



The PARAKLETE

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EDUCATED BEYOND INTELLECT

Years ago a college graduate might say or do something outrageous then someone might say “They are educated beyond their intelligence.” This statement was usually followed by laughter indicating it was a joke with some. In my years since I’ve heard and read statements that have convinced me that it is possible to be educated beyond one’s intellect and it’s no joke. It’s not only possible but it appears to be more common than one might think.

Surely you too have noticed that seemingly intelligent people have made some unintelligent comments. It is observable in erroneous conclusions in the Christian community as well. Those I speak of are in no way lacking in intellect; however, the information they have been taught seems to have overridden their ability to think logically. Smart people somehow can fail in logically distinguishing between that which is outrageously false and that which is true when conflicting information is received.

God told Isaiah that the *“intelligence of the intelligent will vanish,”* Isaiah 29:14. The Hebrew word here for “intelligent” is **BIYH** meaning “understand, discern, consider, etc.” It has to do with reasoning. In the New Testament we read *“Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians,”* Acts 7:22. The Greek word for “educated” in this text is **PAIDEUO** meaning “disciplined, instructed, taught, or trained.”

Intellect has to do with thinking while education deals with information, be it good or bad, true or false. We all have a level of intellect, some more than others, but regardless of the level of intellect, it is possible to confuse or short-circuit it. When we receive information that conflicts with the Bible, we can react in one of two ways: (1) Reject that new information as flawed, or (2) Accept that conflicting information as also being true, equal, or superior to Scripture resulting in compromising the truth. Let me illustrate:

The Bible states, **“...you see that a person is justified with what he does and not by faith**



alone,” James 2:24, yet some believe we are “saved by faith alone.” How can one believe we are saved by “faith alone” when the Scriptures clearly state the opposite? Here is how, one man, Martin Luther many years ago when reading Romans 3:28 wrote in the margin of his Bible the words “faith alone.” (Some say the text was Romans 5:1). Either way it distorted the meaning of the text. We certainly are justified by faith or saved by faith but Romans 3:28, 5:1 and James 2:24 are equally true and one does not exclude the other. The Bible does not do that.

However, Luther and his followers have written volumes elaborating on his words rather than accepting God’s written words. Luther’s view has been preached, taught and impressed upon many for years and his faulty conclusion on the subject has crowded out the truth for some intelligent people. The result being that some have been educated beyond their intellect. As a result the Holy Spirit’s words become second to those of Luther. I have heard some who believe Luther’s take say the Book of James’ inspiration is questionable and should not be in the cannon of the Bible. How awful! Change the Bible because of Luther’s two words.

This may explain the rejection of the Bible statement, *“baptism does now save us, not the washing away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,”* 1 Peter 3:21. Should the intelligent who have been educated by Martin Luther reject the first book of Peter? The Book of James and First book of Peter both are in conflict with Luther’s “faith only.”

However, neither book, James or Peter, are in conflict with Romans. Learn a Bible study principle that states: What the Bible teaches on any given subject must be true, and it can’t be less but it can be more if the subject is spoken of elsewhere.

I accept Roman 3:28 and 5:1 but I also accept 1 Peter 3:21. Salvation is by faith which is expressed in submission to baptism for a clear conscience. John Calvin determined that there are no conditions given in the Scriptures for salvation. He published

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several of his conclusions in a five volume book set (I believe it was five) and his followers accept five of his conclusions all based on this “faith only” conclusion of Luther. Suppose an intelligent person was given instructions to find gold. Also suppose his attention was diverted by additional information to look elsewhere. If he missed the gold it was not due to his lack of intellect.

Following error because of love for the one dispensing it is dangerous. Some accept it because of peer pressure, some by others doing their thinking, yet some because new answers are more appealing than the simple word of God.

Why did God say *“intelligence will vanish,”* Isaiah 29:14? Reading the context we find that Israel was serving God with their mouth and not obeying. Luther lived 1000’s of years after Isaiah was written but the truth was applied to Israel years prior to Him and is today as well. The difference between mankind’s education and his intelligence has been and will be a problem when we put His Word second.

God has told mankind in Isaiah 55:8-9 *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Men with high intellect have introduced the ordaining homosexuals into the ministry. It was “smart men” who have told us it’s not sin to kill unborn babies by abortion. However, such thinking belies spiritual intelligence.

There is a book written by Lawrence Johnston Peter (1919-1990) entitled “The Peter Principle” so named for its author. He theorized that employees within an organization advance due to good performance. However, after doing a good job at lesser levels they eventually are elevated to a position that is beyond their ability. As a result some in high level positions are incompetent because they are beyond their intellect...with college level degrees it certifies they are educated.

When mankind contradicts God’s Word, they are actually outsmarting themselves. Intelligent people should remember the text that states, *“Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in heaven,”* Psa. 119:89.

Do not allow an education of any kind from anywhere to go beyond your intellectual capacity or to think an education makes you smarter than God.

NEITHER DENNY NOR DANNY HAS MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR NOV.-DEC.

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FINDING YOUR PEANUT IN LIFE

Despite being born into slavery and spending his first 30 years drifting from job to job, through sheer determination and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge George Washington Carver became one of the greatest agricultural pioneers in American history.

While he received the greatest renown for developing more than 300 uses for the common peanut (peanut butter is my favorite), Carver also utilized his vast knowledge to help thousands of impoverished southern farmers rehabilitate soil devastated by decades of a one-crop system.

As the following quote illustrates, despite his genius Carver retained a great humility toward his own accomplishments:

“When I was young, I said to God, ‘God tell me the mystery of the universe.’ But God answered, ‘That knowledge is reserved for me alone.’ So I said, ‘God tell me the mystery of the peanut.’ Then God said, ‘Well George, that’s more nearly your size.’ And he told me.”

So what’s the message for us? Simply this: Find the “peanut” in your life and become the expert on it.

HESITATION

“For if the trumpet gives an uncertain sound, who shall prepare for battle,” 1 Cor. 14:8.

On plains of hesitation lie the bones of those who chose to die by standing still. They refused to take a side, or when accused of fault or wrong would not defend their convictions to the end. Their thinking was not positive. They had no arguments to give. By inaction they paid the cost, for “He who hesitates is lost.”

Julien C. Hyer

OLD TESTAMENT

You shall not murder

You shall not commit adultery

Do nor swear falsely

The tenth shall be holy to the Lord

NEW TESTAMENT

He who hates his brother has murdered

He who looks with lust is guilty...

Swear not at all

Give as you are prospered

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

Something lighthearted:

Sausages, cheese and the like are all fattening unless impaled on frilled toothpicks. The insertion of a sharp object allows the calories to leak out the bottom.

6 ESSENTIALS FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

One of the things that I learned from my father is how to take care of a car. No matter how you look at it, the purchase of a vehicle is a huge expense and you have to maintain it if you plan on keeping it for any length of time. If you don't establish some routine or list or habits to take care of that vehicle believe me it won't last long. If you didn't have a person like I did that taught you this routine then you can develop that list from the owner's manual that comes with the vehicle. As Christians do we need a list of disciplines that we should follow or must follow if we are going to maintain our relationship with the Lord? Christian growth is not automatic. We have to work at it, just like car maintenance. I am not talking about a systematic theology or a list of "do this but don't do that." What I am saying is I know that there are certain activities that we all need to develop that we can do on a regular basis if not on a daily basis. My goal in this article is to perhaps just remind us that there are certain exercises or disciplines that we must do in order to keep our relationship with God strong.

1. FAITH AND TRUST – (Hebrews 11: 1, I Cor. 2: 5, Luke 17: 5, II Cor. 5: 7). We have to walk by faith and not by sight. This walk is not just the occasional stroll nor sitting in a worship time on Sunday, but each day, every hour of each day. We have to trust God and take Him at His Word.

2. A SURRENDERED HEART - (James 4: 7, Proverbs 23: 26, Matt. 16: 24) We are told we need to surrender our lives to God in order to accept His salvation but we are also told in scripture to pursue daily surrender of our sinful nature and pride. We must submit ourselves to God each day and if we do we will see great improvements in our relationship with the Master.

3. DAILY FEASTING ON GOD'S WORD – (James 1: 22, I Peter 2: 2- 3) I truly believe that if you are in the Word each day you will get to know God better. It is also the way you increase your faith (Rom. 10: 17). Reading scripture and allowing God to encourage you through it will cause

strengthening. It helps a person to get through some very difficult times. It also gives you a conviction of sin and shows you where true peace is. Reading and studying scripture allows us to hear God speaking to us. Isn't it great to live in a land where we are free to read God's Word and allow it to give us direction?

4. PRAYER – (I Thess. 5: 17, Philippians 4: 6 – 7) Prayer is not a "special needs" matter. You don't go to God just when something special is happening in your life. God wants to hear from you about everything, every day. Being in that constant state of prayer draws you closer to the Father and makes you aware of His presence. As Paul stated in Philippians it will allow you to gain that peace that passes all understanding. What a blessing that is!

5. DAILY OBEDIENCE – (Matt. 5: 16, I John 2: 3 – 5) Obedience to God shows that we know Him and want to do as He commands. Obedience says "I love you Father" and that is what God wants to hear each day. At our new birth we gave our lives to the Lord. This has to be a total gift to God not just something we give Him if we think there might be a benefit for ourselves. Daily obedience brings glory to God and that pleases Him. If we are going to be successful in daily obedience to God we need to learn to say NO to sin, lust, and our physical nature and YES to God's instructions.

6. MEETING WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS – (Hebrews 10: 24 – 25) It is becoming harder and harder to get Christians to see the importance of meeting together each first day of the week. Could we have convinced ourselves that the assembly each week is just a waste of time? After all we could just stay at home and watch a T.V. evangelist, doesn't matter who it is, and sooth our minds and feel spiritually satisfied. Paul said we are the body of Christ and once a week we get the body together to fellowship and encourage each other. We also have a wonderful opportunity, as a body, to partake of the Lord's Supper as a family.

These are some activities that are essential each day if we are serious about growing in our spiritual life and pleasing our Heavenly Father. Believe me, the more you do these essential disciplines the easier they become. If you are not doing these. why not start today? You will be amazed at how quickly you begin to know God better! God bless each of you as you go through your day.

**Danny Evans is an associate and trustee
of Barnabas Ministries**

RESTORING A FAILURE

(From a sermon preached in 1995 by Denny)

TEXT: Judges 16:31-31

INTRO: The British navy was on peacetime maneuvers. A signal was given for a 90 degree turn. But one captain missed the signal and another had to swerve to prevent a collision. The admiral came on the flag ship as asked, "Captain what are your intentions?" The Captain relied, "Sir, I plan to buy a farm." He knew his career as a captain was terminated. His ship was headed for dry dock. Failure is one of lives realities. Not a single person has not failed at something. But when we do fail we are not in spiritual dry dock unless that's where we desire to go. The Hall of Fame of Faith, Hebrews Chapter 11 is replete with recycled or reclaimed failures. There is a great principle here. It is this: Everyone who has been a success in life and in the Bible has had failures in their lives. Edison, Lincoln, Washington, and the list could go on. Samson is one.

I. GOD'S DISCIPLINE OF SAMSON

A. HE BROKE GOD'S LAW

1. Don't be deceived, we reap what we sew.
2. Yes, even believers, then and now.
3. Failed for two reasons, over confident and listened to Delilah rather than God.
4. Haircut and fellowship was broken.

B. SHAME FOLLOWED

1. Weakened by own sin.
2. Eyes...gouged out by God's enemies.
3. Became a slave to God's enemies

C. MADE A LAUGHING STOCK

(In the eyes of the public – a true failure)

1. He became entertainment for the lost.
2. Let to stadium in Gaza before Dagon (a god)
3. Dignitaries looked on as did general public.
4. Liquor flowed as in a party celebrating
5. Chained, blind, broken he was toyed with
6. Cruel and sadistically taunted. A real failure

God allows bad things to happen to His disciples for two reasons.

- (1) To create an unforgettable message to His people and in His providence to use those who have failed and restored.

II. GOD'S RESTORATION OF SAMSON

(However, his hair grew back his heart did also)

A. HE DIDN'T FALL BEYOND GOD'S GRACE

1. In his weakness Samson reached out to God
2. The Lord gives us access to Him
3. King David – An adulterer and murderer
4. Peter – Denied Christ, not once but twice
5. All in the Hall of Fame of Faith failed at least once if not more. Daniel's not listed

B. FAILURES MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED

ILLUSTRATION: An evangelist failed and after prayer, repentance, and humility was allowed back in the pulpit. Before he was to speak he was handed a note, from a woman in the audience. It read: "If you preach, I will stand and reveal your sin. He stood, read the note aloud and the said, "This is true, but my merciful Father in heaven has forgiven me, for I have repented in tears for my sin." She left...he preached.

1. Restoration takes time...He hair had to grow
2. He spent time laboring as a slave & shame
3. Finally an opportunity in the arena.
4. Samson said: "Sovereign Lord, remember me."

C. CONSEQUENCES MAY REMAIN

1. He was still blind
2. David's sorrow did not remove his son nor bring back Uriah
3. Guilt is gone forgiveness is given

CONCLUSION: It is not the beginning of the end but it can be the beginning of the end of a failure. We must admit, accept, be patient, and believe in God's mercy. Sin can blind, 2 Peter 1:9, it binds, 2 Peter 2:19 and it grinds, 2 Peter 2:22. But failure is not the end.

AGE SHOULD NOT HINDER SERVICE

John Wesley preached every day at age 88.

Tennyson published "Crossing the Bar" at 83.

Michelangelo did the Sistine Chapel in his 80's

Ben Franklin wrote his autobiography past 80.

Thomas Jefferson was active in public life at 83.

Paderewski played to large audiences at 79.

Stradivarius made violins until age 93.

Grandma Moses began painting at 90.

Henry Lytton past president of HUB worked at 100.

Anna was used of God at nearly 100, Lk. 2:36-38.

Moses served God until he was 120 years old.

We never know how long we will live but we can determine how long we will serve while we live.

IT DON'T WORK THAT WAY

If God put me on earth to accomplish a certain number of things, right now I am so far behind, I will never die.

PARABLE OF THE RATTLESNAKE

Once upon a time a family that had been very active lost all interest in the church. The preacher, the elders, and all their fellow church members pleaded with them to get involved again, but nothing they said or did seemed to work.

One day the father and his sons were out in the fields working. A big rattlesnake bit one of the boys, and he became very sick, nigh unto death. The doctor did all he could for the boy and then told the family "All we can do now is pray." Immediately the father sent for the minister of the church. This is the prayer the preacher is reported to have prayed: "O wise and righteous Father in Heaven, we pray for this boy's full recovery. But we also thank you for this rattlesnake. This family hasn't been in church for years, and we pray that this serpent will be the means of bringing them all to a spirit of genuine repentance. Already this snake has done more to turn them around than all the pleas of their fellow Christians. Dear Lord, it may be that what the whole church needs is bigger and better rattlesnakes." - Unknown

I doubt that it's true also, but it makes the point.

TOMORROW

There are two days in every week about which we should not worry. There are two days which should be kept free from apprehension. One is yesterday with all its mistakes, its faults and blunders, aches and pains. We can't undo a single act that we performed; we can't erase a single word we said. Yesterday is gone forever. The other day for which not to worry is tomorrow with its burdens or cares. Tomorrow's sun will rise in splendor or mask in clouds. But it will rise and until it does we have no stake in it for it has not been born.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Nineteen – Becoming an Encourager

Have you ever noticed that some people are encouraging while other are somewhat discouraging with their remarks and some non-plus, they are just there but reflect nothing. Every Christian is, or should be, in the process of changed more and more like Jesus Christ. There are many self-help books on the market today. One thing most of them have in common is that they advocate a person changing themselves into whatever they desire to be. They may say “If you can think it, you can be it,” whatever “it” happens to be. In other words your mind and will is the only avenue. While it is true that we may have growth in our intellectual capacity and or emotion control by reading, working, and discipline, this is not the kind of change our Savior desires in us as Christians. We need to desire and work for spiritual change and that does not occur simply by the will of man. There are those who seek self-improvement spiritually or be a “better Christian” by doing good things. While we may improve our external Christian persona and accomplish some things that bring glory to God from the outside world but we need more. The reason is this approach usually leads to anxiety, frustration and discouragement which could lead to depression.

At first it may sound discouraging but when understood as a disciple submitted to Jesus, it is really very good news. It is that we cannot change ourselves spiritually, that is the work of God by changing us through submission. This change starts immediately from the time of our conversion. From that point on the amount of spiritual growth depends on our willingness to yield.

The world self-help theories all begin with your mind, as it is. However, the Lord begins with the understanding that we must be transformed by the renewal of our minds. ***“Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, His good, pleasing and perfect will,”*** Romans 12:2. By these words alone we learn: (1) The world does not have the answer, even in so called “self-help” material. (2) Our mind needs to be renewed (spiritual thinking). (3) We can prove (or determine) what God’s perfect will is. How? It is only by revelation. It is in the Scriptures, that we know His perfect will.

The Scriptures are inspired by God and reveal all we know about Him and His will. Speaking of the lack of knowledge in the rulers of this world, Paul wrote, ***“However, as it is written: 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 by His Spirit.”*** Paul was writing about the revealed information God gave the apostles and they have left us this revelation in the Bible. The Spirit revealed all we know and the Spirit is He who works His transforming power in our lives.

In all cases the Holy Spirit is the “Agent of the change” that occurs within us. We have a part to play, but it is the Holy Spirit who causes the change to take place. We will not be the person in the future that we are now if we submit to His transforming power. ***“Dear friends, now we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known. But, we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure,”*** 1 John 3:2-3.

Since we are not to “think like the world,” Romans 12:2 we must seek the ***“perfect will of God.”*** God and man’s views are nearly always (if not always) opposite. The world tells you to get even, while God tells you to love them and pray for them, Matt. 5:43-44. The world says strike back if you are hit, yet God says ***to “turn the other cheek,”*** Matt. 5:38-39. The world says hard work and an education will lead us to success. God tells us that faith and obedience brings spiritual success, Hebrews 11. Is it any wonder that we are told that our mind must be renewed if we are going to change? The change God desires and that we need must begin with a renewed mind.

When we are redeemed our minds must switch from slave to free, from slave to soldier and if we have been healed we can begin to encourage others that in Christ we are free from bondage of the old way of living. We

no longer allow our minds to be pathways for the Devil to trample on but now make it a boardwalk for the Holy Spirit to do His work. But what are the steps to being a mature encourager. We must realize that we are no longer sick people trying to heal ourselves but we are saints fighting sin. What are the steps to being God's encouragers?

1. We must stop waiting for an outside miracle to change our minds for us. When we do this it is the same as removing responsibility from ourselves. Difficulties are part of any real struggle for achievement. We must stop blaming circumstances for our own negative thinking. The solution is in us for it is within us the Holy Spirit works not in the our spirit without cooperation.
2. Get rid of the thought that you can't control your thoughts. This is a weak excuse and it is not Scriptural. Phil. 4:8, "**Think about these things.**" Joshua was told "**You shall meditate on it day and night,**" Josh. 1:8. A righteous man "**On His (God's) law he meditates day and night,**" Psa. 1:2. It is pretty clear that God expects us to choose our thoughts. The mind is a servant to the possessor.
3. Learn that what you feed your mind will be your mindset. A mindset is what controls us. We may do many thing to change our mindset but it's not easy. The only way to change your default thinking is to fill your mind with new information found in God's word. It is not new per se, but it will be new to a worldly thinker.
4. Confess to yourself and the world what you believe. Not what your feel but believe. Don't use your mouth as a thermometer which only reads the temperature (current situation); allow God's word to change the thermostat which changes the temperature to what God says. We may feel "God has left me." However, the Bible states "**I will NEVER leave you, NEVER will I forsake you,**" Heb. 13:5. Don't let feelings dictate your thoughts, actions, and words. "Feelings may come and feelings may go but feelings are deceiving, my warrant is the word of God and on things else believing." (Author unknown).
5. Resist negative thinking by think positive thoughts. The mind is a ship looking for a harbor. You can't keep bad ships from sailing on the sea of your mind but you can refuse them docking privileges in the harbor of your mind. You can't keep birds from flying over your head but you can stop them from building a nest in your hair. "**We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ,**" 2 Cor. 10:5.
6. Enjoy the process. It takes time to see change in your mind. Others will see it in you before you do. I believe God could have created the earth in one day, but He used a process and we can now see the progression. New thinking is a process, not a miraculous event of sudden change. We must celebrate small victories and focus on what God is doing rather than on what He is not doing. The Devil will try to get you to mess up the process by getting you to compare yourself with others or discourage you in some way. Don't give in to it but rather look for small victories.
7. Expect something good to happen. Our walk is an act of faith...believing that if God can create the world and our universe, he can create in us a new spirit with new expectations. Trust God and expect His grace and mercy to work in you. God has changed your standing with Him at your conversion and He wants to renew your mind...let Him...that is HIM do the changing through the Holy Scriptures.



LEARNING with Larry

It's often said that English is one of the hardest languages to learn. Given the fact that many of the words we use come from Greek.

It just makes no sense! One of the reasons why English is difficult is it's full of contradictions. There are many examples of conundrums such as: There is no ham in hamburger or apples or pine in pineapple. "Overlook" and "oversee" have opposite meanings while "look" and "see" have similar means. There are different words spelled the same: The bandage was "wound" around a "wound." Farms "produce" produce. The dump is so full they refuse more refuse. We polish the Polish furniture. He could lead if he would get the lead out. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

In today's world, hope means something that may happen, as "We sure hope today will be a good day." I looked up the definition of hope and found "a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen." However, "hope" in the Bible means something different. When I teach a lesson on hope I spend time telling the difference between the world and Bible definitions. We think of hope as a "hope so." The Lord isn't an undecided God. Rather, He's extremely precise and can be relied on. When we place our hope in God, we shouldn't be unsure of His intent or actions.

The word "hope" in Greek is ELPIS (noun) and ELPIZO (verb). ELPIS means favorable and confident expectation. ELPIS refers to the future and the unseen as in Romans 8:24-25, "*For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.*"

ELPIS is found over 50 times in the New Testament. The apostle Paul was constantly anticipating future events with joy as in this text.

"And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers," Acts 26:6 *"for we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith,"* Gal. 5:5 and Acts 23:6 **"I**

stand on trial because of my hope in the resurrection of the dead."

The Greek is directed toward a particular based on confidence in the one who promised, as stated in Romans 8:24-25 above. To me that sounds like no doubt about our hope in Jesus. Until next time, God bless you all.

– Larry Boggs

Larry is a Barnabas Trustee and Evangelist at three different congregations, two in the a.m. one in the p.m.

TIME WELL SPENT

It takes 70 hours and 40 minutes to read the Bible. It takes 52 hours and 20 minutes to read the Old Testament. It takes 18 hours and 20 minutes for the New Testament and 4 hours, 30 minutes to read Psalms but only 2 hours and 43 minutes to read the Gospel of Luke.

THE FICTIONARY DICTIONARY

ISRAEL – Distinguishing the true from the false.

"John's hair looks like a wig but Israel."

BABYLON – What someone does when they can't stop talking. "After Billie makes his point he just keeps babylon."

CONTRITE – Encouraging another to do what you couldn't. "I tried and tried to get the lid off but you contrite to see if you can do it.

EGYPT – Cheating another in making a deal. "Charlie didn't do Bobby right, Egypt him out of \$10."

BE THE BEST OF WHATEVER YOU ARE

If you can't be a pine on the top of the hill,
Be a scrub in valley...but be.

The best little scrub at the side of the rill;
Be a bush if you can't be a tree.

If you can't be a bush, be a bit of grass,
Some highway to happier make;

If you can't be a musky, then just be a bass,
But be the liveliest bass in the lake.

We can't all be captains we've got to be crew,
There's something for all of us here;

There's a big work to do and there is lesser to do,
And the task we must do is one that's near.

If you can't be a highway, then just be a rail,
If you can't be a sun, be a star

It isn't by size that you win or fail
Be the best of whatever you are.

-Author unknown

OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 8-10 – Restoration Destination, Avista Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC – CCL@scoast.net

Jan. 17-19 – Florida Bible Conference, Kissimmee, FL, – thecra@thecra.org

Feb. 14-17 – Winter Worship and Workshop, Pigeon Forge, TN – barnabasohio@att.net

GENDER-INCLUSIVE & GENDER PERFECT

The original Greek and Hebrew biblical text often uses words like men and brothers to refer to males and females. A debate, in recent years over gender identity has ensued. But even before that there has been a debate over whether translators should use gender-inclusive. That is when the word “brethren” or “brothers” is used it may mean men and women. Gender-inclusive language has these advantages:

- It makes the Bible clearer and more accurate in terms of the author’s intention.
- Some grammars permit the use of “they” and “them” rather than “he” or “him.”
- Gender-sensitive language does not change the essential meaning of the text.
- The Bible is written for everyone not some.
- Women may sometimes feel left out by so much male terminology.

On the other hand:

- Some translations could lose elegance by an overuse of “people” and “persons” in order to satisfy people rather than the Holy Spirit.
- Using “they” or “them” could obscure God’s personal dealings with individual persons or groups of people meant to address.
- Such translations are not word-for-word renderings of the intent.
- God chose the words of Scripture and humans should not try to change them for personal satisfaction.

THE SIN OF GOSSIP

Gossip is the tool of the coward. Christian courage never resorts to the business of gossip to achieve its end.

Gossip is the product of shallow minds. They try to impress others with what they pretend to know.

Gossip is the diversion of a fool. Wisdom is gainfully employed in the application of knowledge.

Gossip is like a muddy stream that seeks to find its own level. Sincerity and love will have no part.

Gossip is really lower than a viper; for it strikes without warning.

-copied

IN JEST

A lady goes to her preacher after the morning service in tears.

He says, “Mary, what could be bothering you so?” She replies, “Preacher, I have terrible news,” to which he asks, “What is it dear?” She said “My husband passed away last night.”

The preacher said, “Oh Mary that’s terrible! Tell me. Did he have any last request?” “Yes he did,” she replied

Preacher: “Tell me exactly what he asked.” Mary replied, “He said ‘Mary put down that gun.’”

APPRECIATE VETERANS

It’s the veteran, not the preacher who gave us freedom of religion

It’s the veteran, not the reporter, who gave us freedom of the press.

It’s the veteran, not the poet who gave us freedom of speech.

It’s the veteran, not the lawyer who gave us freedom of assembly and trial.

It’s the veteran, not the politician who gave us The rights to vote, to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is the soldier who salutes the flag and it’s a shame that some use this freedom to burn it.

ALL PREACHERS ARE NOT THE SAME

Some build on personality rather than Scripture
Some claim revelation received outside the Bible
Some camouflage their doctrine by covert words.

Some pervert to Scriptures for personal gain.

Some set dates for the return of Christ

Some proof-text Scripture

But praise God that

Some are guided by the Word of God

Some realize there is no additional revelation

Some speak as the Bible speaks and silent when it is

Some speak plainly and clearly what the Bible says

Some, as Jesus, believe only the Father knows when

Some do not pick and choose but preach all texts.

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.