



The PARAKLETE

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

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Volume No. 23

Issue 5

Sept.-Oct. 2024

PERVERSION

I did not see the opening of the Olympics in late July when first aired, but I certainly heard about the opening perversion of Rembrandt's painting of the Lord's Supper. I later did pull it up on my computer and could easily see why so many were upset as lesbians, homosexuals, and others of the LBGTQ community mocked the Lord's Supper.

When some sponsors of the Olympics withdrew their support, and some Christians, churches and others expressed their displeasure, the Olympic committee immediately apologized. Then those who "set the scene" put out the story that it was actually a depiction of the "Feast of the Olympian gods." They did this to pretend it was about the Olympus gods rather than about Jesus institution of the Lord's Supper. Whoopy Goldberg of the TV show "The View" on air bought that story. I, and I imagine others, did not.

It was obviously a well-planned mockery of the Last Supper and of Christianity as well. In other words it was a perversion of Christ and His disciples.

But why would one be surprised? Satan and the sinful world had been perverting the truth since the beginning.

Perversion has been the Devil's game since Adam and Eve. The very first trick from his "crafty" bag of tricks was to pervert the words of God with "Did God really say...?" Then he followed with an outright denial of God's words with "You will not surely die," Genesis 3.

"Perversion" means "turning from" and in the Bible it means "turning from what is truth or right." The Hebrew word HAPHAK meaning "to turn" in the NIV is translated "distort" in Jeremiah 23:36.

It is a fact that Satan and the corrupt world we live in seem to distort everything good. The rainbow was given by God to Noah as a reminder of His covenant not to destroy the earth by flood again, Genesis 9:14-15. Today, what are the very colors of



the rainbow used for? They are used as a symbol representing the LGBTQ perversion. As one would expect, something for good is perverted for evil behavior.

The Scriptures are clear on the Lord's position in regard to same sex behavior. In Lev. 18:22 He states, ***"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable."*** It is called "shameful lusts," "unnatural," "indecent" and "perversion," all in Romans 1:26-27. Yet, this perversion is not only practiced but some even march in the streets as part of their "pride week." Shameful persons always try to shame the shameless.

The reason for that is to hide from their own humiliation and attempt to transfer that shame to their opposites. Christ and His Church are an affront to the perversions therefore the attempt is to transfer their shame to Jesus and the redeemed. The idea is, "if I can make you look bad then I won't stand out as the perverted one."

What Satan can't destroy, he perverts. This is evident from his behavior in the Garden of Eden as well as his dealings with Jesus in Matthew 4. He can't destroy the Word of God, so he did the next worse thing, he perverted it.

He tempted Eve by first questioning God's word, "did He really say?" and then completely denied it by telling her she would not die, but rather be as God. He tried to tempt Jesus with the same tactics in Matthew 4, but the Lord did not fall for it as did Adam and Eve.

As Christians we will not be defeated in the area of truth, communing with our Lord on His day is a matter of covenant promise. So what the puppets of Satan tried to do at the Olympics was to pervert the idea of our oneness with Christ and to shame the shameless.

PERVERSION

Speaking of relationship to God we read “...to the pure you show yourself pure, but to the crooked you show yourself shrewd,” Psalm 18:26. In English it could be read, “...to the pure you are pure but to the perverse you appear perverse.” Pure eyes see pure things, but perverted minds see things perverted.

God created two genders, or two sexes, male and female, Genesis 5:2. And today we are bombarded with the perversion that there are a number of sexes or genders beyond two. This bombardment is such that in recent months three college presidents testifying before the U.S. Senate were unable to answer two questions: “How many genders exist?” And “What is a woman?”

One does not have to be hatched under a rock to know why some politicians are swayed by these perversions. They are afraid of losing a section of the voting block...but the rest of us should use non-political common sense.

We live in a time when a little courage and fair amount of brain matter coupled with Christian faith are needed. We need courage to speak up and not fear disagreement or persecution. We need the brain matter to apply logic to every situation and faith in the Word of God to direct our thoughts.

Christians have been challenged in every age and our time is no different. As a child I knew very little of the degree of the battle for the mind that was going on around me. But, I later learned, even then, there were adults battling for my mind. I am thankful that those fighting for the faith won. I now often ask, “Is my generation doing as much for the generation following?”

Perversion is rampant and minds are being influenced for bad and for good. Satan has stepped up his tactics but I know Christ will win. I read the back of the Book.

However, we American can lose our country and the souls of men and women, who are now boys and girls. God does not need the United States, but the United States needs God...now more than ever.

Arm yourself by knowing the schemes of the Devil, who will lie, pervert, and masquerade as an angel of light. If He masquerades as an angel of light how can we tell? Simple...Know what the real Messenger of Light, Jesus the Lord, taught us. When we fill our minds with the truth a perversion will jump out at us.

We need to apply courage to speak out against the wiles of the Devil...the Pervert.

Denny Coburn - Gallipolis, OH 740/446-6929

Oct 13 - 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 as a supply preacher. He is available when needed.

Denny speaks at PRES Meetings Oct 5th OVCA, Pomeroy, OH and 12th Woodburn, IN

Danny speaks at PRES Meeting Oct 5th OVCA, Pomeroy, OH

A NEW MINISTRY - FOR PREACHERS

The preaching ministry is a joy, a unique life and often a trying way of life. In one day, sometimes hours, they are central in happy times like weddings, new births, and sad times like deaths broken homes, and other heartbreaking times. They are often the recipients of criticism or blame. They feel hurt and disappointment.

99% of preachers do not complain for several reasons. They fear if they do some will interpret it as a lack of faith. Also, to whom can they share their feelings? Not members of the congregation, they fear gossip may result. Few have a confidant.

Barnabas desires to be a private sounding board for preachers. We want to “be there” for preachers who wish to share their burden in confidence. We want to invite preachers to call Barnabas Ministries at 740-446-6929 for encouragement. Regardless of the information shared, elders will not be contacted. If they need to be informed, we will encourage the preacher to do the informing...we will not.

If the director or one of the trustees is able to meet the need, we will refer the preacher to those who can. We want to be a confidant and encouragement for any preacher who needs to talk openly about a problem, frustration, or just wants to get an unbiased opinion.

QUOTES

“Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress, but I repeat myself.

-Mark Twain

“I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.”

-Winston Churchill

“Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to a teenage boy.”

-P.J. O'Rourke, Civil Liberation

“What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.”

Edward Langley, artist (1928-1995)

“The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin.”

-Mark Twain

DOTS AND DASHES FROM DANNY

Something Light Hearted:

Honk If You Love Jesus

Text While Driving If You Want to Meet Him”

Warning signs are something that are all around and they are placed in particular places to keep us safe. These signs are usually a bright color and are easily seen. Warning signs are along our highways so that we will be informed of danger that could cause us to be hurt if we don't pay attention to the noted warning. Warning signs - we see them every day as we drive, and if you drive enough you may barely even notice them.

Near where I work there is a railroad bridge and there is a sign that states how much clearance there is between the street and the bottom of the bridge. One morning, as I was going to work, I had trouble getting there because a truck had not paid attention to the warning sign and was stuck under the bridge. He had done severe damage to his rig and about half of the roof on the trailer was torn off. I felt sorry for the driver because he probably lost his job just by not seeing the warning sign or ignored the sign and thought he could get through.

These signs have specific shapes and designs and very little wording because the Department of Transportation wants these signs to be easily understood. Another factor that is interesting is that these signs are the same no matter what state you might be in. If you see a yellow placard with a car on it and squiggly lines, it means watch the road because it is slick when wet.

The importance of these signs cannot be stressed enough. They are placed where they are to protect us as well as others. However, we often fail to heed these warnings for various reasons. Sometimes we don't even see them because we have seen them for years and we just ignore them. After all, we are good drivers and don't need to be reminded how to operate a motor vehicle.

You know God placed warning signs in His Word to protect us. We know they are there but since we have been Christians for years we just seem to ignore them. Perhaps we don't mean to but in the

end we just sort of do our own thing and don't expect to get into any trouble.

For instance, in **Isiah 5:20** the prophet recorded these words with God's inspiration, *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”* In our society and I am ashamed to say this, but in some of our churches, we are busy calling things good that God has called evil. Sinful laws are being established by our government and churches are having their conventions and changing doctrines so that these laws can be accepted and supported.

Here is another spiritual warning sign that perhaps we need to make sure it is visible and not covered up with tree branches from the devil's tree. In **Deuteronomy 23:21** it states, *“When you make a vow to the Lord your God, you shall not delay to pay it, for it would be sin in you, and the Lord your God will surely require it of you.”* From breaking wedding vows to promising God everything if He will just get you out of a dire situation is something we need to think about. However, we justify our neglect by remembering we are already forgiven and God understands. God is a loving God and it really doesn't matter to Him because we have been baptized and He knows our heart.

Warning! Warning! Watch how you live! Paul told the Ephesians to do this very thing, **Ephesians 5:15** *“Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,”*. How we choose to live is very important and I am not talking about occasionally. I am talking about our whole life. How we live makes a difference. We must remember **Romans 12:2** *“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect”*.

As we live our Christian life we need to watch for the warning signs God has placed around us and in His Word.

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

PAUSE WITH DAWES

As I begin to write this article it is the beginning of the Summer Olympics in Paris, France. During the Olympic games I especially like to watch the track and field events, and particularly the running of the races.

I am amazed at how fast some people can run. In 1964, the World Record for the 100-yard dash was set by Bob Hayes when he ran that distance in 9.1 seconds. The current World Record for the 100-meter race (about 109 yards) is held by Usain Bolt of Jamaica at 9.58 seconds. That is indeed pretty fast!

It was Olympian Jesse Owens who said, *"We all have dreams. But to make dreams come into reality, it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self-discipline, and effort."* We know those participating in the Olympic events have gone through much training for their particular event.

We also are running in a race. 1 Corinthians 9:24 – *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.* The prize in our race is eternal life. How do we run in such a way that we will get the prize?

We go into strict training. Training is a requirement for anyone who wants to enter the race. Years ago, when I was a student at Kentucky Christian University, Coach Dace told some of us guys that an area school had requested a scrimmage game. Six of us went to the school and we thought this was going to be a cake walk. It was the 8th grade basketball team. I am embarrassed to say that those kids ran circles around us. They had been in strict training for months. We were not used to running up and down the court. What kind of spiritual training are you doing for running this race? How much time are you devoting to Bible study, to prayer and

to worship? What is your schedule for your strict training so you can win the prize?

We have the right motivation. Our motivation is to win the prize, the crown that will last forever. In 1 Corinthians 9:26, Paul talks about 'running aimlessly' and 'beating the air'. Running aimlessly is running nowhere, running for no reason. To beat the air, we might think of 'shadow boxing.' It is throwing punches that do not land and have no effect. Be motivated to win the prize. Run for a purpose, fight to beat the opponent.

We have discipline. In 1 Corinthians 9:27, Paul speaks of bringing his body under control. He says, "I strike a blow to my body." The idea of that phrase is to 'give a black eye.' Are we having an effect on our body to bring it under control. It was legendary basketball coach John Wooden, who said, *"If you lose self-control everything will fall."* We need to get self-control over our body, so we are surrendered to Jesus Christ and are serving him only.

The percentage of Americans who own running shoes but do not run is 87%. It makes me wonder: what is the percentage of Christians who are in the race but are not running to win the prize?

(Denny Dawes, Portsmouth, Ohio)

THINGS SENIORS DO TO DRIVE YOUNG PEOPLE CRAZY

Wear a snorkel while driving.

Stop at green lights.

Leave turn signal on...for 10 miles.

Get in the fast lane and drive slow.

Play loud Gospel music w/windows down.

Drive wrong way in car wash.

Squeegee windshield at stop signs.

Ask: "Did you see Elvis back there too?"

We are blessed with many young people that are faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church.

Let them know you appreciate and love them.

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

A series of studies in encouragement by Denny Coburn

Study Number One Hundred Thirty-six – “God is in Control”

One of the most encouraging verses in the Bible is Romans 8:28 which reads: *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”* This text assures us that God is involved in every aspect of our lives and that He is always at work to bring about His good and eternal purpose for our good. However the question that seems to be on many lips is: “If God is good and is involved in all things, why do bad things happen to good people or for that matter why do bad things happen to anyone?” Why does a husband abandon his wife? Why does a child use drugs? Why did I lose my job, have a wreck, fall and hurt myself? The list goes on and on. These seem like very legitimate questions and there should be answers.

As Christians we need to see God working in our lives. It’s difficult if we don’t know the answers to these questions ourselves, how can we help others? How can we learn and teach others to trust Him more fully if we don’t understand ourselves? We could begin to feel discouraged if we dwell on the negative. If not we may become cynical and think, “What does it matter whether I follow the Lord or not?” The text is not an empty promise, nor a blank check for a trouble-free life. Therefore, we need to take a closer look at the text.

Here are some things we can learn: First that God is involved in all things. That’s “*all things!*” He can’t be separated from any aspect of life since He is the creator, sustainer, and orchestrator of all that exists. We are told in Hebrews 1:3 *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.”* The word “sustaining” here is the Greek PHERO (φέρω) meaning “to bear,” “carry,” or “to uphold.” Theistic-evolutionists teach that God may have created all things, but He used the evolutionary process and now the world and all things in it are whirling through space on its own and He is no longer involved. The only reason they accept the “creation theory” (their words) at all is that they are at least honest enough to acknowledge creation can’t be explained away. The problem is that they are unbelieving enough to deny the Scriptural account of His continued care and involvement.

The second thing we need to learn is that God has given us a free will. You and I have been made in the image of God, and part of our nature is that we have been given the freedom of choice. It is this freedom of mankind to choose that allowed Adam to sin. We, like Adam, have both the freedom of choice and a nature that wants self-rule and that leads us to sin. Yes, Adam was the first man to sin, but it is not his sin that makes you and I sinners, it is our own sin that makes us sinners. He was our prototype. If we had the same circumstance that existed in the Garden of Eden, we would have done the same thing. We have an inbred sin nature.

Much of the evil that occurs in our world today is rooted in our free will. A spouse *chooses* to abandon the marriage. The child *chooses* drugs. The company *chooses* to lay off employees. Drunks *choose* to drink, serial killers *choose* to murder and homosexuals *choose* to practice what God calls an abomination. But, what does mankind *choose* to do when the results are proven harmful? Blame God!

Sometimes our choices are made unconsciously. A person may not choose to bring on a life-threatening disease, but years and years of choosing to live in certain ways with certain habits can sometimes result in disease. A person may not choose indebtedness or financial setback, but years and years of overextending or of not saving may result in financial crisis.

In still other instances, the choices that govern our lives are collective ones over which we have no personal control. We live in a world that is crime-ridden and war-torn. The fault lies with no one person and is not the result of one, singular choice. The collective “whole” of mankind’s free will has simply run amok, and individuals are victims of a fallen world filled with rebelliousness, stubbornness, ignorance, that lead to collective bad choices. And again the verdict of mankind is “it was an act of God.” The blame game that begins with the question: “Why did this happen to me?” with the answer, “It must be God’s fault!”

God will not override our free will. Most people want God to stay out of their lives, well, until they need Him. And God will not impose on such persons. But this does not mean that God is absent or doesn't care about what is going on in their lives. He is present in the midst of our bad choices. He is with us in our times of trouble, doubt, and struggle. He is always at work on our behalf, desiring our ultimate good. His Spirit will continue to woo us to obedience to Christ and an open heart to His teaching.

Years ago I heard an illustration from a preacher on a related subject. He shared that in the days of the horse and buggy a wife was guiding the trip with the reins in her hand. The team of horses was spooked by an animal that ran across the road in front of them and they began to gallop at an alarming rate of speed. In her panic the wife began to scream, "Do something, do something." The husband tried to take the reins but she was frozen in her panic. Finally the husband shouted, "If you want me to help let go of the reins." God will not take the reins from us, but if we want His help, we have to give them to Him.

Furthermore, we must recognize that sin has consequences. God does not promise that we will not reap what we have sown into our lives prior to our coming to Him. What He does promise is that He will use all things for our good and that He will prepare us to spend eternity with Him. God does not override our free will or negate the choices that we make with it.

Third, we need to understand that God's ultimate purposes will be accomplished. In the end, God will have His way. His will shall be done. None of us is capable of seeing the big picture of God's plan because it extends into eternity. God alone knows what He has planned and how He intends to accomplish His master plan. I don't want to mislead anyone into thinking that God's going to justify, ignore, or change the results of our bad or sinful choices. He will not "make" us go to heaven and He will not "bless" bad choices. The key to understanding Romans 8:28 is that ***"all things work together for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."***

Notice that this "working together for good" has two qualifiers. It is for those who (1) ***"love him,"*** and that are called [living] (2) ***"according to his purpose."*** Often, our problem is that we want Him to love us, and He does, but we accept it with little concern for our love toward Him. We also want things to come about according to our purpose rather than His.

We can be certain of one thing, however: God will remain omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. His nature will not change for us or for any reason. He will always have the power to do what He desires. He will always know precisely what to do to accomplish His purpose. He will always have sufficient time to accomplish His purpose. But I heard someone say, "You mean it is His purpose that some should go to hell?" No He has stated clearly, ***"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance,"*** 2 Peter 3:9. However, we must remember that He is not willing that the evil, rebellious, or foolish enter into eternal life. He wants to keep heaven as it is, pure. Those who go there must sincerely desire to do so. We can't burn our candle for the Devil or ourselves and at the end of life blow the smoke from the candle in His face and expect reward.

We may rebel against God's purposes, balk at His laws, disobey His commandments, and stubbornly refuse His forgiveness. Nevertheless, what God has planned, God will do. The decision that we face is this: Will we get in line with God's plan of redemption, or will we rebel and fulfill His plan for the lost? Job stated it this way, ***"I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted,"*** Job 42:2 NIV.

We all know what God's eternal purpose is, as stated in 2 Peter 3:9, above. Looking back over your life can you see how He has tried to guide you in the right direction? What has been your response? The proper response is: I choose to yield the control of my life fully to God. Yielding control to God is a response that we must make in every area of our lives. Two people cannot hold the reins of your life without disaster. One alone must be the driver. ***"Submit yourselves, then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you,"*** James 4:7. "

God's in control of the universe but He has given us all a free will and while bad things happen to good people, everything will work out in the end for the good of those who love Him. ***"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship,"*** Romans 12:1. Have a good day, and a great life!

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN

Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 *“There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every matter under heaven. W time to give birth and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to uproot what is planted; a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to tear down and a time to build up; A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.”*

We normally associate mourning as something we would like to avoid. We live in a world that is obsessed with entertainment and the pursuit of happiness and avoid any kind of mourning at all cost. We spend most of our life trying to avoid sorrow and pain. In Matthew 5:3-4 Jesus gives His great Sermon on the Mount and begins, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” I believe these first two beatitudes go hand in hand. I believe when Jesus used the word “blessed” it goes much deeper than being happy. Happiness is an emotion that’s based upon circumstances. The Greek word for “blessed” He used is MARKARIOS which means one has received a gift or favor from God.

When I think about being blessed I think about the hymn “I am Happy in the Service of the King.” Only when the Lord is on the throne of our life can we experience true blessedness.

If we look at what it means to be “poor in spirit” it may help. The word “poor” in the text is PTOCHOS which means to “cower and cringe” like a beggar before God and our need for Him desperately. It is acknowledgement of our totally lost condition and our dependence on God’s grace. Have you heard the expression “Christianity is a crutch for those who can’t make it on their own.” To that I absolutely agree, all are dependent on God’s grace.

What did Jesus mean when he said “Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted?” The Greek word for mourning is PENTHEO which means to be sorrowful and experiencing grief. We

mourn and rightly so when we lose a loved one and mourning certainly is necessary to get through the hurt and pain. However, the mourning that Jesus is speaking of is mourning for our sin. To mourn for our sin is something that surely follows being poor in spirit realizing our desperate need of God. It is realizing this sin must be dealt with. When I realize I’m spiritually bankrupt before God, my response is to mourn over sin in my life. Sadly, many will brush off sin as something not that serious. But when I realize my sin took Jesus to the cross it is huge. That is the reason I mourn with the sense that I have sinned against my Holy God. We have to know that He is our only source of comfort. The Greek word for “comfort” is PARKALEO which means “to be encouraged or consoled.” The world tries to find comfort by ignoring the problem or to hide the problem with drugs, alcohol or distractions. We know at the end of a faithful life we will share in the eternal comfort. John wrote in Revelation 21:4 “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

God bless you until next time – Larry

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS

Three rules for healthy teeth: brush after every meal, see your dentist often, and mind your own business.

When nothing can be done about a problem, you’ve overlooked something.

It is easy to identify people who can’t count to ten. They are in front of you at Walmart.

The biggest mistake we can make is to worry about making mistakes.

NAPOLEON

There is a story of Napoleon that is as follows: A mother once approached seeking a pardon for her son. The emperor replied that the young man had committed a certain offense twice and justice demanded death. “But I don’t ask for justice,” the mother explained, “I plead for mercy.”

“But your son does not deserve mercy,” Napoleon replied.

“Sir,” the woman cried, “it would not be mercy if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for.”

“Well, then,” the emperor said, “I will have mercy.” And he spared the woman’s son. Jesus is the Father’s mercy.

THE DAY FAITH DIED

TEXT: John 20:10-18

INTRO: There is no more poignant story in the Bible than that of Mary Magdalene meeting Jesus in the garden. Put yourself in her frame of mind after Jesus' death but before the resurrection. Delusion, despair, and gloom ruled her heart. He was dead and her faith also died with Him. All disciples went back to their normal business. Women went home, Cleopas and Mary back to the village, and some went back to Galilee.

I. THEY NO LONGER BELIEVED

A. THOMAS

1. His sober estimation: all is lost
2. Refused to believe even when told

B. LAZARUS WAS LIKE THOMAS

1. "Let us go that we may die," John. 11:16
2. He didn't know where Jesus was going, Luke 14:4-5
3. He demanded evidence, very negative

C. HOPE DIED ALSO

1. The dejected Emmaus walk, Lk. 24:4-5
2. They lost hope the He was Messiah
3. All in a cloud of disappointment/grief
4. The redeemer hoped for was dead

II. HOWEVER LOVE STILL LIVED IN THEM

A. MARY

1. Faith was gone, but love of Him remained
2. She didn't know much, but she loved Him
3. Jesus saved her from demons, Luke 7:47i
4. At the end...she wanted to anoint Jesus

B. LOVE'S STRONG TIE

1. Understand it was love that brought Mary, her expectation to die with Him.
2. Her faith was gone, hope was gone...but love still ruled.
3. She was one of the witnesses of the cross, Chapters Matt. 7, Mart 15, John 19

C. AT THE TOMB

1. They asked, "Who will roll the stone?"
2. All were surprised the tomb was empty.
3. The angel had to inform: "He is not here..."
4. The men came later...then went to tell the others of the empty tomb.
5. Mary stayed, John 20:11
6. She was the first to speak to the risen Savior.

NOTE: Her experience inspired Austin Miles to write the hymn "In the Garden" pinning the words he thought she might have felt as she was in the garden alone with Him.

III. THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE

A. LOVE IS THE GREATEST

1. Neither faith nor hope sustained any of them when despair took over.
2. But love as seen in Mary held her fast
3. And...she saw Him first

B. EVIDENCE

1. There was no material evidence for faith
2. At times there are only grounds for hope
3. But love goes deeper...We love Him because He first loved us.

CONCLUSION: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love," 1 Cor. 13:13. Mary didn't know where they laid Him, for she believe He was still dead. Even if He was now slight in weight and had seventy-five pounds of spices wrapped around Him, she was willing to go to Him. In this text we have one of the greatest character portrayals in all of literature, human to divine. Here is the heart of a good woman wanting to just be with Him, even when faith was at its weakest, hope seemed lost, but love triumphed.

FREE-

Preacher Recruitment and Encouragement Seminar.

What Barnabas Ministries provides to 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 make available a lunch and snacks for break time. **BARNABAS WILL REIMBURSE THE CHURCH FOR ANY EXPENDATURES.**

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

To host this meeting will only costs your effort.

LITTLE JOHNNY

At Sunday school the teacher was sharing with the young people how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially interested when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and she asked, "Johnny what is the matter?"

Johnny replied, "I have a pain in my side, I think I'm going to have a wife.

FORGIVENESS

Is surrendering the need to hurt someone who hurt you.

MAKE SIX FRIENDS

You'll need pallbearers to carry your coffin
DON'T TRY TO TEACH A PIG TO SING
It's a waste of your time and it annoys the pig.