



The PARAKLETE

A publication of BARNABAS MINISTRIES, 135 Mitchell Road, Gallipolis, OH – Denny Coburn –Director

OFFICE OR FAX: 740/446-6929, Residence: 740/446-7318

Email: barnabasohio@att.net, Web page: www.barnabasohio.com

Volume No. 20


Issue 3

May-June, 2021

THINKING AND BECOMING

“There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so.” That is a quote from William Shakespeare from Hamlet. God does not agree with Shakespeare about a thing being good or bad. Much has been said and written about the goodness or badness of things, but not much has been changed concerning them. Thoughts are curious things.

A lady once told me her prayer each day was “Lord, help me get through just one more day.” I think I know what she was trying to convey and we have all had bad days, but that seemed to me to be survivalist prayer rather than an overcomer’s prayer. (See Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26, 3:12, 21, and 21:7.)



Most of the prophets had to deal with difficult times. Job certainly had his share of many bad days, but never sounded defeated. However, if the feeling of despair is constant then we may have a serious spiritual and or mental problem and need help.

The Bible speaks much of the mind. For example, we are told, **“And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus,”** Phil. 4:7. It is obvious the Lord wants us to enjoy peace.

It does no good for one to quote the Bible if one does not allow the thoughts expressed therein to rule the mind.

Some versions of the Bible translate “self-discipline” as “sound mind.” In 1 Peter 4:7 it is translated “clear mind.” Regardless of the various translations they all refer to a mind that is not pushed about by circumstances but rather a mind that is established in the truth, as Jesus taught truth. Going beyond the force of those quoted above, the more powerful words used to express the great victory over negative thinking is, **“We demolish arguments and every pretense that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ,”** 2 Cor. 10:5.

Think of it this way, thought should not have control over us rather we have control over our thoughts. Bad thoughts can come to our mind but they need not remain. It has been said, “You can’t help it if a bird lands on your head, but if you let it build a nest then that is your fault, not the birds.”

There are times we fail to see our thoughts as small birds but as lions that roar so loud that we can’t hear ourselves think, much less the thought of Christ’s words from Scripture. I’m not talking about thoughts that are of the kitty cat type, or those of a toothless tiger, but unhealthy thoughts.

Regardless of the size of the thought remember **“For as he (mankind) thinks in his heart so is he,”** Prov. 23:7. What we allow our minds to dwell on should be under control. Fleeting bad thoughts come due to the world, the flesh, and the devil, but the key word to know is “fleeting.” They shouldn’t have time to build a nest in your head.

By allowing evil thoughts to dwell we are allowing ourselves to become those thoughts, you know, “as he thinks...” On the positive side, we read, **“The thoughts of the righteous are right...”** Prov. 12:5. Since this is true, then conversely wrong thoughts are thoughts of the unrighteous.

When I was young I heard a story that illustrates my point. A farmer was going down the road to borrow an ax from his neighbor. He said to himself, “What if my neighbor Fred won’t lend me his ax?” Then he thought, “He should, I’ve loaned him things before.” Then another thought came to him. “It would be very unfair of him not to lend me an ax.” By the time he reached Fred’s house he was angry due to the thoughts he had fed himself about Fred’s reaction to his request. When Fred opened the door the man shouted in his face, “Keep your ole ax, you ingrate,” and walked off leaving his neighbor baffled.

Thoughts control our actions and our actions are what our thoughts have become. We are only victim of circumstances and we are not victims of our thoughts...if we will it so. If you think you are a victim I give you the advice I heard as a young

THINKING AND BECOMING

man from my parents when I verbalized a bad thought, "You better think again."

Thomas Jefferson writing on the subject of thoughts to Charles McPherson in 1773 penned "glowing of one warm thought is to me worth more than money." Concerning the power of thought George Washington wrote to John Jay in 1786 "From thoughts proceeds speaking; thence to acting is often but a single step, but how irrevocable and tremendous!"

Thoughts come to our minds but we can't quit thinking nor should we try, "for he who thinks little errs much," Leonardo Da Vinci.

So what do we do with bad thoughts? We bring them into captivity to Christ, 2 Cor. 10:5. When writing to the Philippians Paul referred to the humility of Christ who humbled Himself before the Father as we should, "***Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus,***" Phil. 2:5.

But the question remains, "How?" We are told in Phil. 4:8-9 "***Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of power will be with you.***"

John Ortberg wrote in *God is Closer Than You Think*, "In reality, each thought we have carries with it a little spiritual power, a tug toward or away from God. No thought is purely neutral." Voltaire, the atheist wrote in *Dialogue*, "Speech was given to man to disguise his thoughts." In his mind was the thought of deception, but in Ortberg's mind his thought dealt with reality and truth.

Jesus didn't come simply to be our Savior, as great as that is, He wants to be the Lord of our lives as well. He can only do that if we do as Phil. 4:8-9 asks. We should think on what is noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praise worthy. If these kind of thoughts fill our mind there is no room for negative, ignoble, wrong, impure, unlovely, ugly and shameful thoughts.

Thinking right thoughts all the time is not easy, but no one ever said it would be. It's not easy but it is right and wholesome. The reward however is peace of mind and we can have that peace within when there is not peace around us.

What we think is what we are, as Prov. 23:7 states. Therefore while we are thinking we are coming.

CORRECTION

In the March-April issue of the Paraklete I had mistakenly stated that Jacob and Esau were the sons of Abraham. Bible students know that they were the sons of Isaac. I thank Carole Ann Pennington for emailing me and bring it to my attention. Thanks Carole Ann.

DENNY'S SCHEDULE

Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

June 12 – Father-Son Meeting, Zack Waite, Evangelist, Fifth Avenue Church of Christ, Beverly, OH

June 25-26 – Camp Meeting, Sugarloaf Christian Service Camp, Wallingford, KY, Vernon Eldridge, Evangelist, Main Street Church of Christ, McConnelsville, OH

DANNY'S SCHEDULE FOR MARCH-APRIL

Nothing this spring-summer (Covid)

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

WOKE PEOPLE

You may have heard the term "woke" on television or the radio and wondered what they were referring to. "Woke" is a "rare past tense of wake," according to my five inch thick *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary*. Really five inches thick!

The term, to those who claim it, is that they are awake to all things true and right. In fact it really means that the rest of the people are dull of understanding. In other words, they are intellectually awake and we are asleep at the wheel. This thought is not really new. The biblical term would be "gnostic" from the Greek "to know."

There have always been people who think they know it all and then there are those of us who are aware of how little we know and by humbling ourselves before God we gain what we lack. Paul wrote "***My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,***" Col. 2:3. We may not know it all, but we know Him who does.

MINI THOUGHTS

What we know and what we think may not be the same.

~

It is easy to believe the most outrageous lie if it conforms to what we already thought.

~

Errors are not only meant to be committed by fools.

~

To lie while on your death bed is useless, the only one being fooled is yourself.

~

What will be the thought of a "woke person" when Jesus awakens them?

- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY. -

After a preacher died and went to heaven, he notices a New York cab driver had been awarded a higher place than he. "I don't understand" he complained. "I devoted my entire life to my congregation." God replied, "Our policy here is to reward results. Did your congregation stay awake whenever you preached?" "Well, some fell asleep from time to time." "Exactly," replied the Lord, "and when people rode in this man's cab, they not only stayed awake, they even prayed."

Having been in the located ministry for many years I know ministry has many aspects that were not addressed in Bible College. I was never trained in bus driving, but I drove a church bus. Now, I am not talking about a van, I mean a real bus and after several trips I got to enjoy the old bus. I was never trained to clean up flooded church basements, yet I had to clean more than one mess after a flood. When I managed a Christian service camp I handled maintenance, accounting, financing, cooking and cleaning. I lead in worship and again, something I was not trained for. I did all of that though not trained and did I enjoy them? Actually, yes and I would do them over again, if needed.

The one thing I was trained for in college was to preach. I was naïve and young and thought preaching was going to be the majority of my work. However, it didn't take long to realize preaching was a small portion of ministry. But now that I am retired from the located ministry I realize I truly miss preaching. Now don't get me wrong, I still preach some. I love to be asked to preach by churches but some churches are closed due restrictions of Covid-19. Some restrictions have been lifted and I am preaching more and it is great. Barnabas has this little meeting down in Pigeon Forge each year and from the comments I have heard in the last four or five months a few missed this gathering this year a little, okay, not a few but a lot. Why? Of course fellowship and seeing old friends and making new ones, the opportunity to get away and be in the Great Smoky Mountains. And for some it was the shopping and the restaurants. But the intent of the meeting was to hear God's Word from so many of the best preachers in the brotherhood. Before I became a part of Barnabas I went to WWW to be refueled and to hear those preachers to help me get through challenging times and be encouraged. But I am beginning to wonder if churches might be looking at preaching as "non-essential" and not really important. Could the attendance at worship today be an indication that

preaching isn't that big a deal and that they really don't need it? Paul spoke of the "**foolishness of preaching**," 1 Cor. 1:21 and how people of the world, the worldly wise, reject preaching of God's Word. It isn't the actual preaching they reject but what is being preached. They don't want to hear about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Could it be that people who do come and sit in our pews also don't want to hear it either? Do they see it as foolishness?

Just before Paul went home and gave Timothy the charge he commanded him to **PREACH THE WORD**. It's a charge not a suggestion that the Father and the Son agree with. It involves eternal matters. It is the same today. We are to be ready to preach in all circumstances even if the assembly doesn't appear to be receiving it. We are to preach because it is essential.

Why preach? Paul told Timothy "**For the time will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance with their own desires,**" 2 Tim. 4:3. We must preach because of such a time as this and for that very reason. There must be a contrast and the truth is that which contrasts with worldly desires.

Yes, I miss preaching but I love and support those who **PREACH THE WORD** each Lord's Day. I appreciate the hours that go into messages and the prayers in which their study is bathed. I believe preaching is essential and encourage preachers, young and old to keep preaching. We need it.

HENRY AND
SWEETIE SAY:



H: Well, Sweetie, here we are stuck behind another school bus.

S: Think Henry those children are continuing their education now that the virus is getting under control.

H: Boy! I'm glad I have all my education and don't have to study.

S: Henry, what do you mean, you have all your education?

H: I know all there is to know.

S: Now Henry that is not true. What does the Bible say about studying?

H: I didn't know the Bible said anything about studying.

S: Paul told Timothy to "**Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that will not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**"

H: Sweetie! Didn't you hear me say that a person is never too old to study the Bible?

S: I guess I did, just now.

NO SLEEP WALKING

TEXT: Eph. 5:1-21

INTRO: Eph. 4:17-32 reveals the attitude of a Christian walk. Verses 4-6 speaks to the doctrine of unity, verses 11-12 addresses the gifts in the Church, verses 17-21 tells us what to put off and put on for the Christian walk and in Chapter 5:1-21 we discover the power to maintain our walk. There is no such division in Paul's letter but we make divisions for easy reference to a text. In reality it all leads to 5:18 about being Spirit filled in order to "wake up."

- I. **WAKE UP AND WALK IN LOVE (1-7)**
 - A. **LOVE AS CHRIST LOVES**
 1. We are to be "imitators of God," v1
 2. We are to "live a life of love," v2
 3. We are to give ourselves up for others, v2
 4. We are to live a life of sacrifice to God, v2
 - B. **LOVE WORKS AGAINST FLESH**
 1. "But" is a conjunction, usually the opposite, v3
 2. There must be "no hint" of sexual sin, v3
 3. The same is true of impurity or greed, v3
 4. This is improper behavior for His child, v3
 5. There is to be no "dirty talk," v4
 - C. **LOVE REQUIRES SEPARATION**
 1. We must separate from those who don't, v5
 2. We are not to be deceived by such people, v6
 3. We are not to "partner" with them.
- II. **WAKE UP AND WALK IN THE LIGHT (8-14)**
 - A. **WE ARE CHILDREN OF LIGHT**
 1. God likens darkness to sin and light to purity.
 2. Light consists of goodness, righteousness, and truth, v9
 3. Light seeks to please God, not the flesh, v10
 - B. **LIGHT WORKS AGAINST DARKNESS**
 1. Have nothing to do with deeds of dark, v11
 2. But expose deeds of darkness, v11
 3. It's shameful to even speak of such deeds, v12
 - C. **LIGHT MAKES THINGS VISIBLE**
 1. Expose and make the contrast clear to all, v13
 2. Light makes things of dark visible, v14
 3. Awaken from the dead, Christ will shine on you
- III. **HOW TO WALK WHEN AWAKENED? (15-21)**
 - A. **WE WALK CAREFULLY**
 1. "Be very careful...how you live, v15
 2. Not as unwise but wise, v15
 3. Make the most of every opportunity, v16
 4. "days are evil" sin lurks at every corner
 - B. **WALK IN THE WILL OF THE LORD**
 1. Understand what the will of the Lord is, v17
 2. Be sober "not drunk with wine" v18
 3. Be filled with the Spirit, v18
 - C. **WALK WITH PURPOSE**
 1. Use spiritual messages from the heart, v19
 2. Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, v19
 3. Make music in your heart, v19
 4. "Give thanks for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ," v20
 5. Submit to one another out of deference for Christ," v21

CONCLUSION: One who has been awakened to the love of Christ Jesus is to walk just as He did...in love. All that He did was an expression of love in words, deeds, works, and submission to the Father. He walked in light, for indeed He is the Light of the world and has proclaimed us as "children of light."

Walking in the love of our Lord requires a separation from the things of the world and from companionship with those who are of the world. We do live in the world, but are not to conform to the ways of the world or join those who have.

Awake from sleep, be careful how you walk, not being fooled or acting foolishly by falling asleep again. Wake up, walk up, light up the world around you.

TANGLED THREADS

A textile factory with complicated machinery posted instructions for its employees that read, "If your threads get tangled, call the foreman." One of the workers, a diligent and busy young lady, got her threads tangled; she tried to disentangle them, but she only made them worse; finally she sent for the foreman. He glanced at the threads and said, "You have been trying to do this yourself haven't you?" She replied, "Yes." "Why did you not send for me, according to your instructions?" he asked. Rather sullenly, she said, "I did my best." He then replied, "Remember this, that doing your best is sending for me."

When we have a tangled mess we should send for our Foreman, Christ Jesus in prayer. We, like the young lady in this story, only make things worse when we do our best thinking that is good enough. We should follow our instructions as found in John 15:5 "*If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing.*" Note Jesus didn't say, "Apart from me you can do little," or "Apart from me you can do something." Rather He said that we can do NOTHING spiritual without Him.

Some will spout what they can do for indeed we can do some things...but without Him we can do nothing of spiritual value.

GUESS WHO

A man from a small town in the south went to Chicago and had a taxi drive him around the town to see the sights. The cab driver got to talking and joking and telling riddles.

He asked, "Who has the same mother and father that I do but is not either my brother or sister?"

The fellow couldn't think of an answer and said, "I give up who is it? The driver said, "It's me."

The fellow thought that was a great riddle and couldn't wait to get back home and pull it on his wife. When he got home, he asked, "Who has the same mother and father as me but isn't my brother or sister?"

His wife said she didn't know, and he grinned and said, "It's a taxi driver in Chicago."

RANDOM THOUGHTS

To make a dream come true, you have to stay awake.

~

The cliché is true: People don't care what you know until they know you care.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Sixteen – Understanding the Need for Encouragement

I thought I would use a portion of one of the lessons from my Encouragement Seminar for this study. There seems to be an increasing demand for counseling, support groups and self-help books in this time of our history. All of them have one thing in common and that is a cry for encouragement in one form or another. There is not an increase in the need for encouragement because the need has always been present. However, encouragement is sought in places and in ways that are outside of the biblically ascribed manner and source material. But make no mistake there is a deep need for it and it is especially true in the Lord's Church.

Psychiatrists have told us that depression is the number one "disease" counselors and other professionals deal with today. Personally I don't think depression is a disease but it is a disorder of thought and I will defend my position later, but I do agree that it is definitely a major need. After years of providing counseling I have concluded that depression is an advanced form of discouragement, and encouragement should be sought way before depression has a chance to form. However, that is not always the case.

The Scriptures admonish us to encourage one another "daily." In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 we read ***"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up just as in fact you are doing."*** At least the congregation at Thessalonica was already doing the right thing. In this text we see that encouragement is for the purpose of building others up. 1 Corinthians 14:3 tells us ***"But everyone who prophesies (speaks for the truth) speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort."*** Obviously from this text we learn encouragement is accomplished by words. There are other ways to encourage one another, but using truth in words is at the top of the list.

Most of us need honest comforting words to endure and endurance speaks to hope for what lies ahead. This truth is spelled out in the Bible, ***"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope,"*** Romans 15:4. We find no more encouragement to "keep on keeping on" than the inspired words of the Bible.

There are two main reasons for honest words of encouragement, even if they are not necessarily the words we expect or want. One of the problems I see, with treating depression as a disease is that in doing so we can fall into the trap of treating the symptom rather than the problem. I want to say before someone in the mental health industry has a hissy-fit (southern talk) that I am aware that in some rare cases there is an imbalance due a chemical or an endocrine (messaging) problem, but I believe that is a very small minority of cases.

Let me use an illustration to make my point that always treating depression as a disease can be detrimental. I used to run five miles a day and longer on weekends. I purchased a book titled *"The Runner's Medical Book,"* (I forget the author's name). In the very first chapter the author wrote that athletes should go to a sports-med doctor for running injuries. His reason: Because a regular doctor will tell you what you have to quit doing but a sports-med doctor will tell you what you have to do in order to return to activity. This was born out when my eldest son had a knee injury while playing soccer in college. The physician near the college wanted to operate on the knee. I told him to get home as soon as possible because we had a sports-med doctor in Gallipolis and he used to be the team physician for the Cincinnati Bengals. He told my son what to do to get back on the field...and it worked. It does not work in all cases but in a far greater number of cases than is thought.

If mental health personnel always see depression as a disease then they will treat or prescribe to that person as one who is sick rather than one who needs to be listened to, inquired of, and have a discussion on a series of options that might have nothing to do with blaming a disease for negative thoughts, dispensing drugs, or confinement. There is a world out there that the person has to face and they need to "get back on the road." I don't mean to make this sound so simple, because it isn't. However, we must remember that the root word from which we get the word Psychiatry is the Greek "psyche" and means "the breath of life and then the soul."

Discouragement or being in the advanced form depression are complicated issues and should not be dismissed flippantly. That can be done by those who believe as I do but it can and has been done by those who treat the disorder as a disease. Those who have read a “text book” in the area psychology can error just as one who fails to see the complexity of the human being. Hebrews 3:13 reads **“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness”**. The word translated “sin” is from the Greek “hamartia” in this text and is usually seen as referring to an act or acts. However, in this text it means “a governing principle or power. “It is seen as power acting through the members of the body,” *An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words with their Precise Meanings for English Readers* by W.E. Vine, Fleming H. Revel.

If I had a broken watch and I had a choice of taking it to a repairman or back to the watch maker, I would take it to the one who made it. It is this principle that guides me in my approach to discouragement and depression. There was a time when most counseling was done by the local preacher. The reason being that preachers dealt with a person as a living soul, Genesis 2:7. We are not just physical beings that need programmed.

Persons are complicated beings. We have a body, a mind, a will and emotions. Together these make up a soul housed within that which we can see...the body. Emotions do not respond to facts, but perception and often emotions short circuit the mind. This can be illustrated when a teenage boy and a teenage girl fall in love. The brain (mind) responds to feelings not facts. Now I want to say here that love is not a mud puddle we fall into or a tree we fall out of. The “love” spoken of here is emotional attraction and thoughts are not always rational.

Thought often dictates behavior and bad thoughts dictate bad behavior. Feelings of depression are stubborn things and often we need encouragement from someone who cares to get out of it. Today we hear much about the increase in suicides due to the negative things caused by government reactions to the Coronavirus. Lock downs, no school, loss of jobs and businesses are real, but hopeless thoughts because of these things are not the answer. I hate to have to admit this but in some homes the atmosphere is toxic and the only break the young people get is to go to school. If depression dominates thinking in such cases, it is difficult to turn it around. However, encouragement is hard to find but find it we must.

Christians have an advantage because we know that the present and the future are in the hands of God and He has our good in mind. Sometimes we forget this as did some in the early church when disciplined as recorded in Hebrews 3:13 **“You have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: ‘My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves and he corrects everyone he accepts as a son.’”** The short-term difficulty they were receiving was for their long-term good. Depression had set in and the writer of Hebrews had to remind them who they were to God...His children.

Can we learn from the secular world on this subject? Yes, definitely! It appears that they are better at collecting data, so we can learn their methods of doing that. However, we in the Lord’s Church are better in my opinion at prescribing a cure, which is a “checkup from the neck up and rid ourselves of stinkin thinkin,” as I remember that quote came from Zig Zigler. It sounds trite and it probably is but it addresses the beginning of encouragement which is: right thoughts.

If we have a disease it needs treated, if we have thoughts that are disordered, then we need to set them in order.



THE FICTIONARY DICTIONARY

BURGLARIZE – What a crook sees with. “Boy, when the burglarize something valuable, he will break in and take it.” (Burglar eyes).

WINDOW – The act of winning money. “Every time he gambles he will window.” (Win dough).

POPCORN-BALL – The senior member of the Cornball family. “The one with the white hair is Pop Cornball.”

ORTHODOX – The physician you see if you have been exposed to too much weed killer. “After spraying for weeds with Ortho he had to see one of those Ortho docs.”

MINUTE – What Mrs. Gingrich calls her son. “That’s my Newt; he used to be Speaker of the House.”

(From *The Fictionary Dictionary* by Jim Marbles.)

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

In Mark 8:34, Jesus said to a group of followers, “*If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.*” Jesus’ statement would certainly have made sense to His first-century hearers because the cross was a common tool of execution. Roman executioners required condemned criminals to carry their own crosses to the places of executions, John 19:17.

Jesus is calling for a total commitment. Here is a paraphrase: “If you really want to follow me, do not do so in word only, but put your life on the line and follow me on the cross, a path that will involve sacrifice, suffering, and possibly death.”

Becoming saved is only the beginning of following Christ as a disciple. Scripture is clear that we become saved by faith in Jesus Christ (see John 5:24; 11:25; 12:46; Acts 2:38). A life of discipleship, however, goes beyond the initial conversion and calls for a life of sacrifice and commitment. The disciple is to deny himself. He must turn his back on selfish interests. He is no longer to live his life with self as the one to be pleased. Rather Christ must reign supreme.

His command is in the present tense and is an imperative command. It is to also be perpetual.

A LITTLE SPORTS HUMOR

A hunter was giving his friend a tour of his trophy room where he had many mounted heads that displayed his hunting. When they came to the head of a lion on the wall his friend asked, “When did you bag him?”

The host said, “That was three years ago, when I went hunting in Africa with my wife.”

The tourist said, “What are these animals stuffed with?” The host said, “Well, that lion is stuffed with my wife.”

HOCKEY

You know it’s going to be a good game when a fight breaks out during the National Anthem.

WORDS FROM THE PAST

“The Constitution regulates our stewardship...but there is a higher law than the Constitution, which regulates our authority.” Senator William H. Seward of New York during the debate on the Compromise of 1850.

PROMINENCE OF BAPTISM IN OUR MIND

Karl Barth, noted theologian, wrote, “For the relevance of holy baptism is this: That we may, our whole life long, think about the fact that we are baptized...Once in my life long thinking about the fact that we are baptized...Once in my life a sign has been established that I hold on to when the witness of the Holy Spirit does not reach me. Just as I was born, I was baptized.”

Later he said, “Baptism is a representation of Christ’s death. It tells us that when Christ was dead and buried, we too have been dead and buried...Baptism tells you that His death was also your death.”

LIFE OF CHRIST PINPOINTED IN HISTORY

Roman Emperor – 15th year of reign of Tiberius.

Judean Governor – Pontius Pilate

Galilean Tetrarch – Herod Antipas

Tetrarch of Ituraea & Trachomatous – Philip

Tetrarch of Abilene – Lysanias

Jewish High Priests – Anna and Caiaphas

From *Collected Christian Convictions* – Donald Nash

OPPORTUNITIES

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

May 19-22 – Rock Lake Family Camp, Vestaburg, MI, Contact – Terryst71@gmail.com

June 13-17 Preaching in the Mountians, Laurel Highlands C of C, Stoytown, PA, Bob Long, Director.

July 26-29 – Hillsboro Family Camp, Person to Person, Hillsboro, OH, Alex Eddy, Director

JOB OR MINISTRY?

If you do it because no one else will, it's a job.

If you do it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you do it well enough to get by, it's a job.

If you do it the best you can, its a ministry.

If you do it as if it doesn't interfere, it's a job.

If you do it because you are committed, it's a ministry

If you quit because you are not thanked, it's a job

If you stay with it regardless, it's a ministry

If it's hard for you to get excited about it, it's a job.

If it's impossible NOT to get excited, it's a ministry.

If you are concerned with being a success, it's a job.

If you are concerned with being faithful, it's a ministry.

If people say, 'well done' when you do a job, it **IS** a job.

If, when completed, you hear God say 'well done,' It **WAS** a ministry.

DARE TO RISK

To laugh is to risk appearing the fool.

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach for another is to risk involvement.

To expose your ideas, and your dreams, before a crowd is to risk their loss.

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To believe is to risk failure.

But risks must be taken, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

The people who risk nothing, do nothing, have nothing, are nothing.

They may avoid suffering and sorrow, but they cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love, live.

Chained by their attitudes, they are slaves; they have forfeited their freedom.

Only people who risk are free.

William Arthur Ward

LINCOLN QUOTES

"My best friend is a person who will give me a book I have not read."

"I'm a success today because I have a friend who believed in me and I didn't have the heart to let him down.

DEAR JOHN

A soldier at Desert Storm received a letter from his girlfriend asking for her favorite picture of herself because she wanted to use it for her engagement announcement since she had gotten engaged to another guy. The soldier's buddies heard about the mean letter and collected all their girlfriends', sisters' lady friends, etc., pictures and put them in a shoebox and mailed them to her with a note attached: "Here you are, but you'll have to pick out your picture because for the life of me, I can't remember which one you are."

- Wayne Smith's *Treasures from my Basement*

GOFER'S THOUGHTS

"Never think about what you did wrong on the last shot. Think about what you will do right on the next one." – Tommy Armour

Isn't that similar to Paul's advice? "***Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heaven-ward in Christ Jesus,***"

Phil. 3:13-14.

"My father told me, "You must never learn to think negative." – Johnny Miller

Again, his father matched the Bible. "***Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things,***" Phil. 4:8

DIETS

Everyone we talk to these days is on a diet. Well, I've got one that really works. The first day you cut out meat...the second day you cut out starches...the third day you cut out liquids...the fourth day your cut out paper dolls.

SCHOOL

"I failed math so many times, I can't count."

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.