

# The PARAKLETE

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## MAKING PEARLS

Have you ever wondered why some things cause you to lose your patience? Galatians 5:22-23 tells us patience is evidence we are born again, yet here we are giving evidence we are not. Patience displays to the world we are genuine Christians. Yet we “lose it” on occasion. How do we cooperate with the Holy Spirit in the area of patience?

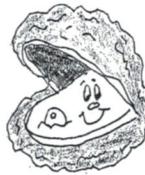
First we learn that patience is a choice. Throughout the Scriptures we read of men and women experiencing trials and tribulations. There are various types of reactions. Some grumbled against God because of a lack of water, Exodus 15:23, while others worshiped God in adversity, Job 1:20. Some cried out to God in despair, Psa. 18:6. There is great diversity in ways to respond, but what is important here is that we have a choice. We get to decide how we will react to adversity.

We can be patient and wait on God or we can be impatient and act out on our own. Those in Exodus chose to grumble while Job and David worshipped God. David wrote, *“In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From His temple He heard my voice and my cry to Him reached His ears,”* Psa. 18:6.

There are effects for which choice we make. For example the congregation that Moses was leading was mad and they grumbled, Num. 20:5. At this point in Moses’ journey, he had heard enough complaining from the people. I can imagine how Moses must have felt. However, God gave Moses a simple command, *“Tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water,”* Num. 20:8. Instead of speaking to the rock as told, Moses calls the people “rebels.” Num. 20:10, and proceeds to hit the rock with his staff twice.

Because of his lack of patience with the people, he made a poor decision and God did not allow Moses to enter the Promised Land, Num. 20:12. One simple, selfish decision cost Moses the promise and blessings of the Promised Land.

I think it might be enlightening to look at the things we do to ourselves when we fail to exercise patience. What are the results? Here are some:



We run the risk of being dissatisfied or upset with ourselves for our display of immaturity and lack of Christian growth.

We lose control of ourselves and not allowing God time to do His work.

We waste energy worrying about how slow things are developing rather than working on a solution.

We sometimes withdraw prematurely from helping a situation because there is no immediate action.

We turn off others in our life that by our show of immaturity, that is a lack of self-discipline in yielding to the Holy Spirit who teaches patience.

We become pessimistic about life, seeing only the “half-empty cup” rather than the “half-filled cup.”

We get in such a hurry to fix things that it blinds us and we do not see the blessings.

We burn ourselves out in the pursuit of vain goals and have nothing left to pursue the goals of God.

We can, and often do, discourage those who witness words and or actions that shatter their respect for us and we lose our witness.

We lose the ability to take a large issue and break it down into manageable increments.

We become overwhelmed by what seems too big for God and react because it IS too big for us.

What can we do to develop true patience? Here are a few suggestions:

Stay focused on the ultimate goal. *“Be patient then, brothers, until the Lord’s coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patience he is for autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord’s coming is near,”* James 5:7-8. We can’t will things done, but we can stay focused and wait on the Lord.

Think before speaking or acting. *“A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly,”* Prov.15:1-2.

Many times just waiting a little longer for more information will change our thoughts and words. Isaac Newton said his greatest discovery owed more to patience than other talents.

## MAKING PEARLS

Allow God time to work. In other words, trust God and be still. *“Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes,”* Prov. 37:7. When the people of Israel complained to Moses, he replied, *“The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still,”* Exodus 14:14. This is a hard lesson for us humans but being still while waiting on God pays great spiritual dividends.

We all have to deal with trials and problems. These things help in keeping our mind on our ultimate destiny. However, that’s exactly what we have to do – keep our minds on the great, ultimate goal.

Though Paul was in prison he wrote these words to encourage those who were not, *“As a prisoner for the Lord, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle, be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace,”* Eph. 4:1-3.

- It is hard to be patient with some people, even Christians...but we must.
- Why was He patient with us in giving us time to repent, because He loves us?
- Without patience we blur and evidence of the other fruit of the Spirit.
- Why is it hard to be patient in general? Because we think we have to be in control.

There is a little story I have read many times in various publications and I don’t recall who to give credit to. However I think it fits perfectly into our discussion of patience and letting things get under your skin.

There once was an oyster whose story I tell  
Who found that sand had got under his shell?  
Just a little grain but it caused him much pain  
For oysters have feeling although they’re so plain.  
Now did he berate the working of fate?  
Which led him to such a deplorable state?  
Did he spend many ours in self-pitting reflection?  
Did he curse the government, call for an election?  
No, as he lay on the shelf he said to himself,  
If I can’t remove it, I’ll try to improve it.  
So the years rolled by as the years always do  
And he came to his ultimate fate-Stew.  
And the grain of sand which had bothered him so  
Was a beautiful pearl all richly aglow!  
Now this tale has a moral for isn’t it grand  
What an oyster can do with a morsel of sand?  
What couldn’t we do if we’d only begin?  
With all the things that get under our skin?

## PDENNY’S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

**Apr. 24-25 Attend Bible Research Conference, Pinehurst Christian Church, Marietta, OH**

## DANNY EVANS’ SCHEDULE

**Huntington, WBW 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677  
Feb 10-13 Winter Worship and Workshop,**

## THE TRINITY

The most fundamental objection to the Trinity is that it violates a fundamental law that God can’t be both one and three at the same time. But this is a big mistake based on human logic.

According to the law of non-contradiction, two propositions are contradictory if they both affirm and deny the same thing, at the same time, and in the same sense or in the same relationship. (I know that sounds like gibberish but do the best you can).

The doctrine of the Trinity, however, does not affirm that God is both one and three in the same sense or relationship. Rather, it affirms that God is one and only one in His essence, but He is three in His persons. Therefore, the Trinity is not a contradictory. Person and essence are different. Person reveals who He is, and essence refers to what He is. So the Trinity does not refer to three different “who” in one who (which would be a contradiction), but three different “who” in one “what” which is not a contradiction.

So even though the Trinity is a mystery that goes beyond human reason, it is not a contradiction that goes against reason. To comprehend how three persons can exist in one nature is beyond our finite abilities, but to apprehend the non-contradictory nature of both premises is not beyond our finite ability.

## IT PAYS TO ASK QUESTIONS

Some cowboys were riding across the prairie when they came across an Indian lying down with his ear to the ground. As they stood over him he said, “Stagecoach, four horses, three women, four men,” One of the cowboys said, “How can you tell that?” The Indian said, “Ran over me fifteen minutes ago.”

## OR NOT

Saffo took his over-weight wife to the doctor while he waited in the car.

When she returned he asked her, “What did he say about your excess baggage?”

She replied, “He did even mention your name.”



**- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -**  
**REVELATION 3:14-22**

I love the New Testament Church. I have been in church since before I was born. I had parents that were active in the body of Christ and they were in the assembly each Lord's Day and thus I was there before and after I was born. Church has always been part of my life but I have to admit I understand what being a part of the church of Laodicea is like. There was a time when I was neither hot nor cold but just lukewarm. I was in the church but not living the life. I was going through the motions and telling myself that I was okay and I was as good as other Christians. I was part of the "check list" movement. That is attend, sing, and take the Lord's Supper and sit through sermons and feel good about myself. That secured me with God...in my mind. I was not close to Him, but I felt everything was good between us. I thank God that I came to the true meaning of having a relationship with God.

Is the church today facing a Laodicea crisis? Do we, as a whole, have a false impression of salvation, being lukewarm, not taking Christianity seriously? Are some putting their hope in a certificate of baptism, expecting that to usher us into heaven?

Church attendance is suffering because many have no conviction about the Lord's Day. Sunday is just another day to some and when it is convenient they will be in the assembly. Missing the Lord's Supper is no big deal and therefore other things come first and, to them God is so loving He'll understand. Oh, they say, "we love God," but they just don't have time for Him. Some say, "later in life when things slow down I'll go to church."

I find it amazing how we detest it when we go out to eat and when our food arrives it isn't warm, as it should be. We don't hesitate for to inform the waiter that we don't want lukewarm food or when the coffee is just lukewarm. We take action to correct the problem. However, how dare anyone question our love for God because of lukewarm spirituality, taking no time to pray or worship. It seems we like lukewarm when we are the one delivering it.

It seems that each preacher I talk to speaks of lowered attendance and the difficulty in getting people to come to worship. Let's remember that in Rev, 3:14-22, John records that an angel was aware of the deeds of Laodicea. God knew their heart and He knows ours also. As John wrote he made it very clear that the lukewarm behavior did not set well with God. In fact it made Him sick and he wanted to spit them out of His mouth. Could that still be

the case for many who are just "playing church" or not giving God time and honor? I have to admit that I sometimes need to be reminded that Jesus went to the cross for my sins. He took our sins on Himself paying the price for my sins so I can live faithfully. Is going to worship and being active too much to ask of us?

Wouldn't it be nice to see the church houses full again? They could be if people would get serious about a deeper commitment to God. If you are reading this there is an answer to being lukewarm and how to "turn up the thermostat." We have to admit we are lukewarm and repent and do His will. You have to read, listen, and think on God's word. Paul tells us in Romans 12:2, "**do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**" Changing our minds will help us in the transformation. Without a changed mind and heart there will be no change spiritually. Being lukewarm is not pleasing to God. So may we allow God to work in our lives to make changes that will cause us to be more pleasing to the Master!

**HENRY AND  
SWEETIE SAY:**



S: Henry, they are asking for volunteers to staff the nursery. Let's do it.

H: Why would I want to volunteer to listen to babies cry and have to change diapers? I went through all that with my kinds and grand kids.

S: I think it would be fun to take care of the babies during the worship hour.

H: Let the young couples do it. They are the ones that fill up the nursery.

S: Henry that is not a proper attitude. They need to be encouraged by the message and fellowship.

H: And don't you think we need encouraged also?

S: We have had our time in the worship service. We are more mature and should show it by taking care of the young couple's babies. They will enjoy fellowship with the older Christians also.

H: As I was saying I think it would be nice to hold a baby so mothers and fathers could worship without the worry and attendance the babies' needs.

S: Henry you are so considerate.

H: You noticed that did you?

Mark 1:14, 16 "**...let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. And, He took the children in his arms, Put his hand on them and blessed them.**"

## WHAT WE PROCLAIM

**TEXT: 1 Cor. 8:4-6**

**INTRO:** Much modern preaching is anemic, with the life blood of God's nature absent from the messages. Man has sinned yet much preaching is man-centered, but the Gospel of Christ starts with God and his glory. The holy God was offended and He will not ignore sin.

Sigmund Freud, the father of contemporary psychology said "God was an invention to respond to the basic fears of man...this god was invented to protect them." How utterly ridiculous! Men like him wish to escape accountability as we read in Romans 1:19-20, 28. As preachers we must proclaim the message of Christ, which is:

### I. THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOD (8:4)

#### A. ACKNOWLEDGE HIM FIRST

1. First step of faith – Heb. 11:6
2. There are no other gods – 1 Cor. 8:4
3. Job's questions to deniers 38:4-7

#### B. HE IS PERSONAL

1. Sinners can know Him, Jer. 29:13
2. He is: Father, Shepherd, Friend, Counselor
3. Personal pronouns, He, Him, His
4. He wants to "reason" with us Isa, 1:18

#### C. HE IS SPIRIT

1. He is worshipped in spirit, John 4:24
2. Described as door, vine, bread
3. None gives his full essence but are for human understanding

### II. GOD IS DIVERSE (8:5)

#### A. HE IS ONE (6)

1. Announced by Moses, Deut. 6:4
2. He is not many as in polytheism
3. All things are from Him, Rom. 3:29-30

#### B. HE IS THREE IN ONE

1. We see all three at Jesus' baptism
2. Gen 1:26 "Let US make man in our..."
3. Gen 11:7 "Let US go down..."
4. Each reveal the total (Father – established the plan, Son – purchased the plan, Holy Spirit – seals the plan)

### III. GOD OF WRATH (7-8)

#### A. FOR THOSE WHO IGNORE HIM

1. Not everyone knows God
2. God will not be ignored
3. "If we ignore salvation..." Heb. 2:3
4. God's wrath is revealed – See Rom. 1:18

#### B. NATURE OF WRATH

1. Old Testament Words
  - a. Charah – To burn in fury – Num. 25:3
  - b. Charon – Burning, Fierce – Ex. 32:12
  - c. Za'am – Furious
2. Why Wrath – He is holy and can't dwell with ungodliness – Rom. 1:18-20
3. They dishonor Him – verse 21

### IV. GOD OF REDEMPTION

#### A. MERCY AND GRACE

1. God does not change, Mal. 3:6, James 1:17
2. John 3:16 reveals God through the ages
3. His plan to save has always been the same

#### B. RECAP WHAT WE LEARNED

1. There is one true God... Jehovah
2. He is diverse to meet our need
3. If he were not wrathful against sin, sin would go to heaven...**NOT LIKELY**

2 Sam. 22:2-3 "*The Lord is my rock my fortress and my deliverer. My God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my strong hold my refuge and my savior.*"

In Mark 11:22 when the disciples saw the fig tree withered that Jesus had cursed Peter asked Jesus to look at it, as if he marveled at the sight. Jesus just remarked with four words: "*Have faith in God.*"

## AMERICA

Paul Harvey was one of the best radio personalities in the sense of his delivery. However, what he delivered is worth remembering. Here is one message we need to remember.

"America will whip the enemy nation: then give them the shirt off their backs to restore their cities.

He knows the line-up of numerous ball teams, but only half the words of the Star Spangled Banner.

He gets mad at his wife for not running their home with the efficiency of a hotel, and get mad at the hotel for not being like his home.

He takes numerous vitamins to make him live longer, then travels 90 miles an hour on a rain slick highway in order to make up time.

An American will work hard on the farm so he can move to the city so he can earn enough money to move back to the farm.

He complains about his wife's cooking and yet will go on a camping trip and eat half fried potatoes, burnt fish, and coffee made out of creek water, and say, "Isn't this great?"

At the office he talks about baseball, football, fishing, and then goes to a game and talks about business.

He speaks unkindly about his government but will fight any foreigner who does.

We live in the most civilized Christian nation in the entire world, and yet we deliver a payroll in an armored truck. We have more experts on marriage, and yet divorces.

An American will toss a beer can out his car window, will drop a gum wrapper on the street, throw cigarette butts almost anywhere, plant automobile graveyards along the highway, and hide our mountains with bill boards; but when he goes to the local civic club and sings, "America, the Beautiful", he has a lump in his throat! That's the real America!" – Paul Harvey.

As I read this I thought that's not a pretty picture of America, but it is real. Oh, someone can make a few changes and updates to Paul's words...but that's our country, word's and all.

We are far from perfect, but I wouldn't trade this country for any other. We have a lot of freedom to be ourselves. We are a fallen people in a fallen world, yet America is as good as it gets in this life.

We can buy a home, a car, live where we want and we can worship our Creator and Savior freely. There are many things that need improved upon, but while I wait on Jesus I want to live in America, with its cigarette butts, gum wrappers and all.

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

## A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

### Study Number One Hundred Nine – Encouragement in Freedom

In everyone's life there is some sin that seems to have more of a mastery over them (us) than others do not. Why is that? Even the Apostle Paul confessed that he too had the same problem. He wrote, ***"We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good,"*** Romans 7:14-15

Held as slaves to a sin! I know of no one who has read these words of Paul who has not said, "I know what he's speaking of because I have the same problem." The sins we speak of are not necessarily gross sin, but they are sins and they are secret sins because we do not go around boasting of them. We keep them to ourselves.

The questions we would like the answer to are: "Why?" and "How do I deal with it?" What we desire is freedom from it. Freedom is a wonderful word to all. We all value freedom highly and delight in being free. In my younger years I was a slave to tobacco but have been free from its addiction for 53 years, all my Christian life. I am so free from it that I could not be bribed, or forced to do it again and have no desire to do it ever again. Thank God.

One of the most encouraging themes in the Bible is that we are now free in Christ Jesus. Those whom Jesus spoke with and taught in the New Testament must have been elated to be free from sin, and some even free from diseases, couldn't walk, see, or hear. The freedom that the apostles spoke of however, was not a political or physical freedom but a spiritual one. It was an inner freedom that allows us to live above the circumstances of life.

Today there are many who are trapped in some bondage of depression, abusive relationships, addiction or some other situation. This world is not a godly environment and for the most part is not Christian-friendly. Therefore, the freedom Christ has given us allows us to live in this world but not be "of" this world.

The reason some, who are truly Christian, do not enjoy this freedom in Christ is because they do not understand the breath of redemption. Christ has purchased us from the world by His atoning death on the cross. We now serve a new Master. When we made the choice to obey the Gospel, it brings Christ into our lives to serve God. As Paul wrote, we no longer serve the "law of sin and death." Phil. 2:12 states ***"...work out you're salvation with fear and trembling."*** In Eph. 6:5 the word "trembling" (TROMOS) is translated "sincerity." This does not mean that we save ourselves with trembling or sincerity, salvation is of the Lord. It does mean that we cooperate with the Spirit of God by neither quenching nor ignoring the presence of the Spirit of God given to us as He promised in Acts 2:38.

In the Greek and Romans culture the word "redemption" literally refers to the purchase of a slave from the marketplace with the purpose of giving the slave freedom. The word could mean "ransom" and describes what Jesus did for us. Jesus paid the ransom for our souls because of the love of God for us. In Revelation 5:9 we read "And they sang a new song: ***'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'***"

Jesus taught His disciple His purpose for coming to earth, ***"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many,"*** Matt. 20:28. Paul also referred to the redemptive purpose of Jesus when he wrote, ***"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all,"*** 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:5-6a. We know from this that in the mind of God we have been purchased off the slave market of sin and have been placed upon the solid rock of Jesus Christ. We are now His and with that knowledge we should be inspired to do as we know He would want of us. He came to serve us, now we many serve him with acceptable service because in His mind we have been cleansed.



Since God has made up His mind that our faith in the Son has cleansed us from all sin we must trust His judgement. ***“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,”*** Col. 1:13-14. We can serve but one master, we will either serve God and righteousness or the world. Jesus said no man can serve two masters. The Scriptures tell us ***“Having been set free from sin, you became slaves to righteousness,”*** Rom. 6:18.

Freedom does not mean that there are no more temptations and that the world and the devil have vanished or no longer try to win us to them. It means that now, being in Christ and the Holy Spirit in us, we are qualified to serve the living God. Before salvation we could do outward things that appear to be serving the Lord, but in reality those works did not please Him. However, now we are free to serve Him in a way that pleases Him.

No person is ever entirely free from temptation, but we can experience a release from periods or a time of temptation. That is displayed in Jesus when He was in the wilderness being tempted by the devil. The tempter came to Jesus with three different temptations and each time, Jesus refuted him with the Word of God. In the final round, Jesus commanded the devil, ***“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘you shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve,’”*** Matt. 4:10. At that, the Bible tells us, ***“the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him,”*** verse 11. There was a definitive end to this season of temptation in Jesus’ life. Temptations are for a season.

This does not mean that Jesus was never tempted again. It only means that Jesus was in full freedom as He conducted His ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing. But in those temptations of the devil Jesus settled the issue of His loyalty to God and He was never again tempted in those points.

You and I have a tendency to sin in certain ways. The devil knows that and it is at our weakest point that he comes to tempt us and at times it seems unrelenting. So how can we experience freedom from these steady attempts to get us to sin? By using the same method that Jesus used, we can speak the Word of God every time that tempter whispers his lies to us.

Are there times that you don’t even “feel like a Christian”? Christianity is not a feeling based faith but is based on an educated mind and a willing heart. In other words it is a belief in facts in Scripture not a subjective inner feeling. Regardless of what temptation you may experience, God has provided a passage in His Word that applies to your specific situation and we can use it as a ***“sword of the Spirit,”*** Eph. 6:17. We are to submit to God and resist the devil, James 4:7, and the devil will leave (temporarily).

So how do we resist the devil? Pray has a place in our resistance. When faced with a recurring temptation, we must ask for the help of the Holy Spirit in withstanding the temptation. Jesus said that we are to pray, “do not lead us into temptation.” In other words, do not allow us to get into a situation in which we are subject to the devil’s temptation, Matt. 6:13. In my personal expression: “Do not take a lighted match into a room full of gasoline.”

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, He had said to His disciples, ***“Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak,”*** Matt. 26:41. We are to rehearse God’s Word to the tempter, or temptation and to ask God for strength.

Remember, everyone is tempted. Many people become discouraged when they still experience temptation after they are born again. The fact is all people are tempted, for all of their lives. We are never beyond temptation. It is not God who causes the temptation but He does allow us to be tested. However the Holy Spirit can help us withstand evil. We must never justify our behavior by saying “The devil made me do it,” or “God made me so weak I couldn’t help myself.” The Holy Spirit is our strong ally in helping us withstand temptation. We can resist the devil. The good news is that when we do resist the devil, he will flee from us, James 4:7. However, we must be on guard always because he will return.

***“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised those who love Him,”*** James 1:12.

## REDNECK DICTIONARY

**DISPLAY**, *n.*: An attempt to describe an entertaining event one had enjoyed. “*Me and ole Billy Bob saw **display** and at the end dis fat lady sang.*”

**IMPENDING**, *adj.*: A description of an activity to one who was not there. “*It was an impressive ceremony, but the best part was when we saw **impending** the metal on his jacket.*”

**CHLOROPHYLL**, *n. and v.*: Indicating an activity which girl named Clora will do. “*Never mind those empties, **chlorophyll** um later.*”

**ACUTE**, *adj. and adv.*: A description of an individual as compared to others. “*I never saw so many girls before and the one on the left is **acute** one.*” Home made using principles from Jeff Foxworthy’s *Learning the Talk More Gooder Fastly Redneck Dictionary.*

## CHURCH THOUGHTS

“No sooner is a temple built to God, but the Devil builds a chapel near by.” – unknown

“America has become so tense and nervous, it has been years since I’ve seen anyone asleep in church and that is a sad situation.” – Norman Vincent Peale

“Is it too hot to go the church? What about hell?”  
– Some preacher in Dayton, OH

“Christianity, one who believes that the New Testament is a divinely inspired book admirably suited to the spiritual needs of his neighbor.”

–Ambrose Bierce

“Christianity is a battle, not a dream.”

Wendell Phillips

## MARRIAGE

A woman had finished shopping and exited the busy store at the same time as another woman did, equally loaded down with bags. The two of them looked around, trying to spot their cars in the crowded parking lot.

Just then the first woman’s car horn beeped, and she pinpointed its location. Impressed the second woman said, “I sure could use a gadget like that to help me find my car.”

The first woman replied, “Actually that gadget is my husband.”

TO REMEMBER YOUR WIFE’S BIRTHDAY, FORGET IT ONCE

## GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS

Today, talking about sin is not politically correct. Many seeker-sensitive churches rarely even mention the word. Sin is an outdated and offensive concept. People might not come to church if they are offended.

The truth is such a viewpoint is foolish. Suppose a medical doctor were to say to you that disease is a totally outdated concept. Though you see evidence the disease exists, sufferings of all kinds, but the doctor assures you that disease does not exist. Such a doctor would do you no good. If you were sick, he wouldn’t be able to help you because he wouldn’t accurately diagnose your problem.

In the same way, some people today avoid talking about sin even though the evidence for sin is everywhere. Watch the evening news this evening. You’ll find overwhelming evidence to confirm that people have made a mess of their lives because of sin.

More importantly, if people do not recognize sin, they will never go to the cure of their spiritual ills, Jesus Christ, the Savior. A weak view of sin always produces a weak view of salvation. A weak view of sin blinds people to the need for a Savior.

## RANDOM QUOTES OF UNKNOWNNS

“Experience teaches best, it is individual taught.”

“I have never been hurt by anything I didn’t say.”

“All marriages are happy, but living together afterwards that causes all the trouble.”

“At 50, everyone has the face they deserve.”

“Old age is when you use one bend-over to pick up more than one thing.”

“Good judgement comes from experience, and experience comes from poor judgments.”

“The art of being wise is in knowing what to overlook.”

## AGING WITH HUMOR

As an elderly couple were lying in bed one morning and he reaches for her hand. She say, “Don’t touch me, I’m dead.” He asked, “Why do you say that?” She replied, “Because nothing hurts!”

## OPPORTUNITIES

**April 24-25** – Bible Research Conference, Pinehurst Christian Church, Marietta, OH – Contact Troy Northrop, 419-564-9743

**May 14-16** – Rock Lake Family Camp, Vestaburg, MI – Contact Terry Strickler, 517-282-9653

### PLAYING HURT

Lou Gehrig played first base for the New York Yankees for 15 years. They called him the “Iron Horse” of baseball. He’s known for hitting home runs in seven different World Series. But he’s not famous for that. He’s famous for the fact that he played 2130 games without ever missing a game. Every time they played he was on the field, in the game. When he retired, they x-rayed his hands. Every finger had been broken once; some twice; and some three times! But he never missed a game! What did he do? He played when he was hurt.

Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig’s record in September of 1995. He played in 2632 consecutive games, despite numerous injuries and because of his reliability to “show up” for work every day, they called him “The Iron Man.” He played for the same team, the Baltimore Orioles and never missed a single game in 17 seasons.

Some say: “I could never do something like that.” The fact is: If you don’t learn how to play when you’re hurt physically you won’t.

*From: Treasures From My Basement*  
Wayne B. Smith

### AFTER THE HONEYMOON

A young couple went on a cruise for their honeymoon. When they returned the bride called her mother. “How was the honeymoon?” asked the mother.

“The honeymoon was fine.” She replied. “But as soon as we returned to the apartment, he began using horrible language. Things I’d never heard before, terrible four-letter words. I want to come home.”

Alarmed, the mother asked, “What four-letter words?” The bride replied, “Dust, iron, wash, and cook.”

### THE GREATEST

The greatest thought is God.  
The greatest thing is holiness.  
The greatest motive is love.  
The greatest challenge is life.

The greatest waste of time and energy is pride.

### MORE THAN FACES ON MONEY

“No man will ever bring out of the presidency the reputation which carries him into it.”

- Thomas Jefferson

“My movements to the chair of government will be accompanied by feelings not unlike those of a culprit who is going to the place of his execution.”

- George Washington

“Seriously I don’t think I am fit for the presidency.”

- Abraham Lincoln

“Had I been chosen president again, I am certain I could not have lived another year.”

- John Adams

“The four most miserable years of my life.”

- John Adams

“Within the first few months I discovered that being a president is like riding a tiger. A man has to keep riding or be swallowed.”

- Harry Truman

“I sit here all day trying to persuade people to do the things they ought to have sense enough to do without my persuading them...that’s all the powers of the President amount to.”

- Harry Truman

“The White House is the finest prison in the world.”

- Harry Truman

### VIEW FROM A CHILD

A Sunday school teacher was telling a group of 4-year olds about Jesus, Joseph, and Mary. After the lesson the kids were asked to draw a picture depicting their favorite part of the story. The teacher received picture of the baby Jesus in the manger surrounded by animals, pictures of three wise men etc.

One drawing puzzled her. It was a picture of an airplane with 4 people in it. She called the artist up to explain his picture. H pointed out Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus, and said that this was their “flight” to Egypt. The teacher then asked about the other man in the plane. “One, that’s Pontius the pilot.”

### 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.