



# The PARAKLETE

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## GRACE CONTINUES

Once there lived a wicked and violent man who was cruel, mean spirited and self-reliant in all he did and had no shame about it. He was unapproachable by kindness, love or compassion. One day he found himself in conflict with the law. The law he violated demanded his life. However, the loving king, in his mercy, spared the man on the condition that another pay the cost and the guilty man, in remembrance of his forgiveness also had to change his ways lest the penalty be reinstated.

In gratitude he did change and become a better man and drew near the king. In fact he and the king became close friends, so much so that the king granted him favor after favor due to his change.

In time the forgiven man viewed himself as one who had special favor and power with the king. Even others treated him as royalty. His own thoughts and the peoples treatment so dominated him that he forgot his standing with the king was upon the word of the king not his own goodness.

In his arrogance he had become oblivious to the truth that he was **under the provisions of the grace of the king**. He began boasting as if he had the powers of the monarch within himself. In so doing, he was violating the protection of the provisions wherein he stood. This boasting and arrogance infuriated the king and left the ruler no choice but to enact the penalty the man had escaped by grace. In the end his actions cost the man his standing with the king and his life as well.

This story illustrates a doctrinal truth we Christians should never forget. We can never, at any point in our Christian walk dispense with the necessity of continuing grace and opt for a “performance related” salvation. What was begun by grace continues by grace and our accomplishments and record of success in our Christian walk should never cloud our thinking on this essential doctrine.

There is no more fundamental truth in the Scriptures than the fact that we **“are saved by grace.”** While there are humbling commands (repentance, reliance, confession, baptism, etc.) to be met to stand in a state of grace, the concept of continuing grace is

**GRACE GOES ON AND ON AND ON...** many sided. In the Old Testament the word “hen” (favor) represents the unmerited favor of a superior to an inferior. This superior-inferior concept must never be lost if one is to truly understand and appreciate grace. Saving grace is not extended between equals.

The common Greek word may give us a beginning knowledge of what grace means. The word is “charis” (grace) had several meanings: (1) causing attractiveness in appearance or speech, (2) favorable regard, (3) a favor, (4) gratitude and (5) “for the sake of a thing.” However, it is not until the coming of Christ that grace took on its fullest meaning. His self-sacrifice is perfect grace, 2 Corinthians 8:9. This grace is absolutely free, Romans 6:14; 5:15-18; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-9. When it is received, it governs the spiritual life by compounding favor upon favor, just as in the story related above. It equips, strengthens and controls all phases of our lives, 2 Cor. 8:6-7; Col. 4:6; 2 Thess. 2:16; 2 Tim. 2:1.

Grace in its fullest definition, is God (the superior) extending His unmerited favor in the gift of His son as the source of salvation for all (we, the inferiors) who choose to obey the Gospel, Rom. 10:16. In addition, He offers grace for this life and hope for the future life. Grace can never be earned, never be repaid and never be beyond our constant need.

There are at least three motives indicated in the New Testament as to why God acts in grace, especially in salvation issues. We need to remember these truths to prevent the mistake of the man in the story. (1) He extends grace to express His love, Eph. 2:4; John 3:16. (2) He does it in order to display His grace in the ages to come, Eph. 2:7. In other words, He does not want this fact to be lost to us, even in eternity. (3) He also extends grace that redeemed men might produce good works, Eph. 2:10. His grace carries power to perform His will in our lives. That is not only thankfulness to Him, but a heart of love, mercy and forgiveness to others who have sinned against us. Knowing this, why would anyone surrender grace that not only saves us but empowers us to live a life

## GRACE CONTINUES

In believing grace was needed for salvation alone, we doom ourselves for failure in Christian living. In such a view grace would be like a battery to get the car started and after that we are on our own. No, grace is more like the battery and the fuel, not only to start but to continue forward movement.

When one claims to no longer be in need of grace, one has fallen from grace, Gal. 5:4 due to the pride of believing we can do it on our own. God **“opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble,”** James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5.

Paul asks an important question: **“...since we didn't receive the Spirit by obeying the law and after we've begun with the Spirit, are we to try to attain our goal by human efforts?”** Gal. 3:1-3. Paul calls this kind of thinking by several different names: **“a different gospel,” “no gospel,” “confusion,” “trying to pervert the gospel,”** and the preaching of such a message leads to **“eternal condemnation,”** Gal. 1:6-9.

What was it that upset Paul so? The whole of the Book of Galatians makes it quite clear that it was the bondage of performance-related salvation, not only for salvation but continuing in God's grace.

Not only was it a false teaching but it is rebellion against God's continuing grace. Beyond that it destroys the wonderful wealth of grace...from the start to the finish.

Someone might say, “But the potential to live flawlessly is possible.” How can there be the potential if its fulfillment is never seen, save in the mind of the one who has lied to himself.

Even though the effort is made to not sin again, there remains the unseen sins of arrogance, self-serving motives and ungodly attitudes will prevail. We never see our own sins clearly, that's why they are called blind spots. That is a no-brainer.

There is in mankind the desire to “do it ourselves.” That's pride and that human trait of independence is a constant threat, even in the redeemed. Before one comes to Christ, the resistance of salvation's plan is called “hard heartedness.” If after salvation one begins to believe one is no longer in need of grace, this sin of arrogance is just as damning as Eve's sin of believing **“you will become as gods, knowing good and evil.”** In either case, it's a desire or a claim to be equal with God in goodness and power.

The Lord does not just “jump start” our spiritual life, He maintains it until the end. The song writer is correct “I Need Him Every Hour.”

We need Him every minute of every hour.

## NEITHER DENNY NOR DANNY HAS MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY OR FEBRUARY EXCEPT

**Winter Worship and Workshop February 14-17,  
2022, Pigeon Forge, TN. F or meetings after WWW:  
Denny - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929  
Danny - Huntington, WV 304/633-5908**

### WISDOM FROM THE COMMON MAN

“If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free”

-P.J. O'Rourke

“No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.”

-Mark Twain

“Talk is cheap, except when Congress is doing it.”

-Anonymous

“A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul.”

-George Bernard Shaw

### THE HEART OF CHRISTIANITY

The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church, **“If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain,”** 1 Cor.15:14.

The Greek word for *vain* refers to something that is useless or empty. Our faith means nothing if Christ is not raised from the dead.

Paul also wrote **“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins,”** 1 Cor. 15:17. The Greek word for *futile* indicates something that is without results. Our faith is meaningless if Christ has not been raised.

It all boils down to this. If the resurrection of Christ did not occur, the apostles were false witnesses; our faith is vain, useless, empty and futile; and we are all still lost in our sins. Moreover, the dead in Christ have truly perished forever, and you and I are the most pitiful people on the face of the earth, to say nothing of the fact that we have no hope beyond the grave if such is the case. The Gospel would be nothing more than some sweet sounding words to keep us quiet on our death beds. That's cruel!

The good news is that Christ is indeed raised, as we see later in the whole 1 Corinthians 15. For now we simply note that Christ **“presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God,”** Acts 1:3.

Our faith rests on the solid ground of honest witnesses and arisen Lord whom they heard, touched and saw with their own eyes. See 1 John 1:1-3.



## **- .DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY . -**

### **Something lighthearted:**

A man boasts to a friend about his new hearing aid, "It's the most expensive one I've ever had, it cost me \$3,500." His friend asks, "What kind is it?" The braggart says, "Half past four."

### **KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?**

Allow me to help you a bit to determine what time it is. We just "stuffed" ourselves during Thanksgiving. We also just got all "wrapped up" in Christmas. Now with those two obvious clues do you know what time it is? It is the New Year. As we have changed our calendars and gotten through the celebration of going from 2021 to 2022 it is time for us to evaluate the old year and consider what the new year looks like.

2020 has already been earmarked as 'the worst' year in the 21st century. The coronavirus has given rise to a global pandemic that has disrupted most institutional settings and many private homes. We have been through a lot over the last year. People had to work from home and for some that was a welcomed situation. However, now businesses and corporations want the employees to return to the office and that has created a problem. People like working from home! We have suddenly been forced to adapt to the '**new normal**': work-from-home setting, parents home-schooling their children in a new blended learning setting, lockdown and quarantine, and the mandatory wearing of face masks and face shields in public. The worst thing to consider during this time is the loss of friends and family to this devastating virus. Lives have changed and there is a lot to consider during this time. Ripples from the current situation have spread into the personal, social, economic and spiritual areas.

Yes, this virus situation has invaded the local church setting. Local assemblies closed their doors and went to Facebook, YouTube or any other means of virtually having worship. Still others continued to meet on the Lord's Day only to have an outbreak of people coming down with Covid. It was hard to stay away from it totally. Masks were worn, and

then they weren't worn. How the Lord's Supper was taken changed and many gatherings have not gone back to partaking of communion as they did prior to the virus. Singing was eliminated and "canned music" was substituted.

You all are very familiar with what I just wrote, you and your local church have gone through all the changes. My question is this, "are the changes going to be the '**new normal**'? Do we like some of the changes and are we happy that Sunday School has been cancelled. Sunday night worship/study has been moved to just virtual study and that is convenient because you don't really have to participate in that if you don't care to. The same goes for morning worship. You can just stay home and watch the worship on your tablet, or desk top computer. Don't misunderstand me, I am glad we have this sort of capability to get the Word to God's people and they had a means to still be drawn closer to the Lord. I just ask God to help us get back to the "**old normal**".

Maybe it is because I am older, but I like to see the church houses full on the Lord's Day. It is encouraging to me to see people coming together to worship. However, I have noticed that many of the people who claim membership in the local church who have decided not to come to the local assembly because they have convinced themselves they can worship at home and they don't need to worship with the others. It is discouraging to me that we are losing sheep. They are leaving the fold and some are just going back to the world. I am praying that the "new normal" doesn't weaken the body of Christ even more than it already was.

Will you put this concern on your prayer list? Each of us should ask God for His strengthening and guidance. May we challenge people to return to the assembly, certainly using precautions if that is necessary in your area. May we be concerned about each other and may we love the brotherhood as Peter instructed in I Peter 2:17. Pray daily that God's will will be done and His body will bring glory to Him.

**Danny Evans is an associate and trustee  
of Barnabas Ministries.**

## HE ATE WITH SINNERS

**TEXT:** Mark 2:13-17 (Also Matt. 9:12-13, Lk 5:31-32)

**INTRO:** In these passages we have the first rudiments of the Gospel. Why did Christ come into the world? For whom did He come? He came to seek and to save the lost. In order to do so He had to associate with sinners. Matthew a tax collector and considered the scourge of the earth by the "religious" people of the time, Jesus became his friend. He ate with him and other sinners which was a visible measure of His love. Jesus was pure but He was also fearless. A rabbi (teacher) He associated with sinners every chance He had and centered His message in verse 17, "*It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.*" Sinners were "sick" the self-righteous were "healthy."

### I. THE ANALYSIS

#### A. WHO ARE THE HEALTHY?

1. In this case, the Pharisees.
2. Jesus uses sarcasm in using "healthy"
3. He could teach a "know it all."
4. They were conceited and deceived.

#### B. SELF DECEIVED

1. Psa. 36:2 "*You flatter yourself too much to hate or detect sin.*"
2. Gal. 6:3 "*If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing he deceives himself...*"
3. Rom. 7:11 Paul said, "*Sin deceived me*"
4. See Titus 3:3, Heb. 3:13 and Isa. 64:6

#### C. WHO ARE THE SICK?

1. Those who recognize their need
2. Jesus didn't come to those who think they are well
3. Man fell at the tree in Eden, he can be risen at the cross at Calvary.
4. Moses' law addressed behavior, Jesus came to give grace.

### II. THE DIAGNOSIS

#### A. IT IS NOT RITUAL THAT'S NEEDED

1. "I desire mercy and not sacrifice"
2. No more animals need to be sacrificed
3. No more law keeping
4. It is according to His mercy that we are saved.
5. Mercy alone will save.

#### B. RECOGNITION ON OUR PART

1. **READ** Titus 1:15
2. "*According to His mercy we are saved*"
3. Mercy only where there is sin.
4. Grace only where it is undeserved.
5. **POEM:** "T'was for sinners that he suffered  
Agonies unspeakable  
Canst thou doubt thou are a sinner?  
If thou can't then hope farewell"
6. "**While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**" Romans 5:8.

### III. THE PROGNOSIS

#### A. REPENT

1. "*God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance,*" 2 Peter 3:9.
2. Followed by confession of Jesus as Savior and be baptized for remission, Acts 2:38.

#### B. LIVE FOR HIM

1. Song: "No one ever cared for me like Jesus"
2. He grants the repentant sinner the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Yes, He eats with sinners and He walks with those who will walk with Him. The Lord loves sinners and hates their sin which He is willing to remove, but only if you let Him. Jesus does not force His love on us, He just makes it available to us. You are not too good for Jesus, unless you think you are and so deceive yourself.

## AMERICA

Our national anthem is unique. It is the only anthem that ends with a question. "Does our banner still wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

We'll all have to answer that. But as we watch the television screen, read the newspaper, and see what is happening around us, we have questions of our own. The flag may still wave but our country has changed. God is not only forgotten but His principles are attacked and mocked.

It is my belief that the only way our country will return to its former state is the prayer of God's people. The Scriptures teach this.

Proverbs 14:34 "*Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people.*" Proverbs 11:14 "**For lack of guidance a nation falls...**" Proverbs 21:1 "*In the Lord's hand the king's (ruler's) heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.*" Psalm 46:1 "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*" Read Daniel 9:4-10; 17-19 that he confessed the sins of the rulers and pleaded for the help of God.

The banner may still wave but how long it will continue is in the Lord's hands. Pray to the Lord of all lands for a healing of our nation's sinful ways.

"The servant craves naught  
Except to serve with might.  
I was not told to win or lose  
My orders are to fight"

### **NOTHING LIKE A FRIEND**

Thank God for you, good friend of mine,  
seldom is friendship such as thine;  
How very much I wish to be  
as helpful as you've been to me.

~

Someday I hope with you to stand  
before the throne at God's right hand,  
and say to you at journey's end,  
"Praise God, you've been to me a friend!"

~

There's a wonderful thing  
that gold cannot buy  
a blessing that's rare and true;  
and that's the gift of a wonderful friend,  
like the friend I have in you!

*Copied Treasures from My Basement*

**MINI THOUGHTS**  
**Be kind when possible.**

~

**It's always possible.**

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

## A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn Study Number One Hundred Twenty –Happiness, a Healthy Choice

I would like to begin the thoughts about happiness by sharing the cold hard fact that the opposite of happiness, depression. Depression is America's number one health problem. Some might say it is the number one "mental health" problem and they would be correct, however, most mental health problems can and do affect our overall health, emotional, physical, and spiritual. Most people suffer from temporary depression at some time in their lives. It has been estimated that at any one time upwards of twenty to thirty million people in America suffer from depression. It occurs more often in females than males and three times in the higher socio-economic groups. So money does not buy happiness.

Depression is a vague term and often used to describe a wide spectrum of behavior, anything from a mild mood swing to psychosis. Psychiatrist usually treats people who are "clinically depressed," that is, so depressed that they are having physiological symptoms. I am not qualified to go into detail in such cases and I'm not sure all psychiatrists are as well, but that's beside the point. I wish to discuss the fact that depression robs us of happiness. I am not referring to happiness that depends on happenings, but the deeper happiness that we Christians refer to as inner joy. A joy that is a fruit of the indwelling Holy Spirit as referred to in Galatians 5:22-23. Depression is devastating and affects the total being, as I have stated. Emotional pain of depression is more severe than physical pain however it comes on more gradually.

There are perhaps many various reasons for depression however there are three primary reasons for this emotional pain. One of them is a lack of self-worth (a low self-concept). Alfred Adler coined the phrase *inferiority complex* which is used quite widely today by counselors. This has helped greatly in defining a major source of this pain. Matthew 7:3-5 tells us to examine our own behavior (log in our eye) and then we may be able to accept the speck in the eyes of others. In other words we should correct our own behavior before we begin to blame others for our state of mind.

A second major source of this emotional pain in us is *lack of intimacy with others*, or loneliness. It has been said "No man is an island." We are designed by God in such a way that we need one another. However, due to our fallen nature friendships are always going to have its occasional troubles along with its rewards. We are basically selfish so we will offend each other from time to time. But this is better than the pain of loneliness. Loneliness, like depression, is a choice. There are those who choose not to make the effort it takes to build a few close friendships. They allow their fear of intimacy to dominate their will not realizing they do not have to surrender to that fear. Hebrews 10:24-25 tells us to encourage one another. How can we do that with our mind always on ourselves?

A third reason for depression is a *lack of intimacy with God*. I am convinced that deep within each human being God has placed a "God vacuum" an inner emptiness that can only be filled by a personal relationship by God. Romans Chapter One tells us that God has created in nature a beauty that makes mankind aware of his need for a relationship with the Creator. In summary it appears there are three major sources of emotional pain: Lack of self-worth, Lack of intimacy with others, and a Lack of intimacy with God. Any one of these sources of pain predisposes a person to accumulate grudges or hurts that may turn to depression. So how can these be overcome? Jesus' replied to one of the teachers of the law who asked "***of all the commandments, which is the most important,***" in Mark 12:28.

He replies "***The most important one is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.***" Love God, love your neighbor; love yourself (genuine self-worth is the opposite of selfishness). People often over compensate for a lack of self-worth by their reaction to others.

If all the commandments given by God were easy to put into practice then they would not have to be commanded. In order to remain or regain our happiness (inner joy) we need to control our “heart, soul, mind, and strength” and it helps to have a plan or “mind-set” in addressing His commands given for our happiness.

Before we get into the specific plan to overcome depression there are two essentials we must address. We must first have personal intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. If this is not the case any plan we have to overcome depression is doomed for failure. We must make up our mind we can’t do anything of spiritual value if we do not rely on Jesus who said **“If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit, apart from me you can do nothing,”** John 15:5. He didn’t say “apart from me you can do little,” or “apart from me you can do some things,” No! He said we can do nothing (of a spiritual nature) without him. Overcoming depression is a spiritual issue.

The second thing we must do is get rid of the “I can’t” attitude and be honest and say “I won’t” putting the responsibility where it belongs...with ourselves. “I can’t get along with them,” “I can’t communicate with them,” or “can’t give it up.” These all need to be replaced with “I won’t get along with them,” “I won’t communicate...” and “I won’t give it up.” You and I have a will and that will is exercised when and where we are determined to use it. So enjoy a personal commitment to Christ and rid yourselves of “I can’t.” To put our plan to work on overcoming depression and choose (use our will), to enjoy happiness do the following.

1. Commit your life daily to the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ. The first thing we should do each morning is thank God for a new day of life and another opportunity to wipe the slate clean and start again.
2. Spend some time in the morning meditating on what God has revealed about yourself, life, and who you are in Christ. We are bought with the blood of Christ, so we have a self-worth He has placed on us, not what we or others may deduce. Roll the words John 3:16 over and over in your mind and insert your name in place of “the world.”
3. Get rid of all grudges daily. Ephesians 4:26 admonishes us to **“do not let the sun go down when you are still angry.”** We might say, “It’s such a small matter, so why bother with it?” If it’s such a small matter then why does it still come to mind? Get rid of it.
4. Spend some time telling those you love verbally that you do love them and how they have blessed you in your life. Make friends friendlier and family closer. Get out of yourself and into the life of others. Jesus broke His peace in heaven to make peace between us and the Father, so we should do likewise and put forth effort for the benefit of others
5. Spend some time with Christian friends of the same gender in person or by phone just enjoying your relationship with them in general conversation. You’ll be surprised how this can brighten your day.
6. Get involved in a routine of work, play, or some project that brings satisfaction to you. Everyone has something they enjoy doing with their hands, or mind. In other words, “do something” even if it’s just cleaning out a closet.
7. Plan something nice you can do for someone during the week and begin working on it today. Set your plan in motion and do a little something today.

Being happy is a choice but it takes effort. Don’t allow depression to rob you of your happiness. Nothing overcomes depression like being busy and having a purpose. Get rid of “I can’t” and be honest by saying to yourself “I wouldn’t but today I will.” As my friend Glen Wheeler used to say in his newspaper column “The plan will work if you work the plan.”

## LEARNING with Larry

### JESUS IS THE TRUTH

“What is truth?” The very question asked by Pontius Pilate, John 18:37. *“You are a king then?” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me,”* verse 38. *“What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”*

Let’s consider the meaning of the Greek words translated “true” and “truth.” In using Vine’s Expository Dictionary we read; “True (alethes) – unconcealed, manifest...actual, true to fact, of things true conforming to reality.” “True (alethinous) – denotes “true” in the sense of real, ideal, genuine.” “Truth (aletheia) objectively, signifying the reality lying at the basis of an appearance; the manifested, veritable essence of a matter.”

When the Bible speaks of the truth of God that truth is revealed in Jesus His Son. In John 14:6 when Jesus says *“I am the way and the truth (aletheia) and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* He is saying the truth fixed and He to is the fixed reality of all of God’s promises. In Ephesians 4:21 *“When you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus”* It’s sad that we live in a world that only shares a particular truth, like a friend that tells you they told you the complete truth except they may have left out a few facts. Jesus in being The Truth is the standard by which everything else is measured. So if you want to know truth then you must know the one who is called Truth, Jesus.

We have all heard that the truth will set you free, that’s true both literally and spiritually for in John 8:31-32 we read *“To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”*

The truth is God loves us and saves us by the truth. John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world that he*

*gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”* Stay secure in the knowledge of his truth. Until next time, God bless you all. – Larry Boggs

Larry is a Barnabas Trustee and Evangelist at three different congregations, two in the a.m. one in the p.m.

### THE FICTIONARY DICTIONARY

**TWEEZE** – Part of creation. What Elmer Fudd sees in the forrest. “Look at all those big tweeze.”

**TATER TOTS** – A certain type of person by age. They are children of couch potatoes. “Just like their father, they are all just couch tater tots.”

**SENILE** – A vision in another land. What you can say when you go to Egypt and see the great river. “When I visited Egypt I got to senile.”

**SAN DIEGO** – The result of being clumsy. What you have when you drop your toaster waffle on the beach. “I told him not to take his breakfast to the beach now he has a san diego.”

**REQUIRE** – What the music director hates to have to do. “When all the singers quit they have to require.”

### TOP TEN ADVANTAGES OF GROWING OLD

1. Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.
2. Kidnappers ignore you.
3. People no longer think you’re a hypochondriac.
4. Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can’t remember them either.
5. Your eyes won’t get much worse.
6. You’re no longer expected to run into a burning building.
7. Whatever you buy won’t wear out before you do.
8. In a hostage situation, you’re most likely to be released first.
9. There’s nothing left to learn the hard way.
10. Taking a nap is like a mini-vacation.

### PRAYER OF THE AGED

“I want to thank you Lord, for being so close to me so far this day. With your help, I haven’t been impatient, lost my temper, been grumpy, judgmental or envious of anyone.

But, I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think I’ll really need your help then.”

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Jan. 6-7** – Church Leaders Seminar, Cambridge, OH, Contact: [p2p\\_office@yahoo.com](mailto:p2p_office@yahoo.com)

**Jan. 17-19** – Florida Bible Conference, Kissimmee, FL, – [thecra@thecra.org](mailto:thecra@thecra.org)

**Feb. 14-17** – Winter Worship and Workshop, Pigeon Forge, TN – [barnabasohio@att.net](mailto:barnabasohio@att.net)

### WHAT “THEY” HAD TO SAY

“Smoking tobacco is loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black stinking fume thereof, nearest resembling the horrible Stygian (river of Stix) smokes of the pit that is bottomless.” King James I, 1604.

In days of forced worship “No person in this Colony shall be molested or questioned for the matters of his conscience to God, so he be loyal and keep the civil peace...Forced worship sticks in God’s nostrils,” Roger Williams of Rhode Island, 1570.

“The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time, with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure,” Thomas Jefferson on the same subject, in a letter to William Stephens Smith, 1787.

### COMPENSATION FOR GETTING OLD

There are four advantages to getting old and forgetful: One, you meet new friends every day; two, every joke you hear is new; three, you can hide your own Easter eggs; and I forget the fourth thing.

### A DOG’S LIFE

A man goes into a restaurant (in the original it was a bar) and says to the barten...I mean restaurant owner, “I’ve got a talking dog here.”

The owner asked, “Is that right? What can he say?” So the fellow says, “What’s my name?” and the dog goes “Ruff, ruff.”

“That’s right, my name is Ralph. How are things Rover?” The dog goes “Ruff, ruff.”

Ralph say, “That’s right, Rover, things are rough all over. Now, tell me who the greatest baseball player of all time was?”

Rover goes “Ruff, ruff.”

Ralph say, “That’s good, Rover, Babe Ruth was the greatest.”

At that point the owner says, “Get out of here.”

So after they get outside Rover says to Ralph, “Should I have said Mickey Mantle?”

## WHO SAID BAPTISM IS UNIMPORTANT?

In baptism the old man is crucified, Rom. 6:6, Gal.2:20.  
In baptism we are freed from sin, Rom. 6:7.  
In baptism our sins are washed away, Acts 22:16.  
In baptism our sins are forgiven, Acts 2:38.  
In baptism we receive a new birth, John 3:3, 5.  
In baptism we put on Christ, Gal. 3:27.  
In baptism we receive the Holy Spirit, Act 19:1-5.  
In baptism we are saved, 1 Peter 3:21, Mk. 16:15-16  
In baptism we are regenerated, Titus 3:5.  
In baptism we put on a new man, Eph. 4:22-25.  
In baptism we are added to the church, Acts 2:47.  
Baptism is a command, Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 10:48.  
Baptism is a death to the old man, Rom. 6:3  
Baptism is a burial, Col. 2:12’ Rom. 6:4.  
Baptism is a resurrection, Rom. 6:4-5.  
Baptism puts us into Christ, Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3.  
Baptism makes us a new creature, 2 Cor. 5:17.  
Baptism is to be preceded by faith, repentance and confession...but must follow all three.

### ACTURAL NOTES TO TEACHERS

1. Please excuse John for being absent January 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 33.
2. Chris is sick with an acre in his side.
3. Mary could not go to school because she was bothered by very close veins.
4. John has be absent because he had two teeth taken out of his face.
5. Please excuse Joey Friday, he had loose vowels.
6. Please excuse Sarah, she was sick and I had her shot.
7. My son is under a doctor’s care so please execute him.

These excuses can be topped by some excuses for not going to worship. I now present to you the very, a mean very best I have ever heard. A family of three was absent from worship and when I asked why...get this...I was told, “We could not come because our parakeet had diarrhea.”

### 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.