



The PARAKLETE

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GENERATIONAL GAPS

2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
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2019

We'll be hearing about the Millennials for the next two years by politicians in their effort to win them to their political party and candidates. We are also hearing about Millennials in congregations usually in why we are losing them to the world. For clarification the following is the generally accepted list of labels given to those born at various times:

Silent Generation was born between 1929 and 1945, Baby Boomers were born between 1946 and 1964, Generation X is those born between 1965 and 1980, Millennials is the title for those born between 1981 and 1996

Generation Z is those born between 1997 and 2012. I been thinking about why we are losing Millennials and what they believe. I am keenly aware of the fact that all people in any of the above labeled groups do not think alike. This is true of all generations even Millennials. However, I did a little research in the effort to find out what's going on in the minds of Millennials.

A research sponsored by Ligonier Ministries and done for the State of Theology Study in 2018 polled 3000 on Christian ethics and religion in general. This is not a large study but revealed the following about Millennials. Some results are confusing:

62% of Millennials believe that "Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their savior receive God's free gift of eternal life." This percentage is up from 53% in 2016, as good as most ages.

64% believe there will be a time when Jesus returns to judge all people. This percentage is up from 55%. 52% believe the Bible contains helpful accounts of ancient myths, but they are not literally true. This percentage has risen from 46% in 2016. Good!

In a study by Religious Landscape found that 71% of Millennials believe God "somewhat." However only 28% attend worship services every week and 38% attend once or twice a month.

This could be disheartening on the surface, but there are some encouraging things in these reports as well. Other studies like LifeWay Christian Resources reveal they are not rejecting Jesus they

are rejecting churches that are not relevant to them. They want "rich content" rather than flashing lights. Now this surprised me since many are giving flashy services in order to attract them. They say that does nothing for them. I can say "amen!" to that and so do most who love the Word.

This report also states that they desire to sing those songs that reflect deep biblical and theological truths. Rainer, who conducted the study, states "Millennials speak less and less about worship style. Their focus is on theologically rich music." That is good news from any generation.

There is a segment of people of all ages who think they are more "spiritual" than "religious." Digging a little further it seems they mean that they are in touch with their feelings, rather than in touch with God. That is why yoga and other Eastern practices resonate with them. That is why they meditate, use stones for healing and even go to concerts.

Many non-church people pray to a "universal spirit" but do not identify with a specific "religion." Many think of this as spiritual. Since they live in a "what's right for you is not right for me," or a "whatever floats your boat" world, it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you believe something, you are spiritual.

Some Millennials have a dim view of church. Could it be we who are in the church have portrayed Christianity as a "church thing" rather than portraying Christ? I think we may have portrayed God as a comic buddy. The Joel Olsten view is that if we trust God He will give us a happy marriage, success, good fortunes and anything else we want. If we just do good all is well seems to be the theme.

I don't think that the Apostle Paul had that view or that result. Jeremiah in the city sewer didn't have that experience. As the stones bounced off Stephen I doubt he was enjoying an Olsten moment. Bad things happen to good people and often good things in this world happen to bad people.

Here's the good news: Millennials can handle the truth. They want authenticity, genuine Christianity and a meaningful worship service. Theologically sound words in their music and no half-truth sugar

GENERATION GAPS

coated Bible stories and sermons. If we put on an act most everyone will detect it, especially Millennials. If it is an act they can see through it.

“Millennials are not disillusioned with tradition, they are frustrated with slick or shallow expressions of religion,” says David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group and author of *You Lost me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church...and Rethinking Faith*.

They are not looking for perfect people, Jesus has already handled that. They want authentic Christians to be real, honest, and they want us to share friendly conversation not one on one preaching. They don't want “church talk.” It has been said that they are intellectually bored.

It appears from what I have read that Millennials aren't asking us the change the worship (unless it's a bore). They don't ask that we change the message, and we can't do that and be true to our Lord. They don't want that. They want authentic Christians and truth.

The research also provided a real gem with the thought that Millennials want a place to rest from the world, not a fever pitched activity list. Kinnaman said, “Ironically most churches offer what they think people want: more to do, more to see. Yet that's exactly the opposite of what many young adults crave when it comes to sacred space.” As an older person I can say, that's exactly what I want too. But I'm just one older person.

If we follow Jesus by reading His messages as recorded in the Bible we will be authentic, serving, doing justice and our message should be simple and clear.

Christianity needs no frills. We need not be apologetic but be a place of sincere worship, and teaching truth clearly, simply, and theologically sound. Jesus did not ask us to “Go let the world change you,” but rather we are to change the world by our own behavior and truth in love. Millennials are not asking us to do otherwise.

The saying, “Don't trust anyone over 30,” is simply not the belief of younger people. They are a generation rich in material goods and poor in relationships. We need them and they need us and we all need the love of God and a Savior to forgive our personal sins.

Every age needs to know they are respected, and we can show our respect by talking directly with young people. We need not talk down, argue, or demand agreement in the area of opinions. Even in matters of faith we need to listen. A true Christian is not fearful of discussing truth with those who do not know Bible truth...yet.

Every generation wants their life to have meaning and they know this is not possible unless we go deep and there is no depth deeper than a Christ-centered life. When people speak the truth in love to those who sense the sincerity of our concern, their hearts will be touched. We need to share what we know with every age with a warm heart and not a warm pew.

And though I am of the silent generation...I'm not silent.

DENNY'S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Sept.22-25 - Revival at Monroeville Church of Christ, Monroeville, PA, Dave Provance, Evangelist

Oct. 4-5 – Southwest Indiana Preaching Rally

DANNY EVANS' SCHEDULE

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

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 DEC. 31 is the DEADLINE for registration

SOME GOOD THOUGHTS

If God is your co-pilot, you better switch seats.

~

Tomorrows forecast: God reigns and the Son shines.

~

Need a life guard, ours walks on water.

~

Honk if you love Jesus, better not text while driving if you don't.

~

God heals broken hearts but we must give Him all the pieces.

~

T.G.I.F. – Thank God I'm forgiven.

~

Faith is not blind it is having your eyes set on Jesus.

INTEGRITY

In 1959, 40 year-old Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox was suffering from a pinched nerve in his neck. “It was so bad that I could hardly turn my head to look at the pitcher,” he said. For the first time in his remarkable career, he batted under .300, hitting just .254 and only ten home runs. Williams was the highest salaried player in sports that year, making \$125,000. The next year, the Red Sox offered him the same contract. “I told them I wouldn't sign it until they gave me the full pay cut allowed, 28 percent. My feeling was that I was always treated fairly by the Red Sox. They were offering me a contract I didn't deserve.” Williams cut his own salary by \$35,000!

Integrity: The quality of having strong moral convictions and honesty.

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

I trust we are all familiar with the poem "The Touch of the Master's Hand" which was written in 1921 by Myra Brooks Welch. The poem tells of a battered violin that was being auctioned off and the bidding was very low. Then a man, a master violinist, came forward and tuned the violin and took some care with it and began to play the violin. The music was amazing. After that the bidding continued and now it was in the thousands of dollars, all because of the "Touch of the Master's Hand."

I understood God, The Master, can touch His hand to bring about beautiful creations. Just recently I had the privilege of attending the Hillsboro Family Camp. If you have never attended this meeting, plan to do so next July 27 – 30 at Hillsboro, Ohio. Maybe it was just me and perhaps I needed the program to help me make some renewals in my life. But these few days of gathering allowed me to see God's work through people to challenge us to greater service.

It amazes me and I stand in awe of how 21 sermons can be preached and even though the preachers were not assigned a topic, the messages all fit together and they flowed as if one person wrote them. They spoke of God's grace and mercy and how the body of Christ needs to be built and I believe the church was strengthened because of these messages. During these few days I saw people working together as if they were a team who had trained for weeks. There was a sad time during the week when we heard Pam Allen, Kerry's wife, fell off a ladder and broke her leg. Please pray for her quick and full recovery. But even in this I saw God working. I saw talented men quickly build a ramp on the Allen's porch so Pam could be wheeled in and out of their home.

God stretched out His hand and touched people with His encouragement to give financially. There was a need that had to be met in order for the family camp to be paid for each year. At least \$50,000 was needed to meet the expenses of the week and that need was exceeded. There was also a need to help fund projects that were absolutely necessary to maintain the grounds and facilities at Restoration Acres. The goal was to raise \$40,000 to pay for building repairs, purchase new mowing equipment and to begin work on a new camper area for larger campers. God again had a plan and He touched His people to step up and give and the goal was surpassed. All that I have mentioned were blessings, but the greatest joy that I experienced

was watching young people being baptized into Christ. I was so happy to know that the body of Christ has young people who love God and His church. I encourage you to pray for those young people as they go back to their home churches and into the non-Christian atmosphere of the world.

I saw the hand of God in a very mighty way. I appreciate the words of Isaiah 14:27 ***"For the Lord of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it? And as for His stretched-hand, who can turn it back?"*** Praise God for allowing Person to Person Ministries to host this gathering each year and for all those who attended.

Now I also hope you are praying for Barnabas Ministries Winter Worship and Workshop. We are receiving registrations already for the dates of February 10-13, 2020. We are praying for God's blessings on that meeting so we may ***"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."***

I am so thankful for God's hand is still active and mighty. God is still able to strengthen. He is still able to deliver. He is still able to help His people. Thanks you Father for your love!

HENRY AND
SWEETIE SAY:



H: Sweetie what are you doing?

S: I'm packing a picnic basket.

H: What for?

S: Since it is a holiday weekend I thought we'd go to the park and have a picnic.

H: What is all the excitement about a special day off to loaf, miss work, have a parade, and have a picnic? One day is just like the other.

S: Henry, it's not the days that are special it's the events that are and we need to remember them. Days like Independence Day, Veteran's Day, Christmas, and Resurrection Day are all remembering special events...not days.

H: Yes, I guess they are, after all the Lord's Day is special...not just the First Day of The Week, but honoring our Lord.

S: Henry you are so wise and loving.

H: Well, I guess I am...a little

S: Henry, it's not you that is so special, like the events make the days special, it is the Lord living in you that is really special.

H: I know, but it's good to hear you say that I am special. What are we taking on the picnic to eat?

S: Something special.

HOW TO SOLVE A THEOLOGICAL DISAGREEMENT

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Eph. 4:25-32

INTRO: A lady was late and told her husband, “On the road a man flagged me down and said the road was out and said I had to drive around.” The husband replied “And you did what he said?” She replied, “Of course.” The husband then said, “I got to get a flag.” We all, at times have disagreements, even with those we love. So how should we handle them and remain friends and work together for the cause of good? There are principles in the Bible on disagreeing agreeably. Yes, we can disagree and still maintain good relationships. However, there are rules.

- I. **BE HONEST (v25)**
 - A. **HONESTY SOMETIMES HURTS**
 1. But it always helps
 2. Criticism should be constructive
 - B. **HONESTY PROTECTS**
 1. Proverbs 19:5, 9 – Not false
 2. Proverbs 26:28 – Not hateful
 3. Proverbs 28:1 – Not conceal
 - C. **HONESTY DEALS IN FACTS**
 1. Proverbs 13:3 – Not speak rashly
 2. Proverbs 22:13 – Not exaggerate
- II. **BE CURRENT (v26)**
 - A. **NOT HISTORICAL**
 1. Deal with the current situation
 2. Not bitterness from the past
 - B. **NOT BE HISTERICAL**
 1. Not speak of past hurt
 2. Not speak of past anger
 - C. **NOT TRY TO “WIN”**
 1. Proverbs 17:9 – Speak out of love
 2. Don’t try to “Put down” (belittle)
- III. **BE FOCUSED – Shut out Satan (25-27)**
 - A. **ATTACH THE PROLEM/NOT PERSON**
 1. Choose words carefully
 2. Gal. 5:15 – Don’t seek to destroy
 3. Col. 3:12-14 – Use compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience
 - B. **DIFFICULTY IN FOCUSING**
 1. Eccl. 5:2, 7 – Too many words
 2. Eccl. 3:7 – Not telling truth
 3. Prov. 13:3 – Exaggeration, blaming and not listening, or debating
- IV. **BE KIND (v29)**
 - A. **USE BENEVOLENT WORDS**
 1. “I’m sorry,” “I was wrong” etc.
 - B. **NOT PLACE BLAME**
 1. Usually enough to go around
 2. Blaming doesn’t solve problems
- V. **BE OPEN TO GOD (vss. 30-32)**
 - A. **DO IT HIS WAY**
 1. Right spirit
 2. Right motive (to heal)
 - B. **DO IT WITH HUMILITY**
 1. Be accepting of the other party
 2. Be forgiving of the other party

CONCLUSION: If confrontation is needed, and it often is, you must ask yourself, “Am I motivated by Christian love for the purpose of reconciliation?” If so, pray about your choice of words and then humbly proceed. The confrontation should be entered into with the idea of reconciliation (in truth and love). Remember, an argument is the longest distance between two views.

A confrontation without the proper motive usually ends in the destruction of relationships.

To solve or to accept disagreement from another, kind words from faces with kind expressions and kind acts are essential. If the one you confront is an enemy of truth, then compatibility is not possible, but love is.

THE THIRD AND FOURTH GENERATION

Max Jukes lived in New York. He didn’t believe in Christ or in Christian training. He refused to take his children to church, even when they asked to go. He has had 1,026 descendants; 300 were sent to prison for an average term of thirteen years; 190 were public prostitutes, 680 were admitted alcoholics. His family, thus far, has cost the state in excess of \$420,000. There is no record of any of them contributing to society.

Jonathan Edwards lived in the same state at the same times as Jukes. He loved the Lord and saw that his children were in church every Sunday, as he served the Lord to the best of his ability. He has had 929 descendants, and of these 430 were ministers, 86 became university professors. 13 became university presidents, 75 authored good books. 7 were elected to the United States Congress. One was vice president of his nation. His family never cost the state one cent but has contributed immeasurably to the life of many in this country.

I can think of no ill effects of going to worship, hearing the Gospel, and fellowshiping with Christians. However, there are thousands of bad influences on a life that does not honor God in this way.

WHAT GOD COULD HAVE DONE

God could have kept Daniel out of the lion’s den. He could have kept Paul and Silas out of jail. God could have kept the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. But God has never promised to keep us out of hard places. However, what He has promised is to go through every hard place and to bring us through them.

SHORT REPLIES

If you complain in light of God’s blessings, I have two words for you. The first one is “shut.”

~

Drinker, “Drinking makes me do better.” Reply, “Nonsense, it only makes you unashamed of doing bad.”

~

To a prospective employee: “If I hire you will you be honest?” Reply, “I will be honest whether you hire me or not.”

~

Traveler, “What’s the quickest way to New York?” The local said, “Are you driving or walking?” He travelers said, “Driving.” The reply: “That’s the quickest way.”

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Six (Originally published as Study #1)– Barnabas and His Purpose of Encouragement

There is an increasing demand for counseling, support groups and self-help books, indicating there is a deep need for encouragement. Depression is the number one ailment counselors, psychiatrist and others deal with personal problems address. Some call depression a disease, I do not. Depression is an advanced state of discouragement. One moves from discouragement to depression to a complete loss of hope if not corrected. It seems natural for this ministry to address the subject of encouragement.

A ministry named “Barnabas Ministries” with a newsletter by the name of “*The Paraklete*” should publish something on the subject of encouragement. Barnabas mean “Son of Encouragement” and the “Paraklete” is a form of the Greek “paraklesis” a word that, on occasion in the New Testament, has been interpreted “consolation.” I don’t really need an excuse for writing on such a vital matter as encouragement, but since the name of both our paper and the ministry lend themselves to the subject, why not?

WHO WAS BARNABAS? A man by the name of Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, was given the name Barnabas by the Apostles, Acts 4:36, because he encouraged the early church. For a while he was Paul’s sole encourager. Later, he encouraged the whole church to remain faithful to the truth, Acts 13:42-43. Encouragement was his way of life. It ought to be a way of life for all Christians.

WHAT DOES ENCOURAGEMENT MEAN? The word “encourage,” “encouragement,” and “encouraged” are not found in the King James Version of the New Testament. However, the Greek word PLARAKLESIS is rendered “comfort,” “consolation,” “exhortation,” or “entreat” in the KJV. The word “encouragement” in its various forms are found in the Old Testament, Deut. 1:38, 3:28, Judges 20:22, 1 Samuel 30:6, 2 Samuel 11:25, 2 Chronicles 31:4; 35:2, Psalm 64:5 and Isaiah 41:7 in the KJV. In the NIV, AV, and nearly all other translations “encouragement” is frequently used when translating from the Hebrew and Greek.

Encouragement is thoroughly Christian since God the Father and Son used such phrases as “be of good cheer,” “fear not,” and “peace unto you.” These are words of encouragement. In the Scriptures it is said of men of God they “encouraged themselves in the Lord.” It is obvious the Lord intended for His people to be people of courage and to encourage others. The thought means, “be in a state of courage” or more literally “be in courage.” Certainly discouragement is not a positive Christian trait.

I must warn that we should not reduce the meaning of encouragement to mean simply “agreement” or “acquiescence.” Encouragement is applied to corrective words and actions not surrender to that which is in error. We’ve all heard statements like: “Must I take corrective measures to encourage you to stop doing wrong?” God’s encouragement is comforting but also corrective at times.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE? According to Scriptures we need encouragement in leadership, Deut. 1:38, 3:28. Here God tells Moses to encourage Joshua as he takes leadership. Encouragement is needed to endure times of conflict, 2 Sam. 11:25. We need encouragement to continue in the faith, 1 Thess. 3:2, 5:11-15 and to remember Jesus is coming again as in 1 Thess. 4:13-18. We are told the young in faith need encouraged to do what is right, Titus 2:6. In Titus 2:15 we see that we must encourage with the authority of Scriptures in order to prevent brothers and sisters from thinking foolishly. That text states it this way: “***These then are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.***” The word “despise” here is from the Greek PERIPHONEO and means “to think around a thing, to turn over in the mind; hence, to have thoughts beyond.” Teachers of the Word need reminded that hearers can “think around” you and you need to be encouraged to continue to teach the truth regardless of the response.

In all these cases we are encouraged to continue in the truth, remember promises, and to rebuke others in order to keep them and ourselves

In all cases we are encouraged to continue in the truth, remember promises, and to rebuke others in order to keep them and ourselves spiritually directed. This encouragement is to be daily (Heb. 3:13) and especially when we come together to worship (Heb. 10:25). There are many reasons to encourage others and to be encouraged ourselves; however, here are just a few primary situations to consider.

First, we need encouraged due to the evil around us. We live in an evil world and the Bible tells us that the faith of many was cold because there is so much evil in the world, Matt. 24:12. In other words, we Christians are out-numbered and the voice of the wicked is so loud that it makes it easy to feel it's a losing battle. We know it is not a losing battle because we have read the back of the book and know we win, but some may lose if they give up before the battle is won.

Second, we need to encourage due to the sinfulness within us. It's true that we have been born again when we obeyed the Gospel, but we still have the old body of sin to carry around each day. We need encouragement to overcome the fleshly nature. Christians are not perfect, but we do have a perfect Savior, with a perfect plan and has made perfect promises.

Third, there are smooth preachers among us. That is to say, there are those who preach what many wants to hear. They think preaching that attacks sin, our sinful nature, or hell is negative. The weak in faith may call that good preaching, but in reality it is dangerous for souls that need spiritual food. We need encouraged to recognize sin in ourselves, renounce it and forsake it. However, when one hears, "I'm O.K., you're O.K." messages, itching ears believe that "smooth sayings" and let their guard down. We need to be alert to (1) the wicked around us, (2) the sinfulness in us, and (3) the false teaching around us.

Fourth, We need to be encouraged to fellowship with those of like precious faith. In the last few years of my Christian life I have noticed a trend. The trend is toward ridicule of and withdrawal from times of assembly. There is a natural tendency to that end (See #2 above), but in recent times we have seen the midweek assembly ignored and removed from the schedule of some churches, and many Christians. This is usually accomplished by replacing it with other services with a "fun time" and by the dismissal of the evening worship time. We need to be encouraged and to encourage others to assemble as the body of Christ.

Fifth, there is the danger of drifting from sound doctrine. Paul warned the young preacher to "Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers." We need encouragement to remain sound doctrinally. This is especially true of young preachers. They go to college, gain some facts but perhaps are not mature enough or have not had the life experience to discern the application of truth. They may begin to think they are more spiritually astute than reality. Real problems may lie ahead for them and the congregation they serve. There is also the possibility of a professor who is weak in doctrine but impressive in personality and style. Therefore, we need to teach and encourage others to teach that ***"which is in accordance with sound doctrine,"*** Titus 2:1.

In addition to this, there is also the matter of false teachers. There has always been and will always be false teachers. This was true in the time of our Lord and the apostles (Matt. 24:11, 2 Peter 2:1 and 1 Timothy 1:3.). We also have prophecy from Jesus that this will continue until He returns. We need to encourage adherence to the Word

DAILY BURDENS CAN CAUSE DISCOURAGEMENT

So far, I have said nothing of the everyday causes of discouragement. We must endure rejection, loss of loved ones, loss of jobs, failures, negative people, serious personal illness and thousands of other life problems. Being the wise God He is, He has given us the Word itself for everyday encouragement to us. We, as Christians, must continue in the work of encouragement until the end. Encouragement is like breathing in and breathing out. We have to do it every day we can't store up oxygen. We can't live on yesterday's breath.

Start a Barnabas Club in your congregation. Meet regularly to encourage each other and to make a list of those you can encourage who are not part of the group. God bless you!

REDNECK DICTIONARY

BRIDAL, *n. and v.* A betrothed female and her future state. “If the preacher don’t move it along, the bridal be on Social Security before she leaves the church .

BULIMIA, *v. and n.* A demand that one accepts the speaker’s truthfulness. “Bulimia when I say I never had a better hamburger than this one.

DETENTION, *n.* Special notice taken of a person or thing. “Detention he gives that woman just makes me sick.”

PARANOIA, *n. and v.* Two living beings engaging in irritating behavior. “You can’t let that paranoia.”

Learning to Talk More Gooder Fastly, Redneck Dictionary III, Jeff Foxworthy

GOD OF CHRISTIANITY AND THE GOD OF ISLAM

Allah and the God of the Bible (Yahweh) share some similarities. Both are one (as opposed to the gods of pantheism or polytheism), transcendent, creators of the universe, sovereign, and omnipotent. Both have communicated through angels and prophets and will eventually judge all humankind. But the differences are so substantive that a common identity is impossible.

First, Allah is not a Trinity, but Yahweh is one God eternally manifest in three persons (Matthew 28:19).

Second, Allah cannot have a son (an idea that is considered blasphemous). The Christian heavenly Father has an eternal Son (John 3:16).

Third, Allah is not spirit. Yahweh is spirit (John 4:24).

Forth, Allah is only transcendent. Yahweh is both transcendent and immanent (Deuteronomy 4:39; Isaiah 57:15; Jeremiah 23:23-24).

Fifth, Allah brings about good and evil. Yahweh never engages in evil (1 John 1:5).

Sixth, Allah is not a Father (Sura 19:88-92; 112:3). Yahweh is a heavenly Father (Matthew 6:9).

Seventh, Allah loves only those who love him and obey him. Yahweh loves all people, including all sinners (Luke 15:11-24).

Eight, Allah desires to afflict people for their sins (Sara 5:49). Yahweh does “not wish that any

should perish, but come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

Ninth, Allah reveals only his laws and not himself. Yahweh has revealed Himself from the beginning.

Tenth, Allah has no objective basis for forgiving people. Yahweh does have an objective basis, the death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

In other words Allah bears no relationship to the one true God of the Bible.

IMPORTANT WORDS

The six most important words:

“I admit I made a mistake.”

The five most important words:

You did a good job.”

The four most important words:

“What is your opinion?”

The three most important words:

“If you please.”

The two most important words:

“Thank you.”

The most important word:

“We.”

The least important word:

“I”

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS

Cowards never start, the weak never finish, and winners never quit.

~

What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it.

~

I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.

~

I’m not sure the actual meaning of “maturity” but I think it means when a person hurts, you try to understand their situation rather than trying to hurt them back.

~

If you want to know where your heart is, look to where your mind goes when it wanders.

OPPORTUNITIES

Aug. 30 – Sept. 1 – Winning at Winchester, Winchester, VA, Doug Hardman, Director

Oct. 4 – 5 – Southwest Indiana Preaching Rally, Mark Sherwood, Jeff Ward, Directors

Oct. 8 – 10 – National Prayer Clinic, Grundy, VA, Jerry Bliffen, Director

SELF AFFLICTED DEPRESSION

A depressive was driving down a country road and had a flat tire. He looks in his trunk for a jack. Not finding one, he spots a farmhouse about a quarter-mile away with a truck in the front yard and says to himself, "I'll go borrow the farmer's jack." As the stranded motorist approaches the house, he is feeling bad – one reason for the failing to have a jack, and also for having to depend on someone else for help. As he get nearer the farmhouse, he begins to expect rejection and begins to get angry over that expectation. As he becomes more and more angry at his expected unmet dependency, he projects to the farmer the anger he feels in himself and the need for a jack. His disappointment grew. By the time he knocks on the door the farmer opens it, the depressive yells, "Keep your ole jack!"

This will most likely guarantee that he doesn't get the jack, so the motorist walks back, reconvened that you can't depend on others.

Very often our outlook and expectations determine the results that would otherwise be brighter.

C. S. LEWIS QUOTES

"It may be hard for an egg to turn into a bird: it would be a jolly sight harder for it to learn to fly while remaining an egg. We are like eggs at present. And you cannot go on indefinitely being just an ordinary, decent egg. We must be hatched or go bad."

"Has the world been so kind to you that you should leave with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind"

"The task of modern education is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts."

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

"You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body."

"Telling us to obey instinct is like telling us to obey people. People say different things; so do instincts. Instincts are gratified at the expense of rest.

HOW TO RAISE YOUR PARENTS

Don't be afraid to speak their language. Try to use strange sounding phrases like, "I'll help with the dishes," and maybe a "please."

Try to understand their music. Play "You are my sunshine," or "Will my chewing gum lose its flavor on the bedpost over night?"

Be patient with the under-achiever. When you catch your dieting mother sneaking salted peanuts, don't show your disapproval. Tell her you like fat mothers.

Encourage your parents to talk about their problems. Try to keep in mind that to them things like earning a living and paying off debts are very important. Remember, they're just parents.

Be tolerant of their appearance. When your dad gets a haircut, don't feel personally humiliated. It's important for him to look like his peers.

When they are wrong let them know it's their behavior you don't like, not them. They need to feel loved

Parents are fragile be gentle.

SACRIFING YOUNG FOR PLEASURE

The story of a butterfly named *Maculinea arion* is most instructive. The creature lays its eggs on a plant. And after feeding on the plant for several weeks, the young caterpillar makes its way to the ground. In order to complete its development, it must meet a certain kind of ant. When such an ant meets the caterpillar, the ant strokes it with its antennae, and the caterpillar exudes a sweet fluid from a special gland on its tenth segment. Apparently the ant likes this substance, because it then carries the caterpillar home to its nest. There the ants drink the sweet fluid exuded by the caterpillar, and the caterpillar feasts on larval ants. The caterpillar spends the winter in a special cavity of the ant's nest, and in the spring it continues eating young ants. Eventually it emerges as an adult butterfly and flies away to establish more of its kind. And the cycle starts all over again.

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.