



The PARAKLETE

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Volume No. 20

Issue 4

July-Aug. 2020

PONDERING DEATH



As I get older I think of the ever nearing day of my departure from this life. I don't fear it, but I just wonder about it. I don't know if others do this, but I imagine most do. Some think of death in a humorous way as seen by the remarks on their tomb stones. In Tombstone, Arizona one grave has an epitaph that reads: "Here lies Lester Moore; four slugs from a 44; No less no Moore." Then there are these words on a preacher's headstone: "Gone to another meeting." W. C. Fields had these words on his stone: "On the whole I'd rather be in Philadelphia." I suppose tickling our funny bone is our way of trying to ignore the inevitable. I'm not sure why but we do.

The Apostle Paul wrote likening our bodies to a tent referring to it as *"the earthly tent we live in..."* 2 Corinthian 5:1. I can relate to that. When my four brothers and I grew into maturity we would get together in the summer for a fishing trip. We camped in places like Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan and Canada. We'd go anywhere we thought we might catch some fish...not that we caught many. And we acted immaturely at times. Many times we camped in tents. So I know what Paul was saying. Tents are flimsy. The term "denier" is used to measure thickness. A single strand of silk is 1 denier in diameter and a nylon tent is about 6.5 times the thickness of a silk strand...which is very thin. There are no doors to lock shut in a tent and at best it had a zipper. Tents collapse very easily also. In Canada there were times we were sure a bear might just test the sturdiness of our "shelter."

As we get older the realization becomes clearer, *"There is only a step between me and death."* 1 Samuel 20:3. Our fleshly tent is very vulnerable and as we age we become more aware of our frailties.

When we camped we bedded down in a sleeping bag. I recall one time I had a visitor in my sleeping bag. It was a frog that had hopped into the tent during the day and he and I shared the sleeping bag for a few minutes. I removed my guest and got

some sleep. Every morning, as the doves were cooing, we had to start a fire to take the morning chill off our earthly tents.

Just like the frog there are things that invade our "tents" as we grow older. Illnesses slow us down, to remind us that tents are temporary housing. When a tent has served as temporary housing we fold it up and put it away. But I like this illustration better: Walnuts have an outer shell but the good part is the inner. When we crack the walnut we can enjoy the good part. So when our time comes, the shell may be cracked open but the nut goes home. Inside our bodies are the good parts. Our spirit lives forever somewhere and if we are in Christ we know *"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord...they will rest from their labor,"* Revelation 14:13.

God has adequately informed us all that our body is just a temporary housing of our spirit and if we are Christians His Spirit lives there also. *"If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied are than all men,"* 1 Cor. 15:19

I have two good reasons to be happy about all this. First, I know that the trials of this life are temporary. *"The length of our days is seventy years or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away,"* Psalm 90:10.

Second, after enjoying what I can of this life God has a place prepared for me that is beyond my wildest imagination.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE SHOULD NOT GET SO HEAVENLY MINDED THAT WE ARE NO EARTHLY GOOD OR SO EARTHLY MINDED THAT ARE NO HEAVENLY GOOD.

Now, I want it understood that I enjoy my life here on earth. I really do enjoy my daily living, my wife, the birds from my window, the dog, and my daily routine. I don't set around worrying about dying or having morbid thoughts. Periodically I do think of the inevitable and it brings no fear or dread. I just ponder it. Paul speaks for many of us when he wrote: *"to live is Christ, to dies is gain,"* Phil. 1:21.

‘PONDERING DEATH

There is no down side for one who is born again. I love living for Him here and I know I will be ecstatic when I’m with Him in Heaven.

The longer we live as Christians the more attractive Heaven becomes, or at least it should. There was a preacher some years ago who said, “I am homesick for Heaven. It is the hope of dying that has kept me alive for this long.” The Apostle Paul wrote these words: *“We groan longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,”* 2 Cor. 5:2.

I don’t know what heaven will really be like. I do have the promises of Jesus that the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit will be there. That has got to be wonderful, but the Bible doesn’t give a lot of details that my finite mind comprehends. *“Streets of gold”* sounds good but will gold we value on earth be of any value in heaven or is gold the nearest thing on earth we know that helps us understand something greater in heaven? I don’t know, perhaps you do.

Paul tells us also that when he was *“caught up to paradise”* in a vision that he *“heard inexpressible things, that man is not permitted to tell,”* 2 Cor. 12:4. Was he not permitted to tell those things by command to be silent or was he not permitted because his being an earthling he did not have the ability to speak of what he heard in heavenly terms? To me the splendor of our heavenly home is beyond description with earthly words. I do believe the longer we live on earth the dimmer the things of this world appear, their glamour fades. On the other hand, the brighter the heavenly prospects appear.

So here we are camping out in our tents doing what needs tending on earth. However we must be conscious daily that *“Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed we have a building from God, and eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands,”* 2 Cor. 5:1.

I conclude that I must not become so earthly minded that I am no heavenly good, or be too heavenly minded that I am no earthly good. Things on earth need tending and we must do the best we can to see those things are taken care of. However, we should not allow the cares of this world to crowd out our purpose on earth which is to glorify Christ in what we do. We can’t do the later if we allow our Lord and Savior to slip from our minds.

The old hymn by Eliza Hewitt says it all: “When we all get to Heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus we’ll sing and shout the victory,”

I think about that periodically, don’t you?.

DENNY’S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

The virus fear has caused summer and some fall cancelations for both Danny and myself.

DANNY EVANS’ SCHEDULE

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

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM BIBLE READING?

Some seem to expect the Word of God to hit them like a jolt of adrenaline each time they read or study it. Although the “jolt” may hit us periodically, the benefits of the Word of God act more like vitamins. People who regularly take vitamins do so because of their long-term benefits, not because every time they swallow one of the pills, they feel new strength surging through their bodies. They have developed a habit of consistently taking vitamins because they have been told that, in the long haul, vitamin supplements are going to have a beneficial effect on their physically health, resistance to disease, and general wellbeing.

The same is true of reading the Bible. At times it will have a sudden and intense impact on us. However, the real value lies in the cumulative effect that long-term exposure to God’s Word will bring to our lives.

WHAT KIND OF CONSCIENCE HAVE YOU?

An **evil** conscience by sin – Heb. 10:22

A **defiled** conscience by unbelief – Titus 1:5

A **seared** conscience by hypocrisy – Tim. 4:2

A **convicted** conscience by Christ – John 8:9

A **weak** conscience by ignorance – 1 Cor. 8:10

A **clean** conscience by Christ’s blood – Heb. 9:14

A **perfect** conscience by a perfect sacrifice – Heb. 9:9

A **faithful** conscience by obedience – 1 Peter 2:19

A **clear** conscience by hope – Acts 24:16

A **good** conscience by godliness – Acts 23:1

A **testifying** conscience by conduct – 2 Cor. 1:12

YOU GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR

A man walked into a restaurant in a strange town. The waiter came and asked him for his order. Feeling tired and lonely, he replied, “Meat loaf and a kind word.” When the waiter put down the meat loaf, the man said, “Where’s the kind word?” The waiter put down the meat loaf and sighed, bent down and whispered, “Don’t eat the meat loaf.”

Call someone today to tell them you care.

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

I write this article with a prayer on my heart and on my lips. I am asking God to be with each person reading this and I also pray that the Coronavirus has not infected you or any member of your family or church family. The supporters of Barnabas Ministries and the states they live in may have had to deal with this pandemic in various ways. Some may have had sickness and possibly hospitalization. Other may be concerned about their jobs to provision for their family. This virus cannot and should not be taken lightly and we must call on our heavenly Father to lead us and guide us as we continue this journey. We can't let our guard down and begin to think that all has passed and we can get back to doing our "normal" things in our "normal" ways.

Through all that has happened in the last 8 weeks I have learned new phrases and had my eyes opened. Several things are alarming to me. The one phrase that keeps resonating in my mind, mainly because I hear it several times a day is "NEW NORMAL." If I was to ask twenty people to explain this phrase I would get twenty different answers. I looked online to collect some information and opinions and I found something that helped me. One person shared that new normal meant to: "Recalibrate your decision based on the latest data from trusted sources - not necessarily the latest headlines." As I read this I automatically thought of the reopening of our church facilities. How will things change in order to assure the safety of each person that attends? It is my opinion that things cannot go back to the same way they were and not anticipate some troubles. I heard the other day a church member say, "I just want us to go back to church and do the same things we have always done in the same way we have always done them." For a while I think we need to rethink what takes place in our worship. I am not talking about sermons or teachings but our conduct, our actions while in our worship setting. Again, each assembly will be different because each state's guideline will be different. However, if it means the distribution of the emblems has to be different, then so be it. I will be happy to be able to take the Lord's Supper with the church body rather than in my living room.

One alarming situation on my mind since about the second week of the suggested closure of our churches has been that we may have many sitting at home each week that are spiritually starving. Could it be that many church members do not know how to feed themselves? Is the only spiritual meal they receive each week the one they get during morning worship on the Lord's Day? How many Christians own Bibles but never open them and feed from the Word. Some may be weekly attendees to the worship gatherings but they limit any spiritual growth to that one hour each week at the church house. Reminds me of a story I heard: One day a teacher was teaching her young class the story of Jesus visiting Mary and Martha. She carefully explained how Mary and Martha had hurried to clean the house and cook a

special meal. Then she paused and asked: "What would you do if Jesus was going to visit your house today?" One little girl quickly responded, "I'd put the Bible on the table." We may laugh at this, but could this be one of the "normals" we want to get back to? The thoughts we feed ourselves (spiritual nutrition) are every bit as important as the nutrients we take for our physical bodies. If there is no daily spiritual nourishment and if this is a continued habit, we will see a drastic weakness in the body of Christ

One of the needs of the church is teaching each member how to feed themselves. I am pretty sure I am not the only person who likes to eat and find myself "grazing" all day on whatever I can find in the house. I do that because I find that I am hungry. Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount that we too need to be hungry. Matt. 5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." You find that you are satisfied once you take care of that hunger. The caution that I want you to think about is: You have to feed yourself daily in order to grow in the grace and knowledge that is needed to continue your spiritual life. So, my question to you is this: Are you feeding yourself spiritually and maintaining your daily relationship with the Lord?

I continue to pray that each of you will stay well and safe. I know some of the gatherings we are used to attending each year have been cancelled, but we can still pray one for another and we will be together as soon as we can. God bless and keep each of you.



HENRY SAYS

For the last couple of months I have reminisced over the last thirty-nine years Sweetie and I had together. We made a lot of memories, had a lot of good times, and a few hard times. When I think back of our marriage vowels, "Better or worse, richer or poorer, in sickness and in health," we covered all of these.

My favorite book of the Bible is Philippians and my favorite verse is 4:4, "rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again; rejoice!" I have had to stop and think how can I rejoice always when I have lost the love of my life? I have had to do a lot of thinking to work through this. Then the true meaning of the verse came to me. While I am basking in my petty I thought of Sweetie rejoicing in heaven with her Savior. I should be rejoicing for her and with her. Even in my loss I could still rejoice. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for prayers, thoughts, encouragement and support.

In His hands and His service,
Bob Creamer, alias Henry

Keep faith as a constant companion. When fear knocks at your door, send Faith to answer it.

FROM GOD THROUGH MEN

TEXT: Gal. 1:11-24

INTRO: In the letter to the Galatians Paul makes it clear that he was not trying to please men. He was not sent by and from men but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, v1, 10. He was hated due to the message he delivered. He also suffered because of the message which made it obvious that he gained nothing of earthly value because of it.

- I. **THE GOSPEL'S NOT FROM MEN (11-12)**
- A. **IT WAS AGAINST HUMAN NATURE (11)**
1. Therefore it was not of human origin.
 2. He seldom spoke from man's view 1 Cor. 9:8
 3. He spoke for God's approval, 1 Thess. 2:4.
- B. **OTHER FAITHS CATER TO MAN** W
1. Buddhism, Brahmanism, Islam have one thing in common...their origin is from man. ;THt
 2. The Gospel Paul preached is from God.
 3. Be not conformed to the world, Rom. 12:2.

II. THE GOSPEL ORIGINATED IN GOD'S MIND

- A. **GRACE AND PEACE ARE FROM GOD**
1. It was the will of the Father, v4
 2. He gave Himself for our sins, v4
 3. He used "I" five times in verses 11-12
 4. They are all emphatic.
- B. **GOSPEL WAS AGAINST PAUL'S NATURE**
1. He hated Christians, v13
 2. He was sold-out to the Jewish Law, v14
 3. It was God's grace that changed him, v15
- C. **IT WAS GOD'S CHOICE TO CALL HIM**
1. He didn't even consult with Apostles, v16
 2. He didn't go to Jerusalem for approval, v17
 3. It appears he avoided the Apostles, v17
 4. He was isolated for three years, v18
 5. Later he got acquainted w/Peter, v18

III. PAUL WANTED ALL PEOPLE TO KNOW

- A. **THE GOSPEL IS NOT MAN MADE**
1. It was not taught to Paul by other men
 2. God was pleased to reveal it to Paul
 3. He received it from Jesus Himself
- B. **HE WAS SCHOOLED ONLY BY GOD**
1. Moses raised in Egypt had to go to the desert
 2. Elijah went into the desert to be taught
 3. David was taken into the desert to learn.
 4. Jesus was led into the desert to be tested
 5. All these had to be separated from mankind for a period.
- C. **HIS PREACHING WAS EFFECTIVE**
1. In Syria and Cilicia Paul was not known personally
 2. They only heard the report of him.
 3. The report they heard:
 - a. The man who formerly persecuted Christians
 - b. Now preaches the faith
 - c. He once tried to destroy the church
 - d. Now they praise God because of Paul

CONCLUSION: The message of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead are contrary to man's thinking. It is outside the possibility naturally, but our Father does the supernatural.

Only God could think of such a plan, only God could perform it, and only God in the person of Jesus Christ lived a life holy enough to pay the price for our sins.

It is also true that only God could reveal the plan to the Apostle Paul in such a manner that he knew it was from God. The physical plan of death, burial and resurrection were only the tip of the iceberg. Also in the plan were grace, peace, hope, joy, and the revelation of the great love that God has for us.

This is why Paul wrote *"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him, **but God has revealed it to us** (The Apostles) **by His Spirit.**"*

THE HYMNS WE SING

Over the years hymn writers have given us some of the most beautiful words to sing. They flow with doctrinal truth and music that matches the words in beauty. One such hymn is Blessed Assurance by Fanny Crosby.

This is just one of the more than 8,000 she penned some of which have been a part of Christian worship services for years. It is just as fresh and refreshing today as it was years ago.

It is truly amazing that anyone, and especially a blind person, could write on such a variety of spiritual truths and experiences with such proliferation. While under contract to write three new hymns each week she used over 200 pen names besides her real name.

In some cases her friends would write the music and ask her to write words to the music. Such was the case for the hymn "Blessed Assurance." The music for the hymn was composed by Mrs. Joseph Knapp, an amateur musician and close personal friend. Mrs. Knapp played the melody and asked Fanny "What does this tune say?" Fanny immediately answered, "Why that says: 'Blessed Assurance Jesus is mine,'" And the rest is history.

Engraved on Fanny J. Crosby's tombstone at Bridgeport, Connecticut are these words taken from our Lord's remarks to Mary, the sister to Lazarus, after she had anointed Him with costly perfume:

"She hath done what she could."

The first line of the hymn Fanny wrote says it all:

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine!
 O what a foretaste of glory divine!
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God
 Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.
 This is my story, this is my song,
 Praising my Savior all the day long;
 This is my story, this is my song,
 Praising my Savior all the day long.

QUOTES FROM YOGI BERRA

"Always go to other people's funerals; otherwise they won't come to yours."

"If the people don't want to come out to the ballpark, nobody's gonna stop them."

"No wonder nobody comes here; it's too crowded."

"We make too many wrong, mistakes."

"It Deja vu all over again."

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Eleven – Faith to Live By

Years ago (1980's) I had two radio programs on the local station called "Five Minute Meditation" and one a little longer called "Faith to Live By." I also wrote an article in the Gallipolis Tribune that also carried the title, "Faith to Live By." Digging through some of my many old papers I found one of those old articles. I'd like to share it with you now.

We are a nation of worriers. There are many people who live by worry. If they don't have something to worry about, they will find a worrying project: and fret for hours, seeming to enjoy their mental state, though living a poor example of a Christian. What an un-Christian existence. It certainly can't be denied that the news of the world around us is cause for concern. It must also be accepted, by the reasonably intelligent that a misplaced faith can cause undo anxiety.

If God were truly dead, as some proclaim and think and the Bible were not true, I agree that uneasiness and fear would be the order of the day, but such is not the case. Let us approach the matter of mental anguish as professing Christians.

Worry is not a "weakness" or a "failure" as some may suppose but it is sin. The world today is looking for honesty. I believe that worry deserves an honest and biblical opinion. We are admonished in the Scriptures, the Christian's guide book for life that we are to "*be anxious for nothing*," Phil. 4:6. The Apostle Paul is offering in this text a basic Christian doctrine.

The Lord deals with man as a "believer," certainly there is plenty for an "unbeliever" to be concerned about. He certainly does not want those who profess a faith in Him to walk through this life with a crippling fear. He does not say, "It would be nice if you didn't worry," but rather He said, "*fear not*." I have been told by an older preacher that there are 365 times in the Bible Christians are told not to fear or be anxious. That would be one time for each day of the year. I haven't taken the time to count them, but if Jesus said it just one time that should be enough for us to trust Him.

What are we to do with our apprehensions? He doesn't leave us with a specific answer for each problem, but He does leave us with answers. In 1 Peter 5:7 we read "*casting all our cares upon him for he cares for you*." Now you may say "What do you mean by "cares" or "worries?" This seems like a good question and one that needs answered. It does not mean that a person, say a father, does not assume responsibilities for the business of his family, the Bible is clear on that. If a man does not take care of his business he bears the responsibility if it flops. That's the big push back by business owners who are forced to lock their business doors by government orders due to Covid 19. And a father is "*worse than an infidel*" if he does not take care of his family, 1st Timothy 5:8.

Well, where do we draw the line on worry? The Bible tells us worry is anxious care that comes from assuming a responsibility which we are incapable of discharging. For example, if I have to buy a 50 cent stamp to mail a letter I must assume and meet that responsibility of giving the local post master 50 cents for the stamp. However, if I am told to assume the responsibility of the national debt, when it appears that even the government itself is incapable of meeting it...why should I lose sleep over it. Am I concerned that the government has put us in this position? Yes, and I'm a little angry about it...but I can be angry and sin not by worrying about something I have no control over. This may be an oversimplification, but I think it makes the point. There are certain events over which God alone can control. Knowing the difference and letting God do things only He can do is key to a happy and worry-free life.

There are two areas of worry that plague us. They are material things and our bodily comforts. In Matthew 6:25 Jesus puts His finger on the difficulties of man. In the verses that follow He reveals the foolishness of worry to those who claim to trust in God. He turns to the fowl of the air and reveals that since He

created them He did so by calling them into existence in the first place and He assumes responsibility for them. This included feeding and clothing them. This He has done perfectly. Then He points to the fact that we (human beings) are worth far more to Him than the birds of the air. This should solve the frustration of needless worry over our provisions, provided we do all we can and trust Him for the rest. Concerning apparel, He turns to the lilies of the field, and points out that they neither sow nor spin and yet are clothed so beautifully. Yet we wring our hands for fear of tomorrow which He alone controls. Worry adds nothing to any solution.

If we know what He has promised and has asked us not to be anxious about things beyond our control, why do we still worry about such things? We have assurance for our future care from the Ruler of the Universe, what more could we ask? If I have an insurance policy on my home and my son breaks six window panes, I will never know if the panes are covered by the policy until I read it. So it is with the Word of God, the Bible.

We read in Psalm 55:22 ***“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fail.”*** The word “cast” is from the Hebrew word SALAK which is rendered “throw,” “toss,” “banish,” and “hurl” among several other similar words. The idea is picking up something and throwing it away. That is exactly what God wants us to do with things that worry us of which we have no control.

If I am supporting a heavy weight on my shoulders that buckles my knees and hurts my back I would be foolish to continue supporting it if one stronger than myself is beside me wanting to shoulder that weight. We are to cast such things from us. Before we take a weight to ourselves we must first grip it but after a while the weight will grip us. The antidote for care, worry, and related difficulties God has given us: ***“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God,”*** Phil. 4:6.

Take a deeper look at Phil. 4:6-9 and do as it says. Verse 6 tells us to pray properly. That is: pray specifically about the thing you are anxious about, make a petition making your request known to God verbally, and tell Him what you are thankful for. Verse 8 tells us to think properly. That is: Think about the things you know are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable and praiseworthy. Wow! This will take your mind into the area of godliness that we must have in prayer. This is in tune with Romans 12:2 which tells us we have a mind that needs transformed. Read Matthew 6:25-32 slowly and listen to the comforting words of Jesus. Verse 9 tells us to live properly. Proverbs 28:1 states ***“The wicked man flees though no one pursues but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”*** Don’t allow negative thoughts to get domination of you.

The mind over which God stands sentry is strong and steadfast. Our duty in matters that depend on us must not give way to gnawing anxiety, or worry. This is made simple by the Scriptures. Remember, clear water reflects the skies but troubled waters give no true reflection. So it is with our troubled hearts and minds. Have faith in God and in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. How do you get faith? Not by praying harder, or by working harder. The Scriptures tell us ***“faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God,”*** Rom. 10:17.

This popular hymn by Civilla Dunfee Martin takes the Master at His word.

HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW

Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely and long for Heaven and home
When Jesus is my portion? My constant Friend is He.
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
Let not your heart be troubled, His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness I lose my doubts and fears;
Tho’ by the path He leadeth But one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches me.
I sing because I’m happy, I sing because I’m free.
For His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.

REDNECK BIBLE DICTIONARY

MANASSEH, an *adv.* Sharing a hint of a great number describing many. “**Manasseh** lot of cows on that hill.

GAZA, plural *n.* A plea for more men to assist. “If you **gaza** over there help, this job won’t take near as long.

BETHEL, *n.* A prediction of the outcome when an owner named Beth hears what happened to her car. “When she finds out he wrecked her car **Bethel** wreck him.”

EDOM, *adj.* A description of what a friend will do with what is given him. “If you give him five burgers, he’ll **edom** all in no time flat.”

EGYPT, *adj.* What happened to a young man who expecting an honest game. “I played the game at the caravel and **egypt** me outa five bucks.”

An attempt and mimicking Jeff Foxworthy’s *Learning the Talk More Gooder Fastly Redneck Dictionary*.

“CAPTAIN SHRIMP”

Sometimes historical facts are little known. Take, for example Captain Myles Standish who was immortalized in the 1858 fictional book “The Courtship of Miles Standish” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Myles correctly spelled with a “y” was a staunch member of the Protestant Separatist movement in England and Holland. In 1620 two ships the Mayflower and Speedwell were leased to take some separatist, including Myles, to North America. The trip took 66 days.

History is taught, correctly, that he was instrumental in establishing the New England Bay Colony but few knew he was nicknamed “Captain Shrimp” due to his small stature. This is just a little history lesson about things that doesn’t matter.

A PROMISE ABOUT COURAGE

The promise God made to Joshua was especially for him but the principle applies to all who love Him: *“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,”* Joshua 1:9.

GOD IS INCOMPARABLE

Yahweh is incomparable. No one is like Him. Moses expressed God’s incomparability in two different ways, most commonly by negation: “There is no one like the Lord our God,” Ex. 8:10. The second way was with rhetorical questions, such as, “Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods?” Ex. 15:11. The implied answer is, no one in all the universe.

In Egyptian religion, the god at the very top of the totem pole was the sun god, Re. Next in line was the Pharaoh of Egypt, who was considered to be the son of Re. So Pharaoh was considered a god in his own right. Because Re was considered superior to all other gods his son, Pharaoh, was also considered to possess unmatched power as a god. This adds an entirely new dimension to the Exodus account, where a contest occurred between the true God and the false gods of Egypt’s mystery religion, See Numbers 33:4.

Pharaoh was unable to turn back the mighty plagues of Yahweh. The river of blood, Exodus 7:17-21. The sun god Re was unable to respond when Yahweh turned the entire land dark, Exodus 10:21-22. The Egyptian pantheon was impotent before Yahweh.

Truly, no one in the universe is like our God. He is incomparable!

WHY WE SAY IT

CHURCH MOUSE – How did a “church mouse” come to be the symbol of poverty – As in the expression “poor as a church mouse”? There was no cupboard or larder in church years ago to produce crumbs for a mouse to feed on.

BATS IN HER BELFRY – The belfry at the top of most churches corresponds to the head atop the human body. Bats will take up abode in a belfry that is empty and cavernous – likewise, by analogy, in the empty head.

All the water in the world, however hard it tried,
Could never sink a ship unless it got inside.
All the evil in the world, the wickedness and sin,
Can never sin our soul, unless you let it in.

OPPORTUNITIES

Aug. 21-22 – PRES – Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar – Barnabas Ministries, at the Central Christian Church, Gallipolis, Derek Stump, Evangelist. NOT CANCELLED!

HANDICAPPED SOLDIER REJECTED

A soldier called his mother from San Francisco Bay, “Mother, I’ll be coming home, but hear what I say. I want to bring a buddy, please, if you don’t mind.

He has one arm, one leg, one eye, he needs your love so kind.”

The mother told her soldier boy in harsh and bitter tone.

“No, don’t bring your buddy, find another home.

We just don’t have a place if it’s as you say. We don’t need a handicap to be here in the way.” Then later came a telegram, their soldier son was dead.

He took his life, they found a note which read: “No, don’t bring your buddy here” his mother’s words were they,

“We don’t need a handicap to get in the way.”

At last the wheels stopped turning, as the mother met the train.

She came to get her son with tears that fell like rain.

She stared in the cold steel box to kiss her boy goodbye,

And there he was a handicap: one leg, one arm, and one eye.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

The famous French scholar, historian, and statesman, Alexis de Tocqueville, came to the United States in the mid-19th century to make a study of our country. Later he wrote, “I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors and her ample rivers, and it was not there; in her rich mines and vast world commerce, and it was not there. Not until I went to the churches of America and heard her pulpits aflame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

As I read this to myself I could not help but think: I wondered if he came to America today would he leave with the same conclusions?

If we need Christ for our eternal life, we need the Holy Spirit for our internal life.

FOOTBALL

Since so many were worried about the football season being cancelled or postponed I thought a few comments from our heroes may be appreciated.

A running back anticipating the new season was quoted as saying: “I want to rush for 1000 or 1500 yards, which ever comes first.”

A coach asked a highly paid player: “Son what is it with you, is it ignorance or apathy?” To which the player replied, “I don’t know and I don’t care.”

One university ball player remarked concerning his coach: “He treats me like a man, he lets me wear earrings.”

At least they enjoy the game, hope you do too.

FROM THE LIPS OF AN AGNOSTIC

George Bernard Shaw did not profess to be a Christian; in fact, he was an agnostic. But he wrote, “I see the name of Jesus written on every page of human history. We crucified him on a stick, but he seems to have gotten ahold of the right end of it.”

Even one who believes we can’t know does himself know that Jesus won the war against the Devil even in sarcasm.

ANSWERING THE ATHEIST

In answer to an atheist who had mailed him some infidel literature attacking the Christian faith, one preacher wrote the following rebuttal: “My dear sir, if you have anything better than the Sermon on the Mount, the stories of the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan; or if you have a better moral code than the Ten Commandments; or if you can suggest anything more consoling and beautiful than the Twenty-Third Psalm; or if you can supply anything that will throw more light on the future and reveal to me a Father more merciful and kind than the New Testament does; more meaningful than John 3:16, please send it to me.” There was no reply.

From Collected Christian Convictions by Don Nash

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.