



The PARAKLETE

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STRUGGLING WITH SIN

Have you ever noticed that we often measure other people spiritually in areas we feel we are the strongest? If we have no trouble with truth we judge others by their lies. If we don't curse we judge others by their language. This makes us feel better about ourselves...I guess.

If our righteousness is embracing the Ten Commandments, we all fail the test. However, we can be thankful that God doesn't judge us this way. He judges us by our faith in the work of Jesus. It's this simple: We can either be judged by the Law or by our faith in Jesus Christ. We can be judged by our so called goodness or our faith in Jesus Christ's death. We can be judged by comparison for others or by our faith in Jesus Christ.

The Law says *"Thou shalt not kill"* and Jesus says *"If you have hatred you have killed."* The Law says *"Thou shalt not commit adultery,"* yet Jesus says *"If you look upon a women with lust, you have committed adultery already."*

Today many are trying to live by the "Thou shalt nots." One may say: "I don't drink, smoke, or chew, and I don't kiss girls who do." By this measure my dog is as good a Christian as the one who says such a thing. At least I've never witnessed my dog doing any of those things. We must remember that laws are written for the law breakers, James 2:10.

Romans 7:1-6 is not a commentary on marriage but Paul is illustrating bondage to the Law in that text. He is saying in order to get out of marriage the spouse would have to die. Then he likens the spouse to the Law. The Law would have to die, and Jesus nailed the Law to the cross. Colossians 2:13-14. The Law is to us and dead in the mind of God. It died as a measure of righteousness when Jesus died. Our righteousness is in the resurrected Christ. While in the Air Force I was subject to all sorts of regulations, but when I was discharged those laws did not apply to me anymore. And when I became a Christian, the Old Testament laws of righteousness did not apply to me because Jesus fulfilled them for me. See Romans 7:5-6.

God no longer judges the Christian by their ability but by their availability. That might say something about our attendance in worship...don't you think? He is not impressed with how strong we are but how surrendered we are.



Now, we all have our old nature that we have to get out of bed, feed, clean, dress, and control. Therein lays our struggle. We know what God's standard is and what the holy nature of God wants for us. At the same time we know what and who we are: by nature not holy.

God gave Moses the Ten Commandment and by that measure we all fall terribly short. King David broke half of the Commandments in his sins with Bathsheba and her husband. Talk about falling short, David is a prime example. Yet he is honored by God...why? David's heart was convicted when confronted and he bowed to God's holiness.

You see, the Law was not given for the purpose of judgement, but was given so there would be no argument as to what pleases God. The Law exposes sin. It is not sin, Romans 7:7. In the following verses we see that Paul said he would not have known without the definitive words of the Law.

Don DeWelt once said: "If you want someone to break a law, just make one." You know, "Don't touch the wet paint" kind of thing. So laws were written and as a result sin seized the opportunity that was afforded by the commands. Put a child in a room and tell him he can have any toy in the room full of toys but one. You and I know that the child will have that toy in his hand within minutes, if not seconds.

In Romans 7:7-13 we read words like "seizing," "coveting," "desire," and "deceiving." Our old nature does all of that...and that is our struggle until the day we lay our bodies down to be with Jesus.

The Law is not a help in overcoming our struggle, it is merely a guide so we know sin when we see it.

In some homes cursing is against the rules of good behavior, while allowing drunkenness.

Yet in another arguing and cursing are allowed, but

STRUGGLING WITH SIN

never strong drink. Well, God has his rules and that is how we know what sin is. It is not what the U.S. Supreme Court says but what the righteous holy and Supreme God of the universe has stated. The battle within the Christian is deciding between my way, God's way, or the current conventional thinking.

In Romans 7:15-20 Paul states he too has a struggle with sin for three reasons. First having read the Commandments he knows what sin is. Second, knowing himself he knows what he is. And finally he knows there is a conflict between the two.

He uses the pronoun "I" 21 times in these verses and that is because he knows where the problem lies: within himself. God has stated what is perfect and Paul knows that when he tries to meet that standard of righteousness he fails, even though he tries so desperately. Like a diet, "Thin" is our desire but donuts are our greater tendency.

Paul says we must die to the law...forget, it we just can't do it. Jesus nailed those commands to the cross with Himself. He has fulfilled the law for all. However, though He fulfilled them for everyone, only those who by faith and obedience to the gospel trust the sacrifice and enjoy it.

One of the most blessed texts in the Word of God, one that thrills my heart is Roman 8:1-2 ***"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death."***

What a blessing to know that Christ has kept the laws of righteousness for me and that beyond that He took the punishment that I deserved.

Now all of this should be an encouragement to those who struggle with sin or fret over the sins of the past. Our problem is that we don't think like God and are not as compassionate as he. It is for this reason that we not only struggle with sin but we also struggle when trying to grasp such a love.

We don't think like God and because of that we condemn ourselves over and over again. This robs us of the courage, yes even boldness in our Christian life. His love is beyond our grasp, and as the hymn states: If the oceans were filled with ink and every stock a quill we could not write the love of God. It is so vast. However, this is not a license to sin, but a reason for a gratitude attitude.

So quit struggling and start believing and you will find it easier to live nearer to the holiness of God. We can concentrate on what we are and let it drag us down. We need to let this truth lift us up.

DENNY'S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

May 14-16 – Attend Spring Clinic, Person2Person, Hillsboro, OH, Kerry Allen, Director

June 17-20 – PA Old Fashioned Family Camp, Preaching in the Mountains, Hyndman, PA, Bob Long, Director

DANNY EVANS' SCHEDULE

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

Danny is open for filling, revivals and special occasions

IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT MARKED YOUR CALENDAR FOR WWW2020 THE DATES ARE – FEBRUARY 10-13, 2020. THESE ARE THE DAYS OF MON-THURS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SIGNS OF THE TIME

We need to quit worrying about what people think of you...they probably don't think of us at all.

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The best ten years of a woman's life is between 29 and 30.

~~

When a man gets to the point that he doesn't mind losing a golf ball...he can't hit it that far anyway.

~~

I'm getting older by myself...my wife hasn't had a birthday in years.

~~

We don't go out to candle-light dinners anymore because neither of us can read in the dark.

PREACHER RECRUITMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT SEMINAR

August 23-24, 2019

Gallipolis, OH

This seminar is open to all preachers and is free.

The "free" includes a hotel room for the preacher and his wife Friday night as well as all meals.

We can guarantee the first 45 rooms. We are not sure if others will be available.

Call Barnabas phone numbers on the front cover, or call Danny Evans at the number above.

If we acknowledge that we had a free will, we can't disown it when things go wrong. God will help us when we ask for help, but in a way that will make us more mature spiritually.

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

THANK YOU!!! I would like to begin my article by saying “Thank You” to all of you who were able to attend this year’s Winter Worship and Workshop (WWW). We heard several say that this year’s gathering was the best year yet. We are very much aware that the only way the program and get-together gets better is because of those who attend year after year. So, I want to thank you for helping us set new attendance records and for your support of the meeting. We hope that you can attend next year and we once again can come together to give God praise and we can fellowship together.

SPRING IS HERE: On March 10, 2019, we celebrated an experience that we have very mixed emotions about. It was on that Saturday (well, actually Sunday morning) that we turned our clocks forward one hour and another time change was put into the history books. I don’t know about you, but I am trying to bring myself to a better understanding of why we go through this process every year. There was some talk and still is of leaving the time in the daylight saving mode and not change it back on November 3rd. Again this is just talk and you all know what happens when politicians get together to talk and decide things.

The main reason for Daylight Savings Time is to move an hour of daylight from the morning and place it in the evening thus giving us an extra hour of daylight for activities in the evening. Now that we have gone through the resetting of our clocks for Daylight Saving Time we are celebrating another day that really excited us. On Wednesday, March 20, at 5:58 p.m. EDT we witnessed the Spring Equinox. It is on that day we had the same amount of daylight and dark. We call this special exhibition the beginning of spring. I believe that almost everyone looks forward to this exceptional day because it is at this time we start looking forward to everything starting to green up and things which appeared to be dead come back to life. It is called **REBIRTH.**

Could we use this time of natural rebirth to remind us that we could use a little time of spiritual rebirth or renewal? Just like the time of winter brings extended periods of darkness, we also go through stages of darkness spiritually. We get depressed in winter and we carry this depression over into our spiritual life on some occasions. But here we are celebrating spring when the sun touches us and we have more happiness. Why not have that rebirth spiritually? I know there may be newness around

us, in this time of year, but unless we get up and get out we miss the challenging time.

Psalm 51:10 has a challenge for us to consider as we think of a spring time in our spiritual life. In this Psalm we are given a prayer we should utter often during this time of year. Actually we should pray this prayer each day, ***“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”***

There could be times when our heart gets a little unclean and we need to do some spring cleaning. David did some soul searching and he then approached God asking for a cleansing of his heart. He admitted sin in his life and he recognized the need for God’s help.

He continued his thoughts by expressing a need for a renewal of his spirit. This renewal needs to be of a steadfast nature. Steadfastness can be stated in several ways such as unwavering, persistent, committed, and dedicated. When we think about asking God to renew our spirit with more of these aspects I can only hope that we are serious and want to make changes as David did. However, are we serious about wanting a change in our spiritual life or are we just playing a game like many churches do each year they have a “Revival”? We sing a few songs, including “Revive us Again,” and we meet for three extra days in a week and we call it a Revival. But where is the change within us? Now don’t get me wrong, some may be touched by a revival but it has been my experience that it doesn’t last long. I read Psalm 51:10 and I see David’s desire for an extended renewal in all he does. As we read about David we know that such a renewal happened to him. He drifted from God and was focused on his own pleasures rather than what God wanted. But he wanted a change and he knew that God was the source from which the change would come.

May I encourage you to take a few minutes and read Psalm 51 and as you read verse 10 consider asking God to help you clean up your heart and renew your spirit with a more dedicated and persistent one. No matter how strong and faithful you presently are we know there is a devil out there who wants to see you slip away from God, so a daily renewal, rebirth, or revival will keep you close to the Master. Remember 1 John 4:4 says, ***“You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.”***

Feelings may come and feelings may go, but feelings are deceiving, my warrant is the Word of God and on nothing else believing.

NO MAN LIVES TO HIMSELF

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Romans 14:13-23

INTRO: In the first half of the chapter Paul seems to be saying: Take care of yourself and don't worry about others. His points were: Accept others as they are, we are not isolated individually, and that we only have to account for ourselves. Then he moves to the last half of the chapter he seems to emphasize that we should however be looking out for our brothers and sisters. In reading these we can see that no single truth is disconnected from any other biblical truth. One man lives to himself. While we are judged by our own faith and behavior we should not ignore others. He was addressing the strong and the weak and gives us the transition word "therefore" to address how these truths join.

- I. **JUDGING OTHERS, HELP (13-16)**
 - A. **REMOVE STUMBLING BLOCKS**
 1. "Make up your mind" – Do not judge others
 2. Be careful not to cause others to stumble
 3. Our liberties come with responsibilities
 4. "Stumble" (No offensive impediment)
 - B. **CONVICTION vs CONVICTION**
 1. Paul was convicted no food is unclean
 2. Knew the old covenant was temporary
 3. Yet grants others there convictions.
 4. If we ignore them we are not acting in love
 - C. **ACTING IN LOVE**
 1. Ignoring this principle can destroy others
 2. Other whom Jesus died for
 3. It is asking little to limit our freedom
 4. It can cause our good to be evil spoken of
- II. **KINGDOM vs LIBERTY (17-19)**
 - A. **WHAT IS THE KINGDOM?**

Only place Paul uses "kingdom of God"

 1. What we eat is a liberty (we all can choose)
 2. Righteousness is not liberty – a must
 3. Kingdom is Righteousness, Peace, and Joy in the Holy Spirit, v17
 4. God rules and we must acknowledge it.
 - B. **DESTROYING THE WORK OF GOD**
 1. It is said this can be done for the sake of food. (v20)
 2. What we do the least, we do to God, Matt. 25:40
 3. Using our liberty to help other –is a mutual benefit (19)
- III. **LOOK AT THE LOGIC OF IT**
 - A. **FOOD vs CONSCIENCE (20-21)**
 1. Regardless of the issue, hurting others is just not worth causing them to stumble
 2. What one eats matters not to the kingdom
 3. Verse 21 sums it up...don't do what harms
 - B. **CONVICTIONS ARE PERSONAL (22)**
 1. It's between us and God
 2. But it is not a license to do what we want
 - C. **IT'S A MATTER OF FAITH (23)**
 1. If convinced, others may not be
 2. We have a subjective faith not objective

When Bible tells us "do not judge" we must take those words in their proper context. We should not judge the conviction of others. We are to judge and we should know how to judge the difference between what is sin and what is righteousness.

Such things as what we eat, wear, and the likes are not something that falls into the category of what is righteous. Harming others by condemning them is. We all have a right to choose in both between what is and what is not acceptable to God...for ourselves, but not for others.

So when we speak against an evil as it is described in Scripture and others tell you "not to judge, you are not. You can tell them that you are not...but that God has. But burgers or salad is their choice.

THINK ABOUT THIS

It takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?

Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

After 50 we can't read the fine print, we wouldn't like if we could.

Every car I've ridden in with bucket seats I have the wrong size bucket.

In a few years we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos.

I'm glad I do ache because when I quit aching it'll be a sign I'm dead.

Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

ANGER RETURNED FOR LOVE

Have you ever said a kind word, sent a kind email, or done a kind deed only to get an unkind response or even an angry return? Galatians 6:9-10 is a good place to turn to when you feel discouraged in doing good. Paul wrote: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people."*

God wants us to continue living for Him, which includes praying for and telling other about Him. He alone will take care of the results.

FACTS ABOUT OUR CREATED BODIES

There are approx. 100 billion neurons in the human brain which roughly the same number of stars in the Milky Way. **IS MY BRAIN TOO CROUDED TO THINK CORRECTLY?**

Your brain makes a decision 7 seconds before you are consciously aware of it. **SO DOES MY WIFE.**

Human thigh bones are 4 times stronger than concrete. **MY MOTHER ALWAYS THOUGHT MY SKULL WAS THAT HARD.**

The human body is still full of undiscovered mysteries. No wonder David wrote *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made"*

WHO SAID IT?

"Far too noisy...far too many notes"

Emperor Ferdinand referring to Mozart, 1786.

"It doesn't matter what he does, he will never amount to anything"

Albert Einstein's teacher to his father 1895

"You ain't going nowhere, son. You ought to go back to driving a truck."

Jim Denny of the Grand Ole Opry of Elvis 1954

"I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.

REDNECK DICTIONARY

FIZZY, *prep., adj., and n.* concerning a male person and something belonging to him or intended to involve him. “He came to wedding wearing hip boots, fizzy had worn camo it’d look better.”

DELIVER, *n.* It is a large, glandular organ in the body that assists in the metabolic process. “If Fred keeps drinking the way he does, I don’t see how deliver can last much longer.”

BENIGN, *v and adj.*, to reach a level one increment more than eight. “The scar from your tumor removal is going to benign inches long.”

BOYSENBERRY, *n, conj., and v.* a phrase connecting a group of males to the act of interring a being, or a thing underground. “Get the boysenberry this guy before the cops show up.”

Jeff Foxworthy’s *Learning to Talk More
Gooder Fastly Redneck Dictionary III*,

HOMOSEXUALITY AND GOD

When Paul said homosexuals will not inherit God’s kingdom, he was not simply stating his private opinion (1 Corinthians 7:25). All of Paul’s writings are divinely authoritative (Galatians 1:12; 2 Corinthians 2:13; 12:12). His primary condemnation of homosexuality is in Romans 1:26-27, and the divine authority of this passage is undisputed.

The Levitical law against homosexuality (Leviticus 18:22) has not been abolished (Acts 10:15) along with the Levitical law against eating pork and shrimp (Leviticus 11:2-3, 10). God’s law against homosexuality is a part of His moral law, not ceremonial law, and God’s moral law is still binding (see Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9).

If God’s law against homosexuality was merely ceremonial (and thus abolished in the New Testament times), we would have to conclude that rape, incest, and bestiality are not morally wrong either, because they are condemned together with homosexual sins (Leviticus 18:6-14, 22-23).

Homosexual acts connected with idolatry are condemned (1 Kings 14:24), but Scripture also condemns homosexuality apart from idolatry (Leviticus 18:22). Moreover, homosexuality is condemned alongside other forms of sexual sin,

such as adultery and incest. Are we to conclude that adultery and incest are wrong only when associated with idolatry and that all other forms of these practices are okay? Such reasoning is warped. It is only by twisting Scripture that a person can allege that the Bible condones homosexuality.

BUMPER STICKER WISDOM

The mind is like a parachute, it works better when it’s open.

There are two kinds of pedestrians – the quick and the dead.

Good health is the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth.

GODLY DISCIPLINE

A man came up to two boys fighting in the park. He took one aside and began to spank him for his inappropriate behavior. An observing bystander came up to the man and asked indignantly why he didn’t do anything to the other boy. The man responded that this one was his own son and the other was not.

DOGS AND CATS

I am a dog lover. I like all dogs regardless of the breed. However I have to say cats are smarter for these reasons:

You can’t get 8 cats to pull a sled through snow.

Dogs come when you call, cats take a message and get back to you later.

Dogs believe they are human, cats believe they rule humans.

People who hate cats come back as mice in the next life.

Moral – There is none

EASY OR IMPOSSIBLE

A woman asked a painter: “Is it hard to paint a picture?” “It’s either easy or impossible.” He continued: “The same answer holds for the creation of the universe. For God it was easy. For any of us it is impossible.”

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number one hundred-four – He Understands, He’s Been There

Often when someone is going through a time of trouble and seeking help, from a spiritual perspective a friend may reply, “Oh Jesus understands” and then quotes a verse of Scripture perhaps out of context. This is done with the intention to help ease the pain, perhaps without the foggiest notion of the great theological principles that are attached to the text quoted. The intention may be good but does it give much factual information of the great concern Jesus has for our trials? Many times this approach does not indicate how our Lord has actually identified Himself with the sorrow.

It would be better to express personal concern and then direct the troubled friend to the language of the Scripture telling of the things Jesus has done regarding difficulties in our lives. Our Lord does understand we should direct one another to the things God has revealed in relation to our difficulties. Jesus demonstrated over and over by what He said and did that He deeply cares and understands.

We are told in Hebrews 2:6-8 speaking of how God is mindful of us humans and He expresses it with regard to both mankind and the suffering His Son endured and not just on the cross. ***“What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man (Jesus) that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet,”*** v6-7. In those words we see the first principle we should always share; we are created and He is mindful of us. He is so mindful that before the creation of the world He had in mind to send His Son in human form to endure all the things we endure, and even more that we endure.

Jesus was sent in the flesh not only to save us from our sin, which is the greatest gift He could give, but Jesus suffered as we do when tempted with sin. He could make atonement ***“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted,”*** Heb.2:18. The first thing Jesus suffered when He became a man was temptation. All of us are tempted at some time or another but He understands because He has been there.

People hurt people, intentionally and unintentionally. In either case the hurt is felt deeply especially if the person is close to you. But the Scriptures tell us, ***“But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps,”*** 1 Peter 2:20-21. He understands because He has been there.

Jesus the man was created, but the inner being was God and the inner was not created. He always was. He had what is called a hypostatic union in theological terms which simply means He had two natures. The external created body called Jesus in which He lived and the internal being which was “The Christ,” or God in the flesh. Of Jesus it is written ***“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised and we esteemed him not,”*** Isaiah 53:3. We have One in heaven who can feel our pains because He experienced them Himself. He understands. He understands because He’s been there.

Many times during an active life we may accumulate enemies. You know, we get a promotion they think belonged to them. We may disagree with someone on an issue and that may create an enemy. It could be that they have been given a wrong impression or we may remind them of someone else and that may cause them to dislike you. But I doubt that many of us have had the experience of knowing they are plotting to kill us. Well that is exactly the case Jesus found Himself in because his disciple went through a grain field on the Sabbath and ate some of the grain, Matt. 12:1-2. When Jesus defended their actions (verses 11-12) they plotted how they might kill Him (verse 14). So if we get down because someone doesn’t like us, or speaks evil of us, just take it to Jesus. He’s been there.

Christ’s humanity, like His deity, is an essential Christian doctrine. As the perfect mediator between God and man, Christ in the incarnation was both fully divine and fully human. To deny either constitutes heresy, See 1 John 4:3

Christ's humanity, like His deity, is an essential Christian doctrine. As the perfect mediator between God and man, Christ in the incarnation was both fully divine and fully human. To deny either constitutes heresy, See 1 John 4:3; 2 John 7

Christ's development as a human was normal in every respect, with two major exceptions: Christ always did the will of God, and He never sinned. As Hebrews 4:15 tells us, in Christ "*we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*" Indeed, Christ is "*holy, innocent, unstained,*" Hebrews 7:26. We see Christ's humanity in these scriptures:

- Jesus had human parents, Matthew 1:18-19.
- He had relatives, Mark 6:3, John 7:5.
- He experienced a human birth, Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:24, 26, 31; 2:6,7,22-23, Galatians.4:4.
- He experienced normal human growth, Matthew 2:11; Luke 2:16; 240; 242-50; 2:52
- He had human ethnicity, for He was Jewish, Genesis 49:10; John 4:9; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 7:14
- He experienced normal human emotions, John 11:35; Hebrews 5:7
- He hungered and thirst, Luke 4:2; John 4:1-7; 19:28.
- He experienced weariness, Mark 6:31; John 4:6.
- He endured pain, Matthew 25:45; Mark 15:25-34; John 19:28.
- He suffered death, Luke 24:40; John 20:27; Acts 2:24.

When Jesus became a man, He revealed God to us. He became a qualified Mediator between mankind and God, due to the fact that He alone has experienced both sides of the spiritual issue between God and man. Whatever painful experience we have endured, whatever low or height we have reached Jesus experienced more in both dimensions. So whatever pain of life we may experience, no matter how much we are praised or scorned, regardless of our being hurt by others. Jesus can sympathize with us because He has been there.

Some people wonder why God sometimes seems to keep His distance. Theologians suggest that for God to continually intervene in human affairs would interfere with His overall plan of sifting the true inner character of people over a prolonged time. Each person has been given a stewardship of time on earth, and that person's allotment of time reveals his or her true nature.

Our Creator has given us that free will. We may exercise it anyway we wish or it is not really a free will. Sometimes our choices in life get us into deeper trouble than we could have imagined. It may be a sin, an error in judgement, or unchristian reaction to something or someone else. Regardless of the situation, our response to the problem that arises, regardless who instigated it that which results in trial may be the same.

Now, not counting who or what lead to the difficulty, God is on the scene watching and ready to guide us through that problem, but we must rely on His direction as given in His Word. Prolonged difficulty does not mean God does not know, does not care, will not help us or is not near. It is through the trials of life that molds us into the person He wants us to be.

If our Heavenly Father who loves dearly His one and only Son yet allows Him to suffer for things He did not do, can we honestly believe He is removed from our problems? It is for us that He sent His Son as a sacrifice, it is for us that He is preparing a place so we can be with Him forever. It is also to us that the words "*I will never leave you nor forsake you,*" are given. The hymn "Does Jesus Care When My Heart is Pained?" says it all:

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained too deeply for mirth or song
As the burdens press, and the cares distress and the way grows weary and long?
Does Jesus care when my way is dark with a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near?
Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed to resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief there is not relief, though my tears flow all the night long?
Does Jesus care when I've said "goodbye" to the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks, is it aught to Him? Does He see?
O yes, He cares, I know He cares, His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long night dreary, I know my Savior cares.

OPPORTUNITIES

May 14-16 – SPRING CLINIC – Person to Person Ministries, Hillsboro, OH – Kerry Allen, Director

May 16-18 – PREACHING CAMP – Person to Person Ministries, Hillsboro, OH – Kerry Allen.

June 16 – 20 – PREACHING IN THE MOUNTAINS, Hyndman, PA, Bob Long, Director

June 28 – 29 – SUGARLOAF FAMILY CAMP – Maysville, KY, Vernon Eldridge, Director

HENRY AND SWEETIE SAY:



S: Henry, your garden is looking good this year.

H: Thank you Sweetie, it has sure taken a lot of work.

S: Anything worth our time takes work.

H: The work on this garden started last fall.

S: I know. I watched you mulching all the leaves and spreading them on the garden.

H: It was hard work but I enjoyed it thinking about how they would help feed the plants this spring.

S: God has been good to provide the sunshine for the plants this year.

H: You know Sweetie, working in the garden is kind of like working for the Lord.

S: What do you mean Henry?

H: I worked the soil, planted the seed, watered and weeded but God will give the increase.

S: I see what you mean. We talk to the people about Christ but it is the Lord who forgives their sins and adds them to His church.

H: I see you are learning a lot from me.

S: Sure, Henry, sure sure.

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe – as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered, but God made it grow.” 1 Cor. 3:5-6.

THREE GATES

If you are tempted to reveal
A tale to you someone has told
About another, make it pass,
Before you speak, three gates of gold.
These narrow gates: First, “is it true.”
Then “Is it needful? In your mind
Give truthful answer. And the next
Is last and narrowest, “is it kind?”
And if to reach your lips at last
It passes through these gateways three,
Then you may tell the tale, nor fear
What the result of speech may be.

A LITTLE HUMOR

An elderly lady got off her mule and tied it to a hitching post. As she stood there brushing dust from her clothes, a young gunslinger stepped out of the saloon with a gun in one hand and bottle in the other. The young man looked at the lady and laughed, “Hey old woman, have you ever danced?” She looked at the gunslinger and said, “No...I never did dance...never really wanted to.

A crowd had gathered as the gunslinger said, “Well, old woman, you’re gonna dance now.” And started shooting at her feet.

The lady prospector, to protect her toes, hopped around as everyone laughed. As his gun ran out of shells, the gunslinger, still laughing, holstered his gun and turned around to go back into the saloon.

The lady turned to her pack mule and pulled out a double-barreled shotgun and cocked both hammers. The loud clicks carried in the desert air. And the crowd stopped laughing.

The gunslinger heard the sounds and turned slowly. The crowd watched as the young man stared at the large gaping holes of the twin barrels.

She never wavered and quietly said, “Son have you ever kissed a mule’s rear?” The gunslinger swallowed hard and said, “No ma’am...but I always wanted to.” She replied, “Today I’m glad I’m here to see your wish come true.”

FAITH

Faith is not about everything turning out OK.
Faith is being OK no matter how things turn out.

A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS

In order for you to insult me, I’d first have to value your opinion

You are only going to be as good as the people you surround yourself with. So be brave enough to let go of those who keep weighing you down.

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.