



THE TRUMPET

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I Will....Later

An old man said to his pastor, "When I was seventeen, I began, at times, to feel deeply about settling my soul's estate, and this continued for two or three years. But I determined to put it off until I was settled in life. After I was married, I reflected that the time had come when I had promised to attend to religion. But I had bought a farm, and I thought it would not be convenient for me to become religious until it was paid for, since attending church would take time and money. I then resolved to put it off ten years; but when the ten years came round I thought no more about it. I sometimes try to think about it, but I cannot keep my mind on the subject one moment." The pastor urged him not to face death as an enemy of God, to repent, but he said, "It is too late; I believe my doom is sealed; and that is just as it should be, son, for the Spirit strove with me, but I refused."

For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. 2 Corinthians 6:2

Don't let it be said, too late, too late
To enter the kingdom fair,
That thou, all in vain, by the jeweled gate
Must wait in the darkness there.

Refrain:

Don't let it be said, too late, too late,
Or, vain will thy pleadings be;
Be ready to enter the golden gate
While open it stands for thee.

What Do You Have?

Sister Betty Jean Robinson

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. Acts 3:6-8

Peter and John went up to the temple to pray. The lame man lay at the gate called Beautiful begging for alms. As you know, Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." The lame man didn't need alms (money), he needed healing. The question is, whether you are a minister or not, "WHAT DO YOU HAVE?" If it's false doctrine, it brings deception. If the only message is prosperity, it becomes covetousness. I've heard of those who claimed other people's property for what they wanted. Our children ask, "WHAT DO YOU HAVE?" Like Peter, can we say, "Such as I have give I thee?" We've come to the time when much of the church is not giving what is needed and that is, the Pure Gospel. The drug addict and the alcoholic do not need more money for drugs or alcohol. This lost and dying world needs an answer. "WHAT DO YOU HAVE?" Can we say, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee?" When the Holy Ghost truly comes to the church again, He will tell us all what we need. He will not come where they believe "we are rich and are in need of nothing." When the Holy Ghost comes, He will not give them what they want, He will give them what they need. We need only Jesus and the indwelling of the blessed Holy Ghost. Acts 1:8 says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me." My prayer is, "Lord Jesus, do a fresh work in my life."



Cousin Leroy

Leroy and Bubba were talking one day at work.. "I know how to get some time off from work," Leroy said "How do you think you will do that?" said Bubba. He proceeded to show him by climbing up to the rafters and hanging upside down. The boss walked in, saw Leroy hanging from the ceiling, and asked him what on earth he was doing? "I'm a light bulb" answered Leroy. "I think you need some time off," said the boss. So, Leroy jumped down and walked out of the factory. Bubba turned around and began walking out too. The boss asked him where did he think he was going? "Home. I can't work in the dark." replied Bubba

The Virus

A man feels very ill upon returning to the U.S. from a trip abroad. He goes to see his doctor and is immediately rushed to the hospital to undergo a barrage of extensive tests. The man wakes up after the tests in a private room at the hospital, and the phone by his bed rings. "This is your doctor. We've got the results back from your tests, and we've found you have an exceptionally dangerous virus that is extremely contagious!" "OH NO!!," cries the man in a panic, "What are you going to do?!" Well, we're going to put you on a diet of pizzas, pancakes, and quesadillas." "Will that cure me?" asked the man hopefully. The doctor replied, "No, but it's the only food we can get under the door."

Homework

Kid: "Dad, I'm tired. Would you please do my homework for me?"

Dad: "Son, it just wouldn't be right."

Kid: "That's okay, but you could at least give it a try, couldn't you?"

Hunting Buddy

A group of friends went deer hunting and paired off in twos for the day. That night, one of the hunters returned alone, staggering under the weight of an eight-point buck "Where's Henry?" the others asked. "Henry had a stroke of some kind. He's a couple of miles back up the trail," the successful hunter replied. "You left Henry laying out there and carried the deer back?" they inquired. "A tough call," nodded the hunter. "But I figured no one is going to steal Henry!"

The Checkup

Rose accompanied her husband Tom to his annual checkup. While Tom was getting dressed, the doctor came out and said to Rose, "I don't like the way he looks." "Neither do I," she said. "But he's handy around the house."

Moving

Realizing that their home just wasn't big enough with the new baby in the house, Little Johnny's parents discussed moving to a bigger one. Little Johnny sat patiently listening to his parents. He overheard his dad say "Now that the baby is here we are going to have to move." It was then little Johnny piped in, "It's no use. He'll just follow us anyway."

The Deans List

College student: "Hey, Dad! I've got some great news for you!"

Father: "What, son?"

College student: "Remember that \$500 you promised me if I made the Dean's list?"

Father: "I certainly do."

College student: "Well, you get to keep it."

**Don't Lose Sight Of Heaven***From the Pastor's Desk*

Pastor Billy R Douglas

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

The old man could not carry a tune in a syrup bucket, but he loved to sing, even if it was off-key! Besides, he was bad about "amening" the preacher. Services had degenerated into an "undignified" assembly because of the old man. He simply got too involved in the "goings on" and forgot himself. Four of the more well-to-do members decided that this old fellow was just too crude for the congregation. They appointed themselves as the ones to go and talk to the old man. When they arrived at the old fellow's house, he was in the field plowing with his old mule. Though it was beneath their dignity, they finally walked out through the dusty ground which soiled their fine clothes to talk to the old timer. "Brother Jones," they began, "we want to talk to you about your singing. Not meaning any offense, but you just cannot sing. We wish you would try not to sing so loud because frankly, your singing ruins our services!" "I am sorry," the old fellow replied, "but it is just that when I look at these old clothes that I wear and then I think of them robes that God has for me, I just cannot help singing. And when I see that old shack over yonder that I live in and realize that it is liable to fall any time, and then I think about the beautiful palace that God has for me, I just have to sing praises to my Lord. You fellers see this old hat I got on? Well, when I see that crown in my mind that God has for me, I just have to yell that wonderful name of Jesus at the top of my lungs!" "As a matter of fact," he said, "would one of you fellers mind holding my mule? I feel like singing now." They left him right there, singing away in the field! And as these four men left the old fellow out there singing they viewed him in a different light. One said to the rest, "You know, his singing is not really all that bad." Another said, "I never really realized how sweet his voice really is." The third said, "I just hope that the LORD will allow me to sing in the same group that he sings in."

So many times in this life we lose sight of the fact that this old world is not all there is. It is true we must occupy until the LORD comes. We must fulfill the great commission that he commanded of the church. We must be the light of the world and take Jesus to the lost! But at the same time we must not lose sight of the fact that we are just a pilgrim traveling through this old world. That this place as we know it is only a temporal thing. And that eternity awaits us all. That even though in this life we may have trials, tribulations and struggles. He has promised us that Heaven awaits all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ and what he did on the cross. As the old saints used to put it...THERE'S A BETTER DAY A COMING!

This world and all of the sickness, misery and woes that it contains will one day be nothing more than a distant memory! Do not get so caught up in this life that you lose sight of that. I remember once being asked to come and sing at a homecoming. It was a little country church off the beaten path. That day as I sung I couldn't help but notice a young man sitting on the front row. He stood out among the rest. As I would sing he would clap his hands, raise his hands, shout amen and hallelujah! While the rest of the crowd sit there dignified and stiff. In the middle of the service there was a break in which we all went out to the fellowship hall for lunch. While in line to fix myself a plate. Several people came up to me one by one. Apologizing for the young man. Saying things like..."he's not right". Now, I know what they meant because you could tell the young man was mentally challenged or that something was off. But as they told me that he was not right. I could not help but think that he may be the only one of you people who is right! No doubt that young man had caught a glimpse of Heaven! A glimpse of the price that Jesus had paid for him AND the promises that He has made to those that love Him! I will close with a few words from a John Steed song that I have shared before...

Knowing there is a Heaven, and I'm going there someday
Where joy will be eternal, and Jesus wipes all tears away
We'll go into that city, and praise God around His throne
Because I know there is a Heaven, I have strength to go on

Until next time, "May the LORD Bless and keep you," is our prayer. Pastor Billy R Douglas



What The Word Means To The Church - conclusion

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Mark 2:1-2 - And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. 2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

3. WE NEED TO DISTRIBUTE IT. Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. It's not given to be hid. It's not given to be kept. It's not given for just this church. It's not given just for you and me. It's been given for whosoever will....Everybody! I know that we would tell somebody of a good tax man, a good mechanic, a good body man, a good handy man, or a good tailor. We might even take a quick look and see if we have a card of any of the above to give away, or check your cell phone for a number, but when it come to reciting a Bible verse or telling of Great the Lord has worked in our lives, we're unable. Luke 19:10 - For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Our duty is to seek and to save the Lost, just as Christ has done for us. Matthew 9:37-38 - Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; 38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. Jeremiah 8:20 - The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. What are we waiting for? Go distribute the Gospel. People are dying and going to Hell, people that you and I know. They need to hear about the Wonderful Love of Jesus, and they need to hear it now! You're telling yourself right now "I can't do that" you're right, you can't, but the Spirit of God that is living and breathing inside of you can. You open your mouth, he will fill it. I like what the following statement declares:

The sum of the apostleship is the proclaiming of the doctrine received from Christ throughout all the world, and the ministering of the sacraments: the efficacy of which things depends not on the ministers but on the Lord.

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The Shield of Faith

Pastor Wayne Clabaugh

I rounded the corner of a busy street in downtown St. Joseph yesterday and there, lifted up above the tops of the long line of awaiting traffic was a truck with a Salvation Army Shield. Noticing how faded it was, weathered and worn, I couldn't help but think how "our" shield of faith has become faded through the years. As Christians we are often weighed down with the turbulence of this world's situation, and yet, just like that old Salvation Army Truck, we must be about our business - carrying our banner high for all to see. But Wait! Let's not forget that the Bible tells us that: "The LORD is our rock, and our fortress, and deliverer; in him will we trust: for he is our shield, and the horn of our salvation, our high tower, and our refuge, our Saviour; It is He that saves us from violence. Let us call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall we be saved from all our enemies." (ref., 2 Samuel 22:3, 4 KJV) Let's Pray: O Lord, my ROCK, my fortress and deliverer, my shield and horn of my salvation, my refuge and my savior, I love You and carry your banner high today as my shield. In Jesus Name I Pray, Amen

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:16



A Call to Sober-mindedness

Pastor Steven Huston

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.” 1 Peter 4:7

How can one help but recognize that these perilous times are sober times, requiring brokenness and love to pray rightly for our nation, our misguided leadership, a widening swathe that runs through every generation that demands tolerance yet shows none, and frankly, a world that seems to have lost their collective minds. In light of these things, when Ecclesiastes tells us there is a time to weep and a time to laugh it would seem that now is a time to weep; although laughter at the very things that should cause us to weep seems to come much easier to many.

I've prayed for you, dear Reader. There are times I feel led to preach or write something that will pinch and I'd rather not go there; but be assured it pinches me first as I work through it. In other words, I've gotten a good look at the plank in my own eye; so I have prayed that God will fill you with grace and love for me as I will likely be misunderstood. Let me state up front that I love to laugh and have a good time. The joy of the Lord is my strength and I firmly believe that Christians should laugh and smile, showing the love of Jesus to a world that makes me want to cry, scratch my head, and yes, sometimes, be angry over. Laughter isn't the problem; after all, Proverbs tells us a merry heart doeth good like a medicine. The question is what are we laughing about? At what or whose expense are we making fun? I'd been asking myself why so many conservatives and Christians laugh at or make jokes about sin or those caught up in sin's consequences. Remember when Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson said she couldn't define what a woman is? Conservative and Christian social media pages were full of various memes making fun of this. Biden, AOC, and numerous others have been the punch line of many jokes instead of the subject of prayer, and laughter instead of brokenness and weeping. Meanwhile their ideas gain traction in the minds of others.

Recently, I heard a pastor say that a return to neopaganism “always brings a culture of insanity, absurdity (59 genders and counting), immorality (sexual anarchy is all around us; is there no end to the LGBTQAI+ alphabet soup?), lethality (the possibility of murdering your own child within 28 days after birth and no one allowed to question you about it), and is rooted in profitability (the porn industry alone is a virtual goldmine).” It all comes from sin; we can't sensibly explain sin's absurdity and these are easy targets to poke fun at or insult. But should we? Is that really what God would have us to do? When we laugh at sin it loses some of its sting for us; yet its consequences remain dire. Reflect for a moment of these different sanctities (sanctity of life, of gender, of family, of marriage, of work, of rest, of Sabbath). Think about what sanctity means – “the quality or state of being holy or sacred: inviolability.” Being holy, should these be joked about? Words matter. I remembered that God's name is holy and how sitcoms used euphemisms for God's name, attaching it to a punch line for a laugh. I see how these euphemisms have become commonplace, even in the church, and I can't help but think that as we laugh at that which is sacred we lose just a sliver of respect or awe for that thing which God has called holy.

If we have now been changed by Christ, we're “the salt of the earth and the light of the world.” Our life changes, our marriage changes, our family changes, the way we do business changes, the way we're citizens changes. With these Biblical truths ought not our view of what constitutes appropriate joking change as well? If we're not taking sin seriously, if we're not taking sacred things seriously, by what means are we going to convince the sinner that they need to be changed by Jesus? How does one effectively love, pray for, and evangelize another after they've insulted or made fun of them? Was this the example of Christ? We cannot be silent about sin because the Bible isn't silent about sin but why is it easier to either joke about sin or those caught up in the consequences of sin instead of speaking truth that confronts a lie? Many of us, myself included, need a transformation of our mind, a renewing of our mind to “prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” and to reach those who are bound by the chains of sin with the love of God which can set them free indeed.

Twice, in a short list, while warning not to grieve the Spirit at the end of Ephesians chapter four, we are admonished about our speech. Stating specifically that our speech needs to be “that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.” There's room for joviality, praise God; but it needs to be edifying not tearing down. Paul says, “Let all...clamour and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.” Remembering that James calls the tongue a fire, let's take this puritan illustration to heart: “Watch over it as one that dwells in a thatched house watches over sparks from his chimney.”

A call to sober-mindedness is not a call to look like one has been sucking on lemons or a call to having a downcast spirit. It's a call to seeing sin and sacredness as God sees them. Being broken over our own sin and the sin of our nation while loving God with all that we are and loving our neighbor enough to speak truth to them as we would desire to enjoy the fruit of truth ourselves. Oh God, set a watch over my heart and my tongue. Amen.

Pastor Steven Huston 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412



Chocolate Coconut Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 1 cup milk
- 1 small box chocolate pudding mix
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 3 Tbsp cream of coconut
- 3 eggs
- 3 Tbsp evaporated milk
- 2/3 cups vanilla or white chips
- 2 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1 pint heavy whipping cream, divided
- 3 1/2 cups flaked coconut, divided
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup sugar

In a large bowl, combine cake mix, milk, pudding mix, butter and eggs: beat on low speed for 30 seconds.

Beat on medium for 2 minutes. Pour into three greased and floured 9 inch round baking pans. Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from the pans to wire racks to cool completely. For filling, in a small sauce pan combine the evaporated milk, chips, cream cheese, 3 tablespoons heavy cream and 3 tablespoons cream of coconut: cook and stir over low heat until chips are melted. Remove from the heat: stir in 1 1/2 cups coconut and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Transfer to a large bowl: cover and refrigerate until mixture reaches spreading consistency, stirring occasionally. For frosting, in a large bowl beat remaining whipping cream until it begins to thicken. Add sugar and remaining vanilla: beat until stiff peaks form. Place bottom cake layer on a serving plate and spread with half of the filling. Repeat layers. Top with remaining cake layer. Frost top and sides of cake, sprinkle with remaining coconut.

Refrigerate leftovers.

Beans & Sausage

- 1-1/2 pounds bulk spicy pork sausage
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 can (31 ounces) pork and beans
- 1 can (16 ounces) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15-1/2 ounces) great northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15-1/2 ounces) black-eyed peas, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) pinto beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 1-1/2 cups ketchup
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons ground mustard

In a large skillet, cook and crumble sausage over medium heat until no longer pink; drain. Add green pepper and onion; saute until tender. Drain. Add remaining ingredients. Pour into a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Cover and bake at 325° for 1 hour. Uncover; bake 20-30 minutes longer or until bubbly.

Grits & Sausage Casserole

- 3 cups water
- 1 cup quick-cooking grits
- 3/4 teaspoon salt, divided
- 2 pounds bulk pork sausage, cooked and drained
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- 3 large eggs
- 1-1/2 cups whole milk
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- Pepper to taste

In a saucepan, bring water to a boil. Slowly whisk in the grits and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. In a large bowl, combine grits, sausage and 1-1/2 cups cheese. Beat the eggs and milk; stir into grits mixture. Add the butter, pepper and remaining 1/4 teaspoon salt. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Bake, uncovered, at 350° until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup cheese; bake 15 minutes longer or until cheese is melted. Let stand for 5 minutes before cutting.



Stop Looking Back!!

George Whitten

But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back,
is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62

Some time ago, I wrote a devotional about not worrying for tomorrow because tomorrow holds its own worries. But it occurred to me recently, that just about as often as we worry for tomorrow, we fret about yesterday. How many times do we find ourselves saying, "I wish things could be the way they were, I wish I was younger, I wish I could fit into those jeans again, I wish I didn't make that terrible mistake ... you fill in the blank"?

The Lord doesn't want us constantly looking back at what once was. Our enemy does -- he wants us to feel discouraged and helpless and ruminate over and over on what we can never change. Sure, if we need to repent or make something right, we ought to go ahead and do it. But God doesn't want us drowning in self-pity or regret about past mistakes, or hopelessly longing for what can never be again. He wants us to look ahead. He wants us to say, "Forget what was -- the future is where my destiny lies and I will meet the Lord there in His purposes for me." That's faith. And it's well based in everything Jesus has done for us, promised us, and called us to. So, let's stop looking back in fear or bondage to the past -- it's long gone already. Let's move ahead and press toward the new things that the Lord has for us in our lives. Our God is always making things new, and redeeming what was before.

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Spiritual Warfare

Evangelist Chris Dowell

While at work one night not long ago, walking to clock out. I walked past a dark area of the factory, no lights in this particular corner. Something caught my eye (it's usually raccoons or rats so I stay on my toes around there). To my surprise, it was a muslim woman, covered up from head to toe, on her hands and knees praying to a god that will never answer. She would stand then kneel and bow and repeat. We quickly made eye contact and a dark and evil spirit came over me, all I saw were her eyes. My spirit turned cold. I knew it was true evil! She can pray until she runs out of breath but the only one who heard her prayers were her own ears. I stand firm on the Holy Word of God and the one true living God said in Exodus 20:3 KJV "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. And He meant it!!

Allah is NOT the way!!! JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY WAY!! The Holy Ghost rose up inside of me and I began to pray in Jesus name and rebuked every demonic spirit. And that cold evil spirit LEFT!! (1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.)

We're battling a REAL SPIRITUAL WARFARE!! (Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.) Better make sure you have on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD every morning you wake up. Never know what each day may hold. I'm thankful I'm not alone wherever I go. Sure would hate to face this world without JESUS living inside me.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Ephesians 6:13-17

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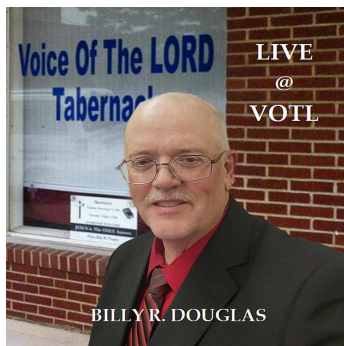


The Stone Of Death

In one of William Dawson's excursions to the north at this time, he preached at Carville, near Newcastle. Two men were passing the chapel, one of them,—a professed deist, said to the other,—“Let us hear what this fellow is bawling about.” They went near the doorway, which, as usual, was crowded—the chapel being unequal to the accommodation of the people.

After stopping two or three minutes, the other said,—“Come, let us go.” “Nay,” returned his companion, “I will hear him out.” He did “hear him out,” and heard to profit; for on the outside of the chapel—the windows and doors being open, the word of God fastened on his conscience; the “strong man armed” of evil rebellion within him was slain; and within a two weeks,—having before then given every evidence of a divine change, a stone fell from the top of the pit wherein he was working, and killed him on the spot!

No matter what the reason had been for this man's previous infidel beliefs, the important thing to remember is:—there was hope in his death:— something that would more often be the case if all of those who are convicted by a preacher's message of Divine Truth would "Hear Him Out!" and repent of their sins, before the Stone of Death Eternally ends their opportunity to be saved!



01. Lost In The Presence*
02. If The Rapture Was Yesterday*
03. This Valley Is For Me*
04. Pray For Me*
05. Miracle Business*
06. Walk A Little Farther*
07. Too Much To Gain To Lose
08. To Be Like Jesus*
09. Winner Either Way
10. I Believe He's Coming Back* (with Rosie Douglas)
11. Go Ahead And Throw*
12. Did It Ever Just Occur To You* (with Tyler Willis)
13. The Beggar And The King*
14. When He Was On The Cross*
15. The Only Real Peace*
16. Invitation*

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Following The Service**



No One Can Serve Two Masters

Pastor David Starnes

Many people believe they serve no one. They believe they live life on their own terms with their intellect as their guide. They believe they chose what is moral. They believe they are in control.

But that is a lie. They are simply serving their master. He owns them. Manipulates them. The serpent whispers sweet subtle lies in their ears. He tells them they won't die, and that God only wants to keep them away from the best fruit. Satan offers you an illusion of choice because he is a LIAR.

If God is your Lord, then you will believe Him. You will follow Him. You will trust what He has said is right and wrong. God offers a real choice, though the decision has eternal consequences. God won't force you to be your Master. He welcomes all into His fold. He doesn't care about color or race or societal level. His yoke is easy. His burden is light. He has done all the work. But He won't force you.

Do not be deceived. You will serve. That is a certainty. Your choice is who you will serve.

Pastor David Starnes - Old Union Crosslife Church Hwy 67 Simms, TX 75574

Humility

Pastor Mike Vaughn

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 18:4

Augustine, an early church father and theologian who was converted in the year 387 made one of the most memorable statements about humility. He said, "For those who would learn God's ways, humility is the first thing, humility is the second, and humility is the third."

That may at first sound like an unwarranted exaggeration, but it is surely an echo of these words in the Old Testament-"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8. Solomon had these wise words of instruction, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud." Proverbs 16:18-19

Our greatest example of humility is seen in Christ. He was a great teacher, a great preacher, a great healer, a great provider yet He was humble. He was meek. Some people think meekness is weakness but quite the contrary, it is great strength. John Ruskin said, "I believe the first greatest test of a truly great man is his humility." St. Francis de Sales, said "He who stays not in his own littleness loses his greatness"

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Dirty Laundry

There once was an older lady whose kitchen window was directly across from the neighbors clothes line. So many times she would stand in her kitchen while doing her dishes and glare out the window in disgust thinking to herself "Those people have the dirtiest laundry I have ever seen. They wash their cloths, hang them out on the line and they look like they have never been washed." She even went so far to tell her friends and family and those around town just how dirty her neighbors "washed" laundry was. Then one day she cleaned her kitchen window and found that it was not her neighbors laundry that was dirty after all.



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by Pastor Billy R. Douglas

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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verses for Today: Colossians 3:17-24 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged. Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God: And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Additional passages for Today: Ephesians 5:22-24; Titus 2:4-5; 1 Peter 3:1

Thought for Today: Whatever you do, remember who you are doing it for and why you are doing it. That will help you to see whom you are serving. If you are doing it for the Lord Jesus, you will give Him the thanks and the praise. If you are taking the praise or not doing good things, maybe you are serving yourself.

Story for Today: Jamie and Pat jumped out of the car and raced to where the elderly woman lay on the corner of the street. They had seen her fall and assumed she had fallen off the curb and hit her head. She lay motionless and her eyes were closed. Pat pulled out his phone and dialed 9-1-1 and quickly gave their location and the information as best he could. Jamie knelt near the woman and talked soothingly to her, letting her know that help was on the way. He checked for breathing and realized he needed to start CPR. It wasn't long before the paramedics showed up and took over. By the time the ambulance pulled away, there were a lot of people standing around talking about what happened and how these two boys had been heroes today. When the boys stopped they had no idea that the lady lying in the street was the mother of a very famous person, or that she hadn't slipped or stumbled, but a heart attack was the reason she had fallen. As the two boys made their way back to their car, they were stopped by a man that said he wanted some information to give to the lady's family. The boys were a little shaken by the incident, but, now that the pressure was off they were starting to feel a little giddy. They gave their name and number to the man and hopped into their car. They stopped at the local fast food hangout and began telling their tale to the others. When Pat began telling the story and sharing how Jamie had been doing CPR until the paramedics showed up kids listened. Jamie realized it was God that had put them there at the corner and that had given him the wherewithal to know how to do CPR and the strength to do it until the EMT showed up. He didn't know what to say as the kids sat looking at him like he was a hero. But he knew he couldn't be silent anymore! He wasn't mean, or unappreciative, but, he wanted everyone to know that he was just a servant of God and that he was just doing what God gave him the ability to do. So, he told them. He shared that it was all God. He was grateful for the ability that God gave him but he let them know God had blessed all of them too. As he was encouraging them to give God the praise a very famous man stepped forward and said he wanted to thank God for using them to save his mother's life. He asked for a moment of their time to talk privately with them.

Questions for Today: Do you think about what you are doing? Do you plan to do good? When you do well at something do you give God the glory or do you graciously accept the praise for yourself? As believers, shouldn't we encourage others to always be praising God?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gifts and abilities You have given to each one of us. Please help us to be willing servants to use all that You give to us at every opportunity and please help us to never steal Your glory by accepting the praise of men for ourselves. Help us to point others to You and give You all the glory and praise! In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

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God's Simple Plan of Salvation

My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13* says *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Call on Jesus today. Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!! Do this today, tomorrow may be too late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus.



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