



The PARAKLETE

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BIBLICAL PREDESTINATION

Before I was redeemed I grew up with the idea that some were chosen for heaven and others were chosen for hell and that neither could do anything about their destination.

This theory has misled many people and is the basis for many other false beliefs. Theoretically, the one desiring salvation must wait for an “experience” by God. So individuals must wait on this experience.



This teaching has left the Spirit guided Christian cold and uncomfortable because of the array of text that obviously teach otherwise. It not only causes confusion to the ones who read the Bible, but it leaves the lost waiting on God’s work rather than their own seeking truth.

The error has even lead to false lyrics in some well-known hymns. One is easily recognized as: “Pass Me Not O’ Gentle Savior.” The line presupposes that Jesus would pass over some and select others. The Bible teaches, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that WHOSOEVER believes in him shall have eternal life.”** (John 3:16, also well known.)

While it is true, the Bibles does teach a predestinated plan, God does not predestine individuals to hell. How did this teaching that some are selected for heaven and others for hell begin?

THE BIBLE SPEAKS. We do find the words “predestinate” and “predestined” in the KJV and the NIV versions of the Bible as well as other versions. The problem occurs when these words are used to “prove” that some are predestined for heaven or hell by God. This is not taught in the Bible.

Time and space will not allow an exhaustive study here, but I can address the text most often misused in order to espouse this faulty view. The text is Ephesians 1:3-14. In verse five we read: **“He (God) predestinated us to be adopted as sons through Jesus Christ according to His pleasure and will.”**

What and who is predestined in this passage? Applying a rule taught in grammar school makes the answers abundantly clear.

Most Bible students have heard the saying, “A text without context is pretext.” In other words, a text quoted out of its context is false or misleading. The rule’s worth is revealed in the Ephesian passage. Rules of grammar must be applied in any version of the Bible.

The Spirit of the Lord used an abundance of personal pronouns in the first three chapters of Ephesians and most are found in the first chapter alone. A review of the rules of grammar as applied to pronouns may help. First person pronouns are used of the one(s) speaking. Second person pronouns are used of the one(s) being spoken to. Third person pronouns are used in reference to those spoken of. This passage illustrates the need to respect these rules.

As we read Ephesians 1:1-13 notice that verses three through twelve are filled with the first person pronouns “us” and “we.” This is an obvious reference to those speaking, Paul and the apostles in general. In this book he is the messenger from Christ to the saints, as stated in the previous verse.

Apostles are the predestined ones to carry the message. This is made clear in 3:2 as well as in Col. 1:25 and other passages in the Bible.

Note the pivotal phrase in verse thirteen where Paul uses a second person pronoun: **“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth.”** He, as an Apostle, was in the predestined plan of God. However, the Ephesian Christians were included in the plan of salvation (not predestined) when they heard the Word of God and obeyed.

It is obvious the “us” and the “we” in these verses apply to the apostles only.

What we have stated so far is a simple application of one rule of grammar. Applying the context of the First Chapter, and indeed the whole book of Ephesians, the matter of predestination become crystal clear.

Notice what Paul the “predestined Apostle” claims to already have from God and what he prays, in contrast, for those to whom he is addressing will receive from God:

BIBLICAL PREDESTINATION

What the predestined Apostle claims

- (1) To have “every spiritual blessing” v3
- (2) Was “chosen before creation” vs 4, 11
- (3) Predestined “to be adopted” v5
- (4) “wisdom and understanding” v7-8
- (5) “mysteries made known to “ v9
- (6) Again, “predestined” v11
- (7) “first to hope” in Christ v12
- (8) “work prepared before time” 2:10

What Paul stated about and prayed for “second persons”

- (1) Were included in Christ when heard v13
- (2) Lacked spiritual wisdom (vs 7-8) see#4 above
- (3) Needed the “first person’s (Apostles) administration 3:2
- (4) There is no mention of their predestination (second person).
- (5) Needed the mystery explained to them by the first person (3:2)

Paul, in this text, is speaking of the predestinated plan of God, and how He (God) called Apostles into His service in accordance with that plan. God did not predestine anyone to heaven or hell. This is all confirmed throughout the Bible, but nowhere is this as clear as in 1 Cor. 2:7-31.

Some are misled by this text because they ignore the personal pronouns employed by the Holy Spirit. There is another reason for faulty interpretations of this passage. Paul here speaks of blessings enjoyed by himself and other apostles. Some blessings fall to all Christians. However, the latter are received after we hear the word. One of these shared blessings is redemptions by Christ’s obedience to the cross and His resurrection.

“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance,” 2 Peter 3:9.
Whosoever will let him come to the water of life freely,” Rev. 21:6.

Logic, grammar, and especially contextually reading of the Bible all confirm that God does not nor has He ever predestined some to hell. Neither does an unbeliever have to wait for an experience to “think” he is saved.

There is predestination in the Bible and that is the plan for Jesus Christ as well as apostles to be guided to write the Word. There is also an experience in Christianity and that is the great joy we have after we are saved.

Read the context of all passages and watch the pronouns. They may speak of you...and maybe not.

DENNY’S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Denny has nothing scheduled for Nov-Dec 2018

DANNY EVANS’ SCHEDULE

Huntington, WBW 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677 (H) Nov 2-8 – Restoration Destination, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, Bill Wines, Coordinator.

CHURCH SIGN ONE LINERS

Worry is the dark room in which negatives are developed.

~

Anger is a condition in which the tongue works faster than the mind.

~

You can’t change the past, but you can ruin the present by worrying about the future.

~

God always gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him.

~

A hug is a great gift –
One size fits all.

~

A hug can be given for any occasion and it is easy to exchange.

~

Laughter is a gift God gave only to mankind, use it often.

Copied, some altered.

OUR LIFE PRESERVER

Two friends went for a boat ride. The boat capsized. The river was swift and deep. The man to whom the boat belonged had taken two life preservers along. The owner put one on, but the other man laid his by his side. When they were thrown into the river, the life preserver soon brought one man to the top, but the other never came up again. Christ’s death, like the life preserver, will not save us unless by obedience we put Him on.

“Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ. And do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature,” Romans 13:14.

FEAR OF WHAT MIGHT BE

A man was driving to work when a truck ran a stop sign, hit his car and knocked him out. Passers-by pulled him from the wreck. He began to struggle and had to be tranquilized. Asked later why he struggle he relied “When I woke up someone stood in front of the “S” on the Shell sign.

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

I am blessed in so many ways. I have a great wife. I love my two sons. I have Christian friends that mean the world to me. I have ministered to churches that have loved me and allowed me to share the gospel each Lord's Day, and now I am part of Barnabas Ministries. My list of blessings could go on and on and I am sure you could make a list as long as mine. A blessing that I take very much for granted is the fact that I have been part of the New Testament church from birth. As a matter of fact, I went to church every Sunday before I was even born. Now that is a blessing but it also puts me at a disadvantage. I don't realize some blessings because I don't know that many people from the denominational world do not understand terms that I have grown up with.

As I was thinking about this I found some material that addressed this subject. It was titled "*How Not To Speak Christianese*" by Luke Cawley. In the article he noted that "Some people say that Christians use their own impenetrable language." We use words such as "sin," "salvation," "fellowship," "sanctification," and "the gospel" and the world has no idea what Christians are talking about or they may have a different meaning of these words altogether.

One of these words is "fellowship" and I'm not sure all Christians comprehend it. The word is used in Acts 2:42 with four other activities the early church devoted themselves to. It was an important activity for them. We hear the word over and over and because of that I believe the meaning has been watered down. The Greek word translated 20 times in the Bible is "koinonia" and means "association, a close concrete society, brotherhood as a closely knit majority, naturally belonging together." It also means: "generosity, sense of belonging," and "participation", "sharing." We tend to define fellowship in the church today as meaning a casserole eating.

I know we need fellowship today and over the last two months I have seen fellowship in its biblical meaning. First, I saw it as we attended Hillsboro Family Camp, hosted by Person to Person Ministries. I saw community and a brotherhood at that close knit majority. It was a blessing to see God's people together in worship and praise and just caring for each other. On August 24-25 at the Preachers Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar hosted by Barnabas Ministries I saw tremendous fellowship. I saw generosity, fellow-feeling and sharing. Preachers and their wives came and were

encouraged to keep on keeping on. The speakers shared with the group thoughts that were needed to help knit this assembly together as they serve the Lord. This past Saturday night Cindy and I attended, with about 170 others at the Country Biscuit Jamboree at Central Christian Church in Gallipolis with Tommy and J.T. Oakes. There were several congregations represented and it made me see that fellowship is just a natural thing we of the church have together. It was a great fellowship and a joy to see God's children sharing together and encouraging each other.

Perhaps we need to spend a little time renewing our understanding of the words we use in the church. When we understand them and apply them correctly we can explain them more clearly to the world. Enjoy fellowship this week with your Christian family, be in worship, and share with others the joy of being in Christ.

Don't forget the wonderful fellowship we will have at WWW in Pigeon Forge February 11-14, 2019

**Danny Evans is available for speaking engagements.
For information see page #2**



HENRY AND SWEETIE SAY:



S: Henry, aren't the trees beautiful this time of year. The leaves are so pretty.

H: You see beautiful leaves and I see leaves all over the ground.

S: Didn't you ever play in the leaves when you were growing up?

H: That was when we piled them up and jumping in them was fun. It isn't so much fun anymore.

S: But look at the hills and see God's handy work.

H: Isn't it amazing how all the seasons fit together?

S: What do you mean?

H: Winter, shoveling snow; spring getting the garden and flowers planted; summer, mowing the grass and pulling weeds from the garden and flower beds; Fall raking leaves, cleaning off the garden and then getting ready for winter and starting all over again. Work, work, work!

S: Don't you think that maybe God figured it out so man would keep busy and not get lazy and forget that He put all this in motion for us.

H: And He created it all so man would know that He is in charge, not man.

"All things were made by him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of man," John 1:3-4

CALM WORDS FOR TROUBLED HEARTS

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: John 14:1-3

How is a Christian to behave in a time of trouble? We don't like to think about it, but life is filled with problems and the Christian is not exempt from them. Disappointments with self, others and with circumstances are part of life. Sickness or the loss of a loved one is troubling. Sometimes when spiritual troubles come, it seems the Lord has withdrawn and we are plunged into darkness. What are we to do then?

By deliberate exercise of mind, strengthen our faith in God. Think of Him, remind ourselves of His power and that we have put our trust in Him. Share your burden with people of faith. Our text calls on us to "not let your hearts be troubled." Don't let it happen, but how?

I. THERE ARE THINGS THAT TROUBLE

A. WE MUST BE REALISTIC

1. Troubles come, but remember Romans 8:28
2. Troubles have a purpose – purifies us (1 John 3:2-3)

B. WE MUST BE PREPARED

1. Jesus was troubled, John 13:21
2. Not unusual (James 1:2ff)
3. He predicted trouble ahead

C. WE MUST NOT ABANDON SHIP

1. Judas betrayed Him
2. Peter denied Him
3. All His disciples left Him

II. DON'T MINIMIZE THE TROUBLE

A. CHRISTIANS ARE REALISTS

1. Fools minimize a bad situation
2. No gain in ignoring troubles

B. WE ALL HAVE TROUBLE

1. "Weep with them that weep"
2. See Romans 12:15

III. WORRY IF YOU HAVE NO TROUBLE

A. TROUBLES DRIVE US TO FAITH

1. Knows we will need help (v16)
2. "Believe in God, and in me"
3. Why He urged to believe?
 - a. To depend on Him
 - b. He says "so trust me"

B. WANTS US TO THINK OF HEAVEN

1. Troubles on earth, but we're "home" (v2) (Phil. 3:17, 20-21)
2. No "escapism" but facing it
3. He's coming back to end it all

CONCLUSIONS: What is a Christian to do in times of trouble? Deliberately (by positive action on your part) increase your faith, believing Him. Is your faith weak? Faith comes by the Word (Romans 10:17). Sit down and read His word, or spend time with those who exercise faith in God and know the Bible. You can take control. All things work together for our good (Rom. 8:28). Don't begin your day with troubles but with His precious promises about life's troubles. He knows all about it.

A woman for forty years thought that she would die of cancer. She finally died of pneumonia at age seventy. She wasted thirty years worrying about the wrong thing.

LITTLE THOUGHT, BIG RESULTS

1. Always put off until tomorrow what you should not do at all.
2. The world is more interested in what you practice than what you profess.
3. Life is what happens while you are making other plans.
4. Rationalization is a mental technique that allows you to lie or cheat without feeling guilty.
5. The devil will extend plenty of credit, but we must think of the huge payment when it comes due.
6. Fifty-one percent of being smart is to know what you are dumb about.
7. A person with one watch knows what time it is, a person with two is never quite sure.

QUESTIONS I CAN'T ANSWER

Often preachers are called on to give a Bible answer for the behavior of people who say they believe and practice. That is good and can lead to conversations that enlighten people and glorify Christ. However, I must confess there are some beliefs and practices I will not attempt to answer. Here are some of those "why" questions:

Why some people claim to be Christian and can find time to attend any or all social affairs, business meetings and sporting events and yet cannot find time to attend worship services on the Lord's Day?

Why confessing Christians can be active in the community, and yet not be active in Sunday school, VBS, revivals and a host of other character building activities at church?

Why confessing Christians can spend thirty or forty dollars for an evening of fun yet complain about the church taking an offering for any cause?

Why confessing Christians know the name of many TV stars, the day of the week and time of day they are on, yet find it difficult to locate a book of the Bible?

Why confessing Christians can talk about nearly any subject to their friends, yet never mention the Bible, church, Christ or any spiritual matters?

Why confessing Christians claim the Lord as their Savior, yet not come to His table each Lord's Day?

Why ten percent of church membership gives fifty to sixty percent to the needs of the congregation?

Why some church members want to sit on the fifty yard line at a football game and the best seat in a theater, yet want to sit in the back of the church for worship?

Why some members are habitually late for worship, yet will get up early to be the first in line at a game, a sale, for hunting, fishing and to play golf.

Why Some stay away from worshipping Christ because they have found some fault in another worshipper. Isn't that like staying away from a ballgame because you find fault with a fan?

Why some will dress up for a funeral, a wedding or a night out at a nice restaurant and yet complain if they are expected to dress their best for the King of kings? (By the way I used to hear some say they didn't attend worship because they didn't have nice close the wear. Isn't that odd?)

I think I know the answer to all of these questions but I'm not sure. That's between their Creator and themselves.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number one hundred-one – The Spirit of Encouragement

HOW DO WE FULFILL THE ADMONITION TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER?

We are told in 1 Thess. 5:11 to "...encourage one another and build each other up..." This statement is made in the context of Christ's coming again, but I want to isolate on the words themselves, "encourage one another." How do we do that? That's the question I'd like to address in this study. The question is not whether we should get involved in the process of encouragement, this text as well as others are clear on that point. The question is: How should we encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Encouragement is not merely saying a few, or even many, if they are well-chosen words. Attitude is just as important as phrasing and the delivering of the words even if they are the right words. I've observed two extremes in the presentation of truth used when encouraging. Both approaches seem out of balance and completely out of line with the Bible. We should address others in order to encourage them and desire to build them up. It matters not whether they are grieving over a sin or a hurt of some other kind of difficulty. There is no excuse for Christians doing it wrong and perhaps compounding the problem or not doing it at all.

One approach presents encouragement like a hammer pounding out the truth in such a way that love doesn't appear to be present at all. This leaves the person cold, hurt, maybe even worse than before the attempt at being an encourager, results in more discouragement. Such an attempt may be: "You know that if you had done the right thing you wouldn't be down and unhappy. After all, you started this when..." On the other hand there are those who attempt to save the problem by saying words empty of truth and so sickeningly sweet that diabetes may result. This attempt implies that a temporary good feeling is more important than truth. It may go something like this: "I don't know why such things happen but I know you are a victim in this, this shouldn't happen to good people like yourself." When this is done it weakens truth to the point that no lasting help will result. In either case these approaches "truth in love" is tipped too far in one direction or the other. The results are sometimes more harmful than they are helpful.

WORDS DELIVERED ON A GARBAGE CAN LID ARE REPULSIVE EVEN WHEN TRUE

A few years ago I enjoyed a TV program call "The Bill Cosby Show." That was before his reputation was ruined by things we didn't know about. He played the role of a physician called Doctor Heathcliff Huxtable. In one particular episode one of the daughters brought home a boyfriend, whom Dr. and Mrs. Huxtable had met for the first time. The boy was apparently taking over their daughter's life and she was allowing this to happen. Together they showed little regard and respect for her parents and little more for themselves. In reaction Dr. Huxtable became very rude and sarcastic with the boy. Finally, the lad could take it no more and being at his wits end confronted the doctor with his rudeness. It is in the reply from the Doctor that I find the lesson I would like us to take from this.

He asked the lad if he liked T-bone steak. Taken off guard the young man replied, "What?" The doctor continued, "Do you like steak with potatoes, corn and hot rolls?" The boy replied in the affirmative. Heathcliff said, "Great!" "Now, if I gave you a nice big steak, smothered in mushrooms and onions, and a nice big baked potato with all the trimmings on a garbage can lid, would you eat it?" The boy replied that he would not and that the thought was repulsive. "Why would you ask such a thing?" "Why wouldn't you eat the steak?" the doctor asked. The boy replied, "Because a garbage can lid is filthy." Then the doctor asked, "It matters to you how the steak is presented?" "Yes!" the boy answered. "Well," the doctor chimed in, "We don't like the way our daughter presented you to us, coming in here acting like you're already married and being way too forward for our comfort. It repulses us just like the steak on the garbage can lid repulses you. She presented you on a garbage can lid, so don't blame us if you don't like the way we treated you. You were presented to us in a way that caused us to react in this way."

The point obviously was not that they didn't like the young man, they just didn't like the way he was presented to them. Most people are not repulsed by the truth (though some may be) they are repulsed by the way it is presented. We Christians make the same mistake when we present the truth to others. Rather than being comforted we can present the truth in a manner that repulses, a way that invites rejection. In simple terms, we present the truth on a garbage can lid.

Notice these words of the Apostle Paul in Romans 15:1-6 *"We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us so through endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

The word is consistently translated "encouragement" in the NIV is translated "comfort" and "consolation" in the KJV. This word in the Greek is PARAKLESIS and is the word from which we named this paper *"The Paraklete."*

<p>THE SCRIPTURES ARE NOT TO BE IGNORED IN COUNSEL, NOR SHOULD THEY BE USED AS A HAMMER. THEY ARE TO BE USED TO COMFORT AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.</p>

A further examination of other words in Romans Chapter 15 gives us the clue we need in presenting the truth in a palatable form. Those words are "endurance" from which we derive "patience" from the Greek HUPOMONE meaning "cheerful" or "hopeful" with the extended meaning being "endurance, constancy, patient, continuance (waiting)." Part of the word means to "stay under, bear up (support)." We can clearly see the Bible was written for our learning and that through the patience and encouragement of Scriptures, we may receive encouragement and comfort. This patient, cheerful, and helpful word is for the purpose of our own comfort and consolation. It must not be ignored nor be used as a hammer on others.

To attempt encouragement of a brother or a sister in the faith while ignoring the truth of Scriptures is cowardice evil and empty. This will lead to more discouragement in the long term and aimlessness in the present. We must never think we know more than God and take it upon ourselves to fashion a temporary solution for those who are down-hearted. If we do we may as well send brothers and sister to the heathen counseling market, where they simply gather data and dispense medication for symptoms. The Divine Word addresses the soul not the symptoms.

Balancing truth and love in the area of encouragement will, in most cases, prevent our good from being "evil spoken of." It should shut the mouth of those who say, "This love thing is an act of cowardice by those who refuse to tell the truth bluntly." It should also stop those who condemn by saying, "It is an unloving spirit that prompts someone to be so brutal with truth." Sometimes it's our imbalance in applying truth with love that causes our attempts at encouragement to result in our own frustration and their hurt.

Redemptive work was accomplished at the cross, however, that work still goes on, even in the lives of those who have obeyed the Gospel. Not with the lips of truth alone but with the encouraging lips of truth shared in love enriching the lives of His saints. Anything less does not have the strength to withstand present crisis and the future battles of life.

We, in Christ, are called to the work of encouragement and the only option is disobedience to Christ by not "encouraging one another," or obeying this command in the right spirit. This includes both Scriptural truth and love for each other. The choice is obvious.

REDNECK DICTIONARY

ALIBI, *n. and v.* The predicted future purchases by a male named Albert, Alfred, or Alvin. “We always invite Al, because alibi dinner for everyone.”

BATTERY, *n. and pron.* A baseball player who regularly attempts an offensive maneuver wherein he uses a club to strike a ball thrown in his direction. “Stan ain’t half the battery used to be.”

CANNIBAL, *v. and n.* Interrogative concerning the abilities of a male bovine and how high he can jump. “Before we go over there I have to ask cannibal jump a fence four feet high?”

DEFIND, *n.* an unexpected discovery. “The old book you got at the yard sale is defined of the century it cost three times what you paid.”

Jeff Foxworthy’s *Learning to Talk More
Gooner Fastly Redneck Dictionary III*,

MARGINALIZING GOD’S WORD

Some church services features multisensory worship, using skits, storytelling, and various forms of media, but Jesus emphasized the Word of God in making disciples: *“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,”* John 8:31. Some church leaders say we can no longer look to the Bible alone as a guide for spiritual living, but Scripture says church leaders are to preach God’s Word *“for building up the body of Christ,”* Ephesians 4:12. Some church leaders say we should merely “love” people into the church, but biblical Christians are called to always be *“prepared to make a defense of anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you,”* 1 Peter 3:15.

Paul sternly instructed Timothy, a young preacher, *“Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist on this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers,”* 1 Timothy 4:16. He also affirmed to Timothy, *“From childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work,”* 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

THINK ABOUT IT

Christianity without the Bible is much like a doctor who misdiagnoses a patient and then prescribes the wrong treatment. The patient doesn’t get well, and he has a false sense of security, blindly trusting that what he has been told is the truth.

STRANDED

A multimillionaire was enjoying an afternoon on his yacht in the Caribbean when a severe storm hit. The near-hurricane force winds produced gigantic waves that eventually swamped and sank the yacht. It sank without a trace. The yacht owner and his chauffeur, the only two people on board, managed to swim to the closest island.

Lying exhausted on the deserted beach, the chauffeur began to panic. “We’ll never be rescued!” But the multimillionaire just smiled.

“How can you be so calm?” screamed the chauffeur who worked himself up even more. “We’re going to die on this lonely island. This isn’t reality TV, you know.”

“Listen,” the multimillionaire began. “Five years ago I gave the Republicans \$250,000. I also gave \$250,000 to the Democrats. A year later I increased both amounts by \$100,000. Three years ago, since I did extremely well in the stock market, I contributed \$750,000 to each party. Last year business was especially good, so I gave a million dollars to both parties as well as to National Public Radio.”

“And the point is?” the chauffeur asked.

“It’s time for their annual fund drive. I guarantee you – they’ll find me.”

FREE SPEECH

“Some people’s idea of free speech is that they are free to say what they like, but if anyone says anything back, that is an outrage” Winston Churchill

“The most stringent protection of free speech would not protect a man from falsely shouting fire in a theater causing a panic” Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.
“You are free to say anything you want, but you are not free of the consequences” Denny Coburn

OPPORTUNITIES

Nov. 5-7 – Restoration Destination, North Myrtle Beach, SC, Bill Wines, Director

BE REASONABLE

God is a God of reason (Isaiah 1:18), and He has created us as rational creatures in His image (Genesis 1:27; Colossians 3:10). So surely He intends for us to utilize the gift of reason. God wants us to take an intelligent step of faith in the light of good evidence, not a blind leap of faith into the dark (see John 20:27).

The Bible is filled with exhortations to use reason, Jesus commanded His followers, *“Love the Lord your God...with all your mind,”* (Matthew 27:37). The Apostle Paul taught, *“Whatever is true...think about these things,”* Philippians 4:8), and he reasoned with Jews and philosophers, (Acts 17:17, 22-31). Church elders are instructed to refuse those who contradict sound doctrine, (Titus 1:9). Paul says he was appointed for *“the defense of the gospel,”* (Philippians 116). Jude urged, *“Contend for the faith that was one for all delivered to the saints,”* Jude 3. Peter commanded us to be *“prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks for the reason for the hope that is in you,”* (1 Peter 3:15) All these activities involve the use of our God-given reason.

We are designed by a reasoning God to be reasoning people. It is in our best interest to use that reason to test the competing truth claims that daily confront us.

AMERICA

Eldridge Cleaver left this country some years ago to escape a prison sentence. 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 knowing this. 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.”

From *Treasures from My Basement*
Wayne B. Smith

A BLOOPER

Preacher Ralph Simmons said his favorite overseas destination is Canada. I'd love to hear him preach!

JUST FOR FUN

“Just to establish some parameters,” said the professor, “Mr. Carmon, what is the opposite of joy?” “Sadness” replied the student.

“And what’s the opposite of depression, Ms. Helms?”

“Elation,” was the reply.

“And you, Mr. Fields, how about the opposite of woe?”

“I believe that would be giddy up!”

THINKING LIKE A MAN

If you can't find a screwdriver, use a knife. If you break off the tip, it's an improved screwdriver.

If what you've done is stupid but it works, then it isn't stupid.

Never put off until tomorrow what you can avoid altogether.

Never knock on Death's door. Ring the doorbell and run like crazy. He hates that.

WHEN A CHRISTIAN DEPARTS

God saw the road was getting rough

He knew you'd had your share,

He gently closed those loving eyes

And took you in his care

Each time we see your picture

You seem to smile and say

“Don't cry, I'm only sleeping

We'll meet again someday.”

MINI THOUGHTS

When one word leads to another, it generally ends up in a quarrel, a speech, or a dictionary.

~

The skin a teen loves to touch is Dad's pigskin wallet.

~

You have reached middle age when all you exercise is caution.

~

The advantage of having only one child is that you always know who did it.

~

A speech is like a wheel-

The longer the spoke, the greater the tire.

~

At 50 everyone has the face they deserve.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

What **BARNABAS MINISTRIES** believes

BIBLE: The only inspired record of God's revelation to us

SIN: The only thing standing between God and man

JESUS CHRIST: The only perfect One who paid for sin

THE GOSPEL: The only record of Jesus' life

SALVATION: The only hope of man

FAITH: is only “saving faith” if it includes repentance, confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sin.