



# The PARAKLETE

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

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## REVERENCE FOR LIFE

Joe, "Did you hear about Harry?" Moe, "No I didn't, what about him?" Joe, "He was killed." Moe, "Was it an accident?" Joe, "No, he was murdered." Moe, "Do they know who did it?" Joe, "Yes, they have him in jail already I think his name is Billy Bob, but they call him 'The Executioner.'" Moe, "Did he kill Harry on purpose?" Joe, "I think they said his reason was that he just didn't like him. I heard that it happened six months ago, but I just heard about it yesterday myself. They already had his trial."

Moe, "There seems to be more and more of that kind of thing happening these days. What did they give him?" Joe, "They gave him 25 years to life." Moe, "You mean he took a life so they have him life?" Joe, "Well, he will have to spend it in prison." Moe, "I repeat he intentionally took a life so they gave him life?" Joe, "Yes, he'll be in prison for life, maybe." Moe, "What do you mean 'maybe'?" Joe, "It's possible he could get out earlier if paroled."

When there are demonstrations against capital punishment, someone will usually carry a picket sign that reads, "Thou shall not kill," as if that settles the argument. The sixth commandment is best translated, "thou shall not murder." Murder is an act that takes a life by an individual for personal reasons. The sixth commandment was given by God to illustrate reverence for human life. Capital is punishment for individuals personally taking someone's life for personal and private reasons.

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IS REVERENCE FOR LIFE

Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, believed in honoring life given by God. He wrote that the state has been empowered to administer justice by the means the state chooses (hanging, electrocution or injection). ***"For he (the authority) is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword for nothing. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer."*** Romans 13:4. The sword was the method of punishment when this was written and it was not used to maim but to take a life

There is no fear of the authorities today for ignoring its responsibility and thus no reverence for life. Life is a gift from our Creator and no one has the right to take it except those in authority to do justice on those who do not respect the life of others. God has determined that when two men strive and hit a pregnant woman and the child's life is lost, they must pay with their own lives, Exodus 21:22-25. That's if an unborn life is lost due to grown men acting like children. This says something about abortion and much about life.

God has formed us in our mother's womb and we are fearfully and wonderfully made, Psalm 139:13-16, and those

who have no reverence for God's gift of life should pay with their own. That life begins in the womb, Luke 1:44.

Nothing could be clearer than ***"Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image,"*** Genesis 9:6. ***"In him (God) we live and move and have our being..."*** Acts 17:28.

When those in authority do not create fear by following God's prescribed means, they are not only derelict in their duties in regard to life-takers, they illustrate no respect for life to the one killed but also to potential killer.



There are those who are opposed to the death penalty under the guise of respect for life. However, not following God's prescribed means in dealing with murderers shows an absence of respect for the deceased and for life itself. Those who have intentionally murdered have put their own desires above all life and all others.

In 1966 Kenneth McDuff was convicted of three counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and sentenced to death. He received multiple stays of execution and was finally released due to overcrowding of the prison. Over a three-year period he committed many crimes including five additional homicides before the Texas authorities finally did the right thing and executed him in 1998. This is only one case but similar stories exist. Is this always the case? No, but when one's life is unnecessarily taken by a past murderer, one is more than enough for that family.

If the biblical admonitions were followed, five additional families in the above story would not have had to grieve over lost loved ones, and if it were always followed overcrowding in prisons would not be a problem either.

No sane person wants any life taken but God knows that a person who devalues the life of others must forfeit his own out of respect for the life that was murdered and that's the biblical view. God gave us life and He is the only one to determine when it should be taken and He has recorded for us when and by whom these steps should be taken. When a murder is committed those in authority are ordained by God to exact punishment on the guilty one, Romans 13:1-13.

In the antediluvian days when lawlessness and corruption began to spread, Genesis 6:11 and the earth was ***"filled with violence,"*** God knew that strenuous measures were needed to cut this malignancy from the face of the earth. In order to solve the problem He had to take a drastic measure and it was the flood. He had to wipe people off the face of the earth with the exception of righteous Noah and his family.

Some maintain that capital punishment does not prevent more killing. The first reply to such a mind-set is this: "It will prevent the murderer from killing again." Judge



## REVERENCE FOR LIFE (Continued)

Illinois in an address before the Detroit College of Law noted Detroit with 1,600,000 residents in 2001 had 485 homicides in two years while Windsor 20 minutes from Lexington, KY with 75,000 residents had no homicides. One could argue it was the size of the cities, but when looking, the enforcement of the law was the major factor.

Isaac Charles Parker was known as the "Hanging Judge." He was an attorney, politician, and federal judge, born near Barnesville, Ohio on October 15, 1838. Parker was admitted to the bar in 1859 and soon migrated to St. Joseph, Missouri, to practice law in his uncle's firm. Ending up in politics he was elected to city attorney, county prosecutor, state circuit judge, and U.S. representative. He was appointed as judge of the United State District Court for Western District of Arkansas and was very strict.

He cleaned up the lawlessness for the most part. When asked if it was the seriousness of the punishment that help to clean up the area. His reply was, "No, it was the certainty of the punishment that turned things around. No one knows just how many innocent lives were saved by Judge Parker's decision to be biblical in his stand against murder but I'm sure those living in his district appreciated it.

God not only commanded murderers pay with their lives but He also demonstrated its effective-ness by the flood. He did it again with Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 18 and 19. He repeated it in Egypt and the Red Sea, Exodus 11 and 14. To be consistent He did it with Achan and His family in Joshua 7.

God alone has the authority to take life for behavior he abhors. He also has the right to delegate authority as He did by appointing civil government to act as His representative as He prescribed in Romans 13:4 and 1 Peter 2:14.

In reality, those who protest the execution of murderers under the guise of the love for life, the truth is they are either ignorant of God's historical dealings with mankind and His word or...and I want to accentuate this point, or they do not respect the life of the one who was murdered and/or have no respect for the One who gave them life.

Think about this, God does not have to take a person's life for them to die, He only has to quit giving it. However, we are alive because He gave us life and keeps giving it daily. He is the Giver and the Sustainer of life and we better honor that.

## BARNABAS PREACHERS' SCHEDULES

**Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929**

**During Derek's recovery from open-heart surgery –**

Will be preaching at Central Christian Church, Gallipolis, OH, Derek Stump, Evangelist

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

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

## REFLECTION IN THE MIRROR

As we look into the mirror, I wonder what we see,  
is the reflection in the mirror the best that I can be?

Do we begin our day by praying, asking for  
guidance from above,

Thanking God for all His blessings, and His never-  
ending love?

Or do we think, there isn't time, as we hurry on our  
way,

We can do it after a while, maybe later in the day.  
Does a brother that is troubled ever cross our mind,  
Thinking that an act of kindness will make us run  
behind?

Do we practice showing compassion, kindness or  
even love?

Or have they become words we once knew the  
meaning of?

Has our heart become a muscle we seldom use?  
Do our words bring someone comfort, or do they  
light a fuse?

Do we offer an apology when we're in the wrong?  
Or do we simply hope that it'll be forgotten before  
so very long?

Does this person in the mirror know that  
forgiveness is divine?

Recalling all God had to forgive for salvation to be  
mine?

As I look in the mirror, I ask God to make me a  
reflection in the mirror that He'd be proud to see?

-Pama Strickland

## MISS UNDERSTOOD

Preacher to farmer: "Do you belong to a Christian family?"

Farmer: "No, I live two farms down the road"

Preacher: "No, I mean are you lost?"

Farmer: "No, I've lived here for 30 years."

Preacher: "I mean, are you ready for Judgment Day?"

Farmer: "When is it?"

Preacher: "Could be today, could be tomorrow."

Farmer: When you find out for sure, let me know. The wife will probably want to go both days."

## SERIOUSLY:

*"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad," 2 Corinthians*

## ***DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY***

### **Something Light Hearted:**

"My neighbor's house doesn't have any numbers on its door or mailbox. And I just feel like that's something that needs to be addressed."

### ***SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED***

Maybe it is just me and perhaps I see things a lot differently than most Christians today, but there are passages of scripture that I wonder if we have any idea what they really mean. I believe we have taken some scripture so lightly that they don't mean much of anything anymore. They sound good and you can make a good devotional thought about them but do we grasp the significance or the real importance of what it says?

One of the passages is found in **I Corinthians 16** and the verse that I draw attention to is **verse 13**, **"Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong"**. The part of that verse that grasps my thought is the "stand firm" section. It depends on the translation you use because in the King James version that phrase is not mentioned. However, in other translations it appears multiple times.

The phrase "stand firm" is a military term which is a word for holding on to a position that is under attack. It is the warning to hold our ground — to hold our position — in the face of an attacking enemy.

This reminds me that I have a daily struggle with the prince of this world, the father of all lies and the one who is doing all he can to destroy the body of Christ, the Church. Peter warns us as Paul did to **"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour"**(**I Peter 5: 8**). We have to be watching each day because Satan will throw a temptation at us, at any time and we have to stand firm. The Devil is full of schemes that may divert us and grab hold of us spiritually and even physically.

To "stand firm" we have to refuse to change our minds about something. It means to not reject or

abandon one's thoughts or beliefs. In realizing what we see in today's society it is important that Christians stand firm. We must not be unstable, insecure or unsteady because when this happens to us we are susceptible to being **"tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;"**(**Ephesians 4: 14**)

If we are going to stand firm we have to know upon what we are standing. Paul tells the Corinthian Church that they are to stand firm in the **FAITH**. Peter writes the same thing in **I Peter 5:9**. Standing firm is a call to excellence. Please note, I did not say a call to perfection. It is our response to a loving, caring Father for all He has done and continues to do for each of us. The Hebrew writer tell us what faith is **"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."** **Hebrews 11: 1**). Faith in our minds is that which fully trusts in God, that God will do what He says, that he will fulfill His promises even if those promises are in the future. We know that the faith we are talking about comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, (**Romans 10:17**). We have to not only trust God but also His message meaning the inspired Word that is recorded for us.

If we are to stand firm how can we accomplish this task? Paul told the body of believers in Ephesus that if they were to put on the full armor of God they would be able to stand firm (**Ephesians 6: 11 – 13**). I think those instructions are still viable today. The problem could be that we are only putting on the parts of the armor that we care to. We want the helmet of salvation but the rest just isn't being worn and that is because we are convinced that we are okay with the Father because He is a loving God.

Standing firm has a reward according to **Luke 21: 19 (NIV)** **"Stand firm, and you will win life."** God wants every believer to stand firm in his choice to follow Jesus and to trust Him. This means that the believer does not waiver under the pressures to sin and deny Christ. May we stand firm no matter what tempt us.

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

## HOW TO KNOW THE WILL OF GOD

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Psalm 40:8 and Psa. 32:8-11

INTRO: A boy named Barney was going to be a super star in sports, he thought. He had the body, brains, will, etc. He received a helmet, pads and cleats and was ready. In the first game he heard the word "hike" and 208 pound opponent hit him and after he got out of the hospital he knew, due to his physical makeup, football was not for him. He prepared for the next sport, received his shorts and sneakers and in the first game he was thrown out of the game for tackling the man with the round ball. He had ability for this sport but didn't know the rules.

Some people go through life like this not knowing what they are supposed to do with their lives. There are three ways to know God's will.

### I. HIS WILL IS THE SAME AS HIS WORD

#### A. IF DIFFERENT, LIFE WILL BE HARD

1. No need to pray about things contrary.  
**ILL:** If a man prays about whether he should rob a bank or not, he's foolish. "Thou shalt not steal."
2. God does not make rules, but principles
3. No such thing as a "little white lie" lies don't come in colors.
4. Going to worship is not optional. "Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together..." Hebrews 10:25.
5. If you miss work to pray longer is it OK? No, "If a man will not work he shall not eat," Pray on your own time.

#### B. SINS DO NOT COME IN SIZES

1. Drunkenness and Gossip both do harm big and small.
2. Sex outside of marriage and coveting both hurt
3. Hatred and greed are both sin and harm ourselves

### II. ARE YOU WILLING BEFORE YOU KNOW

#### A. RESPECT FOR GOD

1. When I joined the Air Force I didn't expect the T.I to get my opinion on what we did next...
2. "Because I said so" was how I grew up. My opinion mattered little... Parents knew best.
3. His will considers both present and future results

#### B. HE HAS OUR BEST INTEREST IN MIND

1. Sometimes His way looks bad but ends up good.
2. Our way seem good but often ends up bad.
3. We say, "If I know His will, I will do it."
4. He said, "If you do it, you will know it,"

### III. HIS WILL IS REVEALED

#### A. HIS UNIVERSAL WILL IS REVEALED

1. Jesus said "I am the way" He wants all saved
2. He wants all to mature spiritually, James 1:4
3. He expects love, truth and faithfulness

#### B. FREE WILL

1. He does not dictate what job/location/mate
2. The Bible gives us principles for decisions
3. He does expect and should receive thankfulness

CONCLUSION: How to know His will is to: 1. Read His Word, the Bible to know what it says. Be willing to obey before you know His will. And use free will under the Bible.

## WHY INFANT BAPTISM IS WRONG

The infant years later needs hearsay to know it.

The Bible says nothing about infant baptism.

The infant will is not formed of evident.

The infant can't be taught the way

The infant can't have conviction.

The infant can't repent.

It is done in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, yet we have no word from none of those sources.

The infant can't confess sin.

The infant can't witness for they don't know.

## FIVE GOOD STATEMENTS ABOUT LIFE

1. You can't decree money for the poor by decreeing the wealthy out of prosperity.
2. What one receives without working for, another must work for without receiving.
3. The ruling body can't "give" anyone anything because the money they use is not their own.
4. You can't multiply wealth by dividing it.
5. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work, because the other half is going to take care of them, when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because no profit in it for them that is the beginning of the end.

## HUMOR AND LAUGHTER

God gave us many things He has not granted to the animal world. One of those gifts is the gift of laughter. However, I had a goat once that I'm sure was laughing at me, but that was an exception.

We are told that in Proverbs 17:22 "*A cheerful heart is good medicine...*" NIV and "*Laughter does good, like medicine,*" KJV.

Some may be surprised to learn our Heavenly Father laughs. In Proverbs 26 God since His commands and wisdom were ignored He turns and laughs at their end, Verses 24-26.

We are also told in Psalm 37:12-13 that when the wicked plot against the righteous "*the Lord laughs at the wicked.*"

Again, the Lord laughs at ignorance in Psalm 59:7-8 because some believed that God does not hear what they say in secret.

A mule-faced Christianity that does not use the gift of laughter for the right purpose at the right time is riding second class when Jesus paid for first class (joy) and gave us the ticket.

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

## **A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn**

### **Study Number One Hundred Thirty-one – Down But Not Out**

Some people believe that preachers, or other Church leaders don't have "bad days." Nothing could be further from the truth. Such "bad days" are called "depression," "melancholy days," "gloomy days" and many other terms to explain that things aren't just right. If we see a sunken area in the earth we call that area a depression simply meaning it is lower than the other area around it. Everyone has days they feel they are sunken.

Discouragement is no respecter of persons. In fact, discouragement seems to attack the successful far more than the unsuccessful; for the higher we climb, the farther down we can fall. Some are surprised to learn that the Apostle Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, had "hardships." This word for hardships comes from the Greek word that means, "pressed out of measure." Unfortunately, matters grew worse for Paul for he had to make a painful visit to Corinth to confront the troublemakers, 2 Cor. 2:1ff. After a great deal of distress, Paul finally met Titus and got the good report that the problem had been solved.

Paul wrote the church at Corinth in what we now call the Second Corinthian Letter. His thoughts turned from his problems to those of the church. One of the key words in this letter is comfort of encouragement. The Greek word means "called to one's side to help." The verb is used 18 times in this letter and the noun 11 times. In spirit of all the trials he experienced, Paul was able by the grace of God to write a letter saturated with encouragement for others.

We need to learn the secret of Paul's ability to overcome his trials to deal with the difficulties of others. It should not be a secret actually. His power was the Lord. When you find yourself discouraged and ready to quit, get your attention off of yourself and focus on God. In fact, in that Second Corinthian Letter he tells us how we too can find encouragement in the Master. He delineates at least three very easy reminders.

#### **REMEMBER GOD IS THE GOD OF ALL COMFORT – 2 CORINTHIANS 1:3**

Paul began the letter with a doxology. He certainly could not be thankful for the situation, however, he could sing about the God who is in control of all circumstances. He had learned that praise is an important factor in the Christian life for gaining victory over circumstances. It will not change circumstances but it will triumph over them.

Paul used the word "blessed be God" in one other place in his writings, Ephesians 1:3 and Peter used it in 1 Peter 1:3. Paul praised God for what He had done in the past by choosing the Apostles of which he was one. The Apostles were predestined as His messengers, Ephesians 1:3-5. The rest of us were added when we heard through their teaching, v13. They, the Apostles, were blessed "with all spiritual blessings," v3. He wanted the same for those in Ephesus to have the same understanding and blessings and prayed for that very thing for them vs 16-22. He turned his thoughts and concern from his trials to others and the God of us all.

He praised God because he was the Father of our Savior. It is only because of Jesus Christ that we can call God our "Father" and approach Him as His child. He loves us as His own children, John 17:26. We are the "beloved of God," Romans 1:7 and that is because we are "accepted in the beloved," Ephesians 1:6, who is Jesus.

God is not only the Father of our Lord who has opened the door for us to call Him "Father," but He is the "Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us in all our troubles..." To the Jews, the word "father of" means "originator of." Satan is the father of lies, John 8:44 because lies originate from him.

God is Father of compassion and comfort because He in His grace gives us what we do not deserve, and in His mercy He does not give us what we do deserve, Lam. 3:22. He is tender, Psa. 25:6, and He is

great Numbers 14:19. The Scriptures frequently speaks of the “multitude of God’s mercies,” Psa. 5:7; 51:1; 69:13, 16; 106:7, 45; Lam. 3:32.

### **REMEMBER WHAT GOD DOES FOR YOU, 2 COR. 1:4a, 8-11**

It is easier and more practiced to complain about the bad rather than thank God for the blessings of life. Remember, He *permits* the trials in our life. He does not *cause* them but permits them. Paul uses the Greek for *thlipsis* for suffering in this letter. The word means “narrow, confined, under pressure.” In 2:4 in the NIV the words *distressed* and *anguish of heart* as well as *many tears* are used for Paul to express his personal emotion as he wrote.

We must not be misled into thinking that troubles in our life are there by accident. Believers must remember that these trials are “allowed” in our lives. If trials come by chance or mishap then we must solve the problem or just give up if we are overwhelmed. But if God is in control, we must trust Him and with this in mind we can overcome the trial, for that is what these “bad things” are, they are allowed in our lives as trials to see if we really trust Him. ***“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Aria. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. It is on him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us...”*** vs 8-10.

### **GOD IS WORKING THROUGH YOU, 2 CORINTHIANS 1:4b-7**

It is a natural reaction of the flesh to think only of ourselves and forget others. We become stagnant pools rather than running streams. When we realize that trials are allowed in our lives to become introspective, cause us to examine life. Then, as Christians, we reflect on the fact that God is involved for He has allowed it our thoughts turn from self-pity to praise to God and thoughts of others. Our concerns turn from inward to outward to God and others.

***“God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God,”*** vs 3b-4. I had a lady in the congregation I served for years who had gone through a particular surgery. It was an operation that I had not had and knew little about it except by hearsay. It was a surgery that both men and women have had but I just did not have to have it. When I would hear of another lady having to go through the same thing, I would ask the lady in our congregation to visit her and comfort her. In every case both ladies expressed the blessing of their visit. This proved the truthfulness of our text of receiving and giving comfort from our source of comfort, God.

We do not have to experience exactly the same trials in order to help others by being an encourager. If we experience God’s comfort, then we can ***“comfort them which are in any trouble.”*** When we share with others words of encouragement and comfort, we bless those we share with. We also receive an inner joy in ourselves and above that we honor God by sharing the blessing He gives.

Human suffering is difficult to understand because of the mysteries of God’s working in the suffering. Sometimes we suffer due to our own behavior and He can teach us through it. There are times there is no known earthly reason for it, but regardless of how it comes to us we can be sure of several things: It is allowed by God, there are lessons to be learned, God is our comfort through it, and we are to give others the comfort we have received.

The important thing is to fix our attention on God and not on ourselves. We must remember He is our Father, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, 2 Cor. 1:3. Also, we are to remember that He is able to handle your trials and make them work out for our good and His glory. Finally, remember what God does through you and allow Him to use you to be an encouragement to others.

## LEARNING with Larry

Who doesn't want a better life? Who doesn't want a peace that passes understanding? Who doesn't want to experience the greater joy the Bible speaks of? I was recently preaching in the book of John Chapter 10:10 "The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full (or more abundant)." So, what is this abundant life and how can I obtain it? Forest Gump said "Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." The tragedy of life is not that it ends so soon but that we wait too long to live it. Many merely exist, but I want to live the life Jesus spoke of.

In our English language we have one word for life, but there are three words I want to share. When I researched these three Greek words it opened my eyes to the Lord's abundant life. The Greek BIOS speaks of the physical body and that's where we get the word "biology." The second word is PSUCHE which refers to the psychological life of our soul. That is the mind, emotion and the will. It is the word we derive psychology from.

The last word is ZOE. This word for life refers to the eternal life that God desires for us to possess. This ZOE life is the theme of the entire Bible. In the Book of Genesis, we are introduced to the tree of life. God gave this tree to Adam until he sinned, and it was taken away. The tree of life is again seen at the end of the Bible in Revelation 22:14, "*Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.*" Jesus, by dying on the cross, opened up a pathway for us to return to the tree of life.

John 10:10 speaks of having the ZOE life; "I have come that they may have life (ZOE) and have it to the full." God wants to share His divine life with us and not so much to make our life better. I've been looking for improvement in my earthly life when the Lord wants me to have a life centered on Him. The problem I've had is that I'm trying to improve the old life when the Lord wants me to grow in the new ZOE life. Jesus came that I might have this abundant life.

Reading this verse this way (about the ZOE life) makes it clear Jesus came that we may have eternal life. So I now know that the closer I get to God, the greater the abundant life will be realized. This means I need to keep Christ at the center of my life and take myself off the throne. The only way to truly live the ZOE life is by depending on the power of the Holy Spirit within and

servicing others. My greatest joy in life has come from looking to the needs of others. ZOE life in all its fullness is a life lived for God, serving others and that will change our lives forever.

If we know that it's God's desire for us to live out His divine and eternal life, we won't be so disappointed when we can't seem to fix ourselves. The ZOE life starts on the inside with power derived from the Holy Spirit and manifests itself outside. I love what Paul writes in Galatians 2:20, "*I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.*" This verse tells me that Christianity is not about dying but about living the ZOE life that God intended for us to live since the beginning.

Until next time look upward, outward, and inward and live the ZOE life.  
-Larry

### SOME BULLETIN BLOOPERS

- Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.
- Today's sermon, "How much can a man drink?" followed by singing from a full choir.
- Ushers will eat late comers. (Forgot the "s").
- The Elders would like ladies to lend them their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast. ("Griddle" is intended).
- Due to illness, the healing service will be cancelled tomorrow.
- The Low Self-Esteem Support Group, please use the back doors tonight.

### THE 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 church members pleaded with them to get involved again, but nothing they said or did worked.

One day the father and his sons were out in the field working. A rattlesnake bit one of the boys, and he became very ill to the point of near death. The doctor said about the only thing left to do was to pray for him. The father called the preacher and asked him to come pray for the boy. This was his prayer:

**"O wise and righteous Father in Heaven, we pray for this boy's full recovery. We want also to thank you for the rattlesnake. This family hasn't been in church for years, and we pray that this serpent will be the means to bring them all a spirit of genuine repentance. Already this snake has done more than all the pleas of their fellow Christians. Lord it might be that the whole church needs is bigger and better rattlesnakes."**

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Mostly local activity over the Holiday Season

#### COURAGE

Courage isn't having the strength to go on...  
It's going on when you haven't got the strength.

~

Courage isn't going just where the light is...  
It's following through the dark valleys.

~

Courage isn't being so big that you're not afraid...  
It's trying, when you are afraid.

~

Courage isn't accepting self when praised...  
It's accepting self when friends turn away.

~

Courage isn't something that comes easy...  
It's motivation within that comes in hard tunes,

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Courage is:

Standing with God amidst opposition without  
feeling very courageous

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***"We know that "All things work together for good  
for those who love the Lord and are in His  
service,"***

Romans 8:28.

#### THE BIG STORY

In 1903 Orville and Wilber Wright flew their plane about 120 feet. They had done what was considered impossible at that time, they flew a heavier than air craft. Elated they wired a telegram with the news to their sister Katherine back in Dayton, OH. She rushed the news to the local city editor for the scoop of the century. The headlines the next day read:

**"LOCAL BICYCLE MERCHANTS TO BE  
HOME FOR CHRISTMAS."**

Talk about missing the point...they missed the real  
story:

**IT WAS CHRISTMAS, JESUS HAD COME!**

#### STICK LIKE A STAMP

A little stamp no bigger than your thumb, stuck right on the job, until the work was done. The more it took a licking, the tighter it would stick. So

Christian friend, let's be like the stamp.

The stamp stuck to the letter until it saw it through. And, there is no one who could do better, so let's keep on sticking like the stamp until we are delivered.

## -FREE-

**Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar.** 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 preach.

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, all paid for by the supporters of PRES.

We have conducted such meetings in Gallipolis and Cincinnati, OH, London, and Madison, KY, Monroeville, PA, and Bluefield, WV.

If you would like more information, you can email, or call the Barnabas office.

Those who wish to support this program, should make their 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 blessings on PRES.

#### LET HIM SHINE THROUGH

A little girl was used to sitting in worship services next to the stained glass windows depicting Saint John, Saint Peter, and Saint. Matthew. She enjoyed the sun shining through these windows, it fascinated her.

One day she was asked in Sunday school what a saint was. Her reply was simply, "A saint is someone who lets the sun shine through."

As saints of God, let us make sure we are letting the SON shine through.

Some like to TALK the WALK, but when it comes to WALKING the WALK...they often BALK.

#### THE PARAKLETE

If you are receiving the Paraklete by mail and you have an email address, please send us an email to:

[barnabasohio@att.net](mailto:barnabasohio@att.net) with the address you are now receiving the Paraklete. This will allow you to continue to receive it electronically but no longer by mail. We will at some time in the future send it only by email. At this time we are not sure when that will be.