



# The PARAKLETE

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## IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER

Years ago *Readers Digest* had a section in one of their issues called "Finish the Joke." The idea was that the readers were given a premise and they were to provide the punch line to the joke. The line voted the best would win \$100. The story they provided was this: A man goes into a home-improvement store and asked, "Can you help me find a ceiling fan?" The salesman replied, "I'm sorry, we are all out of tuna fish." The man said, "I'm actually looking for a ceiling fan," and the salesman replied loudly, "I told you we are out of tuna fish." "A ceiling fan!" the man shouted in frustration, "I want a ceiling fan!"

That was the joke to which they wanted a punchline. I don't know what the winning line was, but that was premise. It reminded me of some conversations we have with theological liberals.



When a flaw in their thinking is revealed by Scripture, they change the subject, like the salesman in the story, and they are good at it. An example could be: when a liberal is confronted with a flaw in their thinking they want to change the subject. They seldom accompany their rebuttal with logic, nor any authoritative support. Rather they drop the subject and point to flaws in the person revealing the weakness of their view.

This behavior is known in debating circles as "ad hominem" which means "to the man." It is an appeal to one's supposed prejudices, selfish interest, etc. It turns the discussion or debate back on the opposition, thus discussing their opponent rather than the original subject. They are changing the subject just as the salesman did in talking about tuna fish rather than ceiling fans.

In spiritual discussions there is a similar avoidance tactic. It's easily recognizable by the catch phrase "You are intolerant," or "That might be right for you but not for me." This statement, "You are intolerant," is intended to shift the subject and put you on the defense. The statement "that's just your interpretation (opinion)" serves the same

purpose. They must change the subject to either you or someone else to avoid being cornered.

Some can switch the subject quicker than a couch potato can change the channel. When asked about their relationship to Christ, they want to talk about "some hypocrites in the church." They might want to talk about how someone hurting their feelings. They don't seem to realize that hypocrites in the church assembly will have to give an account for their own short comings. And as for having hurt feelings, everyone gets their feelings hurt at times, that's life. They are good "subject switchers" in order to avoid seriously talking about Jesus.

The foundations of some beliefs are just "reasons" seldom rationally arrived at. They are often unexamined assumptions, and presuppositions hammered into their mind by the secular world. The media, entertainment world, and even public educational systems are saturated with unbiblical held beliefs that are generally antagonistic to Christianity. This is not to mention mankind's mind. *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts,"* Isaiah 55:8-9, Eph. 3:20-21.

It is obvious the reason behind their avoidance tactics is that their positions are indefensible by logic and contrary to the Word of God. A mind that is unconverted will come to unbiblical conclusions. They are led to believe such things as human life is only valuable as long as it is wanted. Thus babies are destroyed in their mother's womb and called "choice." Their tactic diverts the subject from the precious life of a child to the mother's desires. Thus government supported killing.

This tactic is seen in the definition of marriage partners. A family need not include a husband in one case or a wife in the other. Thus we have same-sex marriages. To them a "family" is anything you desire be called one. Never mind that the Bible condemns such actions, Lev. 18:22, 20:13; Judges 19:16-24; Rom. 1:18-32. On this subject

## IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER

it's not about gender but about what a person wants even if it's one of their own sex. Do I hear "Let's change the subject, it's not my choice, God made me this way." Right! It's God's fault.

Theologically liberal people are not liberal for just any reason they are so because they reject God and anything that He stands for. When that happens it is followed by some of the most bazaar thinking in all matters of life.

If a Christian wants to speak of Jesus, they are uncomfortable so they want to talk about the sins of some of His people. If we want to encourage them to attend worship, they want to change the subject to something petty. Here is an illustration of changing the subject:

Christian: "Why don't you come back to worship?"

Theo. Liberal: "As long as John Smith attends there I won't be back."

C: "John has to account for himself as you and I.

We are there to worship Jesus not John.

TL: "Well, you have rich people with nice cloths."

C: "It's not about the way one dresses, it's Jesus."

TL: "I'm not as rich as most of the people there."

C: "Is money more important than your soul?"

TL: "I need to spend time with my family."

C: "I agree, but you can show your love by bringing them with you."

TL: "My wife can't be around crowds."

I believe you get the idea. It's not Jesus or themselves, but John Smith, people with nice clothes or money, my family, my wife, etc. When Christians discuss the issues from a biblical perspective as well as with intelligence, we can't lose the discussion, but we can lose the person.

Stop and address the "subject switcher" with love for them as seen in what you say and how you say it. They can tell if it's real love. How about this:

"Joe, I want to be real with you. I love you and am concerned about your future. I don't want to debate with you. If you never intend to take a serious look at your spiritual life and be honest with God about the day you will face Him, just tell me. But if you do intend to address the subject of your eternal destination, let's do it now." Just be honest and sincere. Looking back, the man said "A ceiling fan! I want a ceiling fan." The salesman replied, "I told you we are out of tuna fish." Customer: "I want 2 pounds of tuna." Salesman, "We have a new ceiling fan." Customer, "I'll take one."

## DENNY'S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

## DANNY EVANS' SCHEDULE

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

Virus fear caused cancelations for Danny and Denny.

## FREEDOM TO KILL AND DESTROY

Protesting in the streets violently causing death to businesses, future rest, peace, and life is done by proxy by "behind the scenes" organizations. Those seen on TV are just pons.

Man as he stands in relation to man simply, has liberty to do what he lists (wants); it is a liberty to do evil as well as good. This liberty is incompatible and inconsistent with authority.

"...but if you will be satisfied to enjoy such civil and lawful liberties, such as Christ allows you, then will you quietly and cheerfully submit unto that authority which is set over you...for your good."

These words were spoken by John Winthrop in his speech in 1645. (Underlining is mine).

In that speech he put his finger on the real problem: Today people unlawfully protesting are not doing it "quietly, cheerfully or submissively. Rather they are doing it loudly, hatefully, and rebelliously.

The liberty Christ grants is not freedom to do what you want to do but the power to do what you ought to do.

## CHURCH MOUSE

How did the words "church mouse" come to be the symbol of poverty, as in "they are as poor as a church mouse?" There is no cupboard in the church buildings...at least there did not use to be. Therefore, there was nothing for a mouse to eat. It means extreme poverty.

Could that phrase be applied to those who find nothing to consume spiritually in the church today? The church has much to offer such as: fellowship, singing, laughing, youth programs, and soft pews. There is nothing wrong with any of these in fact they are all good. However, these are not the emphasis Christ and the Apostles put the emphasis on being Christ's Church and worshiping Him.

Could it be that the phrase "quiet as a church mouse" could be applied to our evangelism programs and as a result our churches are shrinking? When I was a new Christian church papers published the number of baptisms in each congregation, but no more...maybe we're too mousey. Is it due to poor diet and too few words?



## - .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

A minister had a grumpy member named Hector who always sat with his arms crossed and never said a word to the preacher. One Sunday when it was time for the sermon, the stage filled with smoke and the preacher stepped out dressed as Satan. Everyone ran except Hector. The preacher (dressed as Satan) walked up to Hector and said, "Sir, don't you know who I am?" Hector said, "Yes sir I do." "Aren't you afraid of me?" "No sir." Satan asked, "Why not?" Hector said "Because I've been married to your sister for forty years."

One day the Devil challenged the Lord to a baseball game. Smiling the Lord said, "You don't have a chance; I've got Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle, and all the greatest players up here." "Yes," laughed the devil, "but I have all the umpires down here."

I like a good joke like most. Matter of fact, I am considered the "joke person" at the place where I work part time. Each time I work one of the employees expects me to have a joke. She looks forward to them and says it makes her day. There are all kinds of jokes from riddles to knock-knock jokes and the jokes I like the best are puns which my son's wife calls "Papa Humor." Of course there are jokes that should never be told due the content or language. Unfortunately those jokes seem to be enjoyed by some people. I believe laughter is needed in our lives to help us deal with the stresses we face each day. Abraham Lincoln once said, "With the fearful strain that is on me night and day, if I did not laugh I should die." We all need to laugh and renew ourselves each day. I appreciate some of the quotes that I have seen regarding laughter, such as "Trouble knocked the door, but hearing the laughter hurried away," Ben Franklin. "Against the assault of laughter, nothing can stand." Mark Twain.

However, I believe there is one thing we should not laugh at. That is the fact that Satan is very much alive and well in our world. From the very beginning of time the devil has committed himself to do all he can to destroy God's work and influence. Peter gave warnings in his epistle to "*those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen*," 1 Peter 1:1, which to me means he is writing to the body of Christ to encourage them to remain faithful. In this letter, Peter spoke much about persecution, which anticipated the persecution of Christians during the Nero reign.

Peter closes his epistle with some very important words, "*Be of sober spirit, and be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same suffering*," 1 Peter 5:8-9. Christians, we need to be alert because the devil is looking to devour us.

Over the years I have seen the devil do many things to try to destroy the body of Christ; sad thing is, much of the attacks have come from within the body. I remember

back in the early 78's while in Bible College, the doctrinal issue of speaking in tongues was introduced and the body divided over it. Granted, that was a Biblical issue that had to be dealt with. Then around that same time the issue of pant suits in worship was a fiery trial that caused division. May I ask you how many ladies wear dresses to worship today? It is an issue that was not needed but the devil used it to divide. There have been other matters that have caused splits in body. One of the recent problems is the "Music Wars" that to a degree is still going on and still causing disturbance in worship gatherings. Some refuse to wear mask because they have doubts about the extent of Covid-19 virus and they don't feel they should be told to wear them. Others don't wear masks because they don't see that it really protects anyone. Are we not instructed in the Word to obey the governmental authorities? Romans 13:1-2. We may not like all that is happening but wouldn't we rather wear a mask and be in worship than sitting at home for another 10 weeks. Why in the world would we want to split the church over wearing a piece of cloth over our mouth and nose? Rest assured the devil will use small issues like this to destroy the body of Christ.

In closing, let's listen to Peter's instruction 1:14-16 "*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, 'You shall be holy, for I am holy.'*" Please pray for our church leaders and for one another that we don't see the devil destroy churches over a mask.



### HENRY AND SWEETIE SAY

H: Here is the time of year when fall is looking us in the face.

S: Yes, Henry, this is my favorite time of the year.

H: Why is this your favorite time of the year?

S: The beautiful fall colors. When you look around you can see God's beautiful handiwork.

H: I see work. Leaves to rake, garden to get ready for winter, high heat bills, flowers dying and...

S: Henry stop being so discouraging. God put the season in place so we could see His wisdom and power.

H: Sweetie, how about us taking a ride up to the mountains in a couple of weeks when the fall colors reach their peak. We can see what God has done with His paint brush this year.

S: That's why I love you so much Henry, you see things so spiritual and positive way.

H: You noticed that did you? I've always been that way, seeing the positive side of everything.

S: I'm glad I married you Henry.

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heavens,"* Eccl. 3:1.

## IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

By Denny Coburn - 1976

**TEXT: John 11:17-44**

**INTRO:** The words "Jesus wept" does not mean he shed a few tears. The original Greek indicates the tears flowed freely. He was deeply moved because of His love. The pains He endured did not make Him shed a single tear for Himself but His love for others did. One might say "Behold how He wept," but those said, "Behold how He loved him." Even the Jews knew that the tears drawn from Him were drawn from love alone.

The power of love within caused the tears to flow. His love for us causes Him to weep. We are moved by the tears He shed for us but what should move us more is that He died for us. Tears would not suffice. He may love us to tear, but his death for us should move us to love Him back and give our lives for His glory.

They questioned why He didn't come immediately, why He even asked them to remove the stone

### I. THE VAIN ARGUMENT

#### A. **WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN**

1. The "If so and so, the such and such."
2. What was the use, Lazarus was dead?
3. Lord if you had been here

#### B. **DIGGING WELLS**

1. Digging wells of supposition
2. Drinking brackish water of regret
4. The bitterest grief often is not on what is.
5. Grief about might have been, imagination.

#### C. **WHO TO BLAME?**

1. At times we blame ourselves for results.
2. Do right thing yet "it's my fault."
3. In the text it may think it's Jesus' fault.
4. We've known people who blame God
5. He's omnipotent and omnipresent, He did it

### II. RIGHT REACTION

#### A. **DAVID'S SON DYING** (2 Sam. 12:15-24)

1. While his son lived, he fasted, prayed and cried.
2. After he died David washed his face, eat and went about his business
3. Said: I will go to him, but he will not come to me.

#### B. **UNBELIEF DOES GET AN EXPLANATION**

1. He did not tell the people why He delayed
2. He told the believing disciple why: "...it is for God's glory so the God's son may be glorified through it," 11:4
3. That should satisfy. for that all we need.
4. "Why", "if," and "should" do not good.

#### C. **ANSWERS COME LATER**

1. Jesus simply wants us to trust Him.
2. John 13:7 "...later you will understand..."
3. Why have, and why did are useless
4. We need not pry.

### III. VILE ARGUMENT

#### A. **NOT ACCEPTING THE PROOF**

1. Chief priests wanted to kill Lazarus
2. They wanted to kill Jesus

#### B. **BECAUSE HE CAN HE MUST**

1. He healed the blind man
2. He must prevent death

**CONCLUSION:** The expectation of Mary, Martha, and others is with us today. Does omnipotence always exert its power? No, but why He doesn't at times need not be explained. A child's death, a tragic accident, or terminal illness does not have to be explained now. There is no want of love in Him, it may be love that actually allows these things. When Jesus' love and power are displayed it did not change the priests and all the Jews. An answer would not have changed them. We are to have the faith and He will supply His love, with His power and wisdom.

## FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS

There are those who would believe anything any TV evangelist would say. This is in spite of the fact that the Scriptures warns against false prophets and false teachers for the simple reason that God's own people can be deceived, Ez. 34:1-7, The Bible exhorts us to test those who claim to be prophets, 1 John 4:1-3.

How can Christians recognize a false prophet? Here are some clues:

False prophets make predictions that aren't fulfilled, Deut. 18:21-21.

They sometimes entice people to follow false gods such as Allah, Ex. 20:3-4, Deut. 13:1-3.

They often deny the deity of Jesus Christ, as does Muhammad, Col. 2:8-9.

They sometimes deny the humanity of Jesus Christ, again as does Islam, 1 John 4:1-2.

They sometimes advocate legalism, such as abstaining from certain foods for spiritual reasons, 1 Tim. 4:3-4.

They often encourage severe denial for spiritual reasons, Col. 2:16-23.

Sometimes they teach that marriage is bad, 1 Tim.4:3.

They often promote various forms of immorality, Jude 4-7.

If a so-called prophet says anything that clearly contradicts any part of the Word of God, his teachings should be rejected. The Word of God exposes error.

We ought to follow the example of the Bereans by comparing all truth claims with Scripture, Acts 17:11 and 1 Thess. 5:21.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND HEARING

A mother asked an eight year old son, "What did you learn in Sunday school today?"

The boy replied: "About when God sent Moses behind the enemy lines to rescue the Israelites from the Egyptians. The teacher said that when the Israelites came to the Red Sea, Moses called for the engineers to build a pontoon bridge and they all barely got across it in time, because the Egyptians were right behind them, coming in tanks and Moses radioed headquarters on the walkie-talkie to send bombers to blow up the bridge and they did and all the Egyptians were stuck and that's how Moses saved the Israelites.

The mother said: "Billy, is that really the way the teacher told the story?"

He replied: "Well, not exactly, but if I told it her way you'd never believe it.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

Jed Clampett says: "If you want to see social distancing, loan someone some money."



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

## A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn Study Number One Hundred Twelve – Duty and Doctrine

*“Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident; I say and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men,”* 2 Corinthians 5:6-11

What we believe and how we behave must always go together. Paul usually connected duty and doctrine, because what God has done for us must motivate us to do something to express our gratitude for what He has done. Phillip Brooks once said, “Christianity knows no truth which is not the child of love and the parent of duty.”

A woman once said to her preacher, “You would have preached a marvelous sermon, except for all those ‘therefores’ at the end.” However, the Apostle Paul would have agreed with the preacher because he used “therefore” and “wherefore” quite liberally in all his letters. In fact you find them in this section of 2 Corinthians verses 6, 9, 11, 16 and 17. He uses these words as he moves from what is expected to the motivation for his ministry. His enemies had accused him of using the ministry of the Gospel for his own selfish purposes, when in reality they were the ones who were “merchandising” the Gospel. See 4:2; 2:17.

We should all ask the question: “What is my ministry?” Regardless of the particular talent one may possess or the position we may have in the local congregation, the motive behind what we do and say is the same as Paul’s and that is to persuade sinners to be reconciled to God, see verses 11 and 20 of this section of Scripture. We should never force people to trust Christ, or coerce them by some devious approach, such as we hear of some Muslims in other countries. Paul stated in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 *“For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you.”* Put in common expression he might have said “Our message to you is true, our motives are pure, our conduct is absolutely aboveboard.” The Christian worker must have the right motive for ministry as well as the right message.

In our text above we read, *“Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men.”* This attitude is often lacking in ministry. A Bible scholar once wrote “Every year makes me tremble at the daring with which people speak of spiritual things.” Phillip Brooks used to warn about “clerical jesters” whose jesting about the Bible robbed that inspired Book of some of its glory and power. There is a sad absence of reverence in the public meetings of the church, so that it is no surprise that the younger generation is not taking the things of God seriously.

Notice Paul stated a “goal” and that was to “please Him.” There is an ambition that is selfish and worldly, but there is also a holy ambition that honors the Lord. Paul’s great ambition was to be well-pleasing to Jesus Christ. The Judaizers ministered to please men and enlisted them in their causes; but Paul ministered to please Jesus Christ alone, Gal. 1:10. A man-pleasing ministry is a carnal, compromising ministry; and God cannot bless it.

Since it should be the goal of every Christian to please God, it would be wise to learn exactly what pleases the Master. The terms “pleasing” or “well-pleasing” in reference to bringing pleasure to God is used several times in the Bible. Romans 12:1 states, *“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 a clear statement of what pleases the Lord, the presenting of our bodies to Him for service. In other words, we are to use our physical abilities to help others and avoid causing them to stumble, Romans 14:18. God is pleased when His children separate themselves from the evil around them, Eph. 5:10, as well as when they bring their offerings to Him, Phil. 4:18. He is pleased with us when we submit to our parents, Col. 3:20, as well as with saints who permit Jesus Christ to work out His perfect will in their lives, Hebrews 13:20-21.

David was constantly pouring his heart out to the Lord in written word and song. He wrote the majority of Psalms leaving us an example of this expression. It is believed that he wrote Psalm 51 as a result of feeling the burden for his sin with Bathsheba where he begged the Lord not to take His Holy Spirit from him. He knew the Lord was his source of help, strength, and encouragement as revealed throughout the Psalms. David, regardless of what he was or was not, he was a man of faith. His faith was in the God who is perfect truth. God can't lie and in Him is no shadow of turning. One who trusts in Him will never be disappointed and this was the faith that David had in Him.

### **DAVID'S TRUST IN THE WORD OF GOD**

Nowhere is this more evident than in Psalm 119. Turning to verse 28 we read ***"My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word."*** Recalling the word "strengthen" is the same as "encourage" David finds his encouragement in the word. Try as we might, we will not find encouragement in men, drugs, and other means. David points the way to lasting encouragement that comes only from the word of the Lord.

In this one Psalm alone we find "acres of diamonds" for the soul that needs encouraged. David either sang or wrote to remind himself of the ***"unfailing love"*** of God as seen in His salvation, verses 41 and 76. When all hope seems gone he turns to the word of God. I have written many times in this series that the loss of hope is the last straw before someone attempts suicide. David in verse 49 writes, ***"Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope."*** We do not have faith in faith, but faith in the God who spoke the very words that lead to faith. Faith finds its power in the One we have faith in.

David returns to the first revelation of God, the account of His creation, for comfort. He writes ***"Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures. Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you,"*** verses 90-91. Regardless of what has befallen us, or what we have to face by recalling the eternal existence of God we return to the foundation of our faith.

The book of Hebrews tells us that ***"by faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command,"*** Hebrews 11:3. Enduring encouragement, like everything else, is impossible without faith in God, verse 6 and His righteous ones will live by faith, Hebrews 10:38.

Going back to Psalm 119 we learn that while his enemies waited to destroy David, he ***"pondered"*** the ***"Lord's statutes."*** In other words he dwelt on the promises of God rather than spending useless energy thinking about his enemies. Those of God that desire to encourage themselves in the Lord will think on His word, the history of His dealings with evil, with man, our enemies and His promises.

### **DAVID TOOK GOD AT HIS WORD**

David saw the Word of God as a "hedge" of protection for him against all that came upon him, verse 111. In this longest chapter in the Bible David wrote ***"according to your word"*** in verses 9, 21, 28, 37, 65, 107, 133, 169 and ***"according to your promise,"*** in verses 76 and 170. He also knew that the word of God was as God Himself, eternal, verse 89. He saw the word of God as a ***"lamp to my feet and a light for my path,"*** verse 105.

### **WHAT AM I TRYING TO SAY?**

Our subject is: "How does one encourage oneself in the Lord?" This question begs another question: "How can one expect encouragement from the Lord without honoring the word of the Lord?" I know we are all weak frail human beings and we can get off track easily, but after lying in sorrow and self-pity for a short while, a Christian must look to the Lord for encouragement.

The Bible is the revelation of God. It not only reveals Him to us and it also reveals a lot about ourselves to us. Throughout the Bible we see God's very best men, prophets, kings, and even priests who have displayed human behavior that is anything but complimentary. Some turned away from God in shame and fear but most turned to God for forgiveness, enlightenment and encouragement. David is a great example of both; one who sinned against God and became discouraged, but he also encouraged himself in the Lord by turning to His word.

A slow and deliberate reading of Psalm 119 taking note of the number of times David referred to the word of God as his encouragement might be helpful. It surely was a great help to him. It is good to receive encouragement from friends and loved ones, but no one is a better friend and no one loves to encourage us more the Lord God Himself. So take courage ***"in the Lord"*** and in the words of our Lord.

## REDNECK BIBLE DICTIONARY

**DEPORT**, *n and verb*. A tech terminology for a small opening in the computer. “Billy don’t know that the wire to the By Book device has to be plugged into **deport** in the computer tower.”

**FIZZLE**, *verb*. A suggestion of a possible solution to a mechanical problem. “Try this part and **fizzle** fit we have the problem solved.”

**PSYCHIC**, *noun*. A person who supports a hero, often usually in westerns movies. “Gabby Hayes was the **psychic** of several cowboy stars, like Roy Rogers.

**SENILE**, *adj*. A statement about a view of a river. From our hotel room you view pyramids and can even **senile** in a distance.

An attempt and mimicking Jeff Foxworthy’s *Learning the Talk More Gooder Fastly Redneck Dictionary*.

### WHY WE SAY IT

Where did the words “anxious seat” come from? The term came into popular use in the 1820’s and 30’s at Methodist revival meetings. Those about to be converted were asked to “walk the sawdust trail” (a term for the sawdust floor of a tent meeting) up to the front of the meeting where special seats were provided for them. It was the custom of the revivalist to recite the sins of the occupants, often citing by chapter and verse their individual misdeeds. This, no doubt, is what made the subjects “anxious: and the name was given to the seats. This was, no doubt, humiliating causing more anxiety. Other denominations practiced this as well.

The biblical practice would have followed the example of the Apostles and Peter as recorded in Acts Chapter 2. There the Gospel was preached causing conviction and those who heard the sermon asked the question: “What must I do to be saved?” The answer was given and followed, “***Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit,***” Acts 2:38.

Here we see the history of the acts of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, followed by the acts of man in the 1800’s.

## AN OLE COUNTRY BOY BEING ORDAINED

An ole country boy was being ordained. The interrogator asked him, “Do you know the Bible?” “Yes Sir!” he answered quickly. “What part do you know best?” The candidate replied: “The New Testament.” The interrogator asked “What part?” “I like the story of the Good Samaritan best,” was the reply. “Tell us about it,” he was asked.

“There was a Good Samaritan going down from Jerusalem for Jericho and he fell among thorns and they sprang up and choked him and let him half dead. And he said, ‘I will arise’ and he arose and came to a tree and he got hung in a limb of the tree and he hung there forty days and forty nights and the ravens fed him. Delilah, she came along with a pair of sears and cut off his hair and he fell on stony ground. He said, I will arise and he arose again and came to a wall and Jezebel was sitting on the wall and she mocked him, and he said, ‘Chunk her down again’ and they chunked her down again, he said ‘Chunk her down again and they chunked her down again, and he said, “Chunk her down seventy times greater and great was the fall thereof and of the fragments that remained they picked up twelve baskets full and whose wife will she be in the Resurrection”?”

### HOW JESUS SAVES

Christ does not save men by His life,  
though that was holy, sinless, and pure.

Not even by His tender love,  
though that shall evermore endure.  
He does not save them by His words,  
though they shall never pass away;

Nor by His creative power  
that holds the elements in their sway.  
He does not save them by His works,  
though He was ever doing good.

The awful need was greater still –  
It took His death, His cross, His blood.

- Author Unknown

“If the resurrection of Christ is not a fact, then a lie has done more to civilize the world than all the truth that ever existed.” - Alexander Campbell

## OPPORTUNITIES

(That we know of)

**Sept. 4-6,** Winning at Winchester, Winchester, VA,  
Contact:cmv4thebible@gmail.com

**Oct. 13-15,** National Prayer Clinic, Grundy, VA,  
Contact: jerrybliffen@hotmail.com

**Oct. 22-23,** CRA Bible Conference, Mason, OH,  
Contact: thecra@thecra.org.

## OBEDIENCE

In 1 Peter 4:17 the apostle asks the rhetorical question, *“What shall the end be of those who obey not the gospel?”* The answer seems to be “death, destruction, and hell.” Actually, Paul had answered that very question in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, saying Christ at His second coming (Parousia)“...**would take vengeance on those who “know not God and obey not the gospel.”**

Gospel means “good news.” How does one obey good news? A simple illustration will solve that. My rich uncle dies, leaves me a fortune. Sad news is he died but the good news is his bequest.

How then do we obey the gospel? Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 that the gospel is *the “death, burial, and resurrection”* of Christ. As we have seen in Romans 6:1-7, we obey the gospel in baptism when we die to sin and rise to walk in a new life. See Hebrews 5:9 for the need for obedience.

Some would say “that faith plus works.” No it is “faith in action,” See James 1:22 *“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”* Also read James 2:14-26. You will find the words “deeds,” “does,” “action,” “do” “did,” and “does” used, in relation to faith used 14 times. In Hebrews 3:18-19 that Paul agrees with James seeing “disobeyed” and “unbelieve” as the same thing. Faith is not “simple belief-ism.”

## WISDOM FROM SPORT FIGURES & FANS

“A hot dog at the ballpark is better than steak at the Ritz.” Humphrey Bogart – Actor and Fan.

“You can’t hit what you can’t see.” Walter Johnson – Pitcher for the Senators

“Losing streaks are funny. If you lose at the beginning, you got off to a bad start. If you lose in the middle of the season, you’re in a slump. If you lose at the end, you’re choking.” Gene Mauch – Phillies Manager.

“If you’re not having fun in baseball, you miss the point of everything.” Chris Chambliss – Braves first baseman.

## HELL AND A LOVING GOD

Some people, even some who claim Christianity say that a loving God would not send people to hell. They choose to believe in God but reject belief in hell.

Of course, God does not want to send anyone to hell. God is a loving God, John 4:24 and he loves every human being, John 3:16. He is not willing that any should perish, but that they should repent, 2 Peter 3:9. Scripture is consistent in portraying God reaching out Jesus states, “I would but you would not.” Unfortunately all people are not willing to accept the fact that Jesus paid the price for them to escape hell. The fact is God wants all people saved and that was His plan from the beginning.

God therefore allows each of us to experience the result of our own choice of rejecting His Son and choosing an eternity in hell, Luke 16:19-31.

C. S. Lewis was right when he said that in the end there are two groups of people. One group of people say to God, Thy will be done,” These people have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and will live forever with God in heaven. The second group of people are those to whom God says, sadly, “Thy will be done!” These people reject Jesus Christ and will spend eternity apart from Him. God does not force anyone to be saved. He offers salvation to all, but he forces salvation on none.

## THE PREACHER AND THE MUSIC LEADER

There was church where the preacher and the minister of music were not getting along. As time went by, their differences began to spill over into worship service.

The first week the preacher preached on commitment and how we should all dedicate ourselves to God. The music director led the song “I Shall Not Be Moved.”

The second week the preacher preached on tithing and how we all should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The director led the song, “Jesus Paid It All.”

The third week the sermon was gossiping and the song was “I Love to Tell the Story.” This upset the preacher to the extent that he felt like resigning, and the song was “Why Not Now.” Irritated, the preacher the next week said it was Jesus prompting his decision. The closing song was, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

## 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.