



# The PARAKLETE

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## GOD GIVES US PICTURES

For years my four brothers and I along with our sons would go on fishing trips. We'd go to Cold Water, MI, or Dale Hollow on the TN-KY borders. We'd stay in tents or cabins and on a couple occasions we rented houseboats. On one of those houseboat trips a few of the guys decided to take their sleeping bags to the roof of the boat under the stars and view the creative hand of God. The next day one of my brothers, I think it was Bill, the oldest, said, "You can't look at the stars and deny the creative hand of God."



Critics of intelligent design argue that science must be based on firsthand observation, repetition and replication. That is actually the definition of "true science." But we can't observe the Designer in actions, and we can't replicate various aspects (any actually) of intelligent design theory in a laboratory, so these critics conclude that the study of intelligent design cannot be true science.

But of course, firsthand observation and repetition are impossible in many areas of scientific study. Some scientists believe in a "Big Bang theory" and they say occurred once some 20 or 30 billion years ago. No one was there to observe it first hand; no one was there to take measurements; and obviously no one can repeat the supposed event in a laboratory and test it over and over again, as true science demands. Yet few balk at including the "Big Bang theory" in what they call, "science books," even though it's not science.

Likewise, we can't repeat in a lab the fossilization process of previous life forms, but that does not prevent paleontologist in the name of science. We can't repeat the inscribing of the Rosetta stone, but neither does that stop archaeologists, from doing so.

The point is that the inability to observe first hand and to repeat what the original intelligent Designer did in a laboratory does not exclude

intelligent design from science. Scientific inquiry utilized by CSI teams and insurance fraud investigators is used in intelligent design. Psalms 19:1 addresses the visual aid used by God, "The heavens declare the glory of God; The skies proclaim the work of His hand." Moving from outer space to inner man we see the same visual aid used by God to illustrate His work. DNA is a nucleic acid that carries genetic information in the cells that is capable of self-replication. The volume of information contained in it staggers the mind. A single human cell has enough information capacity to store the Encyclopedia Britannica, all 30 volumes, three or four times over.

Where did this amount of information come from? A software expert once said that DNA is like a computer program that is far more advanced than any software we've ever created. Computer programs do not write themselves. A programmer is always involved. Even if a computer program ran for millions of years, it could not write itself. The same is true regarding DNA. Intelligence (God) had to program it.

I may not have seen a computer programmer write the word processing software I am now using, but I have no doubt such a person exists. In the same way, we may not have seen the Divine Designer do His work of programming information into DNA, but I don't doubt that an intelligent mind was involved. CSI teams and insurance fraud investigators also use DNA, that's science.

King David attested to this visual aid in Psalms 139:14, "*I praise you because I am fearfully (in awe) and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well,*" However, "*The fool says in his heart, 'There is not God.'*" There is science and there is "pseudoscience."

Taking David and examining the evidence we can see the world is full of patterns and artful composition. Snowflakes exhibit six-fold symmetry

## GOD GIVES US PICTURES

and most are familiar with naturally occurring Fibonacci spirals, such as in seashells or horns of sheep.

Some say that over time animals have adopted whatever was necessary for them to live. For example fish living in the Arctic Ocean produce antifreeze proteins to avoid freezing in the frigid waters. The cuttlefish can change its color for protection. These and many other protective abilities, according to “science,” were developed overtime, yet if that were the case these living creatures would have died off while time passed.

If nature is designed, then someone must have designed it.

The defense of intelligent design was provided by William Paley in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In short it was as follows: Imagine you are walking one day and you found a watch on the ground. Assume that you have never seen a watch and know nothing about its creation or use. Upon examination you find it full of carefully placed wheels. Even though you have never known such a thing, you are likely to conclude that it was an intentional creation by an intelligent mind. It’s not likely that such a thing just appeared randomly in the world.

Likewise, the world itself has order and complexity. There was a World Maker with an intelligent mind like we humans, created in the image of the Mind. We Christians do not believe “part of” the Bible but all of it. If Jesus spoke of creation, Daniel in a lion’s den, and spoke of God as our Father (beginning) then we should have no difficulty doing the same.

We should not concede to some who examine the creation and proceed to tell us how it came to be. What if a person were to go into a house and after examination state he knows how it came to be because he looked at the wood, nails and plaster. That only proves good eye sight.

Science thought petrified wood took long periods of time to develop until Mt St. Helens proved it took very little. Science predicted global cooling in the 1970s and now as they predict global heating. They have been wrong 32 times in predicting global weather.

Their record is not good, in fact it is bad. They had to rewrite science books often. On the other hand the Bible has never been, and still does not need to be rewritten, to have additions, and definitely not retracts. *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* Still good!

## BARNABAS PREACHERS’ SCHEDULES

**Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929**

Nothing planned at present.

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

**5908.** Danny preaches often at congregations in his area as a supply preacher. He is available when needed.

## NO ONE IS INSIGNIFICANT

Sir Michael Costa was conducting a rehearsal in which the orchestra was joined by a great chorus. About halfway through the session, with trumpets blaring, drums rolling, and violins singing their rich melody, the piccolo player muttered to himself, “What good am I doing? I might as well not be playing. Nobody can hear me anyway.” So he placed his instrument to his lips but made no sound. Within moments the conductor cried, “Stop! Stop! Where’s the piccolo?”

Perhaps many people did not realize that the piccolo was missing, but the most important one did. So it is in the Christian life. God knows when we do not play the part assigned to us, even if others do not.

-1500 Illustrations for Biblical Preaching

## SCRATCHING YOUR HEAD INSIDE

He broke into song because  
he couldn’t find the key.

~

The short fortune teller escaped from prison  
and became a small medium at large.

~

Those who get too big for their britches  
are usually exposed in the end.

~

Fisherman’s wife left him, you could say  
he flounder then he lobster, now he  
nothing to carp about.

## STEADY

The way in which we must stand in the face of opposition is aptly described in the British use of “steady.” To illustrate this word’s meaning, picture a British commander as he and his regiment are being approached by a horde of Bedouins branding swords. He reviews his past experiences in battle and his men’s capabilities and is confident of victory. These experiences will give him confidence to remain “steady.” As believers, we must learn to rely on the testimony of God’s past accomplishment, His present work in our lives and His promises. This gives us confidence in opposition...we can be “steady.”

## ***DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY***

### **Something Light Hearted:**

A little boy asked his dad, "Did you go to Sunday school every week when you were a kid?" His father replied, "I sure did son." The little boy responded, "I'll bet it won't do me any good either."

### **..... IS THE CHURCH DYING?**

#### **WHERE HAVE ALL THE PEOPLE GONE?**

A man was telling his friend: "My grandfather predicted in advance the very year in which he was going to die.

What's more, he knew the exact month he was going to die, the precise day he was going to die, and even the time of day he was going to die. And he was right on every count.

"That's amazing," said the friend. "How did he know all that?"

"The judge told him."

Is the church dying? That seems to be a continuing discussion and there is a variety of opinions that are being shared on the subject. Throughout my ministry I have seen churches that have merged with other churches and they no longer needed one of their buildings so it closed and sold. But recently, say the last 10 years, I have seen churches just close their doors. In March 2019 we began a pandemic, Covid 19, and many have commented that that virus caused churches to consider closing. Of course there was a period of time during the pandemic that people were encouraged not to assemble because of the threat of spreading the virus. Since that instruction has been lifted, churches have not bounced back attendance wise. Some church attenders have made a major decision to chose P.J.'s over pews and they have convinced themselves that being in an assembly on the Lord's Day isn't really necessary. A decision like this has caused churches that were struggling before Covid to decide to close permanently.

Definitely Covid did not help the matter of church closing, but this difficulty started years before the pandemic. Trying to get accurate figures on the rate of closings is nearly impossible because churches do not respond to surveys or questionnaires and

those gathering the material admit that the numbers may not be accurate..

It doesn't take a PhD or extensive research to figure out that churches are sick and some are on spiritual ventilators just trying to decide when to close the doors and what to do with their buildings. Some bodies of believers have reached single digits in their attendance and it is hard to continue.

Is the church that Jesus died for dying? Soon, will the New Testament Church just dissolve? I don't believe that and I believe the majority of believers today do not believe that. However, the body of believers down the road or on the corner may not remain a functioning unit. Yes, churches are closing but others are very much alive. The concern I have is "where have the people gone that were still at the local church when it closed?" There is always a few still there but what happened to them? Some are attending other New Testament churches that are in the area and for that I am thankful. But it saddens me to see others go to a denominational church or even some just quit going to worship altogether.

The list is long as to why churches are closing. I am sure each of you have your ideas as to why this is happening. Some of my thoughts are: the population of these areas is declining and there aren't people to come. Death of members has to be taken into consideration. People grow old and their bodies wear out. Some churches just refuse to change and try new ways and people go looking for new ways to strengthen their spiritual lives. Some churches just need to wake up (Revelation 3: 2- 3) ***"Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God. 3 So remember [a]what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent. Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.***

Please make the closing of our churches a matter of prayer. God still needs each worker in His Kingdom.

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

## WHAT FAITH IS AND WHAT FAITH DOES

Sermon by Denny

**TEXT: Hebrews 11:1ff**

**INTRO:** This message is not in the normal homiletical form. That is I will not run down the eleventh chapter and speak on each portion of the text. Rather, I'll select some verses in this chapter and address faith in general and what it does. We often use the word "faith" in a careless manner. We say "you got to have faith" but never be specific on what our faith is to be in. Some even say "I believe in faith," but again there is no object indicated. And some even say, "You have to have faith in yourself." There is an object but a poor one in which the faith is directed.

Hebrews Chapter 11 speaks of faith, Chapter 12 addresses hope, and Chapter 13 addresses love. Romans 1:17 tells us "the righteous shall live by faith." Gal. 3:11 tells us the "righteous live by faith," Hab. 3:1 tells us the "righteous live by faith."

### I.

#### WHAT IS FAITH

##### A. NOT A REAL DEFINITION

1. There is no article, thus he speaks generally
2. We put faith in airplanes to stay in the air
3. We have faith in a bank to care for money
4. What constitutes biblical faith?

##### B. IT INVOLVES KNOWLEDGE

1. Facts are given, God has given that
2. We are sinners, but he loves us, John 3:16
3. Salvation was purchased, Romans 3
4. Faith comes by hearing, Romans 10:17
5. Things are written to believe, John 20
6. He expects us to listen and learn John 6

##### C. WE MUST GIVE ASCENT TO IT

1. We should accept and agree with Him
2. This is followed by obedience, Rom. 1:5
3. We can have knowledge w/out ascent
4. Saving faith is trusting the evidence and being certain of it brings conviction

### II.

#### WHAT FAITH DOES

Faith in evidence causes action...always.

##### A. IT ACTS ON THE INFORMATION

1. Noah believed and built the ark.
2. Abraham believed and followed God
3. Joseph gave instructions based on faith
4. Rahab welcomed spies because of faith
5. Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets all acted on faith in God.

##### B. FAITH TRUSTS FUTURE BASED ON PROOF FROM THE PAST

1. They trusted God's promise because of His perfect record at keeping His word.
2. God cannot lie, or He would not be God.
3. A fact is what God says will happen just as much as what has happened

### III.

#### FAITH IS ALWAYS REWARDED

##### A. IN GOD'S TIME

1. Verse 39 tells us all these people did not receive all future promises
2. God promised something better than anything that could be received in this life, see verse 40.

##### B. FAITH TRUSTS GOD AND HIS TIMING

1. God does not own a Timex because time is nothing to Him.
2. He is trustworthy, and capable of delivering
3. Patience is learned, not a fleshly desire
4. Faith is an action, not a reaction
5. When Jesus delayed to come to Lazarus when he was sick, it was for a purpose. The people would not have witnessed a resurrection if He had come sooner

**CONCLUSIONS:** God's work and timing are always perfect; we can trust Him to do the right thing at the right time.

Disbelief leads to disobedience, disobedience leads to disinheritance, and disinheritance leads to destruction. As for me, the Lord saved me, He changed me, He supports me, He protects me and He gladdens my heart. I find no reason to distrust Him now. "The end of faith is salvation," 1 Peter 1:19.

## GRUDGES

There was an Associated Press report from Madrid dated July 23, 1981 that King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia decided to boycott the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana to continue a protest dated to 1704. The Spanish government announced that the king and queen declined the invitation to the wedding because the royal couple planned to go to Gibraltar to board the royal yacht *Britannia* for a honeymoon cruise.

Gibraltar was captured from Spain by an Anglo-Dutch force in 1704 during the War of the Spanish Succession on behalf of the Habsburg claim to the Spanish throne. It has remained a "bone of contention" since that time. Two hundred and seventy-seven years seems like a long time to carry a grudge.

It is said that a rattlesnake, if cornered, will sometimes become so upset that it will bit itself. That is exactly what harboring hate and resentment against others is – biting of oneself. We think that we are harming others in holding these grudges and hatred, but the deeper harm is to ourselves.

### MINI THOUGHTS

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**The difference between a gossip and a concerned friend is like the difference between a butcher and a surgeon. Both cut the meat, but for different reasons.**

~

**Flattery is like perfume; the idea is to smell it, not swallow it.**

~

**An excuse has been defined as a lie wrapped in the skin of a reason.**

## THE PERFECT CHURCH

I think that I shall never see a church that's all it ought to be:

A church whose members never stray beyond the straight and narrow way.

A church that has no empty pews and whose preacher never has a bad day.

A church where there are never complaints or people who criticize.

A church where everyone is always sweet, gracious and kind.

Such perfect churches there may never be, but none of them as known to me.

But still, we'll work and pray, and plan to make our own the best it can be.

## A BLONDE SPEAKS OUT

A ventriloquist was performing, his dummy impressed everyone telling blonde jokes.

Suddenly a blonde stood up and started shouting "I have heard just about enough of your blonde jokes! You don't even know all of us." The

ventriloquist began to apologize, but she interrupted him say, "You stay out of this

mister, I'm talking to the little guy on your knee."

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

## **A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn**

### **Study Number One Hundred Thirty-Three – God Wants Us Encouraged**

In the book, *Profiles in Courage*, John F. Kennedy wrote, “Great crisis produces great men and great deeds of courage.” While it is true that crisis’ help to make a person, it is also true that crisis’ reveal what a person is made of. Pilate faced a crisis but his handling of it didn’t reveal in him courage or greatness. How we handle difficulties in life depends largely on our inner character. In my years of nouthetic counseling it became obvious that most emotional problems in the lives of Christians are the result of unbiblical responses to life’s situations. In our time on earth we will all face difficulties and no one has ever denied that. It is how we handle them that either result in difficulties within and sometimes without. They don’t go away, but our frame of mind or point of view will be affected by how we deal with them.

The Apostle Paul opens his heart in his second letter to the church at Corinth. In this letter he reveals the trials he had experienced by proclaiming the Gospel and also answers his critics in the congregation at Corinth. They questioned his apostleship (1:8-11) as well as his motive for preaching. When Christians misunderstand each other, the wounds can often go very deep and even sever their relationship altogether. In addition there was the problem of opposition to his apostleship as well as the circumstances in Asia. Paul had problems he had to overcome and for the sole purposes of preaching the Good News. We might learn how to handle life’s difficulties by looking at how the Apostle approached it in the only three areas he had control.

It is heart-breaking to have people oppose you for a wrong you have done, but it is multiplied when you are opposed by people you love and only want good for them as well as the privilege of ministering to them any and every way you are capable. Paul was in that situation, so how did he address the situation in the three areas.

#### **A CLEAR CONSCIENCE (1:12-24)**

“Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, in the holiness and sincerity that are from God. We have done so not according to worldly wisdom, but according to God’s grace,” verse 12. The Greek word “conscience,” as found in this verse is “suneidesis” and means “to know with.” Our English word is for “conscience” is derived from the Latin words “con” meaning “with” and “scire” meaning “to know.” The definition of our English word “conscience” is an “inner sense of right and wrong,” *Webster’s New Twentieth Century Dictionary*. Putting this all together is related a clear knowledge that one’s conduct of right and wrong agrees with their manner of behavior. This can’t be stressed enough, a clear conscience is essential in evaluating a situation and our personal attitude.

He knew his intent was not to be deceptive, vs 13-14 and that gave him confidence that his motive was right in the site of God. Paul didn’t run hot and cold but was aligned with the mind of God as revealed to him. He was being controlled in his purpose by the Holy Spirit. He was therefore not vague, ambiguous, speculative nor opinionated. Just as Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, we too can have a clear conscience when we do right as God considers rightness in addressing the problems of life. While Paul had the privilege of direct communication by the Holy Spirit we have the same truths and directions by reading the word of the Holy Spirit, Hebrews 10:15-17.

We Christians can have one of the greatest weapons against Satan at our disposal and that is a clear conscience. God has supplied His Word, for our learning as well as giving those who obey Him, the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:32, for our leading. A mind free of cunning and schemes is powerful in combating whatever evil befalls us and the obstacles we must overcome and gives us comfort and encouragement from God. The Bible speaks of those who have rejected a clear conscience and have

paid for it, 1 Timothy 1:19. However Peter tells us that a clear conscience puts our critics to shame, 1 Peter 3:16. But, those who have a clear conscience are given a “proud confidence.” I’m not talking about being arrogant, but simply confidence which gives us encouragement. We have the ability to clean our conscience.

### **A COMPASSIONATE HEART (2:1-11)**

Sometimes in life others have caused us grief and/or pain. Paul had to respond to those in Corinth who had challenged and caused others to doubt his apostleship. This of course, was painful for a man God the Holy Spirit had instructed to share Good News. This, from his human nature, was painful for him. He had to write a letter concerning that as well as having to make a trip to Corinth in person. However, he maintained a compassionate heart to those very people, vs 1-3. He put others before himself and his feelings did not play a primary concern, if any. What really mattered to him was that they understood his love for them. Being human that is, in the flesh, makes this anything but normal. Our fleshly nature wants to respond in kind, but fleshly desires are to be under our control. The flesh and the spirit are in conflict, Gal. 5:16-17. So this isn’t always easy and it usually isn’t. That is why the Scriptures state, *“Put to death, therefore whatever belongs to your earthly nature...”* Col. 3:5.

Paul’s major concern, as should be ours, was Christ, His Kingdom, brothers and sister, and then what is best for him. Evidence for being a true disciple is love expressed to others in word and deed. John 13:35. When we have a clear conscience as well as a compassionate heart, we are on our way to possessing what God really wants for us all, being in a state of courage which is the definition of encouragement. God wants us encouraged and there is one other element that Paul claimed in him, and we should also.

### **A CONQUERING FAITH (2:12-17)**

Finally, we come to what gives us a clear conscience as well as a compassion for others is our faith in the Son of God. When Paul states that God “who always leads us in triumphal procession,” verse 1, he is referring to the open door God provided in verse 12. Our God will sometimes close a door of opposition in order to lead us to a door of opportunity. But in all cases, closed or open, by faith we must address difficulties with what we can control, a clear conscience, and a compassionate heart, and Christ is our example.

If we are met with what appears to be failure or rejection we must accept it properly. Often I share in a counseling session that the major problems in life are not the events or troublesome people in our life but our unbiblical responses to them. I always follow that with a direct statement, “It’s all up to you.” If the problem is removed, that will be God’s prerogative, but if it remains, it is our obligation to control our own attitude.

Faith is concerned with Christ not being accepted or loved by other people. To all people Christians have an aroma *“among those who are being saved we have the fragrance of life and to the lost a smell of death,”* verses 15-16. Faith conquers evil motives if our faith is sincere. In the eyes of those who trust God, it is sweet, but bitter to those who oppose truth. There is a hymn that addresses these issues that states:

#### **HYMN**

In shady green pastures and so sweet, God leads His dear children along;  
Where the water’s cold flow bathes the weary one’s feet, God leads His children along.  
Sometimes on the mount where the sun shines so bright, God leads His dear children along;  
\Sometimes the valley, in darkest of night, God leads His children along.  
Tho’ sorrows befall us, and Satan oppose, God leads His dear children along;  
Through grace we can conquer defeat all our foes, God leads His dear children along.  
Away from the mire, and always from the clay, God leads His dear children along.  
Away up in glory eternity’s day God leads His children along.

#### **CHORUS**

Some through the waters, some through the flood,  
Some through the fire, others all through the blood  
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,  
In the night seasons and all the day long.

## LEARNING with Larry

Johnny Lee many years ago sang a song called, "Looking for love in all the Wrong Places." It reminds me of my search for joy in ministry. As it turned out I was looking in the wrong places. I thought if anyone would be joyful it would be Christians. I found that most of my problem was I confused joy with happiness. The best definition I found for joy was "an inner gladness" while happiness dealt with external things. Joy comes from the Spirit, Gal. 5:22-23, as does love, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Joy is a gift from God given to those who make Jesus Lord, Acts 2:38.

The Greek word for joy is CHARA, a noun indicating inner gladness independent of the happenings of life. Happiness depends on right things happening, but Joy comes from a relationship with Jesus. I can have this joy regardless of what happens because of my awareness of the realities of heaven. In John 16:21-22 Jesus said, "A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you; now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."

Joy in the Lord is gladness not in what's happening now but what will be for me later, like a child waiting for Christmas or one anticipating a vacation. Yet for the Christian, joy is much greater than Christmas or a vacation, for they come and go but joy is permanent and happiness is fleeting.

Biblical joy comes from the Lord by knowing, living and trusting Him regardless of difficulties of life. We can choose joy because of our eternal hope in Jesus. No greater truth is seen than in the Apostle Paul as he was beaten, imprisoned, and yet had joy and wrote about it throughout the New Testament. Enduring these abuses he wrote "Rejoice in the Lord always, and I will say it again, rejoice," Phil. 4:4

Charles Spurgeon once stated, "...believers are not dependent upon circumstances, their joy comes not from what they have but from what they are, not from where they are but from who they are, not from what they enjoy but from that which was suffered for them by the Lord." Hebrews 12:1-3 states "Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the

race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For joy set before him, he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

How could Jesus go to the cross with joy? He looked ahead at what His sacrifice bought with joy by His obedience to the Father's will. The Christian life finds joy in obedience to the Lord.

Joy is found in Christ alone. To those who receive Him as Lord and Savior He gives His Holy Spirit of love, victory over death, and everlasting joy. Jesus lives today at the Father's right hand in resurrection glory and fullness of joy; and He has promised to come back for His church and deliver us where He is. Knowing this fills my life with His joy. Until next time may God fill you with His joy.

- Larry

### YOU CAN'T GET GOOD HELP ANYMORE

Two men walked into a diner that looked as though it had seen better days. Before sitting down in the booth the younger man brushed crumbs off the seat. Then he took a napkin from the holder on the table and wiped some ketchup off the table.

The waitress came over and asked if they wanted menus. "No thanks," said the older man, "I'll just have a cup of black coffee."

"I'll have black coffee also," the younger man said. Then he added snappily, "And make sure the cup is clean."

The waitress gave him a nasty look before marching off into the kitchen.

Two minutes later she was back, with two cups of coffee. She announced curtly, "Which one of you wanted the clean cup?"

### LOOKING AT THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DIFFERENTLY

#### Galatians 5:22-23

**Love** – those who do not love in return

**Joy** – even in the midst of painful circumstances

**Peace** – in the midst of disappointment

**Long-suffering** – when all is still going wrong

**Kindness** – to those who are unkind to you

**Goodness** – to those who mistreat you

**Faithfulness** – when others are not.

**Gentleness** – toward those who are harsh

**Self-control** – in the face of intense temptation

## OPPORTUNITIES

No known scheduled events for Mar.-Apr.

### TO RISK

By William Arthur Ward

To laugh is to risk appearing a fool

To weep is to risk appearing sentimental.

To reach out to another is to risk involvement.

To expose feelings is to risk exposing the real you.

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

To love is to risk not being loved in return.

To live is to risk dying.

To hope is to risk despair.

To try is to risk failure.

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

The person who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.

He may avoid suffering and sorrow,

But he cannot learn, feel, change, grow or live.

Chained by his servitude he is a slave who

Has forfeited all freedom.

Only a person who risks is free.

The pessimist complains about the wind;

The optimist expects it to change;

And a realist adjusts the sails.

### GIVING ADVICE

An efficiency expert concluded his lecture with a note of caution. "You shouldn't try these techniques at home."

One student asked "Why not?"

The instructor replied, "I was watching my wife at breakfast. She made lots of trips between the refrigerator, stove, table, and cabinets. One morning I told her, "Hon, why don't you try carrying several things at once?"

The student asked, "Did it save time?"

The teacher replied, "Actually, Yes it used to take her 20 minutes to make breakfast, now it only takes me seven.

If you are a married man you already knew that some advice you keep to yourself.

### THOUGHTS

**"A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have." – Thomas Jefferson**

**"What this country needs are more unemployed politicians." – Edward Langley**

## -FREE-

### Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar.

What Barnabas Ministries provides a host church for these seminars: We will bear the cost of speakers, hotels if needed.

We will have speakers address such subjects as counseling, discouragement in ministry, do and don'ts, is a preacher born or made, and other matters relating to ministers and their wives. There will be two sessions just for the wives.

We will provide a binder for the material given out and a few other gifts for preachers and their wives.

The seminar schedule will be two speakers, a break, two more speakers, lunch and a final speaker. If this does not "fit" your plans, we are flexible. We are simply interested in encouraging preachers.

The host will assure that a lunch and snacks for break time. **BARNABAS WILL REIMBURSE THE CHURCH FOR ANY EXPENDATURES.**

To schedule a meeting call 740-446-6929 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 740-446-7319 after 4:00 p.m.

### PARABLES

The story is told of an ancient Stoic philosopher, Epictetus (A.D. 50-120), who wanted to teach his students that truth understood is of no value; it is truth acted upon which changes things. This is of course a great truth. Sometimes we try putting it in a little saying like, "Practice what you preach." The problem is that we tend to remember only the words in this little saying and ignore the truth intended in the saying.

Epictetus gathered his students and asked, "Have you ever noticed that a sheep does not vomit up the grass it ate at the feet of the shepherd in order to impress him? The sheep digests it to produce wool and milk." Likewise, spewing out what we know does not produce what the Lord intends.

It is acting on what we know that produces the desired effect the Master desires. We need to know but we must do what we know.

### DICTRINAL 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 sinful man

**FAITH**: is **only** "saving faith: if it includes repentance, confession of Jesus Christ as the Son of God and being baptized as did every convert after the resurrection of Jesus.