



The PARAKLETE

A publication of BARNABAS MINISTRIES, 135 Mitchell Road, Gallipolis, OH – Denny Coburn –Director
OFFICE OR FAX: 740/446-6929, Residence: 740/446-7318

Email: barnabasohio@att.net, Web page: www.barnabasohio.com

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REINCARNATION and TALKING TO THE DEAD
Reincarnation is the belief that people die many times and come back to life in a new body of some sort each time. Sound ridiculous?



According to those who believe this sometimes they return as animals or objects. As in the country song “The Highwaymen” by Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, and Waylon Jennings in which they state “I will come back again, again, and again, perhaps as a simple drop of rain.” Such foolishness!

Yet, according to a Barna poll taken in 2003, 29 percent of those claiming to be born again believe in communicating with the dead, and 10 percent believe in reincarnation. They believe this though condemned in the Bible, Lev. 19:31, 20:17. In fact the “*dead know nothing*,” Eccl. 9:5-5. The Bible also teaches “*And it is appointed for men once to die and after death the judgement*,” Heb. 9:27.

It does not teach we are-reincarnated again and again. The Scriptures teach the soul leaves the body at death and goes to either Heaven or Hell depending on whether we are born again or not, John 3:16-18. The body we have on earth will remain in the grave until the coming of Jesus to resurrect us and give us a new body, 1 Thess. 4:13-18. Life on earth is a one-time journey.

There is not a hint in the Bible of mankind returning again and again in different forms. As the Hebrew writer states clearly, it is given men “once” to die. Our Lord is the perfect example. He was born in the flesh once, He died once, He resurrected once.

He told a story as an illustration that debunks the idea of reincarnation. In Luke 16:19-31 we find the story of a poor man named Lazarus, and a wealthy man who both died. Jesus said that Lazarus “*was carried by the angel to Abraham’s bosom. But the rich man went to torments in Hades.*” Each death resulted in two different destinations.

The text further tells us the rich man “*lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off and Lazarus in his bosom.*” Here we have three people who once lived on earth and died, yet we don’t see their spirits re-

inhabiting some earthly form. Rather, we see Lazarus, Abraham, and the rich man in a state of consciousness in the realm of the dead who were separated from their bodies.

The rich man begs Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn his brothers, but Abraham denied the request saying “*They have Moses and the Prophets they will not believe if one rises from the dead.*” God desires that all men be saved but He did not have Lazarus reincarnated but simply referred the rich man to Bible teaching.

Reincarnation thinking denies many basic principles taught in the Bible. Some errors are:

1. We are born again in this life not physically born over repeatedly. Shirley MacLaine, an actress and proponent of reincarnation, believed homosexuality was a result of being born in a previous life as a member of another sex and was having difficulty adjusting having memories of the previous life. I hate to show off my knowledge of the Hebrew language, but that is “Stupid.”

2. When Jesus returns as He has promised to do four times in just one Chapter of the Bible, John Chapter 4, reincarnation begs the question: To which of the many bodies a person once owned would he be assigned to: dog, a plant, or the Highwaymen’s rain drop?

3. Reincarnation teaches consulting with spirits, even though clear Bible language forbids it. They call their contacts “guides,” or “entities.” See Isa.8:19 where the word “necromancer” is mentioned. A “necromancer” is one who communicates with the dead. Accord to Shirley MacLaine her contact spirit’s name was “John.”

4. Reincarnation teaches that suffering in this life is a result of something done in a previous life. Jesus debunked this thought in the event recorded in John 9:1-3. There a man was born blind and the people blamed it on his parent’s sin or his own. Jesus explained that man’s blindness was a means of God displaying His power not a result of something in the past, either of him or his parents.

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REINCARNATION and TALKING TO THE DEAD

Suffering in this life may be caused by things we do to ourselves or because of many things we had and have no control over. This is a basic tenet of the Restoration Movement: Where the Bible speaks, we must speak and where it is silent we are silent. This tenet helps clear up the errors of reincarnation thought.

In Job 7:8-10 we read, *“The eye that now sees me will see me no longer; you will look for me, but I will be no more. As a cloud vanishes and is gone so he who goes down to the grave does not return.”* These verses make it clear once we pass from this life we do not return.

When King David’s son was ill, the king lay upon the ground, mourned and fasted. But when the boy died, David rose washed and put on lotions and changed his clothes. When they inquired why the change, he replied: *“While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept. I thought ‘Who knows’ The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live. But now that he is dead why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me.”*

Reincarnation is mystical and a physical minded teaching. When they speak of a “new birth” they refer to a new physical birth. That was the same problem Nicodemus had when he spoke with Jesus in John 3. He was corrected by Jesus teaching him He had reference to a spiritual rebirth. Jesus said, *“I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I have spoken to you of heavenly things?”* John 3:11-12. Jesus had referred to the evidence seen in lives changed by the Holy Spirit and yet Nicodemus wanted to talk of being physically born again.

Why do people so often take spiritual thing spoken of in the Bible and try to make them refer to physical things? I don’t know the answer to that, but the Scriptures gives clear information on how to correct that mind-set.

God has given us one life to live and when He is acknowledge as Lord of that life, one life is enough. I’m not sure why the eastern religion came up with this reincarnation idea but I do know this: If it was arrived with the idea of giving hope of a second chance, it is no real hope when we stand before Jesus. It is only wishful thinking but Satan can use it to deceive many who will end up in Hell.

DENNY’S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

July 22-25 Attend Hillsboro Family Camp, Person to Person Ministries, Kerry Allen, Director.

DANNY EVANS’ SCHEDULE

Huntington, WBW 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677

July 22-25 Attend Hillsboro Family Camp, Person to Person Ministries, Kerry Allen Director.

IN CASE YOU HAVE NOT MARKED YOUR CALENDAR FOR WWW2020 THE DATES ARE – FEBRUARY 10-13, 2020. THESE ARE THE DAYS OF MON-THURS. MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOME GOOD THOUGHTS

Faith does not see with the human eye rather faith sees with the spiritual eyes given at the new birth.

As a result: FAITH SEES THE INVISIBLE, BELIEVES THE INCREDIBLE AND RECEIVES THE IMPOSSIBLE?

~

God is always eager to listen to us.

~

We do our best and rely on the Lord for the rest.

~

Prayer should be the bookends of our day.

~

The love we show matters more than the good we only talk about.

~

Our doubts do not change God’s steadfast love or diminish His power. But doubts do diminish His work in us.

~

We can bear fruit for God at any age.

PREACHER RECRUITMENT AND ENCOURAGEMENT SEMINAR

August 23-24, 2019

Gallipolis, OH

This seminar is open to all preachers and is free.

The “free” includes a hotel room for the preacher and his wife Friday night as well as all meals.

We can guarantee the first 45 rooms. We are not sure if others will be available.

Call Barnabas phone numbers on the front cover, or call Danny Evans at the number above.

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

I am proud to have been asked to be part of Barnabas Ministries. It is hard to believe it has been over two years since I joined this group as Associate Evangelist. This ministry has one major direction for its purpose and that is to be an encouragement to as many as we possibly can. Why is encouragement such a great and needed worker? Why focus so much on encouragement? The answer is very simple: people get discouraged. Just look around. No matter what you do or where you go, you see and hear discourage and the church isn't always a safe haven from negativity. I would say that discouragement is probably the greatest attack of Satan on my life and if you are honest you'd have to agree that you face it also. Discouragement is one of his most effective tools and he uses it freely. We are reminded in 1 Peter 3:5:8 ***"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."*** Today many are being eaten alive by the fact that they are discouraged and depressed.

People have stopped doing the work God has given them. Christians are going through trials on a daily basis and they don't see God working in their lives. So as a result they run away from God and blame Him for not taking care of them. However, Christians sometimes fail to realize that God is with them and in them in the Person of the Holy Spirit to help in times of crisis. We all have had times of discouragement but God has seen us through difficult times and has made us stronger as a result. We often want God to answer immediately, but we must be patient and allow Him to work. We must be still and just trust. We have to admit we don't know where He is leading us, but we must trust Him at all times.

We may read articles and books for ways to deal with discouragement or depression, but there is a simple cure. We must trust in God. We need to have faith in God's promises. He keeps all His promises. Why does our faith seem strong when life is "good" and we feel blessed in many ways? But when a trial comes our way our faith begins to wane. Isn't God the same in all situations? You can tell the strength of a Christian's faith by what it takes to stop them.

Example after example is given in the Scriptures to illustrate that it takes faith to endure life. The entire eleventh chapter of Hebrews points out that each of those people mentioned handled their concerns by this one little five letter word: faith. In those

examples of faith did they all face trials? Absolutely, but by trusting God they were able to continue on with what God had given them to do. Discouragement robs us of our joy! Joy is the one thing Paul wanted for Christians especially those in Philippi. The entire book, even though it is short, just shouts of the need for joy and Paul even tells the people there how to obtain it. He asks the people to make his joy complete in 2:1. We need to have joy in our work and do all we can to eliminate discouragement. As John Stallings wrote in his song *Leaning on Jesus*, "...finding more power than I've ever seen, I am learning to lean on Jesus!" When we are trapped by fear and worries and the devil tempts us with discouragement, we need to check our faith. Faith is that positive thinking that can change our outlook on what we are facing. We must be confident that God cares for us each day.

HENRY AND
SWEETIE SAY:



H: Sweetie, just think, this year is half over already.
S: Yes, time sure goes fast when we are having fun.
H: Who said I was having fun?
S: Now, Henry, you know you have enjoyed yourself this year.
H: Yeah, sure. So far our heat went out in March and we had to have our furnace repaired. I had to have work done on my tractor. I couldn't get all the leaves cleaned up from the nine oak trees in the yard. Then I couldn't get the garden ready to till the leaves in because it was so wet. Then it got hot and the A/C went out. Right, I have sure had fun so far this year.
S: Yes, Henry, you have had a little bad luck but you also had a lot of good times. Think about the outings each month we had with the seniors at the church. The fellowship dinners we have had, the visits from our church family, the help you have had from them as well.
H: Sweetie, you are so right, it seems like we only dwell on the hard times and forget the good and our friends.
S: Henry, if we enjoy being with friends here on earth for a few hours, just think about being with them for eternity.
H: Sweetie, do you think we can have our friend over for a wiener roast next Saturday?
"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Cor. 1:9 nkjv

GOD HAS A PLAN

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Romans 10:1-13

INTRO: God is so different than you and me that we'd never figure out what He wants of us without His help. He said, "*My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither your ways are my way ways, declares the Lord,*" Isaiah 55:8, See also Romans 11:33-36. We make the great mistake of thinking that God would do things as we would. Nothing could be further from the truth. If someone hurts us our first thought is to hurt them back, His thought is to do good to them. If someone insults us our first thought is the insult them, but God's thought is to bless them. If someone persecutes us our first thought might be to strike back, but God thought is to rejoice. Isn't that strange? Not to Him.

After Israel witnessed God's works, and after Jesus ministry, death, and resurrection we might think they knew God's will. However they got it wrong. Therefore, God used Paul guided by the Holy Spirit to reveal God's plan in writing. God's plan for salvation is:

- I. **HE DESIRES ALL MEN BE SAVED (vss1-2)**
 - A. **BUT MANKIND TRIED TO EARN IT**
 1. But men had zeal but without knowledge
 2. Paul himself was advanced in education
 3. He had knowledge and zeal, Gal. 1:14
 4. He knew laws, traditions, regulations and ceremonies
 5. He had reverence for Sabbath & the temple
 6. We do not need more miracles
 - B. **GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS (v3)**
 1. Righteousness comes from God not man, v3
 2. But mankind tries to establish its own righteousness, v3
 3. They would not submit, v3
 4. They did not know God's righteousness
 - C. **THINGS THEY THOUGHT.**
 1. They thought that bells, robes, candles and changing was righteousness
 2. Today some think attendance at worship, giving, and good deeds are righteousness
 3. These things may be some results, but they are not righteousness in and of themselves.
 4. The error: Do over faith, ritual over surrender, sacrifice over obedience
- II. **GOD'S PLAN IS NO LAW (4-10)**
 - A. **CHRIST ENDED THE LAW**
 1. He did this so rightness is by belief v4
 2. To believe and obey is to "live by" Lev.18:5
 3. It is a way of life resulting from faith
 - B. **HIS PLAN IS FAITH NOT DEEDS**
 1. This faith is belief that Jesus is Lord, v9
 2. Belief that He was raised from the dead, v9
 3. Believe in your heart you are Justified, v10
 4. Confess with your mouth and be saved, v10
- III. **GOD'S PLAN IS NOT LIMITED (11-13)**
 - A. **EVERY ONE IS INVITED**
 1. "Everyone" v4, 13, "Anyone" v11
 2. Jew or Gentile v12
 3. He is Lord of all v12
 - B. **ALL WHO CALL**
 1. Not "call" without obedience
 2. It is not zeal alone must be knowledge
 3. There must be trust in what we learn
 4. There must be faith in Jesus as Lord

We do not think as God thinks. His ways are not our ways. When we firmly believe this we trust in the one who reveals His plan of salvation: Faith, repentance, confession and baptism. We then can lead a life of righteousness because of the peace we receive and the Holy Spirit given as a gift to help us in times of difficulty and doubt. May God bless you because of your salvation or when you do respond to the plan.

HOPE DELIVERS

Hope delivers us from the despair that nothing we do matters, and enables us to tackle even the most menial job with vigor. Elmer Bender tells the remarkable story of a B-17 bomber that flew a bombing mission over Germany in the latter days of World War II. The plane was hit several times by shells and flak, with some of the hits directly in the fuel tank. Miraculously, the bomber did not explode. When it landed, eleven unexploded twenty-millimeter shells were taken out of the fuel tank! The shells were dismantled, and to the amazement of everyone, all were empty of explosives. Inside one shell was a note written in Czech. Translated, it read, "This is all we can do for you now." A member of the Czech underground, working in a German munitions factory, had omitted the explosives in at least eleven of the twenty-millimeter shells on his assembly line. That worker must have wondered often if the quiet work he was doing to subvert the Nazi war effort was going to make any difference whatsoever to the outcome of the war.

-Ben Patterson, The Grand Essentials

I DON'T KNOW WHO...BUT THEY ARE THOUGHTS
I don't make plans for some people toss the word "premeditated" around.

~
I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes about 1,500 days in a row.

~
Dear paranoid people who check behind the shower curtain for murderers...If you find one, what's your plan?

STRIVE

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who's actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, sweat, and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

-Theodor Roosevelt, Sorbonne Paris, April 223, 1910

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred five – Depression and the Christian

Depression is, according to the medical journals, the most common mental condition among patients seeking treatment for non-physical problems at counseling centers in the U.S. Their symptoms usually include at least four of the following:

- Increased irritability
- Feelings of worthlessness or guilt (or hopelessness and helplessness)
- Agitation or restlessness
- Fatigue and loss of energy (or loss of interest in life's activities)
- Trouble thinking, making decisions or concentrating
- Disturbed sleep, such as insomnia
- Changes in appetite or weight
- Thoughts of death or suicide, suicide attempts
- Overwhelming sadness (or self-loathing)

One article had this to say: "Depending on your age, personality and gender, the symptoms of depression can vary greatly. Whenever depression lasts more than 90 days, it is considered major depression. Some periods of sadness are typical in one's life, but prolonged sadness and listlessness may be a sign of manic depression symptoms."

Clinical Depression can be a debilitating mental disorder (the journals and some psychologists call it a "disease". It can afflict persons of all races, ages, and does not distinguish between men and women. It might be well to mention at this point that some journals list as many as fifteen different kinds of depression ranging from "Depression during College" and "Postpartum Depression," to "Manic Depression." It seems that a new name for depression is given to nearly every situation or personality.

Quite often physical symptoms can be observed in those suffering from depression. Some of the signs are: muscle aches, digestive problems, flu-like symptoms, crying for no obvious reason, and other emotional behavior with no explanation given or even known.

There is no doubt one going through such difficulties needs treatment. I am not going to prescribe any medication because I am not a doctor nor have I played one on TV. However I believe that Christians have the upper hand in dealing with depression, unless it is from a chemical malfunction or deficiency within the brain. I will also state that it is my opinion (and opinions are free and worth every cent) that the secular world may be working on the wrong end of the problem.

That is, does a mental attitude create a physical problem for an individual or does the physical problem create the observable symptoms, as the journals seem to endorse? With the immediate prescribing of medicine for whatever emotional disorder one would get, the impression that psychological community and medical industry always opts for a physical cause. This approach must determine that the brain needs corrected to produce a desired emotion. After observing, reading and having dealt with those in depression, I believe that is fast on the trigger. That is, coming from strictly a Christian counseling perspective, I believe that sometimes treating the brain with medication first and for an extended period of time may aggravate the problem.

I do not deny that we can learn much from the purely physical, medical, and psychological disciplines and I appreciate their advances in many areas. However, if they always address an emotional problem with the bias that "it must be something physical causing it," they may miss something. This, of course, is true of every bias, mine.

Having said all of this, I'd like to address the problem of depression from a Christian perspective before treating the body with drugs. Depression is a fact of life that can't be denied. It is serious, and should be addressed as soon as possible. It is also true that one suffering from depression did not choose to be in that condition.

As I have stated, I believe some other disciplines approach the problem wrongly and, treating the symptoms rather than the cause of the symptoms. If that be the case then we should address the mental attitude side of depression. We can see this in King David's approach to depression and discouragement. In every case he presented his difficulties, fears, and doubts that caused his depression to the Lord in prayer. He didn't look inward for the protection from discouragement but he looked upward.

In Psalm 27 we read both of David's fears in life and trust in God. He presented those things that haunted him unto the Lord. He spoke of fear, enemies, over-whelming odds against him, troubles, false witnesses against him, and the violence he faced. However, in the end he stated, ***"I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,"*** verses 13- 14. In verse three David made his choice, ***"Though an army besieges me, my heart will not fear though war break out against me, even then will I be confident."***

When he was in a great state of depression, he felt as low as he can get. He "looking up through the bottom," and it is not easy to dig out from that position. David felt that way also, as seen in Psalm 40. He cried out, ***"I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord"*** verses 1-3. He was in a desperate situation. But notice what he did, he ***"cried out to the Lord and waited patiently."***

God rewarded that trust by doing these six things: (1) He listened to David, (2) This helped lift David's spirit, (3) This helped David know he could stand firm facing life, (4) God gave him confidence to face life on his own, (5) David could sing rather than think negatively and (6) This made David a witness so others could trust the Lord as well. A new mental attitude changed David's position, his attitude, and his standing among the people.

I'm sure I don't have to tell the reader that we are told "Laughter does good, like medicine." This statement in the Bible acknowledges medicine does good, and I have no doubt at times it is needed so the body can heal itself. I have been blessed by the availability of medicine all my life and probably you have as well. However, a physician once told me that nearly 75% of those who came to him for physical problems actually were suffering from psychosomatic ailments. In other words he was treating symptoms from problems that were created by the patient's thought pattern.

For example, hatred can cause headaches, upset stomachs, loss of sleep, and loss of appetite. It is obvious that how one thinks contributes to body function. Many are those who have a medical doctor suggest a quiet vacation on the beach in order to treat physical problems. It just makes good sense with good results.

Depression is not a joy; in fact it, rob us of our joy. Depression is not easy to overcome, it takes effort, much effort, but right thinking is the place to start. A good prescription for overcoming it might be Psalm 121, ***"I lift up my eyes to the hills where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip, he who watches over you will not slumber; indeed he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over you, the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all harm, he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forever more."***

If you need medication, by all means see the doctor who knows how your body functions and how to prescribe that which is needed. However, if you need help with depression, first go to the Great Physician who knows how the body, mind, and soul function and interrelate to each other. Depression can be one of Satan's best tools to short-circuit the effective witness and work of a Christian. Don't be discouraged by his tactics and don't be depressed. Look to the Lord. You may find something in your mental attitude that needs adjusted and He will help you make the necessary changes.

REDNECK DICTIONARY

USHER, *prep., adj., and n.* Concerning something a female person must cease or something bad may happen. "Someone needs to usher up or we'll all be arrested.

LETTICE, *prep.* A word used to request to participate in a religious act, usually made by a preacher. "Would you stand with me, lettuce pray."

BUDGET, *n adj.*, A statement questing of a probability of moving a heavy object. "If he puts any more bricks in that wheelbarrow he won't be able to budget."

SEMINAR, *n.* A statement confirming a fact that the speaker had observed some men at a previous time. "I seminar fellas at the county fair last year.

Homemade redneck dictionary words

PAUL HARVEY SAYS:

I don't believe in Santa Claus, but I'm not going to sue someone for singing a Ho-Ho-Ho song in December. I don't agree with Darwin, but I didn't go out and hire a lawyer when my high school teacher taught his theory of evolution.

Life, liberty and your pursuit of happiness will not be endangered because someone says a 30-second prayer before a football game.

So what's the big deal? It's not like somebody is up there reading the entire book of Acts. They're just talking to the God they believe in and asking Him to grant safety to the players on the field and to bless them and the fans.

"But it's a Christian thing," some will argue.

Yes, this is the United States of America, a country founded on Christian principles. According to our very own phone book, Christian churches outnumber all others better than 200 to one. So what would you expect, somebody chanting Hare Krishna?

If I went to a football game in Jerusalem, I would expect to hear a Jewish prayer.

-*Treasures From My Basement*" by Wayne Smith (Editor's side note: Many antichrist people are revising our school text books. In that endeavor they have removed all reference to Christianity from history. Read your child's history book, read an old one.)

ARE YOU A LIFTER OR A LEANER?

There are two kinds of people on earth today,
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say

Not the good and the bad for tis well understood
The good are half bad and the bad are half good.

Not the happy and the sad, for the swift-flying years
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.

Not the rich and the poor, for to
count a man's wealth,
You must first know the state of his
conscience and health.

Not the humble and the proud, for in life's
busy span,
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.

No! The two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Where ever you go you will find the masses
are ever divided in just these two classes.

And, strangely enough, you will find two I mean.
There is only one lifter for twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load?
Or are you overtaxed lifters who tail down the road.

Or are you a leaner who lets others bear
Your portion of worry and labor and care?

Copied -The "Good News" Letter
First Christian Church, Oxford, OH
John Witt, Minister

JUST STAY HOME

An old Scotch church member told his preach that he was going to take a trip to the Holy Land and added, "When I get there I mean to climb Mount Sinai and read the Ten Commandments from the top of it.

"I can tell you something better than that you can do," said the preacher.

"What is that?" asked the man.

"If I were you I would stay at home and keep them."

OPPORTUNITIES

July 3-5 –Whitewater Family Camp, Vevay, IN
July 22-25 – Hillsboro Family Camp, Person to Person Camp Ground, Hillsboro, OH, Kerry Allen
Aug. 30 –Sept 1 – Winning at Winchester, Winchester, VA – Chris Straley, Evangelist

GOD IS RICH IN MERCY AND GRACE

The extent of God’s grace is such that none can ever ask too much, provided they come on the proper ground – the Person and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ and the promises of God.

There is a story told of Alexander the Great that illustrates God’s attitude to our requests. A general in his army was held by him in such high favor that he was told to draw from the treasury any amount he desired. He presented a request for such an enormous amount that the treasurer was astonished and would not honor the request. The general reported to the Emperor who called the treasurer and said, “Did I not tell you to honor the draft of the general?”

“But,” replied the treasurer, “do you understand its amount?” “Never mind what it is,” answered the Emperor, “he honors me and my kingdom by making a great draft.”

The hymn writer said, “For His grace and power are such, none can ever ask too much.”

This illustration is of men who value earthly things. Our King is the Ruler of heaven and earth, Matthew 28:18. We have not because we ask not. But just as Alexander remarked, “He honors me and my kingdom.” Do you?

NEEDING PROOF OF HELL

A young girl returned home early from a date with a long look on her face. Her mother asked her what was bothering her. The girl explained, “My boyfriend just proposed marriage.”

Her mother asked, “What’s so bad about that?”

The girl answered, “He also told me he was an atheist. He said there is no way he could ever believe there was a hell.”

The mother consoled her daughter: “Don’t let this bother you. Marry him anyway. With a little time and between the two of us, we will be able to convince him there is a hell.”

Silly Question:

Will I understand the Sistine Chapel if I have not seen chapels one through fifteen?

PEARLS FROM PAIN

When an irritation particle such as a grain of sand gets into the shell of an oyster it means pain. The oyster tries to get rid of it I suppose. But if not he does something else. He covers it with an excretion which dispels the discomfort by providing a viscous cushion between the irritant and himself. This excretion hardens and forms a pearl. Pain made this possible. Our pain can produce pearls of spiritual worth also. See James 1:2-4.

LIGHT IN THE TOMB

The Romans had a practice of lighting up their tombs. In several instances, gigantic candles or lamps were constructed with a fuel reserve that would last for centuries. It is recorded that fifteen hundred years after the death of Tullia, Cicero’s daughter, her tomb was opened and a tiny lamp was found still burning. One of the provisions of the will of Caruso, the great tenor, was that a huge candle should be constructed that would burn night and day for a hundred and fifty years.

But it takes more than the glow of a candle, or even the dazzling brilliance of a powerful electric lamp, to really bring light into a tomb. Christ, the Light of the World, is the only light that can dispel the darkness of the chamber of death.

COMMON SENSE THOUGHTS

“The purpose of education is to teach oneself how to study on their own.” – R. E. Phillips

~

Educate men without religion (his term) and you make them clever devils” – Duke of Wellington

~

“If you think education is expensive try ignorance”
– Derek Bok

~

“Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave.”
– Henry Peter Brougham

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.