of some sort. In every aspect of that factory, people are doing different things. At the end of the line all those different things are put together to do one thing. It is the diversity in absolute harmony that creates anything of value.

Consider an army for another example. All the soldiers are standing there, but there are different divisions and different responsibilities and different aspects of the warfare. Together, this diversity creates a unity, which enables the General of the Army to defeat the enemy.

Maybe some of these ideas need to be brought into the churches today. A church that does not understand its diversity might struggle to accomplish the things God has for it. A fellowship in sync is a fellowship that has all the diversity of its members doing what God wants them to do, but in harmony to accomplish God's purposes.

Perhaps we get off balance when we begin to glorify one spiritual gift over another. If you look at all the spiritual gifts, they are very diverse. By themselves alone, they really cannot accomplish God's purpose. The gifts of the Holy Spirit only are unified in the person of the Lord Jesus. When we exalt one gift over another, might we compromise the work of God?

An illustration might be some of the huge mega-churches we have in our country today. Thousands of people gather to

watch a group of people who are paid to worship. To me it seems rather contradictory.

New Testament worship is comprised of a wide variety of Christians who come from different backgrounds who have different spiritual gifts and talents and together they lift up the Lord Christ.

It is like four men getting around a heavy table to lift it up. All four have to be in unity, but they have to be separate from one another. Not all four men could lift up the same side. They must be diverse and get around the table and then together lift it up. Also, they have to lift up at the same time. There is unity in diversity, but it is the diversity that magnifies the unity.

The challenge before us is to recognize the diversity in our fellowship and celebrate it, but at the same time bring that diversity to focus on unity in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not all the same. We all do not have the same background and experiences. This is not a negative but a positive. Along with this is the trap we can fall into in thinking that some people are more important in God's view than

others. For example, is the preacher more important than the person sitting in the pew? Where do ideas like this come from? Not from the scriptures. They come from thinking like the world that tries to evaluate and prioritize people.

Although we have a great deal of diversity, when we come before the Lord Jesus Christ, he treats us all the same. I do not know how he does that, but he does. We like to recognize people, whereas God likes the recognition to be focused on the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I get into my car, start up the engine and begin my travel, there is no one part of that automobile that is more important than another. I have four tires on that car and not one of those tires is more important than the others unless, one is flat. Then I notice a difference. The diversity of my automobile creates for me a sense of unity, but when one aspect of my automobile is out of sync with the rest of the automobile, I

recognize it immediately.

Ernest Hemingway was very careful about this in his writing. When he was working on a manuscript and a sentence or phrase jumped out, he immediately pulled that phrase or sentence from the manuscript. He would say that a manuscript is not made up in one sentence, but of all of them coming together in harmony.

Not only is this true for the Fellowship but it's also true for me personally. When everything is running smoothly, I do not take much notice of my body. But when something is wrong, I focus on that which is wrong. The job of the doctor is to help my body get back into harmony so that not one part of my body is getting all the attention.

If we are going to get things done for the kingdom of God, we need to understand that our fellowship is best when it is divided.

James L. Snyder
Ocala, FL

THERE'S NOT A MAN THAT'S BORN OF GOD

There's not a man that's born of God,
But readily will say,
"If ever my poor soul be saved,
'Tis Christ must be the way."

There's not a man that's born of God,
But feels the plague of sin;
And though his outside be kept clean,
He feels the filth within.

The old man struggles hard to gain,
The conquest over grace;
And oft he seems to gain the field,
When Jesus hides his face.

God knows we can do nothing well,
He knows we are but dust;
He came to seek poor sinners out,
And you and me the worst.

Daniel Herbert, 1838

Selected by Lynn H. Miller
Newmanstown, PA

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.

Jesus' Life of Service – John 13:1-17

The word 'service' does not appear in this passage of scripture. Although as we study

the life of Jesus, His mission daily was to serve. His mission was to serve, not only His

Heavenly Father, but those that he encountered day in and day out. It is not recorded that He preached and taught the act of service at every chance he got. However, His daily walk led Him into situations that He could teach his followers and us today by His example. The feet washing service was a perfect example that is still a powerful lesson to us today. Jesus stooped down and served even when others around Him assumed someone of lower degree should do the serving.

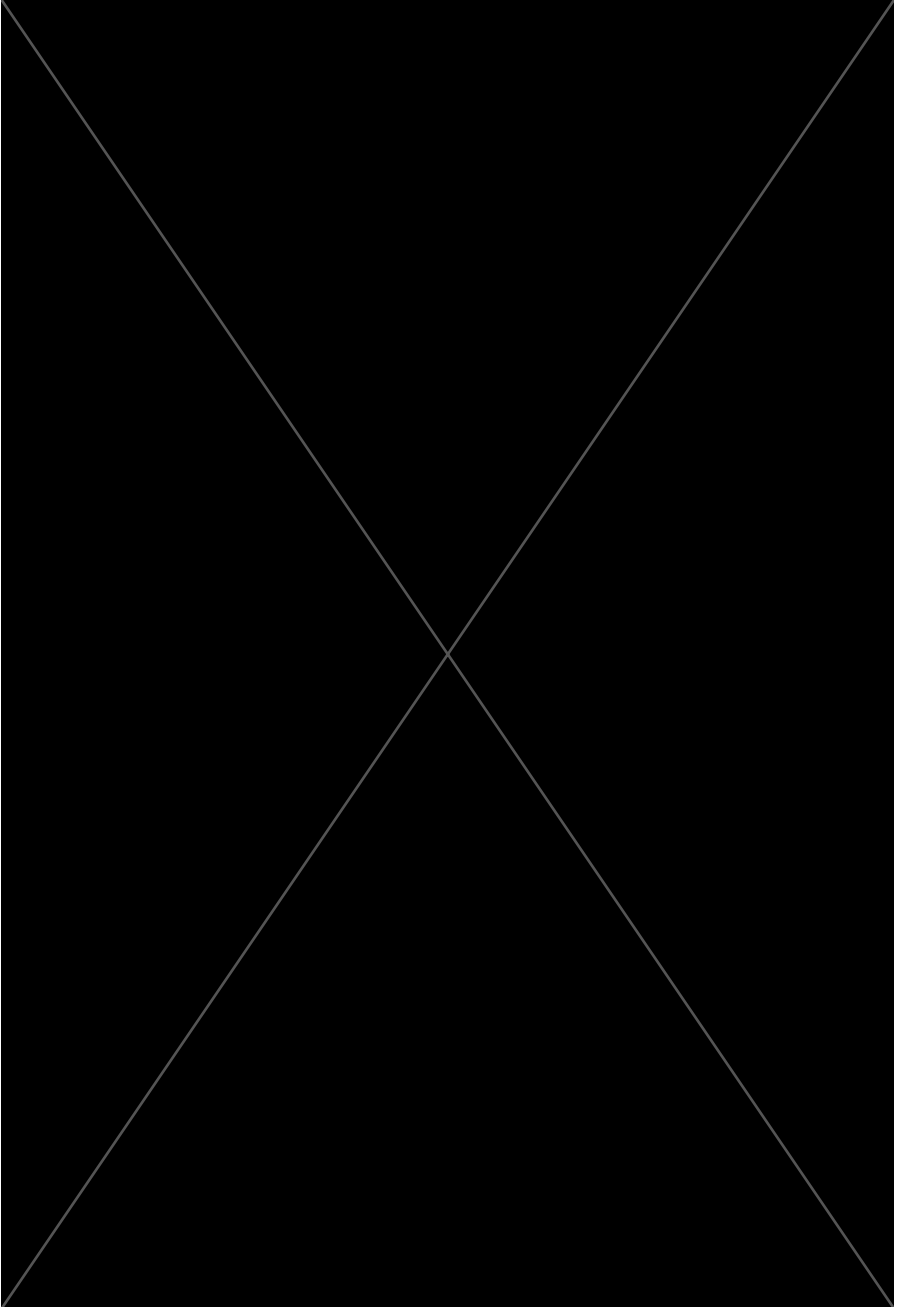
One of the biggest challenges we face in our culture with service is 'time'. Jesus's schedule was constantly interrupted due to the needs that He felt called to minister to. What a powerful lesson Jesus displayed by surrendering His own agenda to serve His Father and others. In our human eyes, Jesus should have dropped everything and run to heal Lazarus, but the needs of others

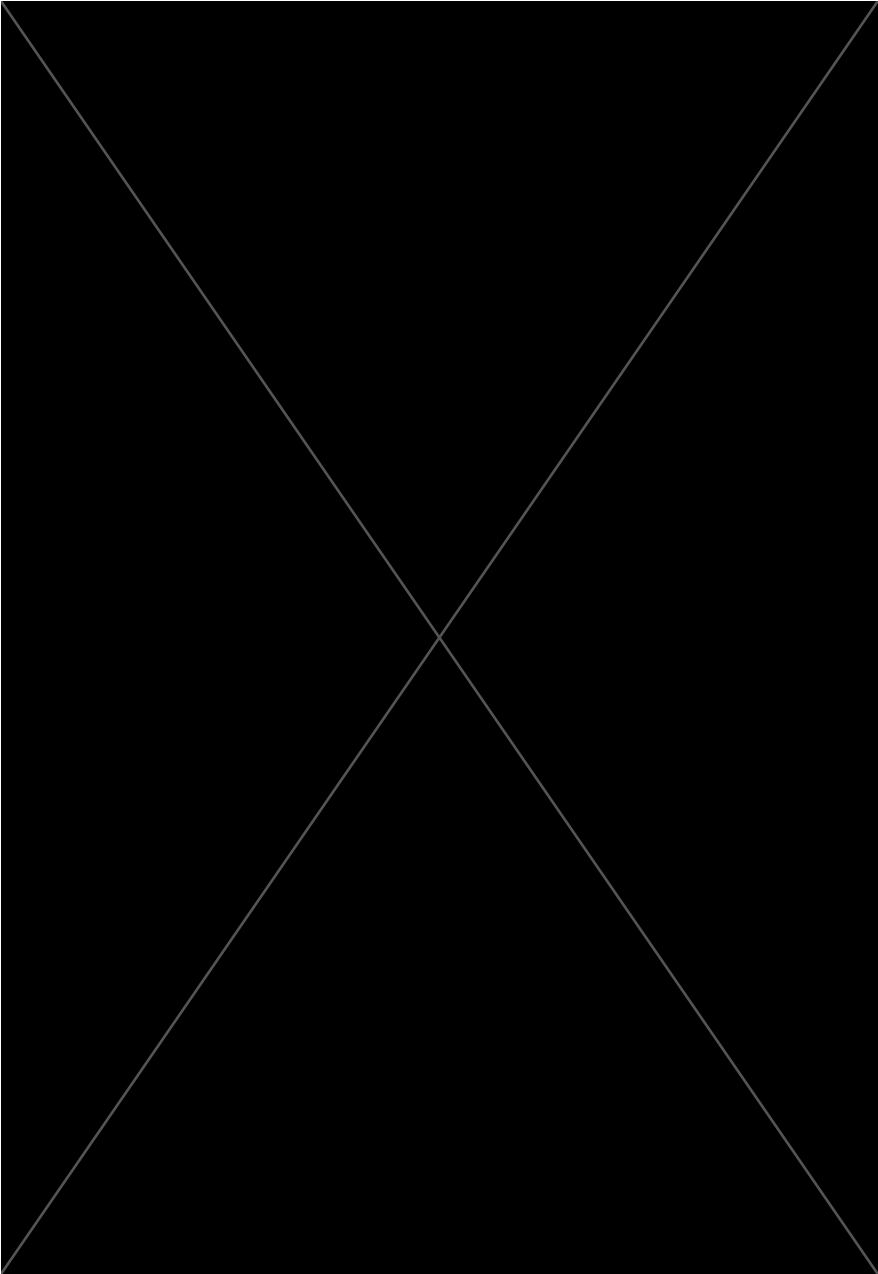
kept coming to Him. This shows us His dedication to serve. How dedicated are we to serve in our generation?

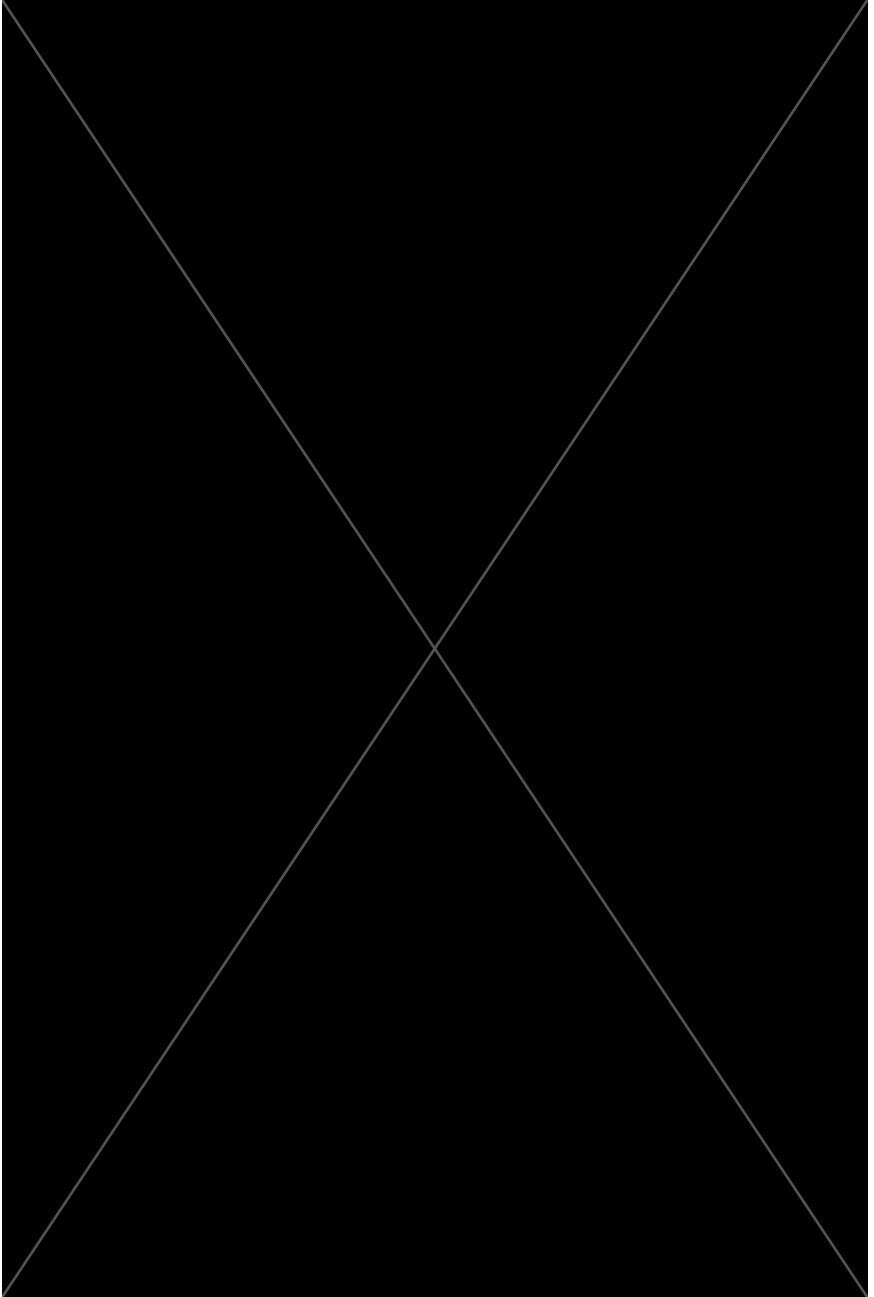
We live in a very self-focused world. The world has taken their eyes off God and their focus is on self. When that happens, we no longer see the needs around us. To have eyes that see needs around us does not always come naturally. We need to be intentionally looking for ways to serve others. Often service does not look like we expected it to. Let's invite Christ to show us needs that are around us in our daily walk.

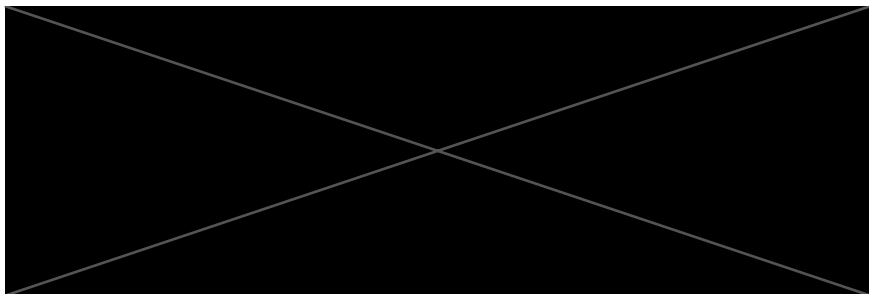
May we pray: "Lord show me the needs around me that I cannot see with my physical eyes, and help me to take my self out of the service that you have called me to do. Make my acts of service reflect Christ and not be about lifting up self."

On behalf of the Bible Study Board
Brother Caleb Heckman









NEWS ITEMS

Bethel, Pennsylvania

The Lord willing, the Bethel congregation will hold their fall revivals Sept. 17-24 with Bro. Brad Wertz from the Quinter, Kansas congregation.

Sunday, Sept. 17: 9:30 a.m. morning service, basket lunch and 7:00 p.m. evening service.

Weeknights: 7:30 p.m. services.

Sunday, Sept. 24: 9:30 a.m. morning service, basket lunch and 2:00 p.m. concluding service.

Please pray for Brad as he prepares. All are welcome!

Karen Gingrich, Cor.

Mohlers, Pennsylvania

The Lord willing, the Mohlers congregation will hold revival meetings Sept. 29 - Oct. 1 with Bro. Dennis Klinedinst from the Bethel, Pennsylvania congregation.

Friday evening service at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday service at 4:00 p.m. with communion to follow.

Sunday morning service at 9:30 a.m., basket lunch and 2:00 p.m. concluding service.

Please pray for the services and for Dennis as he prepares. Bring a friend!

Ruth Miller, Cor.

Women's Retreat

Ladies...don't forget to mark your calendars for Women's Retreat October 6-7 at Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center in Angola, Indiana. Please join us for a time of spiritual encouragement, fellowship, worship (and excellent food!). This year's theme is "Women Building Community" and the speakers are Rita Noecker, Blossom Hollinger and Kiara Marks. Make sure to see the brochure for information regarding registration. Please pray for this year's retreat and for the speakers as they prepare.

Who is James L. Snyder?

Regular readers of the Bible Monitor probably recognize that name. James L. Snyder is a frequent article writer for the Bible Monitor. In fact, James has been contributing articles for the Monitor since 2014. As I started in as the editor last year, I wondered who James was. Perhaps many of you have as well. The best way to find out who someone is, is to ask them; and so I did. Make sure to look for next month's issue of the Monitor which will feature an interview with James.

Ken Brock, Editor

Subscription Price Increase

For 2024, the subscription price for the Bible Monitor by mail will increase 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 will remain \$5 per year. While this increase will not completely cover the cost of publishing and distribution, it will come closer than does the current price of \$5 per year.

For those interested in a little history on this matter, when the Bible Monitor began in 1922, the subscription price was \$1 per year. While this might sound like quite a bargain, let's not forget about inflation. Due to inflation over the last 101 years since 1922, that initial \$1 subscription would be equivalent to approximately \$18 today. The subscription price then remained at \$1 until it was in-

creased to \$2 in 1981 (about \$6.70 today) and then increased to \$5 in 1998 (about \$9.35 today).

***"He that is not with me is against me;
and he that gathereth not with me
scattereth abroad." Matt. 12:30***

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR October 2023

October 1 - John 15:9-27 - Chosen & Ordained

1. What does it mean to abide in God's love?

2. In verse 14, Jesus goes from being their teacher to being their friend. What is the significance of this change?

3. How do you bear witness to being with Jesus?

October 8 - John 16:1-16 - The Holy Spirit: Comforter & Helper

1. Are you easily offended?

2. The disciples were going to miss Jesus' presence; is there a void in your life when you aren't close to Jesus?

3. We often think of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. What is the Holy Spirit's job in verse 8?

October 15 - John 16:17-33 - Plainly Speaking

1. Jesus said, "A little while, and ye shall see me." Does this bring you joy?

2. What sorrow in your life has been turned to joy?

3. Jesus was victorious over the world. How have you overcome the world?

October 22 - John 17:1-26 - Sanctify Them Through Thy Truth

1. Does it bring you joy to do the work God has put before you?

2. Do you, or do you not, trust in Christ alone for salvation from your sins?

3. Are you in this world but not of it?

October 29 - John 18:1-18 - Drinking the Cup the Father Gives

1. Have you betrayed Christ? If so, how?

2. Passive obedience is defined by Webster as “Absolute obedience or submission of a subject to the authority of a ruler.”
How do we see passive obedience in the life of Jesus?

3. What do you “suffer” to help those around you?

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