



The PARAKLETE

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SPIRITUAL IGNORANCE IN USA

I have two questions: 1. How spiritually ignorant are we? 2. How spiritually ignorant do some TV evangelists think we are?

What if someone told you they walked into their office and in a chair sat Jesus Christ? Then man who made this statement then said he spoke, "Hi Jesus," and stated the Lord replied, "Hi Jessie." Then Jessie said, "We're on first name basis." I can tell you that I would know he was lying but my point is that he must think his hearers to be ignorant. Yet that's what the TV evangelist Jessie Duplantis stated and it can still be seen and heard on You Tube.

Further what would you think if in a sermon a preacher would say he talked to his hair and made it lose its gray and return to dark brown? Then he told his listeners to place their hand on their bald or balding head and speak the command "Hair grow!" That's what Kenneth Copeland did and said. Go on the internet and type his name and the words "hair grow" and you will be able to see and hear him. My point again is that he too must think we Americans are ignorant.

I'll use one more false preacher to make my point. What if you were told that one of, if not the main, reason to give to their ministry was to get? This is called the "Prosperity Gospel," or the "Health and Wealth Gospel." I could site many who say this but you no doubt have heard this on TV. Again the speakers must think their hearers who believe them to be spiritually ignorant.

The reason they do and say such things is because many believe and send money to them so they can continue to insult the givers. The reason it works is because, generally speaking, America is spiritually ignorant. This does not mean America is unlearned because as a whole America is very schooled. The problem is that the USA is ignorant (untaught, unaware, unschooled) on matters related to the Bible.

A Gallup survey dated a far back as 1986 revealed that 50% of American could not name the four Gospels. It must be kept in mind that this doesn't mean the other 50% is familiar with the content even if they knew them.

In the times of spiritual (biblical) ignorance it results in cults emerging. Jehovah's Witnesses by Charles Taze Russell, Christian Science by Mary Baker Eddy and Mormonism by Joseph Smith were all founded in the time of lack of Bible knowledge, 1830-1880.



In college during the study of Systematic Theology we heard and repeated:

"There is a lot of good preaching if you don't know much." That is to say a

preacher can rant and rave and sound good, but the content of his message is void of biblical knowledge. This same statement can relate to some hearers as well. They may think the speaker "sounds" good and his words are heated resulting in the comment: "That's good preaching."

I have heard Jessie Duplantis, Kenneth Copeland, Creflo Dollar, and others who call their preaching, "Word of faith." But they are not who concern me? My concern is for the millions who yield their spiritual lives to these empty, theatrical performers. Paul wrote concerning preaching, "*It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will...the former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but supposing that they can stir up trouble for me...but what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true Christ is preached,*" Phil. 1:15-18.

Please note Paul was speaking of motives in preaching not about a false doctrine as the former. Even today, there are those who preach out of a bad motive, but their message may be true anyway. However, it is our obligation to warn those who desire to follow Christ about false preachers as Jesus did, Matt. 7:15-20.

SPIRITUAL IGNORANCE IN USA

The reason the false preachers are successful in gathering a good hearing is because the hearers are not familiar with the Scriptures or those who know the Scriptures have not been as vocal as they. Perhaps The Church is content with simply having a meeting again on the next Lord's Day.

Of course there are those who have itching ears as Paul warned the young preacher Timothy about. ***“Preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage with great patience and careful instruction, because the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths,”*** 2 Timothy 4:2-4

One, if not the most popular TV preachers, Joel Osteen when asked why he never said anything about sin or hell replied, “That’s not my lane.” The bad thing about that is that it was Jesus’ lane. But that matters not to him, as he stated on the Oprah Winfred Show “There are many ways to God, Jesus is just one.” Again, he is in opposition to Christ who stated ***clearly “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*** John 14:6.

Mankind, in his natural state is sinful but they don't want to hear that. They would rather hear Joel say, as he has “God will bring out of you the good that you have always been.” So much for Jesus' statement ***“You must be born again,”*** John 3:3-7.

Getting closer to home, those who may not fall for the tactics we have mentioned and even know the truth can actually insult Jesus themselves.

We are asked not to forsake the assembling together as some are in the habit of doing, Heb. 10:25. Yet, many do and think nothing of it.

We insult Jesus when silent about our faith. Silence is often agreement. One thing the world does not want is to hear about Christ and much is being done to either pervert His teaching or to silence it.

I asked two questions at the beginning and want to close with one more question. However, I'd like Jesus to ask it: ***“...when the Son of Man (Jesus) returns will he find faith on earth?”*** Luke 18:8.

The only faith that saves is in Him. These false preachers are doing the work of Satan by perverting the Word of God. That's what Satan tried with Jesus in the wilderness and he hasn't changed his purpose only his methods.

BARNABAS PREACHERS' SCHEDULES

Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

He is preaching in the a.m. services at the C of C in McArthur, OH indefinitely. Larry Boggs does the evening services and has for years.

Danny Evans, Associate. - Huntington, WV 304/633-5908

Danny preaches often at congregations in his area when they need a supply preacher. He is available when needed.

YOU MIGHT BE A PREACHER IF:

- You ever wanted to wish people a “Merry Christmas” at Easter because that's the next time you'll see them.
- Ever been tempted to stock the baptistry with fish.
- Rather than getting “ticked off” you get “grieved in your spirit”.
- Been thanked for curing their insomnia.
- You've had your vacation interrupted by a phone call wanting to know where the communion bread is.
- You've walked up to the Dairy Queen counter and ordered a “church split.”
- Ever felt like you were herding mules rather than sheep.

LAND THAT I LOVE

The song “God Bless America” has a line in it that I embrace, “...land that I love.”

A good illustration of why everyone should is in the life of Eldridge Cleaver. Eldridge left this country several years ago to escape a prison term. Everywhere he went he talked about America being a rotten place to live.

But five years later he returned knowing he would go to prison. News reporters asked him why he returned. Cleaver replied, “Because prison life in the U.S. is better than traveling free anywhere else in the world.”

It reminds me of the ancient proverb: “As soon as you have drunk, you turn your back on the spring.”

LINCOLN QUOTES:

“Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.”

~

“I can see how it might be possible for a man to look down upon the earth and be an atheist, but I cannot conceive how a man could look up into the heavens and say there is no God.”

~

“Those who look for the bad in people will find it.”

DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY

Something Light Hearted :

*How do you know you are old enough to retire?

Instead of lying about your age you start bragging about it.

*When is your grandpa's bed time? Three hours after he falls asleep in his chair.

EXISTENCE VS. GROWTH

Since January, 2020 we have been fighting a situation that we have only recently stopped talking about on a daily basis.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19, the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2, a pandemic. This declaration started what has been one giant nightmare in many ways. It has been an experience to say the least. Families have gone through some very difficult times and even seen loved ones die as a result of Covid- 19. Individual lives were affected in a tremendous way because schools were closed; work schedules were changed from going to work to staying home to work. We waited on an immunization shot to be offered and then we were told to make sure we got the boosters. Needless to say this roller-coaster ride has been stressful.

Yes, a lot has been touched by the virus and one thing that I have been watching over the last two years is the Lord's body, the church. The effect on this group has been overwhelming. The props have been knocked out from under most churches and there doesn't seem to be a recovery in sight. Under instructions from our states, church doors were closed for weeks at a time. If a church decided not to close, their attendance went down due to fear of being around people that may have the virus.

Having been in contact with a lot of ministers and churches, in the last 24 months I have heard one astonishing statement, "Our attendance has dropped off considerably and people don't seem to be coming back. I guess being Mr. Naïve, I figured that once things settled down, worship would return to normal. I keep forgetting that "normal" is just a setting on a dryer. Normal now for many is just staying home and watching the worship on You

Tube, or Twitter, or one of the modern media channels. People are now convinced that going down to the "sacred box" (church building) isn't necessary.

Is there an answer to this situation or do we just let things go and hope they work themselves out. I hate to admit this, but that has been the answer to a lot of things that have happened in the body for years. Believe me I am no expert, but I would like to offer a few thoughts on what we might do to get people back to the assembly.

1. ***PRAYER:*** perhaps even specific prayers for specific people. I personally believe that God is distressed over people that made a confession of faith and later backslid into the world.

2. ***CONTACT THOSE UNFAITHFUL:*** We might need to do this on a personal basis. Definitely the shepherds of the church need to be looking out for the sheep and people look at this as their "job", but if you call someone or drop them a card it may be taken in a whole loving and caring way. We need to remind people **Hebrews 10:25** means exactly what it says. **Luke 9:62** is important for us to remember, "***But Jesus said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."***

3. ***GET PEOPLE TO LOVE THEIR CHURCH AGAIN:*** Perhaps some, have fallen out of love with the church. Remind them of their commitment they made to Christ when they were immersed. Remind them of what Jesus did for them and that God rejoices when people are in love with Him. Of course I am referring to being totally in love with the Lord not a part time love.

4. ***MIND RENEWAL:*** **Romans 12: 2** is a verse I wish people had taped to their refrigerator. We have to renew our minds regularly. We have to stop being conformed by the world and make some heart changes if we are going to be pleasing to God

Is the church spiritually hopeless, are we destined to being "less than half full or even quarter full" from now on? I think this can be changed but we will have to work in that direction.

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

PREDESTINATION

TEXT: Eph. 1:1-13

INTRO: The doctrine of predestination, that is one is predestined for salvation and lost by predestination, has been around since the days of St. Augustine and advanced by John Calvin in the 1500s. It promotes the idea that one is predetermined for heaven or hell and not a matter of individual choice. It is also known as the doctrine of determinism. The ramifications of this teaching lead one to an unbiblical conclusion.

I. A LOOK AT PREDESTINATION

There are two schools and both are extreme

A. SUPRALAPSARIANISM

1. One's salvation was decided before creation.
2. Heaven or hell is determined before creation.

B. INFRALAPSARIANISM

1. God made the decision after the fall
2. The former position seemed too harsh even for Calvin.

C. IRRATIONAL PART OF CREATION

1. Plants and animals were absolutely predestined
2. If plant and animals...why not man

II. DIFFICULTIES WITH BOTH POSITIONS

A. SIN IS A WILLFUL ACT BUT...

1. Man can't sin...because he has no choice
2. Some are predestined for hell anyway
3. Psalm 145:9, 17 a lie about His compassion?
4. Is Rom. 13:1-2 a statement of non-fact?

B. FREE WILL/CHANGED MIND OF GOD

1. Noah had to be redirected, Jonah 3:4, 10
2. Hezekiah's prophecy that changed 2 K 20:1
3. David at Keilah, 1 Sam. 23:11-13

C. GOD'S STATEMENTS

1. If nations repent, God forgives, Jer. 18:7-10
2. God was sorry He made man, Gen 6:5-6
3. He didn't imagine the evil of men, Jer. 7:31
4. If predestination is true:
Accountability, Rewards, Punishment,
Justice, and Mercy are all incomprehensible
5. Scripture can't contradict Scripture, but predestination does just that.

III. BIBLICAL VIEW OR EPHESIANS

A. PRONOUNS

1. "We," "us," First person...Apostle/writer
2. "You" Second person...The Ephesians
3. Vs. 1-12 is all first person...The Apostles
4. BUT vs 13 refers to the readers, us.
5. Vs. 1-12 are about predestined Apostles
6. Only what follows refer to us.

B. HIS PRAYER

1. It must be noted that He prays for the reader to receive what those of 1-12 already have.
2. As we go down item by item of 1-12 he claims, is what he prays for them.

CONCLUSIONS: God is not willing that any should be lost...yet some are, this is not consistent with some being predestined for hell. Christ died for all, yet some have not received Him and no one comes to the Father but by Him. Again it is inconsistent with predetermined salvation. The Apostles were directed and carried along by the Holy Spirit in writing Scripture, yet why read if it has been predetermined who will and who will not go to heaven. This is another inconsistency. He gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey him, Acts 2:38 and 5:32, then obedience is a requirement for salvation. Again, this truth is inconsistent with people being predestined for heaven or hell before or after the fall. If a person reaches either destination they are responsible, not God.

A LITTLE LEGAL FUN

An attorney told his client, "You pay \$1000 now and \$500 a month for thirty-six months."

"That sounds like buying a car," the client replies.

The lawyer nodded, "I am."

~

A father and son were walking though the cemetery reading the tombstones. They came to one that read: "Her lies lawyer and an honest man."

The boy said, "They buried two men in one grave!"

~

A judge in court said, "Couldn't this case have been settled out of court?"

The defendant jumped up and said, "That's exactly what we were trying to do when the police butted in."

Barnabas Ministries appreciates the following
memorial gift in memory of

ARTHUR AND JO ANN TAYLOR

By

Jim and Vendela Howell

MINI THOUGHTS

Talk is cheap because supply exceeds demand.

~

Nothing is harder on your laurels than resting on them.

~

Major operations are performed on me, minor ones on you.

COUNTRY BOYS TALK

Two liars got to bragging, and one said he had gone ocean fishing and caught a 500 pound fish. The second one said he had been fishing in the ocean also. He thought he had caught a fish, but it turned out to be a lantern from the Titanic, and he said it was still lit.

The first liar pondered this story for a minute and said, "Look, I'll take 200 pounds off that fish I caught if you'll blow out the lantern."

CITY SLICKERS

Two city people were driving down this country road when a farmer ran out and flagged them down, shouting, "I need your help."

He led them to a cow that was straining to give birth to a calf, but it was a breech birth and she was having a hard time. The calf's rear feet were sticking out of the cow, and the farmer directed them to grab hold and tug as hard as they could. Directly, they delivered the calf and the farmer thanked them.

Then one of the city fellows said, "There's just one thing I want to ask. Just how fast was that little one going when it hit the big one?"

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Twenty-seven – God the Great Encourager

It has been said the perception is reality, and although it is not totally true to those around us, to the one perceiving it is true. Try as we may we will not convince the perceiver it is not, until he or she sees the truth for themselves. Regardless of what is true and what is simply perception until the perceiver sees the reality of a situation, what is perceived is to them fact.

Words mean things...and in some cases words mean many things. The word translated “afflicted” in the NIV, but translated “humble” in the KJV. The Hebrew word being translated in both cases is ANIY pronounced AW’NEE. In some cases it is pronounced “ANAW. A few other ways this word is translated are: “humble,” “afflicted,” “poor,” “oppressed,” “helpless,” “meek,” “needy,” “browbeaten,” “depressed,” “abase self,” “self-chastened,” or “weakened.” The one common denominator in each case it is used is that it refers to person’s view of one’s self.

In the Book of Deuteronomy the word is used in regard to a man sleeping with another man’s wife, Deut. 22:24. Aside from the fact that they both were to be put to death for the crime, according to Mosaic Law, it’s interesting that the word to describe what happened to the woman in the case was “violated” in the NIV, but “humbled” in the KJV. Both the NIV and the KJV are translating the same Hebrew word ANIY.

The description sounds as though it is true the woman was violated but since the charge for the man was not for rape but a cooperative act. However she was also humbled as a result of becoming abased, browbeaten, depressed and no doubt verbally afflicted. She became “reduced in value” in her own eyes as well as in the eyes of others. While guilty of sin, she is weakened, helpless, in need and hurting.

Going to the text of Psalm 10:17 which states, *“You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted, you encourage them, and you listen to their cry; defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth may terrify no more,”* NIV. Notice the words “you encourage them” in the NIV is translated “Thou wilt prepare their heart,” KJV. Notice the similarity between being encouraged and having the heart prepared by God. The Psalmist expressing this encouragement from God (NIV) and is tantamount to preparing of the heart by God. This Psalm shows the need for encouragement or having the thoughts rearranged.

Looking at the Psalm as a whole will help us better understand how one might become discouraged as well as seeing how courage is restored. In a lesson from some years ago I tried to show that to be discouraged is to be without courage. We see a transition of the mind is necessary in this Psalm. In the beginning, we see the thoughts of one who needs courage. When discouraged, our imagination may become over active, we never quite see things as clearly as when things go well. A discouraged person, who otherwise maybe of very sound judgment, begins to have distorted thoughts,

A major lesson for Christians to learn is that God always sees life in the long view. But we often see God as a long way off. This happens to the best of us when we are “down”. We see this in Isaiah 45:15 and in the life of Job, Job 23:9 If these men, in times of real trial feel the Lord had departed, we surely will see it happening in the best of the rest of us. In this first verse the writer can neither see nor hear God’s voice. It’s not true that God has departed, because He said He would never do that. However, we sometimes perceive He has.

A person who is discouraged falls into the trap of comparing their situation with that of others. Perhaps others who, in their opinion, deserve defeated more than self. They may begin to look at the faults, failures, sins or some shortcomings in others in order to arrive at the thoughts they are having. Verse 2 of Psalm 10 mentions the fact that when we are down we look at the lives of other that we believe are not trying as hard as ourselves. Their lives seem to be progressing better than our own and wonder, “Why?”

Verse three illustrates how we can clearly see the other person deserves harsh treatment due the lives they live and think **“May ruin overtake them by surprise, may the net they hid entangle the and they fall into the pit, to their ruin...”** Psa. 35:8. They are saying, “I do my best and find trouble, while others do their worst and yet they live lives untouched by trouble, yet I have much trouble thought trying hard to please you.

Verse Three illustrates how we can clearly see the other person deserves, in our mind, harsh treatment due to the lives they live. We may think, “May ruin overtake them by surprise, may the net they hide entangle them and they fall into the pit, to their ruin...” Psa. 35:8. We may say, “I do my best and find trouble, while others do their worst and yet they live lives untouched by trouble. I have much trouble though trying hard to please God.”

When we are tired, hurt, or disappointed we think differently. We jokingly speak of a young boy seeing beautiful girl and “falling in love.” This kind of “twitterpasion” short circuits the brain and common sense is no long common...at least to him. The same kind of altering of our thoughts happens when we are depressed. When this happens we need encouraged, more exactly we need encouragement from God.

We must face the situation through the eyes of God. Psalm 10, verse 14 is the turning point to the Psalmist. When he begins to consider God and himself rather than simply viewing his problem and others, things change for him. Things begin to take on meaning. True encouragement comes from seeing things as they really are rather than looking up from the bottom of the pit or despair. I have mentioned earlier in this series that real encouragement only comes from a proper understanding in four areas. We must (1) Understand God’s reality rather than our personal perspective, and we must (2) Understand God’s timing, and (3) Understand He hears us when we cry to Him and we need to also (4) Understand His goodness and compassion.

GOD’S REALITY – *“But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless,”* verse 14. The reality is that God considers trouble, grief and helplessness. We must see the situation or circumstance as it really is and know that God really does care. He sent His one and only Son to die for us. He delivered the good news of our salvation through faithful Apostles. He paid the price for our sins, granted us forgiveness and gives us the Holy Spirit. The reality of His love and care should destroy the false notion that He has abandoned us. He has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Hebrews 13:5

GOD’S TIMING – “...call him to account,” *“that would not be found out,”* v15. The writer realizes there will come a time when God settles accounts with the wicked. There are no secrets kept from God. In His own times He will expose the settlement. In our time of trouble we must remember He has not written the final chapter of our lives yet. God does things in the “fullness of time.” In His time, he will deliver us, he will reveal things to us and He will also strengthen us. At this we are not sure how, when, or in what manner. It is comforting to know that He does.

GOD HEARS – “You hear, O Lord, the desire of the afflicted...you listen to their cry,” v17. Faith is nothing more than taking God at His word. He said He would never leave us nor forsake us and that He listens to our prayers. We must believe Him. We must understand that even though we can’t see any good coming from our present situation nor that *“all things work together for those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose,”* Romans 8:28...but He does. As Christians we need to realize God is near even when He seems so far away.

HE IS GOOD – As the Psalmist wrote *“you encourage them”* may also be translated “Thou wilt prepare their heart.” This is the crux of the matter. On who is encouraged take courage because their heart has been prepared. It has been prepared with the true and proper understanding of God, His reality, His timing, His concern, and His goodness to us. If he’s not good, He is not God. His number one attribute is holiness and that’s always good. Encouragement and discouragement are states of mind. History is replete with those who have overcome great odds in every field of endeavor when their minds were prepared for victory.

Finally, the prepared heart remembers that God is always good. He prepares us with the knowledge that in the end, He has our welfare at heart. A prepared heart in the hands of God is an encouraged heart and understanding is prepared for God.

LEARNING with Larry

FEAR IS A LIAR

I really like Zack Williams' song, "Fear is a Liar" because it reminds me of what Satan does. The chorus says: "He will take your breath, stop you in your steps, he will rob your rest, steal your happiness, and cast your fear in the fire 'because fear is a liar.'" The Devil still uses our fear to keep us from God's will.

The word "fear" in the Bible is used different ways. In the English we only have the one word for fear. The Greek noun for fear is PHOBOS which means to run from something that frightens. We get the word "phobia" which is widely used something we fear. Phobia is joined with another word to indicate what we are afraid of. Claustrophobia is fear of tight places. A fear I received from my older brother when he put a pillow over my head. Anthropophobia is a fear of people, a fear to share or interact because the fear of rejection. Many Christians are burdened with this.

The Bible mentions two specific types of fear. The first type is beneficial and is to be encouraged. The second type is a detriment and is to be overcome. The first is the fear of the Lord and comes from the Greek word EULABEIA. This fear does not necessarily mean to be afraid; rather it is a reverential awe of God. It is a reverence for His power and glory. It is also proper respect for His wrath and anger. In other words, the fear of the Lord is an acknowledgement of all He is and comes from knowing Him.

Fear of the Lord brings with it many blessings. It is the beginning of wisdom and leads to good understanding, Psalm 111:10. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline, Prov. 1:7. Further, fear of the Lord leads to life, rest, peace, and contentment, Prov. 19:23. It is the fountain of life, Prov. 14:27 and provides a security and a place of safety for us, Prov. 14:26. This shows us how fearing God should be encouraged. However, the second type of fear mentioned in the Bible is not beneficial at all and comes from the Greek word DEILIA. This is the "spirit of fear" mentioned in 2 Tim. 1:7, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (NKJV). A spirit of fearfulness and timidity does not come from God.

How many times in the Word of God are we encouraged not to fear? In Psalm 56:11 the psalmist writes, "In God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" This is an awesome testimony to the power of trusting in

God. Regardless of what happens, the psalmist will trust in God because he knows and understands the power of God. The key to overcoming fear, then, is total and complete trust in God. Trusting God is a refusal to give in to fear. It is a turning to God even in the darkest times and trusting Him to make things right. This trust comes from knowing God and knowing that He is good. Once we have learned to put our trust in God, we will no longer be afraid of the things or people who come against us. We will be like the psalmist who said with confidence, *"...let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over me, that those who love your name may rejoice in you,"* Psalm 5:11.

Fear PHOBOS can stop you in your tracks of fear EULABEIA will help you build a right relationship with God. Trade your fear for faith and be encouraged every day.

Until next time, -Larry.

DAFFYNITIONS

DECREASE – De fold in de pants

ANTACID – My uncle's wife Acid.

DILATE – When a person lives a long time

FLEA MARKET – What the thieves did after stealing apples.

MUNCHKIN – What cannibals do to relatives.

RUBBERNECK – What you do to relax your wife.

TOUPEE – Why you go to the checkout.

ABORTION

When parents can legally kill their children, it is a matter of time until children can kill parents, when they're old, when they're crippled, when they're useless. You may think this won't happen. January 1986 on the program 60 Minutes reported that in Holland one-sixth of the people who died were directly killed by doctors. Euthanasia was not legal yet but widely practiced.

In one of our major cities a few years ago there were 1800 students who graduated high school. That same year there were 2600 babies aborted in that city by five doctors.

Each year America aborts enough babies, the equivalent of wiping out 7 cities the size of Lexington, KY. Every 20 seconds a baby is killed. There are 14 cities that have more abortions than live births. Atlanta had 31,248 in 2020 aborted babies. The average live births are about 24,255. The other 13 cities that abort more babies than are allowed to live are: Atlantic City, Charlotte, NC, Columbia, SC, Gainesville, FL, Harrisburg, PA, Madison, WI, Miami, FL, Raleigh, NC, Reno, NV, Richmond, VA, San Francisco, Seattle, WA, and Washington, DC.

One out of three pregnancies ends in abortion. Yet three million couples are waiting to adopt. Why abortion? 97% of those aborted are killed because the baby is simply an inconvenience according to C. Everett Koop, a past U.S. Surgeon General.

Jeremiah 1:5 states God formed us in the womb, Isa 44:34 states the same thing. Psalm 139:14-18 tells us God's eyes were on us when we were yet an unformed substance. When we take God out of the equation we are nothing...but God is in the equation and killing is killing, even of a helpless infant.

OPPORTUNITIES

May 9 – 11 Spring Clinic Hillsboro, OH. Contact:
p2pm_office@yahoo.com

DENNY'S BOOK

Denny has authored a book and has been published by Amazon and sold by them or Denny. The Title is "Islam, The Enemy of Christ" and sales for \$18.00 + SH. It is an arrangement between Denny and Amazon. If purchased directly from Denny you should make checks out to "Denny Coburn" as it is not a work of Barnabas Ministries. It may be purchased through Amazon or Denny.

The book reveals the danger of Islam not only to Christianity but to America as well. It is 217 pages long and at the end of each chapter are questions for discussion based on the content of that chapter.

MINI THOUGHTS

Adversity is a fork in the road. It is a chance to get better or get worse.

~

Successful spiritual growth is learning to convert anger into productivity.

~

A good idea is to concentrate on the present, forget the past, and don't look too far ahead.

~

Focus not on the noise around you but the opportunity ahead of you.

~

Just be yourself, you are the most qualified for the job.

I LOVE FOOTBALL

Bill was an avid Cleveland Browns fan, but he had a lousy seat at the game. He spied an empty seat on the fifty-yard line and rushed down to try to snag it. When he got there, he asked the man sitting next to it, "Is this seat taken?" The man replied, "This was my wife's seat, she was a big fan, but passed away." Bill replied, "I'm sorry to hear of your loss. May I ask why you didn't give her ticket to a friend or relative?" The man replied, "They're all at her funeral."

EVEN IN COURT

One NFL team has had so many members with run-ins with the law they've adopted a new "Honor System":

"Yes your Honor." and "No, you're Honor."

HOW TO ANNOY YOUR HUSBAND ON SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

Take the batteries out of the remote.

Or

Invite your mother over for the game.

Or

It's your night out...leave the kids for him to watch.

P.R.E.S.

Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar
Barnabas Ministries is founded on the principle laid out in the texts "...encourage one another and build each other up..." 1 Thess. 5:11 and "...encourage one another daily..." Heb. 3:13.

We all need encouragement but preachers need it much more than one might think. There is a great responsibility that comes with preaching, and we desire to encourage those who do.

At no cost to a preacher or the host congregation, we will conduct a Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar for any congregation that is willing to host such a meeting. Barnabas will pay the speakers and their housing, and reimburse the host for the cost of a noon meal as long as funds are available through the supporters of PRES.

To date we have conducted such meetings in Gallipolis and Cincinnati, OH, London, and Madison, KY, Monroeville, PA, and Bluefield, WV. If you would like information, you can email, or call the Barnabas office.

Anyone who would like to support this program, make your check out to Barnabas Ministries and make the "purpose" on the check to read "PRES." All monies received so marked will be spent only for this purpose. Above all, please pray for God's continued blessing on PRES.

JESUS SAID WHAT HIS FATHER SAID

In John 8:28, Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me." The perfect revelation of God the Father came in the person of God the Son.

Jesus never did or said anything on His own but rather did all things in conjunction with the Father.

We should do or say everything in conjunction with Him

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 for 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.