



The PARAKLETE

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POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

I want to say up front that I do not like what “political correctness” has done to our country and some church members. Remember, the “political correctness” simply means that if you want to be elected to a political office, you must say nothing that is offensive to any individual or group of individuals. The fact is, it works in the political arena, and that’s a shame because it fosters dishonesty, and it encourages wrong thinking for those who either will not or can not think for themselves.

Let’s examine, for example, homosexuality and political correctness. As a result of skirting the morality issue related to homosexuality, the words “sexual orientation” are used to suggest that homosexuality is not necessarily wrong, it’s just another orientation.



I checked Noah Webster’s unabridged dictionary relative to “orientation” and found it to mean: “1. an orienting, or being oriented, 2. position with relation to the points of the compass, 3. familiarization with and adaptation to a situation or environment; specifically, in psychology, interpretation of the environment as to time, space, objects, and persons, 4. in zoology, the homing faculty of instinct of certain animals.”

Sexual orientation is related to our moral compass. Just as a physical compass can be “disoriented” by the metal objects around it, our moral compass can be, as Webster states, “adaptation to a situation or environment,” by surrounding influences.

Let’s take the case of Chad Thompson, a 25 year old, a man who speaks to churches, public high schools and universities across America. Chad’s father was physically present yet emotionally distant, with periodic fits of rage that overshadowed the love he could offer his son. This left a huge void for masculine affection, compounded when his male peers rejected him.

This caused him to have sexual related dreams and in the 10th grade, he suffered clinical depression. At this time he told his counselor he was “gay” (another

politically substituted word to avoid the truth). He was trying to recover his father’s love.

Dr. Joseph Nicolosi, author of *A Parent’s Guide to Preventing Homosexuality*, says a boy who was lacking healthy masculine love during childhood, or who might have suffered rejection and abuse from male peers, “will fall in love with what he has lost by seeking out someone who seems to possess what is missing within himself.”

After a vacation in Colorado with two church friends, Chad experienced the power of healthy male affirmation to heal the wounds that were causing his same-sex attractions. He said in his book *Loving Homosexuals as Jesus Would*, that the experience was “almost overwhelming.”

He said his dad was humbled by his culpability and lamented that reading the book was “harder than watching *The Passion of the Christ*.”

He said that his good friends have helped him, but the most powerful and lasting transformation came from being affirmed by his heavenly Father. In his own words: “For me overcoming homosexuality hasn’t just been about falling in love with males less, it’s been about falling in love with my Creator more.”

Political correction veils the problem, blurs the pictures, and distorts the truth. There is no allowance for confronting the sin, but rather it orients the thinking of those practicing homosexuality as well as others and their understanding of it.

There is a form of this political correctness within congregations as well. It has been said that we might discuss baptism too much and turn people off, or that speaking of the blood of Christ is distasteful to some. This type of “correctness” is even worse, for in these matters we are discussing the plan of redemption and the Redeemer Himself.

Political correction is another way of saying, “I’m afraid to offend anyone so I’ll just utter some soft pointless words.” While it is true we need to avoid offenses whenever and wherever possible, it should never be at the expense of truth.

Political correctness has invaded the Lord’s Church. I don’t know how many times I have heard, “I know

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS (Cont'd)

that's what the Bible says, but if we say that it will offend some people and they might leave." No one, myself included, wants anyone to leave the church. In fact, when someone did leave the congregation I served, I along with another, usually an elder, made one and often two visits to assure them of our love and desire to keep them.

Biblical truth is not concerned with meeting the approval of its hearers, but rather taking people where they are (like Chad Thompson) leading them to where they should be, in the sight of God.

The sole purpose of political correctness is to sell one's self rather than to propagate the truth. It is self serving and selfish in every way. This kind of correctness is in reality running from the issues of life and trying to appear as though you are not.

When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees, or scribes, He was not trying to win friends but to foster the truth. He called them "thieves" because they were, He called them "hypocrites" because that's what they were, and when He said their mouths were "open graves," he was not trying to be politically correct. John the baptizer wasn't concerned with politics when he called them "vipers."

Political correctness is unbiblical, and often unloving because it shields others from the truth. It serves only a personal void in one's life to be loved or elected, and that is just plain selfish or, at least, misinformed.

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T GET IT...HERE ARE TERMS POLITICALLY CORRECTED

TERM	CORRECTED
Homosexual	Gay
Pervert	Sexually dysfunctional
Drunk	Inebriated/Alcoholic
Criminal	Behaviorally challenged
Surgery to change sex	Gender reassigned
Merry Christmas	Season's Greetings
Blackmail	Extortion
Killing the yet born	Choice
Mexican	Hispanic
Uncontrolled desires	LGBTQ+
Racist	On who disagrees
Manhole	Utility Hole
Postman	Mail Carrier
Plastic surgery	Cosmetic surgery
White lie	Misspoke
Terrorist	Freedom fighter
Weather change	WEATHER CHANGE!

PRES MEETING SCHEDULED

Denny - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

He is preaching in the a.m. services at the C of C in McArthur, OH indefinitely. Larry Boggs does the evening services and has for years.

Danny Evans, Assoc. - Huntington, WV 304/633-5908

Dec. 18, 25 - Preaching at Farmdale Church of Christ, Huntington, WV

Jan 1 - Preaching at Guyandotte Church of Christ, Huntington, WV

THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving between the Lord and me.
I may not choose the colors He knows what they should be
For He can view the pattern upon the upper side,
While, I can see it only on this the underside.

Sometimes He weaves sorrow which seems so strange to me.
But I will trust His judgment and work as faithfully.
'Tis He who fills the shuttle, He know just what is best.
So I shall weave in earnest and leave with Him the rest.

Not till the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful in the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.
-J.B. Henley

THINGS I'VE DISCOVERED NOW THAT I'M OLD

- Wild oats have turned to prunes and Brand Flakes.
- When I got my head together my body fell apart.
- It's easier to get older than to get wiser.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes He'd have put them on my knees.

LET THE KIDS FINISH THE WELL KNOWN PROVERBS

- "Strike while the...bug is close"
- "It's always darkest before...Daylight Savings Time"
- "Don't bit the hand...that's dirty."
- "The pen is mightier than...the pigs."
- "A penny saved is...not much."
- "Children should be seen and not...spanked"

DON'T KEEP YOUR HEART SAFE

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be certainly wrung and possibly broken. If you want to be sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully around with hobbies and little luxuries; and avoid all entanglements; lock it up safely in a casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, and irredeemable. The alternative to tragedy, or at least to the risk of tragedy, is damnation. The only place outside heaven where you can be perfectly safe from all dangers and perturbations of love is hell.

DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY

Something Light Hearted:

What do you call a turkey the day after Thanksgiving? Lucky!

I was going to give up all of my bad habits for the new year, but then I remembered that no one likes a quitter.

QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENED TO THANKSGIVING?

I am writing this just a few hours after Thanksgiving Day and I am pondering a thought that has concerned me for several years. The question is, **WHAT HAPPENED TO THANKSGIVING?** As I look back over the most recent holiday seasons I stand in wonder and try to put into perspective where is the celebration of Thanksgiving. You walk through the stores and shortly after August you see all the Christmas decorations and trees are on exhibit. The middle of October we saw the first Christmas commercial and the race was on for getting to Christmas. But there was little mention about Thanksgiving. Oh, there was the subtle reminder of buying a turkey or items a person would need to fix a feast for the family gathering but nothing about giving thanks. Again, I ask the question, What happened to Thanksgiving?

I know there are all kinds of controversies over the actual beginning of Thanksgiving. People are going to great lengths to incorporate all the misinformation of the beginning of the holiday and trying to reevaluate the meaning and celebration of Thanksgiving. Others are trying to make the idea of the Pilgrims and the Native Americans look like it should actually be a day of mourning, There is also mention of how the name of the day should be changed from Thanksgiving to "Takesgiving."

I guess my greatest concern is centered on the decline of people being thankful for what they have. We tend to take our blessings for granted and we have allowed ourselves to become so busy that we don't permit time to give thanks for what we have.

Could the answer to this question be found in scripture? I believe you know that God has graciously given us answers to our queries in His Word.

Look with me at Psalm 95: 2 – 3 ***“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. ³For the LORD is a great God. And a great King above all gods.”*** Could we be eliminating thanksgiving because we are failing to “come before God’s presence”? Is God, “the giver of all good things” (**Psalm 84: 11 – 12; James 1: 17**) being shoved further and further back on the spiritual shelf that we see no need of giving thanks to Him? Let’s be honest, the acknowledgement of God in our society is shrinking and we are thanking ourselves for what we have and what we do. Why thank God for what we have when we don’t even believe God exists? As I said earlier it seems that we don’t have time for Thanksgiving because we are encouraged to get to the real important emphasis of this time of the year and that would be getting people to think about investing in gifts to be given to friends and family.

My prayer is to get people to return to ***“seeking first His kingdom and His righteousness,”*** (Matthew 6: 33) and if we would do that Thanksgiving would be automatic. Giving thanks is not just for the big things we have or receive but it is for all things in our life. Psalm 9:1 reminds us what we should give thanks for: ***“I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart; I will tell of all Your wonders”***. Just take a minute and think of all the things you need or use in one given day. It starts first thing in the morning when we shower and we have hot water and soap. Then there are toothbrushes and toothpaste and well, you get the idea. We have so much to give thanks for. Yes, we must give God thanks for His Son and the salvation He has provided to those who will obey the plan He has given for salvation.

As I close, I want to wish each of you a wonderful Christmas and may 2023 be a year of rejoicing as we serve our wonderful God!!

**Danny Evans is an associate and trustee
with Barnabas Ministries**

TO ERROR IS HUMAN TO FORGIVE DEVINE

“You are forgiven” is a sweet sound to debtors but the one who forgives needs divine help. It is not our nature to forgive however, forgiving others is essential for a child of God. The Greek word translated “forgiveness” is APHIEMI which means forgiving debt or sin by cancelation. Jesus told a parable in Matthew 18:23-35 about a debtor being forgiven, yet not forgiving a debt owed him. We are told many times in Scripture to forgive other just as Christ has forgiven us. One example is Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, you’re heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew West sang a song that we need to hear as often as we can. The title is “Forgiveness” and the lyrics are: “It’s the hardest thing to give away and the last thing on your mind today. It always goes to those that don’t deserve. It’s the opposite of how you feel when the pain they caused is just too real. It takes everything you have just to say the word...forgiveness. It flies in the face of all your pride, it moves away the mad inside, it’s always anger’s own worst enemy. Even when the jury and the judge say you got a right to hold a grudge, it’s the whisper in your ear saying ‘Set it free’ Forgiveness shows me how to love the unlovable, shows me how to reach the unreachable, helps me now to do the impossible, forgive.”

How is it possible to forgive like God? It is to help us realize just how much He forgave us. The Greek word for forgiveness in the noun is APHESIS which is a dismissal, a complete removal of our entire debt that separated us from our Creator. Ephesians 1:2-8 “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”

I have been able to forgive others only with God’s divine help and I realize just how far He had to go to save me. Forgiveness is always to our benefit spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Forgiveness is a release for you. C.S. Lewis said, “To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in us. God’s will is for us to forgive our enemies. He wants us to put away all wrath and malice and bitterness. And it is for our good too. Someone said that resentment is like drinking poison hoping the other person dies. Not forgiving puts us into a prison of

suffering. It is a heavy burden for the soul. Failing to forgive is like blood-sucking leeches in your spiritual life. But how can I forgive? It’s so hard! The secret is in the gospel – how God has forgiven the inexcusable in you. You see, the gospel is not a message that cries out “pay God for your sins!” The gospel is the glorious news, “Jesus paid it all!” And just as we have received this stunning love that we are fully forgiven of all our sins, we are now to send this love and forgiveness outward toward our enemies.

Until next time, -Larry.

MINI THOUGHTS

If you won’t admit you’ve been wrong, you love yourself more than truth.

~

Never lend money. It gives people amnesia.

~

He who has all the answers hasn’t heard all the questions.

~

Be wiser than other people if you can, but don’t tell them so.

~

Instead of crying over spilt milk, go milk another cow.

~

AND THE WINNER IS:

The greatest of all evils is indifference toward evil..

A PREACHER’S MISQUOTE

A young preacher in his first charge announced nervously: I take for my text the words, “And they fed five men with five thousand loaves of bread and two thousand fishes.”

At this misquotation, an old member said loudly, “That’s no miracle, I could do it myself.”

The young preacher said nothing, but the next Sunday he announced the same text. This time he got it right: “And they fed five thousand men on five loaves and two fishes.” He waited a moment and then leaning over the pulpit and looking at the parishioner, he asked, “And could you do that too, Mr. Smith?”

“Of course I could,” Smith replied.

“And how would you do it?” the preacher asked.

“With the leftovers from last Sunday,” Smith said.

FOUR PEOPLE THE CHURCH DON’T NEED

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done at church and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry because it was Everybody’s job. But Nobody asked Anybody. It ended up that the job wasn’t done and Everybody blamed Somebody when actually Nobody asked Anybody.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Twenty Six – "God's Comfort in all Things"

"I have great confidence in you; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds." "By all this we are encouraged. In addition to our own encouragement, we were especially delighted to see how happy Titus was, because his spirit has been refreshed by all of you." (II Corinthians 7:4, 13)

Back in 2:12-13, Paul began to tell the Corinthians of his experience with Titus in Macedonia; and in chapter seven, he completes the account. As you read the Second Corinthian letter, you will notice that the word "comfort" appears quite often in chapters 1-2 and in chapter 7:4-7 and 13. The spiritual-mindedness of Paul caused him to look for comfort (encouragement) in every situation, event, and person. We can learn a lesson of God's comfort in all things.

I. THE COMFORT FROM HIS FRIEND TITUS (7:1-6)

Paul's request for the church to "make room for us in your hearts" comes after he assures them of his love for them. He reminds them of his life of honest ministry; and though they doubted him, he assures them he can't condemn them because they were in his heart and a vital part of his own life. Paul took comfort in relationships.

The apostle knew distress and disappointment (v5). He was concerned about Titus - where was he? He wanted to know the situation in Corinth, and Titus was his lifeline to them, as well as to the church in Ephesus. These concerns crowded Paul's mind as he traveled sharing the Gospel.

Finally Titus did arrive and was a source of comfort to him. Paul admitted that he, himself, was "cast down" (v6), but the arrival of his friend brought him great relief. This is the way Christians ought to help one another. We ought to help bear each other's burdens (Gal. 6:2), encourage one another (Heb. 10:25), minister to one another (1 Peter 4:10-11), etc. Christ sent the disciples out two-by-two, knowing that "it is not good for man to be alone," even in Christian service.

Lonely Christians are often defeated Christians. Eccl. 4:9-12 states that "two are better than one." What a privilege and responsibility it is for Christians to encourage one another! When Elijah thought he was the only one faithful to God, he began to backslide. Jonah got alone and developed a bitter spirit.

Christian brothers and sisters are to be a comfort to one another, and there is no sweeter fellowship than when a mutual love, respect, appreciation, and care is extended between the members of the family of God. Our Father in heaven hates divisiveness and deplores those who cause it. But what happiness, harmony, and comfort when there is "room for us" in the hearts of others! We must remember that gossip separates close friends.

II. THE COMFORT OF AN OBEDIENT CHURCH LEADERSHIP (7:7-12)

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country" (Proverbs 25:25). It was a comfort to see Titus again (see Acts 28:15), but an even greater comfort to hear the good news that Paul's stern letter had brought about obedience. Verse 7 tells us they had an earnest desire to see Paul again, that they had mourned over their sin. They had rekindled their love for Paul; and they had repented and dealt with the offender in their midst (8). I Corinthians 5 tells us of the fornicator in the church.

In verse eleven, Paul indicates several other reactions to his letter and the visit from Titus: they were full of care, or concern, to obey the Word of God; they sought to clear themselves with men and God; they showed indignation at the sin, instead of being puffed up (1 Corinthians 5:2); they feared lest God would deal with them; and they sought to obey God with strong determination, and to deal honestly with the offender.

Paul teaches here the important doctrine of repentance. He states that there is a vast difference between repentance and regret. Repentance is from God - a sorrow that draws a man closer to God and brings him to a place of confessing and forsaking sin. Regret is from the world - it drives a man away from God and into the hands of Satan. In many congregations, unrepentant members or unrepentant leaders cause great discomfort and stress, thus losing the very comfort they should be bringing to the body of Christ.

For example, Peter showed repentance and was forgiven; Judas showed regret and took his own life. Godly sorrow is good; it leads to life. But the sorrow of the world leads to death. This explains the many suicides today: many know nothing of true repentance and the gracious forgiveness of God.

Paul had written a strong letter, about which even he had been temporarily sorry (8), but it was to prove his love for them. It was not simply to correct the offender or to protect the one against whom this man had sinned, but to prove his care and concern for them. Spiritual workers who shun correction or who will not face facts do not sincerely love their people or the Lord. Paul was anxious that the believers there suffer no loss spiritually (9); his sharp rebuke was from a heart of love, for their good and God's glory. It brings comfort and is very encouraging when a church and its leaders are obedient to the Word of God.

III. THE COMFORT OF HAVING MUTUAL CHRISTIAN FRIENDS (7:13-16)

Titus was overjoyed when he met Paul, and this joy was due to his being able to tell Paul the good news of the warm reception he had received at Corinth. The church had not been so gracious to young Timothy (I Cor. 4:17), otherwise Titus would never have been sent (I Cor 16:10-11).

Paul had boasted to Titus about the Corinthian church, and now his "godly boasting" had proven true. How thrilled Paul was at the love the Corinthians had shown to his co-worker. To receive Titus so warmly was the same as receiving Paul. He now knew that his next visit to Corinth would be an enjoyable one.

They received Titus with "fear and trembling." This is because they had received God's Word from Paul and were bowing before it in obedience. God wants us to tremble at His Word (Isaiah 66:2). Oddly enough, Paul's first ministry at Corinth was in fear and trembling (I Corinthians 2:3). They respected Titus as God's servant and received his leadership as from the Lord (I Thessalonians 2:13 and 5:12-15). "Obey them that have the (spiritual) rule over you," is the command of Heb. 13:17. The way men treat God's servants is the way they treat Christ, for His servants represent Him (II Corinthians 5:20, John 13:20).

It is interesting to read through the Bible and note that God's servants rejoice when His leaders are obedient and are burdened when God's people turn away. Moses often felt like giving up because the people were rebellious. Jeremiah wept bitter tears over the hardness of Israel. Jesus Himself wept because the Jews were ignorant of their "*day of salvation.*" Leaders are human but they have the treasure (the Word) "*in earthen vessels,*" (II Cor. 4:7). How important it is for us to "*Remember them which have the rule over you*" (Heb. 13:17), and "*Salute (greet in love) all them that have the rule over you*" (Heb. 13:24).

Having now replied to his critics and defended his ministry, and having been assured of the love of the church, Paul moves into the topic of the missionary offering for the poor saints of Judea. It is foolish to try to receive material things from Christians who are not right spiritually. We do them harm, and we do harm to the cause of Christ as well. The reason many churches are poverty-stricken is because they are poor spiritually. There are sins that need to be dealt with.

An obedient church is an encouragement to its members. Nothing is more comforting than to know the leaders of your congregation, and your fellow members, put obedience to the Word of God above all else - programs, youth activities, and the latest technology.

CONCLUSION: Paul was comforted (encouraged) by his reunion with Titus and by the ties of mutual love between himself and his companions. But his greatest joy was the knowledge that the Church at Corinth had obeyed the Word of God and was being transformed by the true repentance.

WINTER WORSHIP AND WORKSHOP

This will be the last issue of The Paraklete published before Winter Worship and Workshop 2023. If you have not already registered please do so.

THE EMPTY HOUSE

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Matt. 12:38-45 (Especially 43-45.) Compare Luke 11:24-26

INTRO: When I was a boy we used to play in an old abandoned house where the last known resident was a person called Fluty Hobbs. We played there because we felt we "had the right" since no one else lived there.

Jesus told a parable about an empty house where demons felt the same way we boys did about the old abandoned house. He told the story because of their obstinacy and unbelief and to illustrate the end result of their "wicked and adulterous" behavior (v39). He wanted them to know there is no middle ground with the words "He who is not with me is against me" (v30).

I. THE EMPTY HOUSE (V43)

A. THE HOUSE ABANDONED

1. "When the evil spirit comes out of a man" (v43)
2. Not cast out, but "gone out" voluntarily
3. What is gone? Adultery, killing, lying, cheating, lust, theft, and other gross practices.

B. LOOKING FOR A HOME

1. That spirit is alive and "goes through arid places."
2. An evil spirit needs a body to act out its evil
3. Recall Legions demons wanting a pig's body (Mk 5:9)
4. Spirits are restless, Eccl. 5:10, 6:7
5. "They sleep not" - Proverbs 4:16

II. SPIRITS RETURN (V44)

Here we see the results of using Christianity for an ulterior motive rather than letting Christ use us.

A. WANTING TO RETURN HOME

1. Just as the prodigal was unhappy away from home, evil spirits want to return to the place of their former residence
2. The spirit said, "I will return to the house I left"
3. The house (life) was empty with negative improvement
4. Swept clean, garnished (external)
5. Served no one

B. WHY ARE LIVES UNCHANGED WHEN FORGIVEN

1. Busy with other things (Jesus: "seek first the kingdom")
2. Fear of taking a stand (Jesus: "Fear not")
3. Failure to have proper fellowship
4. Pleasures of the world

C. THE VACUUM IS AN INVITATION

1. If we have not the Spirit we are not his - Rom. 8:9
2. Our bodies are temples for dwelling, 1 Cor. 3:16

III. WHEN EVIL SPIRIT SET UP RESIDENCE AGAIN

A. THE HOUSE WAS READY

1. Not occupied by the Holy Spirit
2. Brings seven friends:
Pride, greed, selfishness, hypocrisy, formality, apathy,
And hardened disbelief.

B. WORSE THAN BEFORE

1. "Worse off at the end than they were at the beginning"
2 Peter 2:20
2. Cousins to the seven friends: Contempt, fault finding, hatred, accusations, wonton entertainment, etc.
3. After Jesus healed a man, "See you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you," John 5:14.
4. Boat adrift is worse with no sail, trials of life are worse with no Spirit.

CONCLUSIONS: There are many invitations to take His yoke upon ourselves. To become a sheep of the Great Shepherd, and to knock at the door in seeking His divine grace, but when the invitations are rejected, there is no hope.

Sometimes people confuse reformation with repentance. We can never reform enough to satisfy the demands of the cross, and it will never bring about the permanent change desired. Jesus expects spirits to come out and "enter no more into him," Mark 9:25.

Is your house ready? Cleaning it and garnishing will have little effect, unless there is the resident of the Holy Spirit established by repentance, confession and baptism. Then the evil spirits can't evict this New Resident. The only reason we played in the Fluty Hobbs house was because no one lived there.

ONLY A SHADOW BETWEEN A COMMUNION MEDITATION

Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto you that if a man keeps my Word he shall not see death." Jesus meant exactly what He said. The person who keeps His Word will not see death! Everybody dies, even the Christian; but the Christian will not see it!

Evidently, when life in this world ends we are in Eternity, as quickly as the blink of an eye! We shut our eyes at the moment of death and open them again in Glory! Death happened and we did not even see it, just like Jesus said! In an old hymn book I found these lines:

"I have a home in a fair summer land—it's beauty I have never seen. I have a place on an evergreen strand and there is only a shadow between.

Jesus has promised a home to prepare, and by faith on this promise I lean; I have a mansion that's wondrously fair, and there is only a shadow between.

When I have finished my task here below, I will pass through that shadowy screen; and be with the ransomed I know, for there is only a shadow between.

Only a shadow, only a shadow, only a shadow between; just one step to go, the way is all a-glow, for there is only a shadow between."

So remember the promise that Jesus has given, as we partake of the loaf and the cup: "Verily, verily, I say unto you that if a man keeps My Word he shall not see death."

-Ed Bousman, 1995

Submitted by my friend Carl Augustine, Hamilton, OH

MINI THOUGHTS

Never argue with a blind man about color because he will never be able to see that you are right!

Never argue with an idiot. They will drag you down to their level then beat you because of their experience!

HOW TO BE SAFE - AVOID ACCIDENTS

- Don't ride in a car - 20% of all fatal accidents happen in a car.
- Get out of the house - 17% occur in the home.
- Don't walk - 14% occur to pedestrians.
- Don't travel by air, rail, or water - 16% occur in these forms of transportation.
- Don't go to a hospital - 32% of all death occur in hospitals.

You will be pleased to learn that only 1% of all deaths occur in worship services in church, and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us to play it safe and get in church. Bible study is safer still. There are no reported deaths from reading the Bible.

OPPORTUNITIES

Jan. 12-13 - Church Leaders Seminar, Cambridge, OH, Person to Person Ministries. Contact: p2pm_office@yahoo.com

Jan. 16-18 – Florida Bible Conference, Kissimmee, FL Contact: thecra@thecra.org

Feb. 13-16 - Winter Worship & Workshop, Pigeon Forge, TN, Contact: stumpy_derek@yahoo.com

NEW DEFINITIONS FOR OLD WORDS

DOCTRINAL ERROR – When a physician makes a mistake, “He made a doctrinal error.”

RESCUE – In the game of pool and the cue ball comes to a stop. The ball is at rest, or as stated: “the cue ball is rescuing on the table where it stops.

REBUTTAL – When a child repeats a rebellious act for which he just got spanked, “He/she needs a rebuttal.”

COPYRIGHT – When a student tries to cheat by looking at a classmate’s answers they want make sure they copyright.

THEOLOGICAL – Simply using common sense when solving a problem. State as, “The theological thing to do is to just leave it as it is.”

LET ME GIVE

I do not know how long I’ll live,
But while I live, Lord, let me give.
Some comfort to someone in need,
By a smile or nod, a kind word or deed,
And let me do whatever I can
To ease things for my fellow man,
I want naught but to do my part,
To lift a tired or weary heart.
To change folk’s frowns to a smile again
Then I will not have lived in vain.
And I’ll not care how long I’ll live
If I can give, and give and give.

-Author unknown

ATTITUDE MAKE A GREAT DIFFERENCE

A young girl said to her grandmother who was always doing something, never seeming to rest. One day the young girl asked: “Granny, it’s remarkable how young you look. How do you do it?”
“Suzie,” she replied, “It takes time to grow old, and I’ve never had any.”

OLD TIMER: A person who remembers when people stopped spending when they ran out of money.

P.R.E.S.

Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar
Barnabas Ministries is founded on the principle laid out in the texts “...encourage one another and build each other up...” 1 Thess. 5:11 and “...encourage one another daily...” Heb. 3:13.

We all need encouragement but preachers need it much more than one might think. There is a great responsibility that comes with preaching, and we desire to encourage those who do.

At no cost to a preacher or the host congregation, we will conduct a Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar for any congregation that is willing to host such a meeting. Barnabas will pay the speakers and their housing, and reimburse the host for the cost of a noon meal as long as funds are available through the supporters of PRES.

To date we have conducted such meetings in Gallipolis and Cincinnati, OH, London, and Madison, KY, Monroeville, PA, and Bluefield, WV. If you would like information, you can email, or call the Barnabas office.

If you would like to support this program, make your check out to Barnabas Ministries and make the “purpose” on the check to read “PRES.” All monies received so marked will be spent only for this purpose. Above all, please pray for God’s continued blessing on PRES.

MINI THOUGHTS

There is nothing that will turn fiction into fact faster than word of mouth

~

We might be more eager to accept good advice if it didn’t interfere with our plans.

~

It’s easy to identify people who can’t count to ten. They’re in front of you in the checkout at Walmart.

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 for 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.