



The PARAKLETE

A publication of BARNABAS MINISTRIES, 135 Mitchell Road, Gallipolis, OH – Denny Coburn –
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FACT, FICTION, OR ALLEGORY?

The first eleven chapters of Genesis cover approximately 2000 years. In these chapters are the record of creation, Adam and Eve's sin, the tower of Babel, the flood of Noah's day, Abraham's life as well as Isaac and Jacob's.

So how do we interpret these chapters? Is it legitimate history, mythology, symbolic, allegory, a parable, or a mix of all of these? The way we interpret them matters...very much! These chapters are the foundation of both the Jewish faith and of course Christianity.

Not everything in Scripture is literal. For example when Jesus says "I am the door," John 10:9 it would be foolish to interpret that as meaning He is a literal door. It simply means He is the opening to the Father. This is obvious even to unbelievers.

There are many paths of evidence to determine how Genesis Chapters 1-11 are understood. To we Christians we can turn to what God said in Numbers 12:6-8 about how he was to write Genesis. But some unbeliever will reply, "But how do we know that is history and not myth?" Fair enough, so let us look further.

Jews were very careful about history and genealogies. For example, in Nehemiah 7:61-64 the people who wanted to serve in the rebuilt temple had to prove they were descended from the priestly line of Aaron. 1 Chronicles 1-8 gives a long list of genealogies all the way back to Adam. Not one name is missed and not one name added. History to the Jews was supreme. Names and dates mattered.

David's Psalm 33:6-9 attests to the fact that God supernaturally by His Word created all things as Genesis 1 declares. "He spoke and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast," verse 9. The prophet Isaiah states in 54:9 "For this is like the waters of Noah to me," speaking of the flood as a fact.



A doubter may say, "Does not simply looking at the apparent age of the earth prove it to be millions of years old nullify your belief in a created earth less the 10,000 years. The answer to that is, "On the day Adam was created did he look one day old or did he have the appearance of age?" If Adam was created with the appearance of age it only makes sense that the earth was created with the appearance of age, but moving in to other writers.

The Apostle Paul structured his whole message of sin and salvation on the fact that sin and death came through Adam and that Jesus was the "second Adam," Romans 5:12ff. He even spoke of the serpent deceiving Eve. He believed Genesis was fact, history to be trusted. We have only mentioned Moses, King David, Isaiah, and Paul so far and have only begun.

The Apostle Peter similarly based his teachings on the literal history of Genesis. In 1 Peter 3:20, 2 Peter 2:4-9, 3:3-7 he referred to the flood as a symbol of baptism that "now saves us." 1 Peter 3:21. He also refers to the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah, (Gen. 19) as factual history. He also spoke of creation and how current scoffers mocked judgement because much time had passed and it hadn't happened yet, 2 Peter 3:3-4.

Jesus spoke of Old Testament references of the coming Messiah as referring to Himself. He stated in John 10:34-35 these Scriptures "cannot be broken." By "broken Scriptures," He meant they could not be contradicted or in error.

Jesus made it known that He had complete reliance and trust in the Scriptures and treated all Old Testament as history. He referred to Adam and Eve as real persons, Mark 10:2-7. He spoke of Abel as the first martyr, Luke 11:50-51, an actual person, not a person of a parable. Jesus believed the Book of Genesis was history.

Jesus also spoke of the flood as did Paul and

FACT, FICTION, OR ALLEGORY?

Peter, as fact, Matthew 24:38-39. Jesus also spoke of Lot and his wife as real people in Luke 17:28-32. He spoke of Sodom and Gomorrah and their destruction as an event in history. He would know.

Jesus referred to Moses and the serpent in the wilderness in John 3:14. Why? It was a good historical fact with a lesson He wished to teach. He also spoke of the manna from heaven, John 6:32-33. He looked back in history to the life of Elijah as an example from which to teach from, Luke 4:25-27.

Jesus put His reputation on the line as He used the story of Jonah in the big fish, Matthew 12:40-41. He knew the event was true and knew those He was speaking to as believers in Jewish history. He never allegorized these accounts he was using as examples.

The Savior used these accounts to teach His disciples that the events of His own death, resurrection and Second Coming would likewise certainly happen in real time and space. Eleven times the Gospels record Jesus as saying "Have you not read...?" They also record Jesus as saying thirty times, "It is written." He also rebuked those who did not believe what the Scriptures plainly state.

When Jesus spoke of Adam and Eve, He asserted they lived in the approximate era of creation, not billions of years after, see Mark 10:6; 13:19-20; Luke 11:50-51. Some have claimed Jesus was simply appealing to the listeners' need to believe.

Above all things Jesus is the truth, John 14:6 and therefore He always spoke the truth. No deceitful or misleading words ever came from His lips, 1 Peter 2:22. Even his enemies said, *"Teacher, we know that you are truthful and defer to no one; for you are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth,"* Mark 12:14.

Jesus also taught with authority on the basis of God's Word, which He called "truth," John 17:17. He did not teach as scribes and Pharisees who taught from traditions. He confronted all who lived contrary to things taught in the Old Testament and that included Genesis Chapter 1-11.

When we compromise anything written in the Bible, as in the original autographs, we err greatly and perhaps to our own destruction. If Jesus trusted every word of Genesis, I believe I can also. If any of it were untrue, He would have told us.

BARNABAS PREACHERS' SCHEDULES

Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

May 3-5 – Stoystown, PA

May 14-16 – (Attend) Spring Clinic, Person to Person, Hillsboro, OH

May 19 – Preach, Central Christian Church, Gallipolis, OH, Derek Stump, Evangelist

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

5908. Danny preaches often at congregations in his area as a supply preacher. He is available when needed.

The Legend of Uncle Sam

Just how did the familiar cartoon, Uncle Sam, come to be identified as a symbol of the United States?

No one knows for sure, but one theory is that Uncle Sam evolved from an actual person, businessman Samuel Wilson of Troy, NY, who was nicknamed "Uncle Sam." Wilson supplied barrels of beef to the United States army during the War of 1812. He stamped these barrels with "W.S." to indicate they were government property, but the soldiers on the front line dubbed the barrels as food from "uncle Sam." The nickname eventually came to be attached to the United States itself.

The cartoon figure of Uncle Sam as a goateed gentleman with top hat, bow tie, the striped pants evolved across several decades as political cartoonists depicted the United States through this drawing. But the one cartoonist credited with crystalizing this figure and giving it the touches that are still used today was Thomas Nast, a popular cartoonist of the 1800's.

This cartoon symbol has been around awhile, and so has the nation he represents. Long live Uncle Sam and may the Christian ideals on which our nation was founded return to the majority.

-UNCLE SAM, 165 Highbluffs Blvd, Columbus, OH

MARK TWAIN'S FIVE BEST SENTENCES

"You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity, by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity."

"What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving."

"The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else."

"You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

"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, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work, because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that is the beginning of the end of any nation."

DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY

Something Light Hearted:

Recently, I've been using the Bible for support.
I've got a wobbly coffee table.

BIBLICAL IGNORANCE

Is this a subject that is a real concern today or is there other subject that should be a larger concern to the church today? I know that we spend a great deal of time talking about the world and its rejection of Biblical teachings and principles. The world has rejected Christianity and it seems that more and more publicity is being shared on the television and in the written media about how the world population should be allowed to do as their conscience directs them. I am amazed and overwhelmed at some of the liberties that are now being taught. I am seeing things now that I never thought I would ever see in my lifetime. Yes, people of the world are much unlearned concerning what the Bible says.

However, we may need to ask ourselves: "Is Biblical Ignorance/Biblical Illiteracy a subject that needs to be addressed in the Body of Christ, the Church? Are we seeing this happening in the Church today because we just are not aware of what the Bible says on many subject? Are we being influenced by the world because we listen to their teachings and read their material rather than being a student of the Word?" I once read that Satan's greatest weapon is man's ignorance of God's Word.

Our forefathers of the Restoration Movement Thomas and Alexander Campbell, as well as others in the movement made it very plain where they stood when it came to Biblical teachings and the importance of this book. They were determined to "speak where the Bible speaks and to be silent where the Bible is silent." They had "no book but the Bible, no creed but Christ, no name but the Divine name." It was their desire to do "Bible things in Bible ways and call Bible things by Bible names" It was important if not essential to them to study the Bible and apply that knowledge to what they did and what they taught. Christian Churches and Churches of Christ were known as "People of the Book".

Today, I am afraid it would be a far stretch to say we are to be referred to in that same way. Could it be that the majority of Biblical knowledge for Christians today is only gained from a thirty minute sermon heard by those who attend once or twice a month? Are the pages of the Old Testament and New Testament read with any consistency? Is the Bible being read so we can grow in knowledge and God's grace (II Peter 3: 18)?

Again, is this really a situation that we need to be alarmed about? Researchers George Gallup and Jim Castelli put the problem squarely: "Americans revere the Bible—but, by and large, they don't read it. And because they don't read it, they have become a nation of biblical illiterates." How bad is it? After doing some research you might be taken back to know that many Christians today can name only a few of the apostles, they only know a few of the Ten Commandments and they can't name but a couple of the gospels. Very few Bibles are seen being carried to the assembly each week.. I know that we are electronically minded and many have apps on their phones where the Bible can be used but I have noticed that some who have their phones out during scripture reading are not following the text but instead are messaging people or playing games.

We all own Bibles. The Bible is still the book that is the best selling. But that doesn't mean people read and study the Bible. There is a spiritual famine in the world and perhaps in the church. People need to get back into the Bible and do as II Timothy 2: 15 says " *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (KJV) We need to be aware of what II Timothy 4:3 says " *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires*". (NAS)

It is important that we get back into the Word and become people of the book again.

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

THE SEARCHING SPIRIT

Sermon by Denny

TEXT: 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

INTRO.: Paul had addressed great issues settle on the fact that humility is the key to unity. He now moves to the source of both unity and humility, the Holy Spirit. He makes the point that God's messages are contrary to man's thoughts. We should be alert to the fact that unity, wisdom and maturity are all related to the verses that follow.

I.

SEARCHING FOR HEARERS

A. A DIFFERENT MESSAGE

1. There is a wisdom in both
2. God spoke audibly to Adam, Noah, Moses, Joshua, etc.
3. With songs, Gideon and others.
4. In dreams, Joseph, Paul, Peter, etc.
5. By Angels, Abraham, Mary, etc.
6. But today through the Bible. There is no other way to confirm God is in it.

B. GOD SEARCHES FOR HEARERS

1. Man hears by man's spirit vs 11
2. Man without God's Spirit can't hear
3. It is foolish to him. Can't understand, vs 14

C. NATURAL SENSES ARE USELESS

1. Eyes, ears, and mind can't conceive
2. God reveals by His Spirit, v10
3. Apostles "more sure word," 2 Pet. 1:16
4. Homosexuality is not about how you feel but rather what God says. Same for all matters.

II.

RECEIVING THE MESSAGE

A. GOD REVEALS BY HIS SPIRIT

1. God speaks from another realm.
2. It is on a different level, Isa. 55:9
 - a. As heaven is above earth
 - b. "My thoughts are higher."

B. ILLUSTRATED

1. Man, admits, and confess Godforgives
2. Man resent offences, God Forgive
3. Man resists authority, God obey
4. Man cut off enemies, God do good

III.

RELATING TO GOD'S MESSAGE

A. WITHOUT THE SPIRIT

1. It can't be received
2. He speaks in "spiritual truth and words" v13
3. His message is not understood and sounds foolish and;
4. Is "spiritually discerned," v14
5. Like an English man can't discern German.

B. THE APOSTLES MESSAGE

1. Paul states "we had the mind of Christ" and this applies only to Apostles, v16.
2. The "eye, ear, and mind," message of v9 is to all people...but verse 10 "God has revealed..." applies to Apostles
3. That is why we can trust the New Testament writers.

CONCLUSION: "So I tell you this and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of sin, impurity, with a continual lust for more." The world has worldly wisdom and He says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise...1 Cor. 1:19.

MAURICE STEINER

Proverbs 22:1 "A good name is more desirable than great riches."

Maurice Steiner was born January 2, 1922 and was a regular attender at WWW. He last attend WWW2023 when we had him stand to be recognized as the oldest attendee at age 101. Maurice passed into his reward September 21, that year at age 101. He left behind a legacy.

His son and daughter-in-law Sam and Kay Steiner met me in the lobby of the Music Road Hotel and Sam said to me, "You don't know your parent until after they die." He then gave me a couple of facts that made me know there was much more. So I asked Sam and Kay to meet me in the lobby at 2:00 the next day.

I learned he received employment with the U.S. Post Office due to his military service and also worked as a farmer. He invested in Recycle Riches, a Restoration Church Fund to help new and struggling churches with interest-free loans. He served as elder in the Angola Christian Church in Indiana and in the Salt Sprints Christian Church in Florida.

Maurice's wife, Lois, went to be with the Lord completely unexpected in 2002. I also learned Maurice had 4 children, 15 grandchildren, 42 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. He remembered each in prayer every morning and always remembered them with cards and gifts.

He had four children who attended four different colleges and he supported each college. He was a loving family man and was loved by his family. His own birthdays were big events.

Maurice supported the church he was a member of with \$400 a week. That's right \$20,800 a year. He felt he could live on Social Security alone so he did. He taught Sunday school and took Communion to the shut-ins, as long as he was physically able

He attend worship service every Lord's Day and Bible study every Wednesday. He served to the end and gave a communion meditation two months before he died.

Proverbs 13:22 "A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children..." That text was lived out by Maurice Steiner. He was frail in the end physically, but mighty in deed until the finish.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Thirty-Four – Genetics is no Excuse

We, as people, generally and universally love to play the blame game for our own problems in life. Even if we have a personal problem like homosexuality, lesbianism or even being unhappy. All of these and more, they say, are either someone else's fault or I have bad genes. Blaming genes for it is really grasping at straws. I would like to address the idea of happiness. Some people seem to darken a room the moment they walk in. On the other hand some happy people seem to brighten the room the moment they walk in. It almost seems as if the temperature changed the moment they arrived. What is it that makes the difference? It is not genetic.

Our genetic make-up does have an enormous effect on our intellect and emotional potentials, but our degree of wisdom and happiness as adults is not predetermined genetically, as some believe. Most human depression is the result of our own irresponsible behavior or our irresponsible handling of our own behavior, be it anger, guilt or withdrawal. Some people simply choose to be unhappy and others are irresponsible due to lack of knowledge, information not brain capacity or genetics. They just need to grow in knowledge of how to handle their emotions responsibly and convert that into action.

We generally dislike facing up to our own responsibility, especially when it comes to our own emotions, both men and women, but especially men. It is much easier to blame our woes on bad parents, poor spouse, unfair treatment, hypoglycemia, the world or bad genes.

While it is true that genes can predispose us to getting drunk more readily than someone else, but our genes do not magically get us to drink alcohol. Our genes don't force anyone to engage in homosexual behavior. No one is programmed genetically to practice homosexual behavior. That is entirely a myth! Our genes can predispose some people toward developing depression under stress because of a depletion of a chemical created on nerve ends in our brain that help us stay focused. That chemical is called norepinephrine. Someone may be predisposed toward schizophrenia under stresses due to the level of dopamine in the brain. However, genes do not force us to hold a grudge against others. That irresponsible action often brings on depression.

God has allowed each of us to have certain strengths and weaknesses as part of His plan to bring glory to Himself. In Psalm 139: 13-14,, the psalmist David prays, "***For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.***" Isaiah 44:2 states, "***This is what the Lord says, he who made you, who formed you in the womb.***" Again in Isaiah 43:6b-7 the Lord states "***Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by my name whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.***" What we make of ourselves and the attitude of happy, sad and how we behave sexually is up to us as individuals.

It is true that God made none of us perfect. However, He did not form some to be homosexuals and lesbians and then proclaims that behavior is an abomination to Him. God speaks in Lev 18:22 and says, "***Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.***" He is even more emphatic in Lev. 20:13 "***If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death their blood will be on their own heads.***" Some might say that those are Old Testament Scriptures and don't apply to the Christian world. But we can read the New Testament text 1 Cor. 6:9-10 "***Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters, nor adulterers' not male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.***"

There is ample evidence that these sexual misdeeds are not the work of our Creator but rather the work and responsibility of individuals. But some may ask “But what about the happy/unhappy people? Unhappy people cannot place this problem at the feet of God by claiming genetic design. There are several good books on the market today with the theme of changing ourselves by changing our thoughts with titles like: “The Brain that Heals Itself,” or The Brain that Changes itself”. What does the Bible tell us about being happy or unhappy?

Studies do show, as mentioned before, women are more likely to become depressed than men. There are many answers given for this but there is no universally accepted reason. Research does show that relatives of depressed individuals have a significantly higher incident of depression than does the general population. This is thought to be a learned reaction. Manic depression, also known as bipolar has been thought by some researchers to be linked to a gene, but no substantial support for that thought has been discovered.

So what are we to do with heartbreak, sad news and other disappointments of life? There are some preventive spiritual answers. Perhaps the number one shield against unhappiness is self-worth but there are others, such as intimacy with others and intimacy with God. All three of these are included in the great commandment, summarized by Jesus Christ in Mark 12:29-31 when one of the teachers of the law asked Jesus which commandment was the greatest. His reply was, ***“The most important one is this; ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”***

There are those that teach we must learn to love ourselves, but that is not a learned process, it is a given. The problem is not a lack of self-love but a lack of self-acceptance. Loving ourselves may cause self-inflicted unhappiness if we do not feel we measure up to what we want for ourselves. When we act on such thoughts we become a “turn off” to ourselves and often to those with whom we have interaction. The answer Jesus gave to the teacher in Mark 12 appears to assume self-love. If we fail to accept self, it causes pain. Why? If we didn’t love ourselves it would not cause pain any more than it would if the same flaws were seen in someone we don’t even know. But it is self and that is hurtful.

We people sometimes look at the pain or disappointment just for the moment, but God looks at the joys of eternity. We can relive the sad or bad times with emphasis on the heartbreak but the Scriptures direct our thoughts in another direction, toward God and eternity. Without a real personal relationship with Jesus Christ, no human can have the power within to consistently choose the eternal purpose of life’s agonizing events. When we say, “I just can’t do it alone,” we speak the truth. The song “I Need Thee Every Hour,” is stating a fact.

Problems causing pain are real and can’t be ignored, but they must be seen in the light of God’s grace. 1 Peter 5:10 states, ***“And the God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*** This is no idol promise but the suffering will last “a little while.” Philippians 5:5-7 encourages us with ***“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”***

God knows all about it, Jesus suffered and was tempted in every way just as we...He knows, but He is also willing to hear from you about it. Our happiness is a choice. We can wallow in our unhappiness or we can talk to the Father about it and be patient, He’s using our problems for our own good. ***“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day, for our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal,”*** 2 Co. 4:16-18. We have a choice. I choose to be happy but not depend on happenings.

LEARNING with Larry

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP – Have you ever read a passage of Scripture and thought, “Did Jesus really say that?” That thought came to me as I read Luke 14:25-33. Large crowds were traveling with Jesus and once He said to them, *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes even your own life, such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, ‘this person began to build and wasn’t able to finish.’ Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won’t he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciple.”*

Jesus is giving us three things to consider in becoming a disciple. The first one is that we must hate everyone else to be His disciple. Then we must carry our cross to be His disciple and finally we must count the cost to see if we could. Yet before we think about that let’s consider that Christ saw our desperate need for salvation and He counted what it would cost in order to save us. He gave up everything for us even His life. He used two illustrations to show this. He calculated the cost first, the foundation. Calculated odds against Him, the warring kings. Then shared in verse 33 we should do the same.

If we are not willing to give up all, He states we can’t be His disciple. This even includes family if need be. The Greek word for “hate” in our text is MISEO. It is used in various ways in the Bible. Since, to hate anyone would be murder, 1 John 3:15, we must look deeper. The easiest way to apply it in our text is “to prefer second.” We see this in Matthew 6:24 drawing distinction between God and money.

So, what He is asking of us is to give Him upper most in all things, our lives, our loyalty and our love. The great thing is when we love Jesus first we are going to love everyone else more than when they were first.

The other requirement of carrying our cross in order to be His disciple is also when we understand His words. The Greek word of “cross” in this text is SUSTAUROO.

It would do no good for anyone if we carried a literal cross to die on. We are rather asked to die to ourselves. Ephesians 4:22-24 help here, *“You were taught with regard to your former way of life to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”*

Perhaps the greatest definition of cross carrying is found in Galatians 3:20 *“For 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 who gave himself for me.”* We give up everything putting Jesus first.

The third requirement is we must count the cost. Not like the builder who leaves his project unfinished. We must go in with all we have so that we can finish the race like Paul told Timothy in 2nd Timothy 4:7-8 *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”* So, let’s give Jesus all we have now, knowing that in the end we will have it.

Until next time, stay faithful.

– Larry

BEING ECONOMICAL

A lady lost her husband. Her friend told her “You should put the obituary in the paper and it only cost five dollars a word.” So she called the paper ask them to put in the obituary news, “Frank died.” The clerk replied that there was a five minute minimum. So she told the clerk, “O.K. make it “Frank died, truck for sale.”

BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

If you can’t be a pine on the top of the hill, be a scrub in the valley, but be the best 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 on a highway to happier make; but 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 big work to do and there is also lesser to do and the task we must do is that which is near.

If you can’t be by 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.

-A little “choppy” but the author is unknown

God made us what we are, what we make of it is on us.

OPPORTUNITIES

May 3-5 – Old Fashioned Tent Revival, Stoystown, PA, Bob Long Director 724-689-3789

May 14-16 – Spring Clinic, Person to Person Ministries, Hillsboro, OH, Alex Eddy, Director 937-840-9072

GOD IS A TRINITY

Few things are as difficult to comprehend as the Trinity of our God. God is one, but in the unity of the Godhead is three coequal and coeternal persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and is equal in the divine nature but distinct in their being. The doctrine of the Trinity is based on three lines of evidence.

There is ample evidence for the thought of one God. From Genesis to Revelation, the Scriptures consistently testify to the one true God (Isaiah 44:6; John 17:3; Romans 3:29-30 and 1 Cor. 8:4.

There is also evidence for three entities called God. Though Scriptures is clear that God is one, Scripture also progressively reveals that three distinct beings are called God: The Father is God, 1 Peter 1:2, Jesus is God, Hebrews 1:8, and the Holy Spirit is God, Acts 5:3-4.

There is, in addition, evidence for three-in-oneness of the Godhead. Matthew 28:19 reads, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* The word name is singular in the Greek, indicating that God is one, but three distinct beings as mentioned, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Paul’s benediction to the Corinthians is similar: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all,”* 2 Cor. 13:14.

If we need to “put it on the bottom shelf” so a child may understand it: Ice is water frozen, steam is water vaporized, and liquid is water in its natural form...yet all are water.

THOUGHT CHANGERS

Today, I witnessed a 27 year old cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2 year-old daughter’s antics. I suddenly realized that I need to stop complaining and start celebrating it again.

Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me struggling with my crutches and broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books. He helped me across campus. As he was leaving he said, “I hope you feel better soon.” I need to stop complaining and start being thankful.

Today, as I help my dog that had just ran over by a car, he licked my face...just before he died. I’m so blessed!

-FREE-

Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar.

What Barnabas Ministries provides a host church for these seminars: We will bear the cost of speakers, hotels if needed.

We will have speakers address such subjects as counseling, discouragement in ministry, do and don’ts, is a preacher born or made, and other matters relating to ministers and their wives. There will be two sessions just for the wives.

We will provide a binder for the material given out and a few other gifts for preachers and their wives.

The seminar schedule will be two speakers, a break, two more speakers, lunch and a final speaker. If this does not “fit” your plans, we are flexible. We are simply interested in encouraging preachers.

The host will assure that a lunch and snacks for break time. **BARNABAS WILL REIMBURSE THE CHURCH FOR ANY EXPENDATURES.**

To schedule a meeting call 740-446-6929 between 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or 740-446-7319 after 4:00

To host this meeting only cost you effort.

WHAT IF

Jesus said, “Go make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

But what if Peter on Pentecost answered “What must we do to be saved?” He said, “Say the sinner’s prayer.”

But what if when the Ethiopian who asked Phillip, “Here is water why shouldn’t I be baptized?” He was told “Just ask for Jesus into your heart.”

But what if when Paul obeyed the Lord to go to the house of Ananias in Damascus to be instructed and Ananias came to Paul and said, “You just have to pray until you feel saved.”

What if in telling someone how to obey the command of Jesus we omitted repentance, faith, or confession would that be follow the Lord’s instructions anymore than omitting baptism?

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 sinful man

FAITH: is only “saving faith” if it includes repentance, confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized as did every convert after the resurrection of Jesus.