



The PARAKLETE

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BUILDING BRIDGES

Once two brothers, Bill and Jay, lived on adjoining farms had a conflict. It was the first time in many years of farming side by side, even sharing the machinery necessary for farm labor they fell out.

Like most misunderstandings, it grew to be a major feud with bitter words and a long period of silence.

One morning there was a knock on Bill's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's belt and a tool box. The man said he was looking for work and said, "Maybe you have some small jobs here on your farm that I could do for you."

Jay replied, "Yes, I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact it is my brother. Some time ago there was a meadow between us and he took his dozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. He done that to spite me, but I'll go one better. See that pile of lumber by the barn? I want you to build me a fence, eight foot tall so I won't have to see his place or his face any more."

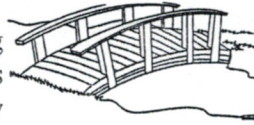
The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Do you have the nails and posts hole digger? If you do I can start right now and do a job that will please you." So the farmer took the carpenter with him to town to let the carpenter pick out the nails and other necessary materials to do the job. Before noon they were back and the carpenter began digging, sawing, and nailing.

The farmer had to make a trip to a neighboring town for some business and when he returned the carpenter had just finished the job.

The farmer's eyes popped open and his jaw dropped. There was no fence, but instead there was a bridge stretching from his side of the creek to the other. It was a fine piece of work with handrails and all. But what marveled him the most was his brother on the bridge with an outstretched hand saying, "You are quite a brother to build a bridge after all I've said to you." The brothers met in the middle of the bridge at first clasping hands and then embracing each other.

The brother who employed the carpenter turned to him and said, "Wait! I have a few other jobs for you." The carpenter replied, "I'd love to stay, but I have a few more bridges to build," as he hoisted his toolbox onto his shoulder walked away.

This story is not true and you probably knew that, but what an illustration of how much better it is to build bridges to others rather than to build fences. Many



Christians seem to know so much but don't know how to forgive. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis 33 we have a perfect example of how to build a bridge between two brothers, Esau and Jacob.

They were Abraham's sons.

When Abraham was near death Jacob stole his older brother's blessing, a blessing that rightfully was the older brother's. Esau was wronged. This caused a rift between the brothers that lasted for years. How could God expect reconciliation? But, He does.

How was such a situation as this to be reconciled? An angel met Jacob on the road. We don't know what was said between Jacob and the angel but whatever it was, it motivated Jacob to make amends, to admit his wrong and go to his brother. I believe when we meet God in prayer the first thing we must do is confront our own wrongs and sins. This may be why some don't pray often, if at all.

Didn't Jesus say the same thing? ***"So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift,"*** Matt. 5:23-24.

Next, reconciliation must be intentional. Jacob knew he had done wrong and had to make it right by taking the first step. To fail to do this, believing that "time heals all wounds." This is wrong, it only forces the hurt below the surface. We must confront the problem and do it privately between the two of you, Matt. 18:15. We can say, "I was wrong," "I haven't been honest with you," or "Your actions hurt me, and I love you too much to allow our relationship to crumble."

Third, we must accept the fact that reconciliation demands humility. Jacob ***"...bowed to the ground seven times until he approached his brother,"*** 33:3. That was an act of humility. This puts us in a position for reconciliation to occur. This is the best way to dig the hole to bury the hatchet.

Fourth, we must allow ourselves to be vulnerable. When the brothers met ***"...Esau ran to meet him, hugged him, threw his arms around him and***

BUILDING BRIDGES

kissed him. Then they both wept” 33:4. It should be noted that both the offender and the offended wept. We need to ask: Do we want to go through life living in a closet, safe from hurt, but cut off from a relationship that gives you peace and joy?

Fifth, forgiveness is not optional in reconciling a broken relationship. Forgiveness involves letting go so you can get on with the rest of your life. Forgiveness simply means willing to let the hurt go, or if you are the offender, humbly ask for pardon.

In this story we see a glimpse of God. Notice carefully as you read the Chapter what Jacob says to Esau: *“For seeing your face, like seeing God’s face, since you have accepted me,” 33:10.* If you want to know what the face of God looks like, go to the brother or sister you have offended, ask for their forgiveness, to hear them say “you are forgiven.” When forgiveness is extended from the wounded, we see the face of God.

But you say, “They have offended me.” God says to you remember that both Jacob (the offender) and Esau (the offended) both wept and were glad. We as believers in Jesus Christ are to be like God?

As God has forgiven you, you are to forgive those who have hurt you. As God has reconciled us to Himself, we are to be reconciled with others.

Have you been hurt by someone else and wanted to hurt them back? Get even? Seek revenge? Retaliate? Even thought of harming them? Esau had those feelings and many think he would be justified if he acted on them. But when God intervened through an angel to Jacob, the road to reconciliation became paved.

A Sunday school teacher asked her class what we must do so we can be forgiven. There was a long pause. Finally little Johnny raised his hand. “Yes Johnny what is it that we must do before we can be forgiven. Johnny replied, “sin.” He was correct though it was not the answer the teacher was looking for. Sin is always involved in broken relationships. The greatest hurt by both parties is there is no forgiveness.

I don’t know what Jesus wrote in the sand when the men brought the woman caught in adultery. Was it the names of the men and their sin? Was it an Old Testament scripture? If you bring someone else’s sin to God in prayer, He would have no trouble sharing our own sin with us. *“For if you do not forgive other the Father will not forgive you.”* Be more like the Carpenter, build bridges not fences.

DENNY’S SCHEDULE FOR MARCH-APRIL
March 20 – Men’s Retreat, Ohio Valley Christian
Assembly, Pomeroy, OH (Tentative)
Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

DANNY’S SCHEDULE FOR MARCH-APRIL
Nothing this winter
Huntington, WV 304/633-5908 (c) 304/736/2677

SIMPLE FRIEND AND REAL FRIENDS

A simple friend has never seen you cry, a real friend has shoulder soaked with your tears.

A simple friend hates it when you call after he has gone to bed, a real friend responds with questions of your health, safety or need.

A simple friend ends the relationship over a disagreements, a real friend calls to assure himself the relationship is still good.

Speaking of friends, Jesus is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. Isn’t that simple? No it is simply wonderful.

RACISM

This was written by a black man in Texas. What a great since of humor!

When I born, I black
When I grow up, I black
When I go in sun, I black
When I cold, I black
When I scared, I black
When I sick, I black
And when I die, I still black

You white folks....
When you born, you pink
When you grow up, you white
When you go in sun, you red
When you cold, you blue
When you scared, you yellow
When you sick, you green
When you bruised, you purple,
And when you die, you gray
So who you calling colored folks?

POLITICES

“Reagan is a person with whom you can’t seriously discuss serious issues...Many, many times...I have been with members of Congress in Mr. Reagan’s presence, and I don’t have the feeling that even once, any of us have gotten through to him with any point of view other than the one he entered the meeting with.” – Jim Wright, 1987

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

I'd like to start with something funny. You know most of us will not be doctors and why that's true? It is because we don't have patience. I know some will have to think about that for a while, but it will come to you. The words "patience" and "patients" are homophones. That is they sound alike but have different meanings. The noun "patience" refers to the ability to endure hardship for a long time while the noun "patients" is the plural form of "patient" – someone who receives medical care. In my thoughts for this article I would like to focus on the word **patience**. For nearly a year now we all have listened and watch people dealing with patience. It has been amazing what has transpired with people during this difficult time and seeing the various levels of patience.

Patience is something that God wants us to have because it is part of the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22-23. I often wonder how some Christians declare boldly of their patience, yet it is not us, it is a gift from God. Patience is a gift we can choose to exercise or not like most things in life. 2 Peter 1:4-7 tells us to **"add to our faith goodness, and to goodness, knowledge, and to knowledge, self-control, and to self-control, patience."** Patience is enduring afflictions, pain, toil, calamity, provocation, or other evils with calm, unruffled temper; endurance without murmuring or fretfulness." Patience comes when we submit to the will of the Spirit.

I have noticed a lot of people losing their patience in the last few months differently. There are some situations where patience is lost by two reactions that stand out to me. These are losing it with other people and lose it with God. Yes, I meant to say some lose patience "with God." There are times in life when we have to wait on God. At times we have to wait on God to fulfill our needs, like a job, or even having children. Sometimes we wait for Him to fulfill a promise. We think He should move faster, on our schedule. But He says, "Be patient." In this Pandemic I have witnessed a lack of patience. Why are we so impatient with others? We are like this because we have a fallen nature meaning we are selfish and at times annoying. We want what we want when we want it. If you don't believe me drive through a fast food window and watch others, and yourself. We forget every person in line that think they may be worthy of getting what they order on their schedule also. We want our "happy meal," we want it now and not wait. We need to be patient with the window girl, the other customers and allow the Holy Spirit to do His work in us.

We struggle with patience with God because we see things from our human perspective. We tend to think life is all about us. Our patience with God has to do with our faith in Him. Where does faith come from? **"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ,"** Romans 10:17. We gain patience by hearing God's instructions. **"And beside this, give all diligence; add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brother kindness charity. For if these things are in you, and abound, they make you that you shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacks these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten that he was purged from his old sins,"** 2 Peter 1-5. "Giving all diligence" indicates that we have to put in some effort in order to see patience increase.

We are all familiar with the saying, "patience is a virtue" and we know it is, but it also is a gift that we have to develop and mature. Growing in patience is not automatic or a "spiritual pill" that immediately changes our nature. We have to work on this gift. One way is to begin by developing patience with our self. Look in your inner being and see what causes you to be impatient. What is it that rubs you the wrong way or what triggers your impatience?

WARNING! There are going to be things in your life that will try your patience. This may be things at home, at work, with friend, our country and it may even be your local congregation. But remember that God is in charge and He is watching over His children. So work on your patience and I figure you will see more peace and joy in your life.

HENRY AND SWEETIE SAY

HENRY AND
SWEETIE SAY:



S: Henry, did you see the new car the preacher is driving?

H: I can't believe he got a new car. His old one was only five years old.

S: Sure, sure.

H: And he was wearing a new suit, looked expensive.

S: And she was wearing a new dress. It made her look five years older.

H: Those people are not spiritual, but material minded.

S: Sure, sure.

H: By the way, Sweetie, did you pay the storage bill on our motor home and boat this month?

"Do not store up for yourself treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourself treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves

IS JESUS GOD?

TEXT: John 8:57-59

INTRO: A man who was both a psychiatrist and an existentialist said: "There are only two great questions in this world: Who am I? Where am I? These are important, and I agree in part, but there are greater questions: Who is Christ? Is He God? On these our destiny hangs

- I. **A TIMELY ISSUE ANY TIME**
 - A. **JOHN'S PURPOSE**
 1. This was John's whole purpose
 - a. He begins with it in 1:1 (First Chapter)
 - b. He ends with it in 20:30-31 (Last Chapter)
 - c. All between these verses is evidence
 2. The subject in each chapter
 - a. Jesus' teaching proved it
 - b. His deeds and miracles proved it
 - B. **IS HE GOD**
 1. Can only be answered after examination
 - a. If He has a right to our allegiance
 - b. Either follow Him as Lord or
 - c. Remove Him as a religious presence
- II. **JESUS' CLAIM**
 - A. **HIS PRE-EXISTENCE**
 1. "Before Abraham was... I am"
 - a. Existed before Abraham, a divine name
 - b. "I AM" God said was his name, Gen 3:14
 - B. **WAS CLEAR TO THE TEACHERS OF LAW**
 1. They tried to kill him for said He is equal to God
 2. "I Am" is equal to the Hebrew "Jehovah"
- III. **THERE WERE MANY OTHER CLAIMS**
 - A. **JOHN THE BAPTIZER CLAIMED HE WAS**
 1. "Behold the lamb of God," John 1:29
 2. "Who takes away the sins of the world," 1:29
 - B. **THE OLD TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT**
 1. The law and prophets spoke of me
 2. He came not to destroy but fulfill, Matt. 5:17
 3. He claimed to forgive sins, only God can do that
 4. He promised the Holy Spirit who is God also
 5. Referred to God as His Father, never before Him
- IV. **HIS RELATIONSHIP TO HIS DISCIPLES**
 - A. **RELATING TO HIM WAS RELATING TO GOD**
 1. Knowing Him was knowing God – John 8:19
 2. Seeing Him was seeing God – 12:45, 14:9
 3. Receiving Him was receiving God, Mark 9:37
 4. Hating Him was hating God, 15:23
 5. Honoring Him was honoring God, 5:23
 - B. **CLAIMS BY MEDIATOR**
 1. I am the bread of life – spiritual life
 2. I am the light of the world – so you can see
 3. I am the door – the way to God
 4. I am the Good Shepherd – Overseer for God
 5. I am the resurrection – conqueror of death
 6. I am the vine – We have life through Him
 - C. **HIS CONTEMPORARIES KNEW HIS CLAIM**
 1. Herod tried to kill Him, a king at birth Matt.2:20
 2. Whole Counsel wanted to kill Him Matt. 25:59
 3. Chief priest and Counsel wanted to Matt. 17:20
 4. WHY? He claimed to be God, John 10:30-33
 - D. **EVEN DEMONS KNEW WHO HE WAS**
 1. He cast them out, Mark 5:1ff
 2. They obeyed Him and confess Him, Matt. 8:28ff

CONCLUSION: There was no doubt left by His life, deeds, miracles, His own words and even the confession of demons which the Jews acknowledged He had authority over. So why did they try to kill Him? Because He was God and they did not want God as Spirit but only a Law Giver which laws they thought they could keep. A religion that wants and need laws and rituals is a lifeless faith and is in fact no faith at all. Jesus gave life to the O/T Law. His life in us resurrects us to new life here an eternal life to come. Jesus is God.

WORTH IT ALL

During World War II a General and a young Lieutenant boarded a train in Europe. With them in the same compartment were a lovely young lady and her maiden aunt. Soon they entered a tunnel so dark they could not see. Suddenly they heard a kiss and a slap then came to the daylight once again. The General, very red in the face, thought to himself: The young lady must have tried to hit the Lieutenant but instead she slapped me! The maiden aunt thought to herself: I'm glad she had the courage to give him what he deserved. The young lady thought: I'll bet he thought he was kissing me and kissed her instead. The young Lieutenant leaned back thinking: Isn't this a great country! Where else could I kiss the back of my hand, slug a General and get away with it?

A PREACHER WITHOUT A CHURCH

A preacher spent over ten years in the pulpit, and then one day he found himself without a church. His identity had come from being a preacher. He found he had no identity without a church. With a family to feed he needed a job quickly. Then, through a strange series of events, He received an offer to drive a taxi. Running out of options, he accepted the offer to drive a cab. He wasn't enthusiastic about it but it did provide an income, but not much identity. He thought, maybe he was arrogant thinking it beneath him. He knew the Lord didn't like that attitude. One day he was driving a woman home that had just been released from treatment of meth addition. He had a serious conversation, mostly from her and few encouraging words from his Bible knowledge. As she left the cab she said, "Thank you for those few moments of peace." The "preacher driving a cab" thought: Our God is so expansive that He is able to pitch a tent for the sun, Psa. 19:4, and make a steering wheel of a cab a pulpit. He can use Bible knowledge anywhere.

MINI THOUGHTS

~
I keep getting asked, "What's the secret of your longevity?"
and I keep replying, "I haven't died yet."
~

The sooner you stop comparing yourself to other people, the sooner you put more attention on being what God made you to be.
~

Diamonds symbolize marriage because they are both hard...to begin with.
~

I learn things in my private school I can't tell you., it private.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Fifteen – The Loss of Hope

It is my belief that there was never a person on the earth who at one time or another lost hope, even the very best and most righteous of us. We are encouraged in the Scripture to cling to our hope. And when we do not we read in Proverbs 13:12 that “Hope deferred makes the heart sick.” When all hope is lost nothing seems to matter and there are no prospects of a future.

King David was a hero of the Old Testament and perhaps the best king the nation of Israel ever had as well as the author of many Psalms of hope, encouragement and faith. Yet we see this great man of God is found lying on the floor in despair refusing to eat, 2 Samuel 12:15-23. In Psalm 38:4 David writes “*My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.*” In verses 6-7 he continues “*I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body.*” There is not an account of David with so great a physical pain...no this is hopelessness of the soul. Have you ever felt all is loss of hope? Then read on.

One of the great hero and defenders of the faith in the Old Testament was Elijah. After a victory over Baal and 400 false prophets you would think Elijah, a prophet of God, would have great confidence in the God of all hope. But you would be wrong. When he received the message from Jezebel that she was going to kill him, he ran. “**Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day’s journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die,**” 1 Kings 19:3-4. God had him take a nap and Elijah went to sleep. Have you ever been so down you wanted to die? Read on.

It is interesting to read of the first submarine captain Jonah. He didn’t want to go the Nineveh so he sailed in the other direction. When the sailors discovered he was running from God they fed the fish...really it was just one large one. He even made the fish sick and so it vomited him up on the beach, so he thought he may as well obey. He met with great success, the city repented of their sin. When Lord showed mercy on them Jonah was so angry that his own sinful reaction even made him sick of himself that he said “*Now, O Lord, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live,*” Jonah 4:3. Again, we have a good man making bad mistakes and getting depressed because things didn’t go his way. Have you ever had things go so wrong, in your eyes that made you feel so disappointed that you see only your vision and hopeless? Read on.

We can hardly have a conversation about patience without the mention of Job. He was such a righteous man that the Devil pointed him out to God as a man who couldn’t stand a real hard test of his faith. He was “*blameless, upright, he feared God and shunned evil,*” Job 1:1. He lost it all, his donkeys, sheep, camels, his sons and daughters but in all this “*Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing,*” Job 1:22. But even with all that going for him he wondered why he didn’t just die at birth, 3:11. Did he lose hope? It sounds like it in the words “*I have no peace, no quietness, I have no rest, but only turmoil,*” 3:26. I doubt you have lost as much as Job did. He was a truly blessed and truly righteous man, yet he was human and hope was slipping away. Have you lost as much as Job, even a tenth of what he lost? Regardless, read on.

Every child has heard of Moses and his mighty feats. He faced Pharaoh with the demands of God. He performed miracles that caused fear in the heart of the ruler of Egypt. He led God’s people through the Red Sea. He was the great Law Giver, who spoke directly to God on Mt. Sinai. He returned to the twelve tribes with the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments. This great man of God has his moments also. In Numbers Chapter Eleven we see that even Moses begins to blame God and feel sorry for himself as all hope vanished within him. He asked God “*Why have you brought this trouble on your servant? What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me? Did I conceive all these people? Did I give them birth? Why do you tell me to carry them in my arms, as a nurse carries an infant to the land you promise on oath to their forefathers? Where scan I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, ‘Give me meat to eat!’ I cannot carry all these people myself;*

promised on oath to their forefathers? Where can I get meat for all these people? They keep wailing to me, 'Give me meat to eat!' I can't carry all these people by myself the burden is too heavy for me. If this is how you are going to treat me, put me to death right now, if I have found favor in your eyes do not let me face my own ruin," Numbers 11:11-15. Have you ever felt you had so much on your plate that you want to give up? Have you had so much put on you that you have lost all hope even to the point that you'd rather just die? Moses did and he lost all hope, Moses, the one who faced Pharaoh down! If you have been over your head with burden read on.

Jeremiah was a prophet of the Lord who told him he should not marry and have children. He prophesied for the Lord and the priest had him beaten for it. Imagine being beaten for doing what God told you to do. He was rejected by the very people God told him to prophesy to. His mistreatment led him to curse the man who told his father he would have Jeremiah as a son. ***"Cursed be the man who brought my father the news, who made him very glad, saying, 'A child is born to you, a son.'"*** Jer. 20:14. He asked, ***"Why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?"*** 20:18. This complaint was before they lowered him into a cistern that had no water but plenty of mud. There is no reward for complaining. Have you ever been rejected for doing the right thing? How about being lowered into a cistern? Are you having a bad day? Well, read on.

What can be said about the abuse our Lord endured? Rejected, cursed, lied about, beaten and crucified by His own people whom He created and loved. Many people on earth have been abused in so many horrible ways and some in ways beyond description. However, no one has been less deserving of it than our Savior. He came to save us from the penalty of sin. He himself never sinned, yet He was treated as an enemy. Why? This world is filled with evil, and ignorance that everyone has had some sort of mistreatment and we ourselves have hurt others in ways we may never know...due to our own ignorance. So, what can we learn from all of this. I believe the words recorded in Jeremiah where God spoke to him: ***"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,"*** Jer. 29:11.

God has plans for everyone but not necessarily as a prophet as was Jeremiah. He has plans for all of us to prosper, though perhaps not materially, but spiritually. He does not want to harm us, but others may, and with permission by the fact they, as do we, have a free will. Knowing God has plans for us gives us hope, and a great future planned beyond this life. God does not look simply at the "now" but sees through the eyes of eternity.

In the garden Jesus remarked, ***"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. He said to them (disciples) Stay here and keep watch. Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. Abba, Father, he said, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will but what you will,"*** Mark 14:34-36. God's Son was overwhelmed with sorrow and wished that there was an easier way. He acknowledged that with the Father all things were possible. He could have called the whole thing off but did not because of His great love for us. If Jesus has not died for us we would have no hope and He wanted us to rest in the trust of our Father through the work Christ accomplished.

I don't know why bad things happen to good people, as well as why good things happen to bad people...that is not my business, nor yours. Our business is to know that the words God spoke to Jeremiah in Jer. 29:11 (above) apply to us as well. The Father's plans may be going through a temporary and painful struggle with hope. Thank God it is just temporary. People great and small go through these struggles, but His word still holds true. Hope he gives is solid; it is only our human frailties that are the problem and human facility is why He came.

THE FICTIONARY DICTIONARY

COMMODORE kom-e-dor: The entry to the bathroom. “The commodore is in the back by the stack of soft drinks.”

CASTANET kas-te-net: A term used by fishermen. “We didn’t have any luck until Fred told us to castanet where the small stream came into the river.

EUTHANASIA yoo-thu-in-azha: Used when speaking of an age group. “I heard the euthanasia weren’t addicted to the cell phone like the young people in America.”

PATROL pa-trol: A parent to a particular small person. “I heard a troll referring to his father as his patrol.”

RECEDE re-seed: What you have to do when the first garden sowing failed. “After that heavy rain washed the garden away we had to recede.”

From *The Fictionary Dictionary* by Jim Marbles, Trade Life Books, Tulsa, OK

COMMUNION (THE LORD’S SUPPER)

The Lord’s Supper is a perpetual means of forgiveness! Reading Exodus 24:8 in conjunction with Hebrews 9:13 we see that the blood of the Old Covenant was a legal cleansing and purification. Under the Law of Grace, the Master declares the cup to be of the “New Covenant,” the legal symbol of the blood of Christ, which has already been shed on Calvary.

What greater blessing could be bestowed upon a conscience smitten by an erring child of God than to know, as they partake of the cup, that the Master speaks “Child your sins be forgiven.”

I HAD A DEBT I COULD NOT PAY, HE PAID A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE.

- Treasures From My Basement, Wayne B. Smith

WHAT JESUS COULD SAY TO MANY

You call me Lord but do not serve me.

You call me Savior but do not love me.

You call me Teacher but do not learn.

You call me the Way but do not walk in it.

You call me Friend but do not talk to me.

You call me King but do not obey me.

You call me Leader but do not follow me.

You call me Author but do not read my words

-From Collected Christian Convictions, Donald Nash

THE UNIVERSAL FLOOD

The flood of Noah’s day was universal, covering all the earth. The Bible indicates that *“the waters prevailed so mightily on the earth that all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered,”*

Genesis 7:19. The water rose so greatly on the earth that it covered the mountains to a depth of more than 20 feet (verse 20). Moreover, the flood lasted some 377 days (nearly 54 weeks), indicating more than just a local flooding.

The Bible also affirms that every living thing that moved on the earth perished: *“Everything on the dry land in whose nostrils was the breath of life died. He blotted out every living thing that was on the face of the ground, man and animal and creeping things and birds of the heavens. They were blotted out from the earth. Only Noah was left and those who were with him in the ark,”*

(verses 22-23. This surely describes a universal flood, not local waters as some non-believers claim. Further, the universal view best explains the worldwide distribution of diluvia deposits. A universal flood would also explain the sudden death of many woolly mammoths frozen in Alaska and Siberian ice. Investigation shows that these animals died suddenly by choking or drowning and not by freezing.

Finally, more than 270 universal flood legends exist among people of various religions and cultural backgrounds all over the world. These people attribute the descent of all races to Noah. The evidence for a universal flood in Noah’s day is substantial and convincing to those who have not been brain-washed by the enemies of Scripture.

BASEBALL

“Baseball is the only sport I know that when you’re on the offense the other team controls the ball.”

Ken Harrelson, Red Sox outfielder

~

“This is really more fun than being president. I really do love baseball and I wish we could do this out on the lawn every day. I wouldn’t even complain if a stray ball came through the Oval Office window now and then.”

-Ronald Reagan

OPPORTUNITIES

(That we know of in March - May)

May 11-13 – Person to Person Spring Clinic,
Hillsboro, OH, Alex Eddy - Director

THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Did you know where Abraham Lincoln got the words “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” He borrowed it from John Wycliffe who had written them in the flyleaf of his Bible. It was Wycliffe who was surely the catalyst for starting the Reformation. The Scriptures were chained to ornate pulpits, written in Latin (a language only the “clergy” could read). Wycliffe was martyred for translating the Old and New Testaments into English. He wrote Lincoln’s immortal words 500 years before the President used them in the Gettysburg Address.

HOWEVER, LINCOLN DID SAY:

“Folks are usually as happy as they make their minds up to be.”

~

“Whatever you are, be a good one.”

~

“Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?”

~

“America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves.”

STRIFE

A man climbing a steep mountain path saw a section of the earth give way as a slide came down the path at him. Not knowing why or what he expected to accomplish he picked up stones and began to throw them at the slide. The stones became part of the slide as it came on faster and faster. As he fought it, it eventually crushed him.

Isn’t this an illustration of strife? When we are hurt or trying to repay bad things said about us, rather than stepping aside and allowing it to pass by it just gets bigger.

Self-defensive responses and actions only feed the flames of anger and cause the strife to grow until it is completely out of control. Sooner or later we become victims as we become overcome by that which they was trying to resist.

“Surely, the wringing of the nose brings forth blood, so the forcing of wrath brings forth strife,”

Proverbs 30:33.

MINI THOUGHTS

Talent is God’s gift to man.

The use of talent is man’s gift to God.

~

What makes us a teacher? A teacher is an individual charged with the responsibility of keeping a room full of live wires grounded.

~

The real enemy of faith in God is the man who says God is alive and then acts as if He were dead.

~

It is good to be saved and know it, but it is better to be saved and show it.

~

Nothing shows more accurately what we are than the way we meet trials and difficulties.

~

It is easy to have a balanced personality. Just forget your troubles the way you forget your blessings.

~

A humble talent that is used is worth more than genius that is idle.

SQUABBLE IN THE CHURCH

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

The first week the preacher preached on commitment and how we should all dedicate ourselves to God. The music director led the congregation in “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 preacher peached on gossiping and how we should all watch our tongues. The director led, “I Love to Tell the Story.”

With all this going on, the preacher became totally disgusted over the situation and the following Sunday told the congregation that he was considering resigning. The music director led, “Why Not Now.”

As it came to pass, the preacher did resign. The next week he informed the church that it was Jesus who led him to that decision. The music leader led the song, “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.