



The PARAKLETE

A publication of BARNABAS MINISTRIES, 135 Mitchell Road, Gallipolis, OH – Denny Coburn –Director

OFFICE OR FAX: 740/446-6929, Residence: 740/446-7318

Email: barnabasohio@att.net, Web page: www.barnabasohio.com

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“BECAUSE I SAID SO”

When I was a boy my father and my mother both used a phrase I’m sure you are familiar with: “Because I said so.” I loved and respected my parents however I didn’t appreciate their answer to my question, “why?” They’d give me an explanation on matters of real importance but it seems that “why?” always got the same answer I didn’t appreciate. I didn’t realize I was questioning their wisdom and authority. They didn’t want to get into a long discourse so they just said, “Because I said so.”

Our heavenly Father has much more wisdom and authority than they. He has revealed much to us. We have the Scriptures helping us to understand His will. On the other hand there are times He simply states, “I say unto you,” which is His loving way of saying, “because I said so.”

Take the time Uzzah wanted to prevent the “ark of the covenant” from falling to the ground, 2 Samuel 6:6ff. From a human standpoint when I read that God “struck him down,” it seems rather harsh to kill him for trying to help. It seemed to me at first read that God was too picky about the ark.

Earlier He took the life of seventy men for just looking into the ark, 1 Samuel 6:19ff. That should have been a clue for Uzzah, but, at that point, it seemed too harsh to me.

Was God wrong just because it “seemed” wrong to me or was Uzzah wrong because God said it was wrong before it happened? Since neither you nor I are wiser than God and we have no authority over the things of God we must opt for His decision.

How about the time Moses struck the rock when he was angry with God’s people, Numbers 20:11ff? Of course I’d agree that he shouldn’t have lost his temper, but banning him from the “promised land” for striking a rock rather than talking to it seems to be tougher than necessary. A “tongue lashing” might have been in order from a human standpoint. He was the leader and needed to control himself, but punishing him by barring him from the land seems to be a little too much “tough love.”

How about the time David took a census of the people of God, 1 Chronicles 21:1ff? If I were the leader of a nation surrounded by enemies I’d like to know how many people I have to care for and how many I had of fighting age. If David and I agree doesn’t that make God wrong for being angry? No, God is always right and he told us His ways are not our ways, or “because I said so,” Isaiah 55:8.

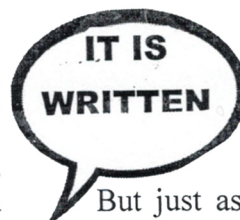
These violations of God’s seem to be minor, at best, at least from our perspective. I know we all want to appear religious and say “God is right” but honestly, don’t the infractions of these men “seem” below the radar of God’s wrath?

As Christians we know that if God is angry, there is a perfectly good reason for it, even if we don’t understand. We are told in Deut. 29:29 *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”* Translated that means, “It is right because I said so.”

My point is that if the Lord is concerned about a stick, a rock, a box and a census, we need to take care in dealing with His Church. After all, Jesus died to establish it, Acts 20:28.

When one speaks of change in the Lord’s Church where He has spoken we must use caution. We are told, “You’re afraid of change.” That may be true, but it is the same tactic the homosexual community uses when they coined the word “homophobe.” It is just an avoidance of a serious discussion on the subject. In reality it is a diversionary tactic meant to move away from the issue at hand. Wouldn’t it be better to talk with reverence and respect concerning the Lord’s Church than making accusations about fear or change?

Some change is good, and I like some of what I see. However, if change is simply for convenience while diminishing reverence, then it may be wrong.



But just as the Shekinah Glory left the temple in Jerusalem (Ezek. 10:18) we could be having a

“BECAUSE I SAID SO”

convenient assembly but little reverence for God while having a “feel good” meeting.

It really doesn't matter whether we have a choice or a praise team and it really doesn't matter whether we sing from hymnbooks or from a screen as long as the words are scriptural. Because I prefer a white shirt and tie doesn't matter if some do not.

However, we must be careful in pushing change to the point that it alters what has been revealed. Worship services do not need to alter God's plan. Allow me to cite an example. It doesn't matter if we change the meeting time from 10:00 o'clock to 11: o'clock. However to move the Lord's Day from the “first day of the week” to Saturday or Friday, regardless of the reason is going too far.

Satan has always burred biblical issues. He asked Eve, “Did God really say...?” In order to get her to question what God actually stated. He has done such a good job in the area of homosexual behavior and same sex marriage that even some in the church agree with him. He has some congregations voting on issues that are spelled out in the Bible. He has given qualifications for leadership in the Church, yet some congregations have simply brushed those qualifications aside. In many cases these things are done simply because it “seemed” to please some.

Let's go back to Uzzah. God warned the Levites not to look into or even touch the ark, Numbers 4:15, 19-20. Philistines were afflicted for looking into the ark, 1 Sam. 5:9ff. Seventy men were killed for looking into the ark, 1 Sam 6:19. Uzzah knew it was an irreverent act, 2 Sam. 6:7 and God was angry because the priest didn't obey God concerning the ark, 1 Chron. 15:13-15. Looking at Moses and the rock, God commanded Moses to simply speak to the rock. The rock that accompanied them was a symbol of Christ, 1 Cor. 10:3ff. Moses may not have known, but God did.

In David's case he thought the people were “his people” rather than God's. He was not sensitive to the fact that Satan was provoking him, 1 Chron.21:1. David ignored the counsel of his trusted advisor, Joab who warned against it, v 3-4.

These reasons may not satisfy us completely but we must remember it is God who must be satisfied not us. We can make our best guess on the why, but we must not forget the Who. Change is needed in a changing world. However, the Church is His and we do things “because He said so,” and that should be good enough for us.

DENNY'S FALL SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Oct. 7-11 – National Prayer Clinic, Attend only, Grundy Virginia, Jerry Bliffin, Director.

Oct. 13 – Marriage Enrichment Seminar, Defiance Christian Church, Defiance, OH, Sam Rosa, Evangelist.

Oct. 14 – Preach, Defiance Christian Church, Defiance, OH, Sam Rosa, Evangelist

DANNY EVANS' FALL SCHEDULE

Huntington, WBW 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677 (H)

Sept. 9 – Preach at Ripley Church of Christ, Ripley, WV, Keenan Goosman, Evangelist

Oct. 7 & 14 – Preach at Central Church of Christ, Portsmouth, OH, Denny Dawes, Evangelist

Nov 2-8 – Restoration Destination, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Bill Wines, Coordinator.

A MARVELOUS TRUTH

If we look through a piece of red glass, everything is red; through blue glass, everything is blue, through yellow glass everything is yellow and so on.

The marvelous truth is that when we obey the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior, God looks at us through the Lord Jesus Christ. He sees us in all the purity and holiness of His Son. That is the great New Testament doctrine of the imputation of our sin to Christ and His righteousness to us, Romans 4:4-6, 22-24; 2 Corinthians 5:19; James 2:23.

Paul related this truth in these words, “*For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him,*” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

God knows that the best of men are but men at best, as illustrated by the conversation between a very good man, Nicodemus and the God-man, Jesus Christ, John 3:1-21.

Walking “in Christ” makes Christians sin less, but there is only One who is sinless. Our own righteousness is but “filthy rags” according to Isaiah 64:6

There are two and only two ways one can be righteous. Righteousness is either imputed (credited/given) by God through Christ or earned by one's own merit. Righteousness that comes by our own efforts creates two dangers; boasting and arrogance. Both of these are sin and we're back where we started, in an unrighteous state.

Imputed righteousness stops both these sins in their tracks, Romans 3:27-4:3. We are justified by our faith in Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN QUOTE

“I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming convictions that I have nowhere else to go. My wisdom and that of all about me, seemed insufficient for the day.”

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

Question: Do you eat out? Why? Is it convenient, poor scheduling might be just two of you now and it is about the same cost to eat out as it is to prepare meals at home? Tired of the menu at home and interested in a change or perhaps you are just tired of your own cooking. I wonder if you are like me. I take eating out for granted. The average American eats an average of 4.2 commercially prepared meals per week, which would be 18.2 meals a month. The average cost of a person is \$232 per month.

I said all that because I often look back at my childhood and marvel at how things have changed. As a boy my family, Mother, Dad and two boys ate out maybe once a year. To try to get people today to comprehend that is impossible. But I am old. I remember Cindy and I were married gas was 18 cents a gallon, but that's another time.

Question #2: Do you eat out spiritually? I'm sure you wonder what I mean. What I'm driving at this this: We need to feed in other places. Now don't get me wrong. I don't mean "church hopping" or shopping around for another congregation. To make my meaning clear, you need to allow others to feed you spiritual meals, they have prepared not you.

Last week Cindy and I, and many others, were privileged to attend Family Camp at Hillsboro, Ohio and we were served a feast of spiritual food. The speakers had prepared, with the help of the Spirit, sermons that were needed for the church. Message after message was a challenge and when the final amen said I hope people walked away spiritually full. There is one special honor that I wish would happen but never will in regards to eating out. I wish a restaurant owner would come to my table and say, "We want you to fix a meal in our kitchen that we can serve to our customers." I love to cook and that would be a joy, but I won't happen because of health department rules. However, I like to preach and I was asked to share a spiritual meal at Family Camp. I was honored to have been asked to preach and I was asked to prepare a spiritual meal. What a joy and privilege to preach at such a great gathering.

Attending seminars, revivals, workshops, camps and yes, Barnabas Winter Worship and Workshop. People tend to listen more intently at such meetings because they are out of their own "kitchen" so to speak. A different speaker and his delivery may be something that just makes you sit up and listen.

So next chance you get to "eat out spiritually" I want to encourage you to do so, and encourage others to do the same.

Danny Evans is available for speaking engagements.
For information see page #2



HENRY AND SWEETIE SAY:



H: Well, Sweetie, here we are stuck behind another school bus.

S: It's not so bad. Think of all those children that are starting their education.

H: Boy! I'm glad I have all my education and don't need to study.

S: Henry, what do you mean, you have all your education?

H: I know all there is to know. There is nothing else for me to study.

S: Now, Henry that is not true. What does the Bible say about study?

H: I did know the Bible said anything about study.

S: Paul told Timothy "Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that will not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

H: Sweetie didn't you hear me say that a person is never too old to study the Bible?

Bob and Marlene Creamer are Henry and Sweetie. They live in Spring City, TN. If your congregation is within 100 miles of Spring City Bob would be available for supply preaching. You can reach him at 423-619-7350

DEATH IS LIKE AN UNSPROUTED BULB

Among the pyramids of Egypt, Lord Lindsay, the English traveler, came across a mummy with an inscription that proved it to be 2000 years old.

In examining the mummy after it was unwrapped, he found in one of its closed hands a small route. He took the little bulb from that closed hand and planted it in a rich soil, allowed the dew and rain to descend upon it, and in a few weeks, to his astonishment, the root burst forth and blossomed into a beautiful flower.

No matter how long death keeps us in the ground, when the trumpet sounds and the Son shines, and it is time for the resurrection of our bodies, then the bulb will burst open into a newness of life as we have never known before.

Payday is not every Friday, but what a payday!

THOUGHT

Struggles are reminders of who we are and who God is. That should cause us to look up for strength. It should also encourage us to do better for his glory.

LIVING BY FAITH – THE UNSEEN
Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: 1 Peter 1:3-12

INTRO: Speaking of the unseen, Peter breaks into a spontaneous outburst. Why are we so far behind the early church in breaking out in praise? Is it due to a poverty of understanding of unseen things? Is it a lack of appreciation of our God?

In this world everything appeals to the flesh and little appeals to the spirit. It's like living in the dark, after a while the spiritual eyes become blinded to the great unseen God.

I. PETER'S DOXOLOGY

A. THINGS ARE NEW (3-7)

1. New relationship, v3
"Father" is new (John 20:17)
2. New birth (v3, 23, John Chapter 3)
3. New hope (v3, Rom. 8:24-25
"the resurrection" 2 Cor. 15:3-4, 26)
4. New inheritance (v4)
"won't perish"
5. New security (v4)
"to guard" Literally "shielded by God"
6. New salvation (v5)
Here it's not about what He's done but about what He will do.

B. THINGS SEEM BACKWARDS

1. Rejoicing in grief (v6)
"in this" – suffering grief
2. Growing in trials (v7)
"these have become so your faith..."
3. Seeing the unseen (v8)
Seeing through faith as text states.

II. PETER'S EXPLANATION (vss. 8-11)

A. THE ATTACHMENT OF LOVE

1. Oneness – love/belief/trust (v8)
2. Obedience – Matt. 6:10-11)
3. Separation – from evil
4. Consecration – (v9)
Hymn – "Take my life and let it be"

B. THE FUTURE OF LOVE

1. Not in their time (10-11)
Prophets did not even know Jesus
2. Yet we can see Him (John 20:29)

III. PETER'S EXPRESSION OF THE UNSEEN (v12)

A. JOY INEXPRESSABLE

"inexpressible" – "a" negates "ek" out "laleo" to speak – "not able to speak out" or "can't be said"

1. Joy now and seen later – v12
"goal" – telos – final, end, fulfilled
2. Faith becomes sight
We walk by faith not sight.
If we continue in faith we shall see Him,
Col. 1:22-23

B. CONCLUSION ABOUT YOUR FAITH

1. Hold on the faith in things not yet seen but believed
2. Fight for the faith that you have, 1 Timothy 1:18-20 "contend for"
3. Expect that we will see him, even as we are seen by each other

Anything that is seen is not faith but is something known by the faculties of our body and mind. Believing in the evidence presented is not "blind faith" but informed faith.

Your faith ought to get you in trouble at times. If everybody thinks you're nuts, you may be. It's OK if some think you are. You're probably in trouble if no one thinks you are.

"Faith is resting in the fact that God has an objective in leaving me on the scene when I feel useless to Him and burden to others" – Pamela Reeves from "Faith Is."

COMMANDS FOR FRIENDLY LIVING

1. Speak to people: It is good to receive a cheerful greeting
2. Smile at people: It takes 72 muscles to frown, 14 to smile, so take it easy, relax and smile. They relax also.
3. Call people by name: The sweetest sound anyone hears is their name from a friendly person.
4. Be friendly and helpful: If you want friends, then be a friend.
5. Be cordial: Speak and be real. It will prove everything you do is a genuine pleasure.
6. Be genuinely interested in people. Just try it. It's difficult to like some people, but we are to love them everyone.
7. Be generous with praise. Be courteous with criticism.
8. Be considerate with others. There are often three sides to a controversy: yours, their side and the right side.
9. Be alert to give help. What we do for other people lives and is immortal.
10. Add to all this a good sense of humor, loads of patience, a bit of humility and you will be rewarded with friends. That's a promise, "***A man that has friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother,***" Proverbs 18:24.

FUTILE DAYS WE CAN EXPECT

Futile days we can expect from time to time, some of what we plan will miscarry. Paths that look promising will peter out and force us to backtrack. Pillars what we lean on will collapse and send our hopes tumbling on us.

When sickness strikes or financial reverses hit, futile days stretch into empty weeks or months. There have been times when we heave huge sighs as we ripped December's page from the calendar and welcomed a new year that offers better days than the old.

This futility is akin to irony, because it is full of surprises. We find it where we least expect it. Values that we treasure prove false; efforts that should succeed come to failure; pleasures that should satisfy increase our thirst. Ironic futility, futile irony-that is the color of life..."

David Allan Hubbard, *Beyond Futility*

BARN-a-book (a Barnabas Ministries study series)

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number one hundred – Moses Encourages Joshua

Today many define the words “encourage” or “encouragement” to mean “to help others get through” a difficult time. Bible language carries with it a much stronger meaning. It’s **not just enduring** a difficulty or avoiding defeat, rather it’s helping one **take the offensive** against that which would cause discouragement and **defeating it**. It’s not just being a “survivor” rather it’s being “more than a conqueror” in our Christian trials. It’s taking charge and defeating the problem, not just “playing defense.” We have a tremendous example of this in the case of Moses and Joshua.

The first time the word “encourage” appears is in Deut. 1:38 and the second time is Deut. 3:28. Both references are in regard to Moses encouraging Joshua. The Lord instructed Moses to encourage him because Joshua was taking Moses’ place as God’s leader for the nation of Israel.

The command came to Moses confirming his removal as leader in these words: “*But your assistant, Joshua son of Nun, will enter it (the promised land). Encourage him, because he will lead Israel to inherit it*” (1:38). He repeats this admonition in 3:28, “*But commission Joshua and encourage and strengthen him, for he will lead this people across and will cause them to inherit the land that you will see.*” With these words the Lord, while commissioning Joshua also placed the responsibility on Moses to encourage and strengthen him.

WORDS HAVE MEANING OR COMMUNICATION IS IMPOSSIBLE

It is interesting how Moses fulfilled this command, but it might be profitable first to examine the words God used to describe Moses’ task. The Hebrew word for “encourage” in these texts is CHAZAQ (Strong’s #2388) and the word for “strengthen” is AMATS (Strong’s #553). CHAZAQ (pronounced khawzak) means “to fasten upon; hence to seize, be strong fig. courageous, strengthen, cure, help, repair, fortify, obstinate, to bind, restrain, conquer etc.” Other possible meanings are: “prevail, be recovered, be stout, and be strong.” AMATS (pronounced awmats) means “to be alert, confirm, to be courageous, steadfastly minded, strong, establish, fortify, harden, increase, prevail, strengthen, and make strong.” The similarity in meaning of the two words is amazing but it seems to me, there is one striking difference. To encourage is to exhort one to take the offensive in a situation and to strengthen appears to have the added meaning of being fixed for the long battle, or enduring to the end with confidence.

How would Moses accomplish the task of encouraging and strengthening Joshua in his role as leader of God’s people? We are not left to wonder in the darkness of our imagination, for we have a revelation of how this was accomplished in the Scriptures. Moses begins immediately by reminding the people, they have a task before them, as a nation, before he turns specifically to Joshua. I think it’s important to make the side note that a leader can’t lead if the people are not informed and committed. We see this from Deut. 1:32 to 29:20. He reminds them of their rebellion and defeat (1:32 – 46) and of their punishment for it (2:1-23). He reminds them of God’s demonstration of power in the past (2:24 – 3:28) and that God expects obedience (4:1-14). Moses then continues to admonish them to stay pure in the midst of a pagan region (4:15 – 31), that the Lord is God, and commands respect (5:1 – 6:25), He will deliver again (7:1-26) and that they should never forget the Lord (8:1-20). He spends the balance of the book, Chapters 9 through 30, teaching about a proper fear of God, obedience, love and worship of God and restating the Laws of God.

CHARACTER IN THE ONE BEING ENCOURAGED IS NECESSARY

It is not until we get to Chapter 31 that we see Moses specifically fulfilling the command to encourage Joshua. Joshua was not just a man among many, but he was a “man in whom is the spirit” (Numbers 27:18). He was a man of faith and one to be trusted to tell the truth, a man of courage and proving it over and over in battle. Moses began to encourage Joshua publicly before he encouraged him privately. (1) He was commissioned publicly (Numbers 27:19). (2) He was given some authority while Moses was still in charge “*so the whole Israelite community will obey him*” (v20). (3) It was established that he would receive his instructions from the

Lord (v21). All of this is to display, publicly, confidence in Joshua. It is important to demonstrate public confidence in the one being encouraged and is equally as necessary in personal and private comments.

But, how was Moses to encourage Joshua specifically? That's the question before us. We find the answer in Deuteronomy 31:1ff. Notice these things Joshua was told.

- I. **HE WAS IN GOD'S WILL** (verses 1 – 3c and verse 7). Note that Moses states, "*The Lord has said to me,*" "*The Lord swore to their forefathers.*" It's always encouraging to know you are in the will of God, that you are walking according to His plan. We have all had situations or circumstances in which we questioned ourselves concerning the will of God in the matter. I can think of nothing more encouraging than knowing you are walking in His Word. God had taken Moses through this same process when He met alone with him. After the assurance, Moses, with courage led God's people. Scripture gives us the assurance we are in God's will.
- II. **HE WAS IN GOD'S PRESENTS** (verse 3a, 8a). Moses told Joshua, "*The Lord your God Himself will cross over ahead of you,*" and "*The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you or forsake you.*" It's wonderful to know you're in God's will but it's even more encouraging to know He is with you in the battle. We must be careful that we not "assume" God is with us in every battle. The order is: (a) Does Scripture confirm you are in His will? If the answer is in the affirmative, then you can be sure that (b) He is in the battle. Isn't that encouraging?
- III. **HE WOULD BE IN THE BATTLE, AND IT'S THE LORD WHO WILL FIGHT IT** (verse 3b). Note the words "*He will destroy these nations before you and you will take possession of their land.*" I know of many, some in the preaching ministry, who are willing to go to battle, but will not allow God to fight His own battles. Paul did not say, "I fought the fight well" but rather "I fought the good fight." In the first case, he would be bragging about his fighting ability, but in the later he would be declaring it to be the fight for righteousness. The fight is a good one, but the Lord alone can claim victory, for it is His fight. We must present ourselves for combat, but we fight a spiritual battle, and it is He who will give us victory. That too is encouraging.
- IV. **HE WAS REMINDED OF GOD'S PAST VICTORIES** (verses 4 – 5). Moses reminds Joshua of what God did to Sihon and Og the kings of the Amorites. After reminding Joshua of this he continues, "*The Lord will deliver them to you*" then he tells Joshua to do what he was commanded. Sometimes we just need to be reminded of past victories the Lord has given us. Since we all have twenty-twenty hindsight, we simply need to look back at what the Lord has already done. We need reminded that the Lord leads and always wins. We can take courage in that.
- V. **HE WAS UNDER THE LORD'S PROTECTION** (verse 6). "*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.*" There is no reason to fear when God promises to protect you. Someone has said there are 365 "fear not" statements in the Bible, one for each day of the year. I don't know if that's true or not, but if He said it just once, that's enough.

Moses concludes his remarks to Joshua with the words: "*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged*" (verse 8b). Why should Joshua be fearful if all of this is true? If we believe God's Word and obey it, courage and strength will be ours. In times of discouragement, ask these questions:

- A. Am I in His will? Check the Word and once you know you are in His will you have taken the first step toward encouragement.
- B. If so, you know He is present for He has said, "I will never leave you."
- C. Do I understand that the battle is His? Relax and take further courage from this truth.
- D. He has always been victorious, so do I have any reason to believe He will not be now?
- E. Can I trust Him now? Certainly, so you shouldn't be fearful now.

Did this give Joshua courage and strength? We read in Joshua 1:7-9 God's words to the new leader, "*Be strong and courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*"

Now, isn't that encouraging? Can you take strength from that?

INFLUENCES IN THE WORLD

In 1809, the evening news broadcast would have concentrated on Austria, not Britain or America. The attention of the entire world was on Napoleon as he swept across helpless hamlets like a fire across a Kansas wheat field. Nothing else was half as significant on the international scene. The broad brush strokes on the historian's canvas gave singular emphasis to the bloody scenes of tyranny created by the diminutive dictator of France. From Trafalgar to Waterloo his name was a synonym for superiority.

During that time of invasions and battles, babies were being born in Britain and America. But who was interested in babies' bottles, cradles and cribs while history was being made? What could possibly be more important in 1809 than the fall of Austria? Who cared about English-born infants that year when Europe was in the limelight?

Somebody should have. A veritable host of thinkers and statesmen drew their first breath in 1809.

- William Gladstone was born in Liverpool
- Alfred Tennyson began his life in Lincolnshire.
- Oliver Wendell Holmes cried out for the first time in Cambridge Massachusetts.
- Edgar Allen Poe, a few miles away in Boston, started his brief and tragic life.
- A physician named Darwin and his wife called their infant son Charles Robert.
- Robert Charles Winthrop wore his first diapers.
- A Rugged cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky, owned by an illiterate wandering laborer, was filled with the infant screams of a new born boy named Abraham Lincoln

Only a handful of history buffs today could name even one Austrian campaign, but who can measure the impact of those other lives? What appeared to be super-significant to the world has proven to be no more exciting than a Sunday afternoon yawn. What seemed to be totally significant was, in fact, the genesis of an era.

“Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life.”

REDNECK DICTIONARY

ADMINISTER, *adj. and n.* a specific clergyman or a agent of the government, as designated by observer: “I tell ya, administer is a good man.”

ANTHILL, *conj.* up to a point “I won't set foot in that room anthill he cleans it up.”

YAHOO, *interj. and pron.* Interrogative regarding which person or persons. “Shut up?! Yahoo is gonna come over here and make me?!”

CONJOLE, *v and n.* a request for action from a group. “I don't like being the center of attention, so cajole stop staring at me?”

INTELLIGENT DESIGN IS SCIENCE

Critics of intelligent design often argue that science must be based on firsthand observation, repetition, and replication. But we cannot observe a Designer in actions, and we cannot repeat and replicate various aspects of intelligent design theory in a laboratory, so these critics conclude that the study of intelligent design cannot be true science.

But of course, firsthand observation and repetition are impossible in many areas of scientific study. Many scientists presently believe in the Big Bang theory, but they say this event happened only once some 13 to 15 billion years ago. No one was there to observe it first hand, no one was there to make measurements, and obviously no one can repeat the event in a laboratory and test it over and over again. Yet no one balks at including the Big Bang theory within the realm of science.

Likewise we cannot repeat in a laboratory the fossilization process of ancient life forms, but that does not exclude paleontology from the realm of science. We cannot repeat the inscribing of the Rosetta Stone but that does not exclude archaeology from the realm of science.

My point is that our inability to observe firsthand and then repeat the work of the original intelligent Designer in a laboratory does not exclude intelligent design from science. The same kind of scientific inquiry utilized by CSI teams and insurance fraud investigators is used in intelligent design theory.

The evidence for intelligent design is credible enough that some scientist today have come to faith.

OPPORTUNITIES

Aug.31-Sept.2 – Winning at Winchester, Winchester, VA, Chuck Doughty and Doug Hardman, Evangelists.

Oct. 9 – 11, National Prayer Clinic, Grundy, VA, Jerry Bliffin, Director

Oct. 18-19 – CRA Bible Conference (Symposium), Mason, OH, Lee Mason, Director.

Nov. 5-7 – Restoration Destination, North Myrtle Beach, SC, Bill Wines, Director

PREACHER RECRUITMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT SEMINAR

This was the first year for the Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar at the Central Christian Church in Gallipolis. Barnabas Ministries was the sponsor but the seminar was underwritten by some of the Barnabas Ministries supporters.

At the time of this writing we have no final totals but we can tell you that in the neighborhood of 75 were in attendance...much better than we expected.

We will give you a final report in the next issue and hopefully some of those in attendance will be at WWW and give you a more personal account.

We are heartened by the response and it is our hope that this seminar will be a permanent meeting on the Barnabas calendar. In nearly every other endeavor of life a continual education and encouragement is available. Yet, in this most important part of the Kingdom (preaching the Word) has not had that element available for our preachers. It is our prayer that will no longer be the case in our area of influence.

YOUNG PREACHER

A young preacher with a small congregation had been at his church only a few months. One week he was preparing a message on the love of family members, but he couldn't find the introduction he wanted. He had read in the local newspaper that a well know experienced minister would be preaching in a nearby town that week. So on Thursday he decided to slip in the back of the church and listen to the older preacher. He thought for sure he might find inspiration for the introduction he needed.

Amazingly, when the older preacher came to the pulpit he said he wanted to speak on love. "As a matter of fact," he said, "the sweetest, most wonderful, loving woman I ever held in my arms was another man's wife, she was my mother, June." Oh, he heard very little else. He thought, "What a great introduction for my sermon, I'll use that. And

of course, he was a little troubled, because it was risky to use an introduction like that, especially since he had been at his church only a few months. Well, even though he was nervous, he stood up to preach and his opening line was, "The sweetest, most wonderful, loving woman I ever held in my arms was another man's wife." And the shock that came over the congregation caused him to have a mental block. And he added, "For the life of me I can't remember who she was."

TALKING REVEALS THINGS ABOUT US

A fellow called from Texas. He said, "You probably can't tell it, but I'm from Texas." The man on the other end said, "I can tell, I can tell, believe me."

After talking for a while, it was discovered he went to school in Texas. He was asked, "Where'd you go to school?" He replied "H'ard Pain." The other man said "Howard Pain?" He said, "No, H'ard Pain." The man replied, "Oh, Howard Payne. What was your major?" He replied, "Speech!"

ABOUT THE BIBLE FROM LIPS OF MEN

In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to this world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it. Abe Lincoln.

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A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of this knowledge of the Bible. When you have read the Bible, you will know that it is the Word of God, because you will have found it the key to your own heart, your own happiness, and your own duty. Woodrow Wilson.

MINI THOUGHTS

To arrive is better than to travel not knowing where you go.

~

Traveling overseas is better to have a sense of humor and no sense of smell.

~

80% of accidents happen within two miles of home. If you move you are no farther away from accidents.

~

It is better to not know much than to know so many things that aren't true.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

What **BARNABAS MINISTRIES** believes

BIBLE: The only inspired record of God's revelation to us

SIN: The only thing standing between God and man

JESUS CHRIST: The only perfect One who paid for sin

THE GOSPEL: The only record of Jesus' life

SALVATION: The only hope of man

FAITH: is only "saving faith" if it includes repentance, confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sin.