



The PARAKLETE

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COMMON SENSE IS NOT COMMON

(Not a political but a moral way of thinking)

It's not an original statement in fact "common sense is no longer common" has been quoted or thought by most people at some time or another. However, there has never been a time in my life this statement seemed more appropriate than now. Immorality is not only applauded by the influential, but it is promoted by much of the media, protected by new government laws, and many portray it as normal. About 50 years ago I read an illustration about changing values. It told a story of someone breaking into a furniture store and putting the cheap ticket price tags on the expensive items and the expensive price tags on cheaper items.

I think we are there! Not only is immorality (formerly called "sin") praised but godliness is condemned as "mean spirited," and "divisive." How did things get changed and who is to blame? I'd like to consider that it is not so much who, but what is to blame.

We find the answer in the Book of Romans, 1:18, ***"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness."*** The word "***wrath of God***" in the text is not the same as the wrath of man which can be explosive, unpredictable, and mean. God's wrath is a reasonable and measured response to ungodliness that is painful in Him and ruinous for man.

The text continues, ***"Although they claim to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immoral God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles..."*** vs 22-23, acting with animalistic behavior.

"God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another,..., Men committed indecent acts with other men..." verse 26-27.

Have you seen a movie lately?

The founder of the National Education Association, John Dewey, did not believe in God but believed all reference to Him should be stricken from education. That would be "suppressing the truth." It is not the responsibility of the educational system to teach our children about God. That should be taught by parents in the home and in the church, but neither is it state controlled educational system's responsibility to remove the knowledge of God from our children's minds taught in the home. Dewey was also one of the signers of the Humanist Manifesto which is anti-God as well as anti-Christian.

NO GOD

God continues His response, ***"Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done,"*** Romans 1:28.

NO GUIDE

The refusal to honor God and His word has caused the moral furniture rearrangement. Depraved behavior is the curse upon them but the depraved see it as a badge of honor. The cheap (unholy) lives have replaced the highly valued (holy) lives in the eyes of some influential people. This has resulted in indecent behavior and seen in the world. The LGBTQ movement boasts about it rather than see it as various forms of perversion. The media, law makers as well as our military think it is kind to protect vulgar and obscene behavior. To speak against it is now a crime...called "hate speech" rather than speaking the truth in love. Truth is love, Eph. 4:15 yet hated by depraved thinking.

Some in influential positions feel the need to "protect others from God." One reason I did not pursue a license to counsel in my state was because I would have to commit to not bring the subject of God up in a counselling session. The fact is, in my mind, all good counsel involves an acknowledgement of the counselee's Maker.

It is not that Bible-haters don't know better, they do, but they lie to themselves. This behavior is

COMMON SENSE IS NOT COMMON

addressed in verse 32, “**Although they know God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.**” This addresses those who perhaps do not personally sink to such lewd behavior but due to pressure approve of it and by so doing endorse it. They know better but due to pressures, personal, political, or social, do what we call in the common vernacular “cave.”

It is not my place or yours to condemn those of the LGBTQ camp and like behaviorist, but it is the obligation of the Christian to condemn that behavior.

Christians are going to stand out in our culture because of that is what we are called to do. We are to shine like stars for our stand, Phil. 2:15. “*They think it strange that you do not plunge with them into the same flood of dissipation and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead,*” 1 Peter 4:4-5.

Homosexuality, lesbianism, and other forms of sexual deviancy goes against the design God put in place and there is no such thing as “sexual assignment.” We are what we came into the world as and are to act accordingly.

Pride marches, pride months, and colorful flag waving does not change facts, the truth, or God who has not even a shadow of turning. “*Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows,*” James 1:16-17.

Though some may believe because they have changed two price tags, they have changed the value of the things they place the new tags on. Good furniture does not change its quality because of a new tag, just as righteousness (right as God calls “right”) does not change value because if a tag those who are under the curse gave it. Their thinking was perverted because they “*did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God,*” Romans 1:28.

We are all baggers, but those of us who have found the bread are saved from God’s judgement because we are judged as “in Christ.” Jesus said, “**I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry...**” John 6:35. Pray for those who are still hungry, they know better but are sold to sin.

BARNABAS PREACHERS’ SCHEDULES

Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Sept 3 – Preach at Central Christian Church, Gallipolis, OH, Derek Stump, Evangelist

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

Danny preaches often at congregations in his area when needed as a supply preacher. He is available when needed.

HE FAILED, I WOULD GIVE AN “A”

The student failed the test of 13 questions...I would have given him an “A”.

In which battle did Napoleon die? - The last one.

Where was the Declaration of Independence signed? - At the bottom of the page.

The River Ravi flows in which state? - Liquid.

What is the major cause of divorce? – Marriage.

What is the main reason for failure? – Exams

What can you never eat for breakfast? – Lunch

What looks like half an Apple? – The other half.

If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become? – Wet.

How can a man go eight days without sleep? – He sleeps at night.

How can you lift an elephant with one hand? There is no elephant with one hand.

If you have three apples and four oranges in one hand and four apples and three oranges in the other hand what would you have? – Very large hands

If it took eight men ten hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it? No time, the wall is already built by eight men.

How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? – Just let it go, it won’t crack the concrete.

MORE THAN JUST SAYING “THANK YOU”

It’s not like I don’t know it,

Though sometimes I’m sure I don’t show it.

But, I live in the shadow of your wing.

Your right hand upholds me your left hand may scold me, but to you forever I’ll cling.

You’ve given me the strength to finish the job, and I’d like to do more than thank you

I speak of your Son till my friends say,

“You’re no fun.”

But you stay with me, when they all run.

And I’d like to do more than just thank you.

-Terry Kreiner, W. Mifflin, PA

DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY

Something Light Hearted:

***What do you get if you give growth hormones to an ant?** Tolerance

****I achieved my goal of personal growth...**

verified by the scale this morning.

*****My wife told me I was immature and needed to grow up.**

Guess who's not allowed in my tree house anymore.

SPIRITUAL/CHRISTIAN GROWTH, A LIFELONG JOURNEY

Please excuse me for the humor in the opening of this article, I know the jokes were real groaners. I would however like for us to consider one very important aspect of a person when it comes to their spiritual lives, let's reflect on spiritual growth.

The other day I was shopping, yes, I go shopping occasionally but usually I am on a mission when I go shopping. I was looking for a pair of kitchen scissors. Having found what I wanted I was standing in an aisle to check out. Now this aisle is designed to encourage shoppers to make additional purchases by having all sorts of merchandise located on both sides of you as you wait. Well, there it was - something that just shouted at me and I was just amazed at this little square that said something that made so much sense. The statement on the little piece of wood said, "PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION". This is exactly what God wants from us when it comes to our spiritual growth. We are never told that when we are immersed that when we come up out of the water we will be perfect. If that were the case, God would have nothing to work on us about for the rest of our lives. We would be exactly what God wants us to become - excellent. I want to throw a little caution to what I just wrote because a few years back we went through a spell where some preachers were teaching that we could obtain perfection in our lives. That is not what I am saying. There was only one that had perfection and that is Jesus. But God wants us to work on growing spiritually. We need to have the desire to grow or increase in our spiritual life. We should want to be more like Jesus.

Growth is something God wants us to do. Throughout God's Word the concept of spiritual growth is instructed. This is a slow process it isn't instant or automatic. It takes study (**II Timothy 2: 15**), daily Bible reading (**Roman 12: 1 – 2**), prayer (**I Thessalonians 5: 17**), daily worship and being in the assembly of believers to worship as the body of Christ (**Hebrews 10:25**).

In Peter's letters he mentions this subject a number of times. Probably the most noted passage is found in **I Peter 3:18** "***but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen***". Peter makes it very clear that our spiritual growth and our development in our Christian life is to be an ongoing process. We are to mature in God's grace and increase in knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Just becoming knowledgeable of a fist full of facts is not growth, putting the facts into practice each day is growth. Taking what we learn, the knowledge, and putting it into action is growth. Growth is a surrender to God's teaching and a leading daily by the Holy Spirit.

Peter in **II Peter 1: 5 – 9** stresses our duty in this process of spiritual growth. God provides everything we need to live this spiritual life but we are responsible as individuals to make sure certain qualities are being added to our lives. We grow by adding faith, knowledge, self-control, perseverance and Godliness. Plus we must never forget to add brotherly kindness and love.

This growth process won't be a walk in the park for sure. As a matter of fact, sometimes this growth endeavor may be painful. Yes, God may direct you through what may seem to be impossible circumstances. Why would He do that? Wouldn't it be a time of deflation and discouragement rather than growth? No, because what He is doing is showing us that He can help you grow as you see His support during the impossible times. God can get through what the world describes as impossible.

It is imperative that we grow in our spiritual lives because if we aren't growing, we will be dying.

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

WE WERE DEAD, BUT NOW ALIVE

Sermon by Denny Coburn

TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-10

INTRO: The church was concealed in the Old Testament but was revealed to us through the Lord, His Spirit, and by the Apostles. His Church, though united in Christ is diverse and universal. It pleased the Father to address His saints (us) through men empowered by the Holy Spirit. We have a free will to accept or reject His grace. However, we do not have freedom from the consequences of our choices. God, being almighty can't ignore the spurning of the purchase price, His Son Jesus Christ. All humanity is invited to be a part of His Kingdom, the Church.

I. THE RAW MATERIAL (vs 1-3)

God planned, designed, and made possible this unique body. Chapter 2 tells how the Master Designer carried out – “living stones” 1 Pet. 2:5

A. DEAD SOULS (v1)

1. We were “dead in sin.” Decedents of Adam
2. “sin enter the world by one man” – Rom. 5:12
3. “sinful from birth” – Psa. 51:5.
4. “All have sinned and fallen short” Rom. 3:23
5. Spiritually dead!

B. THREE KINDS OF DEATH

1. Spiritually – Not having the Son – 1 John 5:12
2. Physically – Spirit separated from the body
3. Eternally – 1 Cor. 6:9-10
4. The first “spiritual death” is discussed here

C. LED BY SATAN/ENSLAVED BY THE WORLD

1. Verse 2 – we followed the ways of the world and “the ruler of the kingdom of the air”
2. We were disobedient to His will “gratifying our sinful nature” v3
3. “Object of wrath” v3

II. THE MASTER BUILDER (vs 4-6)

God is an Architect

A. BUILDING NEW LIVES (vs 4-5)

1. Why? – Because of “his great love” for us
2. Also – His is “rich in mercy”
3. He “made us alive” – Recycled us

B. WE HAVE A NEW STANDING

1. From “dead” to “alive” in Christ
2. We are “seated” with Him, in God’s mind
3. In “heavenly realms – In Christ”

III. A NEW CREATION

A. THE PROSPECTIVE OF GRACE (v7)

1. We must see “grace” from His prospective
2. Presently, there is no physical change
3. By faith in Christ - we are granted grace
4. The completion is “in the coming ages”

B. THE POWER OF GRACE (vs 8-10)

1. It is humbling, and can't be earned
2. It is a gift based on the accomplishments of Jesus Christ on our behalf.
3. It is God's “workmanship”
4. He prepared it “in advance”

CONCLUSION: We are much like the thief who served his time in prison. When out of prison he applied for a job at the bank. He was given the job well, and was rewarded with a promotion making him responsible for cash safety. He was found weeping one day and when asked why he replied. “They trust me, a thief, they trust me.” That’s us.

BECOME AN EXPERT ON YOUR “PEANUT”

Despite being born into slavery and spending his first 30 years drifting from job to job, though sheer determination and an unquenchable thirst for knowledge George Washington Carver became one of the greatest agricultural pioneers in American history.

While he received the greatest renown for developing more than 300 uses for the common peanut, Carver also utilized his vast knowledge to help thousands of impoverished southern farmers rehabilitate soil devastated by decades of a one-crop system.

As the following quote illustrates, despite his genius, Carver retained a great humility toward his own accomplishments:

“When I was young, I said to God, ‘God tell me the mystery of the universe.’ But God answered, “That knowledge is reserved for me alone.” So I said, “God, tell me the mystery of the peanut.” Then God said, “Well George, that’s more nearly your size,” and He told me, “Find the peanut in your life and become the expert on it.” –From *Personal Selling Power Publication*

Anyone can be an expert on something.

MINI THOTS

Nothing’s as hard as gracefully dismount from
“high horse.”

~

Make yourself into a sheep and you’ll find a wolf nearby.

~

A good idea is like a wheelbarrow; it will go nowhere unless you
push it.

~

We don’t know the names of those who died in defense of
America but we owe them all.

WHO CHANGED?

There was a preacher whom I liked, I thought him great. His sermons were wonderful – as long as I liked him. His speech was passing fair – as long as I liked him. He lived a clean life – as long as I liked him. He was a hard worker – as long as I liked him. He was the man for the job – as long as I liked him. In fact, I was strong for him – as long as I like him. But he offended me one day, whether he knew it or not. Since that day he has ceased to be a good preacher. His sermons are not so good – since he offended me. His speech is of no account – since he offended me. His faults are more prominent – since he offended me. He is not as hard a worker – since he offended me. He’s not the man for the job – since he offended me. In fact, I am trying to turn others against him –
since he offended me.

Glen Wheeler, 1010 Illustrations, Poems, and Quotes
Glen was my mentor, I’m proud of it.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Thirty – This Too Will Pass

After Jesus fed the five thousand, the Scriptures record that “Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side of Galilee, while He dismissed the crowd, Matt. 14:22ff. While the boat was a considerable distance from the land and being buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it, Jesus came walking on the water. The Sea of Galilee is surrounded by mountains and when the wind comes down upon it, it is like blowing into a tea cup, the waves are rough.

Seeing Jesus, the disciples thought it was a ghost but He spoke to them, “Take courage! It is I, don’t be afraid.” Peter replied, “If it is you tell me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and walked toward Jesus, but the Bible records that when *Peter “saw the wind, he was afraid and, began to sink, and cried out, ‘Lord save me!’ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying, ‘You of little faith, why did you doubt.’”*

Storms come into every life at some point. It is inevitable that this will happen. I would be foolish to think that God is not aware of this and that He didn’t give us information on how to endure them. It is true that some storms are created by our own doing, but there are storms that come our way that we have no control over. There are some important truths that we all should learn and we just read of the first two, that taking our eyes off of Jesus causes us to be overwhelmed by them. Here are some others:

1. Storms come to everyone, whether we are Christians or not.
2. Jesus knows all about the storms in our lives.
3. God doesn’t always deal with the storm in the way we would like or think He should.
4. Jesus has words of comfort for us in the midst of the storms.
5. Jesus also has words of instruction for us on how to behave in the midst of the storms.
6. His instructions are never difficult in reality, but often difficult due to our way of thinking.
7. We always learn from storms that God will see us through, even if we whine during them.
8. We also learn to trust Him, looking back after the storms.

How we respond to storms is more important than determining what caused the storm. God does not expect us to understand why storms come our way as much as we are expected to respond to storms in a godly manner. If we do, then the storm causes us to grow in our trust of God, in our ability to help others through their storms, and on occasions we can look back and see the cause of the storm.

Knowing the reason for the storm may be an important clue as to what God desires to teach us from the experience, but it is never the only reason or even a major lesson that God is teaching us from the storms. The greatest lesson is learned by looking at what we do when storms come.

Fear no doubt caused Peter’s fear in our text? But what caused him to doubt? There are two factors and they are different. Looking back to the context of the event may help us to separate the two. As we have established, storms come in the lives of the righteous as well as the unrighteous. Jesus had fed 5,000 men and their families on the preceding day to this stormy night. Then he had commanded His disciples to cross the sea while He went aside and spent some time alone with the Heavenly Father, v23.

The disciples had done nothing wrong. They were not being corrected for any sin. ***“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything,”*** James 1:2-4. James was in the boat also.

Now I have to say that we don’t usually (in fact I can’t think of a time) when I counted it all joy when I found myself in a trial. It seems obvious to me that I need to grow in that area, how about you? The fact is God doesn’t expect us to jump up and down with delight when trials come our way but what He does expect I for us to accept the storms of life that brings maturity. This is probably not the first thought that we

fact is God doesn't expect us to jump up and down with delight when trials come our way but what He does expect is for us to accept the storms of life which brings maturity. This is probably not the first thought that we have but we should recognize several things: First that it is a test, second that it is an opportunity, third that God must trust us because He said He'd never put on us more than we could bear, and fourth He will be near us in the storm. I would like to add another lesson that though it is true is not directly stated in the Bible.

This lesson is stated in a country song made popular by Jessie Colter and Waylon Jennings the titled is, "Storms Never Last." In the recording, Jessie sings the first stanza to him and he sings the second to her.

Storms never last do they baby?
Bad times all pass with the winds
Your hand in mine stills the thunder
You make the sun want to shine.

Oh, I followed you down so many roads, baby.
I picked wild flowers and sung you soft sad songs
And every road we took, God knows our search was for the truth
And the storm brewing now won't be the last.

Whether we are country music fans or not isn't the point. The truth is that storms never last so we may as well just ride them out and learn. Jesus knew that His disciples were in a storm, and He knows when we are as well. The Sea of Galilee is not a large sea. Under normal conditions, a group of men can row a boat across it in a matter of less than two hours. So wherever Jesus was praying, the storm was also blowing there as well. Jesus also knew that the natural storm caused an "inner storm" in the lives of His disciples on the sea. He had seen them before during a stormy time, and He knew their hearts.

Jesus once said, "***Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid, you are worth more than many sparrows,***" Luke 12:6-7. What a statement! Sparrows are very common birds, even in their government their value as offerings were only worth pennies and yet God knows about every one of them. He is concerned about detail. He knows the number of hairs on our heads. Even a bald man knows that it's not really about hair but about knowledge and concern for us.

We have difficulty grasping the greatness of such knowledge and that can be explained in the words of Isaiah, "***For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts higher than your thoughts,***" Isaiah 55:8-9.

Our Savior always gives a word of encouragement and comfort to us. Regardless of the intensity of the storm or how ominous the trouble Jesus' words to us are always a meaning of encouragement. His words are not idle words of optimism, but words of power and ability. As the disciples struggle in their storm, the words of Jesus to as well as to us are, "***Take courage! It is I, don't be afraid,***" verse 27. Later He told His disciples: "***These things I have spoken to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world,***" John 16:33.

During your next storm, or the one you face now, ask God this question: "What do you want me to do and learn during this trial?" There is another question that is important to ask yourself during stormy times, "Am I open to learn or am I resisting, questioning, blaming, or even whining about it?"

LEARNING with Larry

How many times have you made promises you've not kept. A person who keeps his promises is one you can trust. We hear people saying all the time "You can trust him because he's a man of his word." God has made numerous promises and He's kept everyone. The Greek word for "promise" is EPANGELIA a term meant as "an undertaking to do or give something." According to the dictionary a promise is defined as a declaration or expression of assurance that something will or will not be done. God does not need us to make promises to Him, but we really need His promises to us.

The question we may ask is "Why would one not trust God?" Could it be that due to our own lack of faithfulness in our obedience?

Most of God's promises are conditional to obedience. One unconditional promise was made after the flood when He promised never to destroy the earth again by water and sealed it with a rainbow as a reminder. One conditional promise that comes to mind is in Deut. 30:15-18 "*See I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the Lord your God to walk in obedience to him and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.*" God kept His promise as long as the Israelites remained faithful.

The Bible is replete with promises with conditions. Like Malachi 3:8-10 "Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask how are we robbing you? In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse, your whole nation, because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw upon the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

2 Chron. 7:14 God says, "*If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*"

In Matt. 6:33 Jesus said, "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well.*" Blessings come to those who obey.

We have comforting words from Jesus in John 14:15-21 where He promises the giving of the Holy Spirit, a gift received upon obedience to the Gospel.

Jesus came to fulfill the righteous law of God on our behalf. He deserves and expects us to love Him for that and show that love to Him by loving each other. He also promised to give the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him, Acts 2:38 and Acts 5:32.

Jesus has kept His promise to millions in the past and will keep it for all who love Him today and show that love by keeping the promise we made at our confession.

Until next time, -Larry.

BLASTED FOR A GENUINE PRAYER

Joe Wright a preacher of the Central Christian Church in Kansas was invited to offer prayer for the Kansas House of Representatives and prayed, in part:

"We confess we have ridiculed the absolute truth of Your Word and called it pluralism.

We have worshipped other gods and called it Multiculturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative life style.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called building esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We've polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, O God and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free."

One Representative walked out, another sat down in protest saying, "I have never heard in 10 years a divisive, sanctimonious, self-serving, overbearing prayer as I have heard this morning."

Can anyone question the statement, "Our country was founded by geniuses but it is run by idiots"?

OPPORTUNITIES

Sept. 1-3 – Winning at Winchester, Winchester, VA, contact: ccmv4thebible@gmail.com
Oct. 10-12 – Grundy, VA, contact person, Jerry Bliffen: jerrybliffen@hotmail.com

QUOTABLE QUOTES

“When you feel like giving up, remember why you held on for so long in the first place.” – Unknown

~

“Fall seven times, stand up eight”
- Japanese Proverb

~

“If you are going through hell, keep going.” –

~

“One has to remember that every failure can be a stepping stone to something better.”
Col. Harland Sanders

MEDICAL DAFFYNITIONS

Artery – The study of fine paintings.
Colic – A shepherd dog
Coma – A punctuation mark
Fester – quicker
Minor operation – digging coal
Organic – church musician

HOW MANY?

As I walked down a country road
A church I came upon.
Its roof was worn and tattered
And the window panes were gone.
And that old bell no longer called
To those both far and near
There standing in the door way,
Some thought to me came clear
How many souls were won to Christ
Back in those yesteryears?
And standing in the silence
My eyes were filled with tears.
And as they rolled down my cheeks,
And as they slowly fell,
How many then refused God’s Word?
How many doomed to Hell?
So my dear friend as I stand here today
And on these thoughts we dwell
How many of you are won to Christ,
How many bound for hell?
-author unknown

-FREE-

Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar.
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 preach.

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, all paid for by the supporters of PRES.

We have conducted such meetings in Gallipolis and Cincinnati, OH, London, and Madison, KY, Monroeville, PA, and Bluefield, WV.

If you would like more information, you can email, or call the Barnabas office.

Those who are willing to support this program, should 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 blessings on PRES.

THINK POSITIVE

You say “It’s impossible.”
God says, “Not for me,” Luke 18:27

~

Your say, “I’m too tired.”
God says, “I will give you rest,” Matt. 11:28-30

~

You say, “Nobody really loves me.”
God says, “I love you,” John 3:16 & 13:34

~

You say, “I can’t go on.”
God says, “My grace is sufficient,” 2 Cor. 12:9

~

You say, “I can’t figure things out.”
God says, “I will direct your steps,” Prov. 3:5-6

THE PARAKLETE

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