



The PARAKLETE

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ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES

Ever had one of those days...or a series of days when it seems you can't take any more or some problem(s) is so great you feel like giving up? I think everyone has had such periods in their life. We may even cry out "Why me?" if not aloud maybe quietly to ourselves.

It is natural when adversity strikes to try to remove the problem by avoidance or just giving up. However, to do either is to miss perhaps the greatest blessings in one's life. When the Apostle Paul went through such a period in his life, the Spirit wrote for us God's message to Paul: **"And He said unto me...My strength is made perfect in weakness,"** 2 Corinthians 12:9.

Adversity is God's way of getting our attention. Adversity is trouble, affliction, opposition, pressure, chastening, anguish, testing or tribulation. It is any opposition that is greater than our ability to resolve alone.

God's greatest competition for our time, affection and attention, is the cares of this world. These cares hold our attention and rob us of thinking on His word, Matt. 13:18-22

We are always busy with our plans, projects, and friends. In the background is the voice of God saying, "I tried to teach you but you would not hear me."

Then adversity continues, and human strength is drained, and we should hear **"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest, Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light,"** Matt. 11:28-30.

God's ultimate purpose in our trials is to get our attention so we may be conformed to the image of Christ. Adversity may become destructive if we fail to see the hand of God behind it. That's what He promised some Israelites who ignored Him.

"But the people have not returned to him who struck them, nor have they sought the Lord Almighty. So the Lord will cut off from Israel both head and tail both palm



and branch and reed in a single day," Isaiah 9:13-14.

Satan will try to convince us that God has forsaken us while we are going through our adversities. In reality adversity may be proof that God is lovingly preparing us for His glory.

"Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?" Heb. 12:7. Read Hebrews 12:1-11. In the physical world if it were not for pain we would do very severe damage to our bodies. Without the sharp warnings we would harm ourselves without realizing it. In the spiritual realm the same principle applies.

We love to talk of grace in the Lord's church and we should. However, we must not forget that while God's grace is free, there is one essential requirement to receive it: Humility. **"But he gives more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble,"** Heb. 4:6.

Adversity is our motive. **"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from their troubles,"** Psa.34:17. That should be our first response.

Our next response to adversity should be to focus not on outward circumstances but to realize that we are dealing with unseen spiritual powers. **"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms,"** Eph. 6:12.

A good soldier must know his enemy and prepare himself for battle, and be skilled in the use of his weapons to combat him. If we do not recognize the adversity is spiritual, we will be overwhelmed and tempted to give up.

"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour," 1 Peter 5:8.

Adversity is God's method of purifying our faith in Him. Peter writes, **"...though now for a little while**

WINGS OF EAGLES

You may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith of greater worth than gold which perishes even though refined by fire may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed," 1 Peter 1:6-7. Faith is essential for Christian living because the ways of God are opposite to the natural inclinations of man. A by-product of adversity is learning patience. The lack of this fruit of the Spirit in our lives may be why it is so difficult to practice.

It is when adversity strikes that we should take time to re-evaluate our priorities. Perhaps the lack of time with the Lord and in His word that directly or indirectly has plowed fertile ground for adversity. That is to say the lack of meditation on spiritual matters has created weaknesses that need addressed and the adversity is prompting us to attend to it.

We live in two worlds as Christians. This often creates an inner conflict. What is seen with our eyes is in the temporal world and what is not is eternal. *"...For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal,"* 2 Corinthians 4:18.

Adversity is not to defeat us but to strengthen us. Look at the benefits of turbulent winds through the eyes of an eagle. 1. Strong winds cause the eagle to fly higher. 2. It gives the eagle a larger view. 3. It lifts the eagle above the harassment of the lower world. 4. It takes less effort for the eagle to fly as he is lifted up by the turbulence. 5. He can stay aloft longer by these winds. 6. He can actually fly faster in the turbulence.

The power of the Christian to rise above pressures and temptations comes from our identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ: *"That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death,"* Philippians 3:10. While we may not see how "all things work together for good" surely knowing the character of God makes us know it does.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint," Isaiah 40:31.

The power of flight is stronger than the power of gravity. Like the law of gravity, the law of sin constantly pulls downward, but the power of our God to overcome the power of sin is like the wings of the eagle.

DENNY'S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

May 3 – June 28 – (Sunday evenings) teaching a series on the dangers of Islam and the contrast with Christianity – Central Christian Church, Derek Stump, Evangelist

DANNY EVANS' SCHEDULE

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

SWEETIE GOES HOME

In 2004 two dear people Bob and Marlene Creamer made their first appearance as Henry and Sweetie in skits at Pigeon Forge at the Winter Worship and Workshop. They appeared in writing in 2006 in the Paraklete under the heading "Henry and Sweetie Say:" On March 3, 2020 Sweetie (Marlene) went home to be with the Lord Jesus.

Marlene was 79 years of age and passed away from this life peacefully after a ten-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. She with Bob was a faithful member of the Glen Alice Christian Church in Rockwood, TN. In her secular life she was retired as Utility Clerk and Clerk of the Mayor's Court of Cedarville, OH. She was a gifted quilter and operated a quilt shop in Cedarville and happily gave quilting lessons for many years. Her gift as a quilter is displayed in a beautiful quilt she pieced together for the Tennessee Valley Theatre in Spring City, TN.

She came alive as Sweetie in the comical skits as the wife of Henry (Bob) at WWW. I know Bob has man cherished memories of Marlene. She was remembered in a memorial service at Glen Alice Christian Church March 9th as well as a memorial service at the Jeffersonville Church of Christ in Jeffersonville, OH March 23rd. She was laid to rest at the North Cemetery in Cedarville. Due to financial burdens in lieu of flowers, the family requests donations are made to Bob to help with expenses.

Please pray for Bob who will continue to serve the Lord in a capacity as the Lord leads. What a blessing it has been to have Henry and Sweetie as part of the Barnabas team. Sweetie has gone home and we must pray and support "Henry."

CHAIN REACTION

What we give He takes, what He takes He cleanses, what He cleanses He fills, what He fills He uses. *"Therefore, I urge you brothers in view of God's mercy to offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship."* Romans 12:1

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

As you read this article I am not certain where we will be when it comes to the subject of the Coronavirus. But as I sit here writing we are in the middle of a national emergency. Today (3/15) my state, West Virginia, is the only state with no confirmed cases of death. I struggle each issue with what to write about that may help people to be encouraged and to strengthen the body of Christ. This month is no exception and with the schedule that is coming up I am writing this a little ahead of the usual time and I thought I would write on a subject that concerns me as we go through this crisis. The topic is one of those four letter words that I am witnessing more that I hear if actually verbalized. The topic is FEAR! I sense fear in many different sectors of our community, our state, our nation and worldwide, Again, I don't hear the actual word stated but I certainly see fear or, at least what I would call fear, in the discussions on the subject or on each report that is aired on the news. You may choose a different word such as panic, terror, anxiety, distress or alarm to describe the situation but all of these I feel are interchangeable.

We may laugh at some actions people had taken: stocking up on toilet paper and disinfectant spray, but when I walked into the local grocery and saw the empty shelves, it appeared as panic. Church services have been cancelled, restaurants and schools closed to fight the virus.

My overall concern is the fact that I have heard only a few express their faith in the Father knowing He is in control. It just seemed to me that most expressions are fear not faith. Perhaps this article should be titled "Fear or Faith."

Please do not misunderstand me. I am very concerned about the situation with the Coronavirus. I have friends with weakened physical health and have immune systems that cannot handle more medical stress. I know people who are concerned about upcoming medical procedures and surgeries that may be cancelled. I understand these things, but my major concern is due to too little faith in our Heavenly Father that He would be with us.

Paul wrote to Timothy concerning fear and anxiety in this way: ***"For God has not given up a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline,"*** 2 Timothy 1:7. Luke also speaks to this matter: ***"I say to you, my friends do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear; fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"*** Luke 12:4, 5.

Not all fear is bad; in fact it may even save our lives. Fear is defined by Webster as "1. An unpleasant often strong emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger, 2. Anxious concern, 3. Profound reverence and awe especially toward God and, 4. Reason for alarm: Danger. I certainly like the third definition of this word and would like for us to allow that thought to dominate

our minds during this medical emergency. I want us to trust God and be assured that He is in control of this matter and all others that we may face in the future.

As I was gathering some thoughts I found four quotes that I want to share with you and I hope bring calm to all of us. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," Franklin D. Roosevelt; "Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death," – Unknown; "Fears are stories we tell ourselves," Unknown and "Don't fear just live right," – Neal A. Maxwell. Statics have proven that a vast majority of the things we fear never become reality. Some of the things we are imagining about this virus probably may not come to reality. So if we heed the warnings, and follow instructions of our local health department and the CDC, we run a very good chance that we will not be affected by the virus. I encourage you to put your faith in God and allow Him to lead. May I also encourage you to look in God's Word for strength for when we are looking for answers the best place is in the Word.

Fear is an emotion and a pessimist is controlled by it. An optimist controls his emotion. Be encouraged and don't let the Devil create fear that causes doubt. God promised us that He would not leave us nor forsake us. Trust the Lord and talk to Him often and I know He will bring you strength and comfort during the uncertainty this virus has caused.

SAVE-THE-CHILDREN MINISTRIES, INC.

Marv and Jan Westfall are Founders and Directors of the Save-The-Children Ministries, Inc. with offices in Winder and Athens, GA. Marv sang with Art Bush at WWW in Pigeon Forge this year and mentions briefly this ministry, Several people approached Marv wanting to know more about this ministry and how to contact them.

S.C.M. offers counseling for teen pregnancies, work too\ secure housing, helps pregnant teens finish high school, and works toward adoption when needed. During this time they witness about the saving grace of Jesus.

For more information you may call Marv and Jan at 706-202-9712 or 706-540-4317. You may also reach them electronically by email at: savethechildinc@yahoo.com.

This is a much needed ministry and is demanding for those working in it. Barnabas Ministries endorses this ministry and ask that you pray for Marv, Jan, and the faculty.

For a ship to run a straight course, you can have one pilot and one steering wheel. The same applies to the successful operation of a business. There cannot be a steering wheel at every seat to an organization.

-Jules Ormont

HUMAN REASON AND THE BIBLE

TEXT: John 2:18-23

INTRO: A well know Bible teacher was asked what he considered his greatest need was. He replied that his greatest spiritual need was that he was conscience of many lacks but the greatest is he knows too little about the Word. That was a surprise. He explained that he knew enough to know how great a difference there is between his human knowledge and the great wisdom found in the Bible. This is the great need of all Christians. No one ever understood spiritual truth apart from the Bible...there is no other means. Some think human reason is the way to real spiritual truth but that is a blind alley spiritually that leads to heresies. Some think an inner voice reveals spiritual truth but nothing could be furthermore from the truth. Usually the inner voice reveals our desires. Some think super natural events (miracles) will lead men and women to know more but that is false, it is only though the Bible truth is known.

- I. **HUMAN REASON IS FLAWED**
 - A. **IT MISSES THE OBVIOUS**
 1. Jesus cleansed the temple in previous text. His disciples recalled the prophecy, Ps. 69:9
 2. He spoke of His body as the temple to be raised They thought he meant the temple Joseph built
 3. They didn't see the hand of God
 - B. **PORCH LIGHTS ON, BUT NO ONE IS AT HOME**
 1. In Las Vegas the gamble with slot machines
 2. Slots whirl, pictures appear and "clunk" nothing
 3. So...gamblers do it again same result "clunk"
 4. Jesus taught Nicodemus about birth, but "clunk"
 5. Jesus spoke words of the Holy Spirit..."clunk"
 6. Over and over again the spiritual was missed
 - C. **THE CHURCH GOES "CLUNK"AS WELL**
 1. Disciples thought Jesus spoke of food, not spiritual work at the well. John 4
 2. Human beings can't use human reason for truth
 3. Only the Spirit speaks spiritual wisdom, 1 Cor. 1:8-10 that man can't imagine.
- II. **THE ROOTS OF UNBELIEF IN THE HEART**
 - A. **HUMAN NATURE IS A FALLEN NATURE**
 1. If not open to the Spirit think Naturally
 2. Jesus knew what was in man, see vs 25
 3. We hear only surface things when lost.
 - B. **THE REBORN MAN IS LEAD BY THE SPIRIT**
 1. We do not live by world's standards, 2 Cor.10:2
 2. We defeat arguments against God, 2 Cor. 10:5
 3. We make thoughts obedient to Christ, 2 Cor. 10:5
- III. **THE BIBLE IS NOT JUST A BOOK**
 - A. **NOT TO BE READ AS JUST ANOTHER BOOK**
 1. The Pharisees knew Scripture but not God
 2. The Bible is a "God breathed" book
 3. It is not of human origin in thought, only by pen.
 - B. **HUMAN BEINGS NEED BIBLE KNOWLEDGE**
 1. John 2:17 – 22 begin and end with Scripture
 2. One of Jesus' acts was understood by Scripture
 3. Another act of His was later understood by Scripture, v17.
 4. Later looking back they understood the temple destruction by Scripture

CLOSING: A duck managed to get a plastic ring around his neck. He would die if not removed. The Humane Society tried to help with corn and bread but he just ran from them. They shot a "net gun" over him to catch him, he went into the water and the net drew him deep. Skin divers pulled him up. They finally removed the death ring. The problem was Ringo the duck just didn't understand. That is our human problem without the Word of God to teach us about Jesus, the Father, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. All this is to teach us how to live because left to our own devices we don't know how. Human reason verses the Bible? No contest!

SAVED IN TROUBLE NOT FROM IT

God often does not save us from painful circumstances but rather sustains us in our painful circumstances. Consider the case of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3. These three companions of Daniel refused to worship the image of gold set up by King Nebuchadnezzar, so the king threatened to throw them into a blazing fire, Daniel 3:15. They responded by informing him that God was perfectly able to rescue them, verse 17. This made the king so mad that he heated the furnace seven times hotter and had them tossed into the flames, verses 19-20.

As the king observed what should have been an instant incineration, he was suddenly startled by what he saw and exclaimed, "I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods," Daniel 3:25. The king then commanded the three to come out, and after seeing that they were unharmed, he exclaimed, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him," verse 28.

If God had wanted to, He could have intervened earlier and prevented the three from being thrown into the furnace. But He chose not to do this. He allowed the three to be mistreated! But He did not allow them to go through this ordeal alone. God sent his angel to sustain them in the midst of the flames. God's children are never alone in their trials.

ACCIDENTS HAPPEN

The following quotes are from insurance forms and later published in the Toronto Sunday, 7/26/1977:

"Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

~

"To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian."

~

I thought my window was down, but found out it was up when I put my hand through it."

~

"My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

~

"A pedestrian hit me and went under my car."

~

"An invisible car came out of nowhere and struck my vehicle and vanished."

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Ten – “God is in Control”

One of the most encouraging verses in the Bible is Romans 8:28 which reads: “*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*” This text assures us that God is involved in every aspect of our lives and that He is always at work to bring about His good and eternal purpose for our good. However the question that seems to be on many lips is: “If God is good and is involved in all things, why do bad things happen to good people or for that matter why do bad things happen to anyone?” Why does a husband abandon his wife? Why does a child use drugs? Why did I lose my job, have a wreck, fall and hurt myself? The list goes on and on. These seem like very legitimate questions and there should be answers.

As Christians we need to see God working in our lives. It’s difficult if we don’t know the answers to these questions ourselves how can we help others? How can we learn and teach others to trust Him more fully if we don’t understand ourselves? We could begin to feel discouraged if we dwell on the negative. We may become cynical and think “What does it matter whether I follow the Lord or not?” The text is not an empty promise, nor a blank check for a trouble-free life. Therefore, we need to take a closer look at the text.

Here are some things we can learn: First that God is involved in all things. That’s “*all things!*” He can’t be separated from any aspect of life since He is the creator, sustainer, and orchestrator of all that exists. We are told in Hebrews 1:3 “*The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.*” The word “sustaining” here is the Greek PHERO (φέρω) meaning “to bear,” “carry,” or “to uphold.” Theistic-evolutionists teach that God may have created all things, but He used the evolutionary process and now the world and all things in it are whirling through space on its own and He is no longer involved. The only reason they accept the “creation theory” (their words) at all is that they are at least honest enough to acknowledge creation can’t be explained away. The problem is that they are unbelieving enough to deny the Scriptural account of His continued care and involvement.

The second thing we need to learn is that God has given us a free will. You and I have been made in the image of God, and part of our nature is that we have been given the freedom of choice. It is this freedom of mankind to choose that allowed Adam to sin. We, like Adam, have both the freedom of choice and a nature that wants self-rule and that leads us to sin. Yes, Adam was the first man to sin, but it is not his sin that makes you and me sinners; it is our own sins that make us sinner? He was our prototype. If we had the same circumstance that existed in the Garden of Eden we would have done the same thing. We have an inbred sin nature.

Much of the evil that occurs in our world today is rooted in our free will. A spouse *chooses* to abandon the marriage. The child *chooses* drugs. The company *chooses* to lay off employees. Drunks *choose* to drink, serial killers *choose* to murder and homosexuals *choose* to practice what God calls an abomination. But, what does mankind *choose* to do when the results are proven harmful? Blame God!

Sometimes our choices are made unconsciously. A person may not choose to bring on a life-threatening disease, but years and years of choosing to live in certain ways with certain habits can sometimes result in disease. A person may not choose indebtedness or financial setback, but years and years of overextending or of not saving may result in financial crisis.

In still other instances, the choices that govern our lives are collective ones over which we have no personal control. We live in a world that is crime-ridden and war-torn. The fault lies with no one person and is not the result of one, singular choice. The collective “whole” of mankind’s free will has simply run amok, and individuals are victims of a fallen world filled with rebelliousness, stubbornness, ignorance, that lead to collective bad choices. And again the verdict of mankind is “it was an act of God.” The blame game that begins with the question: “Why did this happen to me?” with the answer, “It must be God’s fault!”

God will not override our free will. Most people want God to stay out of their lives, well, until they need Him. And God will not impose on such persons. But this does not mean that God is absent or doesn't care about what is going on in their lives. He is present in the midst of our bad choices. He is with us in our times of trouble, doubt, and struggle. He is always at work on our behalf, desiring our ultimate good. His Spirit will continue to woo us to obedience to Christ and an open heart to His teaching.

Years ago I heard an illustration from a preacher on a related subject. He shared that in the days of the horse and buggy a wife was guiding the trip with the reins in her hand. The team of horses was spooked by an animal that ran across the road in front of them and they began to gallop at an alarming rate of speed. In her panic the wife began to scream, "Do something, do something." The husband tried to take the reins but she was frozen in her panic. Finally the husband shouted, "If you want me to help let go of the reins." God will not take the reins from us, but if we want His help we have to give them to Him.

Furthermore, we must recognize that sin has consequences. God does not promise that we will not reap what we have sown into our lives prior to our coming to Him. What He does promise is that He will use all things for our good and that He will prepare us to spend eternity with Him. God does not override our free will or negate the choices that we make with it.

Third, we need to understand that God's ultimate purposes will be accomplished. In the end, God will have His way. His will shall be done. None of us is capable of seeing the big picture of God's plan because it extends into eternity. God alone knows what He has planned and how He intends to accomplish His master plan. I don't want to mislead anyone into thinking that God's going to justify, ignore, or change the results of our bad or sinful choices. He will not "make" us go to heaven and He will not "bless" bad choices. The key to understanding Romans 8:28 is that "***all things work together for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.***"

Notice that this "working together for good" has two qualifiers. It is for those who (1) "***love him,***" and that are called [living] (2) "***according to his purpose.***" Often, our problem is that we want Him to love us, and He does, but we accept it with little concern for our love toward Him. We also want things to come about according to our purpose rather than His.

We can be certain of one thing, however: God will remain omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. His nature will not change for us or for any reason. He will always have the power to do what He desires. He will always know precisely what to do to accomplish His purpose. He will always have sufficient time to accomplish His purpose. But I heard someone say, "You mean it is His purpose that some should go to hell?" No He has stated clearly, "***The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance,***" 2 Peter 3:9. However, we must remember that He is not willing that the evil, rebellious, or foolish enter into eternal life. He wants to keep heaven as it is, pure. Those who go there must sincerely desire to do so. We can't burn our candle for the Devil or ourselves and at the end of life blow the smoke from the candle in His face and expect reward.

We may rebel against God's purposes, balk at His laws, disobey His commandments, and stubbornly refuse His forgiveness. Nevertheless, what God has planned, God will do. The decision that we face is this: Will we get in line with God's plan of redemption, or will we rebel and fulfill His plan for the lost? Job stated it this way, "***I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted,***" Job 42:2 NIV.

We all know what God's eternal purpose is, as stated in 2 Peter 3:9, above. Looking back over your life can you see how He has tried to guide you in the right direction? What has been your response? The proper response is: I choose to yield the control of my life fully to God. Yielding control to God is a response that we must make in every area of our lives. Two people cannot hold the reins of your life without disaster. One alone must be the driver. "***Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you,***" James 4:7.

God's in control of the universe but He has given us all a free will and while bad things happen to good people, everything will work out in the end for the good of those who love Him. "***Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship,***" Romans 12:1. Have a good day, and a great life!

REDNECK DICTIONARY

AIRLINE *adv. and v.* Concerning a location and the dishonesty of a witness. “Don’t you sit **airline** boy, tell the truth.”

ATTRACTOR, *n.* A motor-propelled machine used mainly in agriculture. “My uncle slim cuts his grass with **attractor**.”

BULLETIN, *n. and prep.* A metal projectile intended for use in a firearm and its position with relation to the interior of an object. “If you want to save us you’re gonna have to put a **bulletin** that gun.”

CANTER, *v and adj.* Negative interrogative concerning the ability of someone connected to a female. “**Canter** sister watch the baby?”

From Jeff Foxworthy’s *Learning the Talk More Gooder Fastly Redneck Dictionary*.

BABE RUTH

Do you remember Babe Ruth? Probably not! His playing years were from 1914 – 1935. Year after year Babe Ruth was the idol of sports fans. Gradually, age began to take its toll and the Yankees traded him to the Braves.

One of the last games He played was in Cincinnati. The Babe was not at his best then. He fumbled the ball twice and made other errors that allowed the opponent (the Reds) to get five runs in one inning.

The Babe walked slowly and dejectedly toward the dugout, his chin slumped down on his chest. An enormous storm of boos and catcalls came from the stands. People actually shook their fists at him. It was an incredible humiliation for one of the greatest.

Then a little boy with tear streaming down his cheeks leaped over the railing. He ran out, sobbing, and threw his arms around the legs of the Bambino. The Babe gently picked him up and hugged him tightly. Then he set him down patting him gently on the head. He took the little fellow’s hand and the two of them started toward the dugout. The catcalls and the jeering stopped. The ballpark was silent. Then the crowd burst into a tumultuous cheer. People wiped their tears away.

Ralph Waldo Emerson summed up the emotion of the moment: “What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are small matters compared to what lies within us.”

This story of Babe Ruth shows him reaching out in love, amid all the criticism, because something greater than baseball inside of him had to come out. To the Christian we must remember “*You dear children are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world,*” 1 John 4:4.

IN OUR DAY

The following conversation was between an older man and a young man of today.

Boy: “Did you have to do math when you were young?”

Old Man “In my day, we didn’t have calculators; we had to do addition on our fingers.”

Boy: How about subtraction?

Old Man: “Amputation.”

Boy: “Did you have bottled water then?”

Old Man: No, we had to smash our own hydrogen and oxygen atoms.”

Boy: “Did you have a cell phone when you were young?”

Old Man: “No we have soup cans and a string...but we didn’t get any \$200 phone bills.”

Boy: “Did you have a Ford or a Chevy?”

Old Man: “No, had Betsie.”

Boy: “Was that a make of a car?”

Old Man: “No that was the name of my horse”

Boy: “It sure sound like you had a great time then!”

Old Man: “You have no idea.”

GOD CAN USE ANYBODY WHO YIELDS

Moses was a murderer

Rahab was a prostitute

David was an adulterer

Jacob was a deceiver

Samson was a womanizer

Jonah ran from God

Abraham was a liar

Peter was a coward

Saul was a persecutor

Noah was a drunk

If we fail to treat these people as forgiven in Christ, we are questioning the work of the Holy Spirit.

OPPORTUNITIES

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

June 21-25 – Preaching in the Mountains, Hyndman, PA. Bob Long, Director, Evangelist of Laurel Highlands, Church of Christ.

ONLY IN AMERICA

Only in America can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.

Only in America do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions filled while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.

Only in America do people order cheeseburgers, large fries and a diet Coke.

Only in America do banks leave doors open and chain the pens to the counter.

Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put junk in the garage.

Only in America does a mother drive her three kids six blocks to a physical fitness program.

Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of 10 and buns in packages of 8.

Only in America do we use the word “politics” to describe the process so well: “poli” in Latin means “many” and “tics” meaning “blood-sucking creatures.”

Only in America do we lock up the jury and let the prisoners go free.

Only in America do we use answering machines to screen calls and then have call waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.

A GOOD THOUGHT

James Brynes, Secretary of State in the F.D.R. administration said the following using three words to make an impact about good people who make a difference.

People do what is expected of them...and then some.

Those who are thoughtful and considerate do as expected... and then some.

Those who meet obligations gladly do so...and then some.

Those good friends are faithful to their friends...and then some.

Those that can be counted on in an emergency those help...and then some.

SOME THOUGHTS ON MARRIAGE

Marriage is neither heaven nor hell; it is simply purgatory. – Abraham Lincoln

Only two things are necessary to keep one's wife happy. One is to let her think she is having her own way, and the other, to let her have it. Lyndon B.

Johnson

Married couples who love each other tell each other a thousand things without talking. Chinese proverb
Marriage is a wonderful institution. If it weren't for marriage, husbands and wives would have to fight with perfect strangers. Unknown

Love is blind, but marriage restores its sight. G. C. Lichtenberg

OUR FEARS CRIPPLE US

You can't focus on falling or you'll fall for sure. It happened to the great Karl Wallenda, the famous tight rope walker, who focused for weeks on not galling and fell to his death. The reality is: everyone falls. Good leaders get back up. One of the greatest examples of that in the Bible would be King David, who fell hard but who also got back up and was used mightily for God.

An incident happened one July at Sea World in San Antonio, TX that made headlines around the world. A killer whale named “KY” repeatedly attempted to drown a long time veteran trainer during their shows. There was footage on TV of the 6,100 pound whale continuously belly-flopping Mr. Aibel and prohibiting him from climbing out of the huge pool to safety, Thankfully, it ended without any harm to the trainer. However, KY is no longer performing in the deep-water interactive sequences any longer. Following the incident, Mr. Aibel said, “I wasn't afraid at all. I just had to keep moving.

That's pretty good advice for all of us. Hebrews 13:5-6 says, “God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will never be afraid. What can man do to me?’”

Remember: fear is just false evidence that appears real. Don't be afraid at all...just keep moving.

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.