



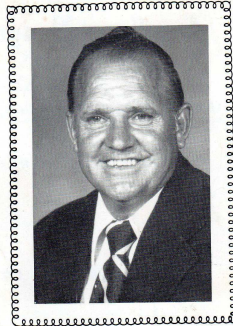
THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

Vol. 23 No. 02

February 2019



Remembering...The Preacher

Rev. Lindel E. Hinton

August 19, 1926 - January 15, 2001

Another Year Has Come & Gone

Yet Your Memory Still Remains

It's As Steadfast As The Sun

And As Faithful As The Rain

The Mark You Made Upon My Life

Goes With Me Every Day

Its With Me When I Preach The Word

And When I Kneel To Pray

Your Voice I Hear It Beckons Me

"Be Faithful Strong and True

I'll See You Just Inside The Gate

I'm Waiting Here For You"

~Written by: Billy R. Douglas~

Make A Covenant With Our Eyes

Rev. Lindel E. Hinton

*I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should
I think upon a maid? Job 31:1*

Job made a covenant between his soul and God to control his eyes. We are told that 84% of our life is motivated by our eyes. King David's greatest sin was when he looked upon Bathsheba bathing on the rooftop. When sin had conceived, it brought forth death to many. We learn also in Joshua 7, how Achan said, "When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them;" How many times have we sinned when we see things and covet them? Let us make a covenant with our eyes so that we may be ready for the soon return of our LORD Jesus Christ.



Come, Let us go up to the Mountain of the Lord!

George Whitten

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. Matthew 14:23

There were times that Jesus separated himself from the multitudes -- and there are times when we need to separate ourselves from our lives and ministry, and spend some time with our Lord. I love how Jesus climbed a mountain. It made me think of an interesting analogy. Picture the shape of a mountain. It starts out wide at the bottom -- the higher we climb, the narrower it becomes -- and the more we must stay close to the center. As we go even higher yet, there's less room to move to the left or the right -- and there's less and less ground that can be compromised -- the more focused we need to be and the less we can afford to be distracted. The higher we go, the less room we have to fool around! Whatever you may be dealing with, you may just need to separate yourself and climb up to spend time with the Lord -- get centered on Him and focused on what He's calling you to. God wants us to learn to climb to the top and focus all of our lives on His will! Let's take out some time this weekend to try it!

www.worthydevotions.com

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, *He is* my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Psalms 91:1-2

**CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH** by Thom Tapp**Cousin Leroy**

Leroy and the family seldom had any guests over, and little Junior was eager to help out in the kitchen after Leroy brought a couple of friends home from work for supper. When supper was nearly over, Junior went to the kitchen and proudly carried in the first piece of apple pie, giving it to his Pappy, who passed it to a guest. He came in with a second piece of pie and again watched Pappy give it to a guest. This was too much for Junior, who said, "It's no use, Pap. The pieces are all the same size."

3 Preachers

Three preachers were out fishing in a boat. They decided to tell each other one of their bad habits. The first preacher said well I have a gambling habit. The second preacher said I have a habit of cheating on my taxes. The third preacher just sat there. They finally said come on, we told you our bad habits. What's yours? The third preacher said, well I have a bad habit of gossiping. And I can't wait to get off this boat!

Life

There was a woman who was a high school counselor and thus knew all the signs of emotional upheaval. One morning her preteen daughter showed up for breakfast, dragging her feet and rubbing her eyes. The young girl flopped down in her chair and told her mother she was sick of life. All of her mother's high school counselor alarms went off as she rushed around the breakfast bar, put an arm around her daughter, and began to explain to her why life is worth living. The daughter looked up at her with a confused look on her face and said, "Mom!?! I meant Life cereal."

"Signs You've Bought A Bad Car"

- ~ Your tinted windows are also known as Hefty Garbage Bags.
- ~ The car reaches its optimum speed when going downhill.
- ~ The hi-tech stereo system often requires a new needle.
- ~ The rear-view mirror says, "Objects in Mirror Are Better Than This Piece of Junk."
- ~ Traffic Watch warns other drivers what highway you're taking.
- ~ The sticker on the windshield says, "Batteries Not Included."
- ~ You fill up the tank with Unleaded Coal.
- ~ You can only go to restaurants that offer Valet Pushing.
- ~ When you approach hitchhikers, they put their thumbs down and say they would rather walk
- ~ You are continually being passed by Amish people driving their horse and buggies
- ~ The dealership catchy slogan is "honk if something falls off" Auto Sales
- ~ The mayor calls you when there is a need to spray for mosquitoes and asks you to drive through the county
- ~ The last time you pulled over to let a speeding fire truck pass by the fire truck pulled over behind you and hosed your car



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

"Be of Good Cheer, Believe God and Cut The Rope!"

Pastor Billy R Douglas

And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved. Then the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat, and let her fall off.

Acts 27:30-32

In the above passages of scripture we find the Apostle Paul and others on a ship in the midst of a violent and deadly storm! But in the scriptures that preceded this we see that in the midst of this storm...in the midst of this peril God had given Paul a promise of safety...a promise of His protection. Act 27:20-25 "And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away. But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sir, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me." Right in the middle of this storm when fear was gripping the hearts of those on board Paul proclaims BE OF GOOD CHEER...FOR I BELIEVE GOD!! But in spite of this promise and proclamation of the LORD we see in the scripture that we opened up with that there were shipmen who were about to flee the ship! All they could see were the winds and the waves, all they could see was the storm! How true it is in our own lives. We have been given promise after promise in the Word of God that if we will trust in the LORD and lean not to our own understanding or in the way that things or circumstances look that we too can BE OF GOOD CHEER AND BELIEVE GOD that He will deliver...He will save...He will make a way out of no way! When Paul sees them about to flee the ship on the boat he says "Except these abide in the ship, ye cannot be saved." Unless they have faith in what the LORD has promised they can not be saved...if they try and save their selves they will perish! How many times in the heat of the battle in the midst of the storm have we looked for a lifeboat of our own making to escape? It is so much easier when we can see and understand what is happening or what is going to happen but that is not what faith is. "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1. To walk by faith and to live by faith is to look beyond the storm, beyond the trial, beyond the circumstance and stand on the Word of God and testify that I will BE OF GOOD CHEER...FOR I BELIEVE GOD!! Once the soldiers cut off the ropes of the boat and let her fall they had no choice but to trust God! Their man made way of escape which really would have just sealed their doom was gone! Maybe it is time for us to cut off the ropes and trust God! Stop trusting in our own strength our own understanding and simply say I BELIEVE GOD! I have shared the following story before but it is such a powerful example of what we are talking about that I felt lead to share it again...There is a story of a mountain climber, who desperate to conquer a mountain initiated his climb after years of preparation. But he wanted the glory to himself, therefore, he went up alone. He started climbing and it was becoming later, and later. He did not prepare for camping but decided to keep on going. Soon night fell with heaviness at a very high altitude. Visibility was zero. Everything was black. There was no moon, and the stars were blocked by clouds. As he was climbing a ridge at about 100 meters from the top, he slipped and fell. Falling rapidly he could only see blotches of darkness that passed. He felt a terrible sensation of being sucked in by gravity. He kept falling and in those anguishing moments good and bad memories passed through his mind. He thought certainly he would die. But then he felt a jolt that almost tore him in half. Yes!! Like any good mountain climber he had staked himself with a long rope tied to his waist. In those moments of stillness, suspended in the air he had no other choice but to shout, "HELP ME GOD, HELP ME!" All of a sudden he heard a deep voice from heaven, "What do you want me to do?" "Save me." "Do you REALLY believe that I can save you?" "Of course, my God." "Then cut the rope that is holding you up." There was another moment of silence and stillness. The man just held tighter to the rope. The rescue team reported that the next day they found, a frozen mountain climber holding strongly to a rope - only two feet off the ground! How about you? How trusting are you in that rope? ***Be of good cheer, Believe God and Cut The rope!!***



And His Name Shall Be Called...part 01

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. 2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. 3 Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. 4 For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. 5 For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. 6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:1-7

We are living truly in the final days and hours before the Rapture of the Church. Jesus is soon to return for his bride. Oh what a glorious time it's going to be. Amen to God! It was Some 740 years before the birth of Christ, God allowed the prophet Isaiah to look down the telescope of time and bring a message of hope to oppressed Israel and Judah. Isaiah gives the prophetic hope of the birth of a Child and the giving of a Son. The long awaited "seed of the woman," Israel's Messiah: The Anointed One, the King, our Deliverer. The conditions were ripe, the stage is set, the Promise to be fulfilled. The times in which the Messiah was born were dark times spiritually. The people "walked in darkness." Thus, it is with the world today, in light of the Rapture of the Church. The Light of God is being slowly turned off, the wicked riot in the day time now, the "god" of evolution is worshipped, and the Anointed One is coming. Amen even so, come Lord Jesus should be our prayer. Let's look at Verse 4 concerning The Nation of Israel, God's Elect: For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. 1.They Carried the Burden of the Yoke of Sin. Yoke of His burden...A yoke was a tool that harnessed two animals together to pull a load. A description of the nation away from God. They were yoked to a burden they could not manage. 2.They Bowed under the Tyranny of the Staff of the Flesh. Staff of His Shoulder...The staff was used by shepherds to keep the sheep in line. The reference here is to wrong leadership that has taken their freedom and liberty away. We are seeing that more and more in the modern day church. People flock to services because of "Big name preachers" or "Big named Christian musicians" instead of seeking The Lord. 3.They Suffered under the Oppressive Rod of Satan. Rod of His oppressor...This instrument was used to beat animals and people that were out of line. Israel and Judah would suffer at the hands of their enemies. Let's look at verses 6-7: For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. In these verses: 1.We see the Cradle – "For unto us a Child is born." 2.We see The Cross – "A Son is given." 3.We see the Crown – "And the government shall be upon His shoulders." Only Jesus can break the yoke, tyranny, and oppression of Satan. I want to look at the beautiful description of Christ in verse 6...1.WONDERFUL – Marvelous or extraordinary – Exciting, surprising, astonishing, miraculous, powerful, incredible, exceeding, supernatural, admirable. Do you hear me? That is our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ! Do you know my wonderful Lord? I love the old song called: "His Name Is Wonderful", let's look at some of the lyrics...His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful, His name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord; He is the mighty King, master of everything, His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord. He's the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages, Almighty God is He; Bow down before Him, love and adore Him, His name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord. He wonderfully saved my soul in 1993! What a wonderful thought that I will be in Heaven for eternity because He loves me. He wonderfully forgave all of my sin in 1993! Past, present, and future. I am both saved and secured through the Light of the World. He wonderfully changed the direction and desires of my life in 1993! What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart. His name became Wonderful to me! He is the sole reason of my praise!

**Awake! AWAKE!! Pt. 2**

Pastor Steven Huston

Psalms 57:8 "Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early."

Last month I reminded you, dear reader, that there are many dangers to the sleepy soul. There are many who are stirred awake by the news events that surround them but are spiritually asleep. Others sleep through both current events and the state of the soul (their own and others). The slumbering and sleepy soul is generally used to describe the unconverted; but, the sleepy condition of a mostly apathetic or careless church is in much need of awakening. Each of us is in need of greater awakening—often becoming drowsy by the cares/allurements of the world and pastors who do little to stir those who occupy their pews out of the dangerous slumber that occupies the soul. Some of you might consider the following paragraphs as little more than the ramblings of a madman. But please, be like the Bereans, accept this with all readiness of heart and search the Scriptures daily to see if these things be so. Martyn Lloyd-Jones once said, "There are very many people in the world who are not Christians, very largely because they think they are Christians." They are asleep to the truths, judgments, and defining characteristics given in God's Word. "Awake! Awake!!" Last month, we looked at the fact that if we were truly awake, we'd be burdened (to action) by the plight and destination of the unsaved. In Matthew 25 Jesus told about 10 virgins—five wise and five foolish—yet ALL ten slumbered. I wonder; what if the wise had been awake and did their best to stir the foolish to action, to care about their plight before it was too late? The prophet Elijah stirred the people and was accused by King Ahab of being a trouble-maker. Elijah correctly stood against the king's reproach stating, "YOU are the trouble-maker! YOU have forsaken the Word of God and followed the world (Baalim)!" (I Kings 18) Are we awake enough to draw such a reproach and, like Elijah, stand firm in the face of it? This month we will discuss the fact that we must become more awakened and alert to our own spiritual dangers. And finally next month (Lord willing), we will think on being awakened and compelled to being more fruitful in good works. I pray that God will awaken us through His Spirit to these (and other) areas! If professing Christians were truly awake, they would be more aware of—and cautious to—the dangers of this world and the temptations of Satan to their own souls. Jesus, with exhortation and warning, told His disciples to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:41) The flesh continues to be weak today; the problem is that, for many, the spirit doesn't even seem willing. Watchfulness was difficult for the disciples, exhorted strongly by the puritans, and all but non-existent in our world today. The word "watch" means "to be awake" and "to be vigilant." We should keep watch for "the little foxes that spoil the vine." Look out for those sins that seem like they really aren't that important, things readily accepted by our culture, and those sins that are readily accepted by the church today. In all things may the Bible be our guide. We must watch for the temptations of Satan, both to worldliness and in his attacks on holiness and faithfulness in our witness and our life. In both cases there's that voice that calls out, "Hath God really said?" Often the voice resembles our own, as pride says (usually beginning with "but...", "That's too hard!" "This appeals to me!" "In today's world, I really need to..." Insert your mind's favorite go to phrase that puts yourself at odds with Susanna Wesley's statement to her son John, "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself." Too often people act as though "I've got my ticket stamped and now I'll just sit on the gospel train headed for Gloryland!" all the while living life unto themselves instead of to the glory of God. Let us follow Paul's example found in 1 Corinthians 9:26-27. "I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Be watchful for the enemy and fight with certainty. Be awake to the dangers that would take hold of us and throw off every weight that slows us down and the sin which so easily besets us. Awake! Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation, asking God to help you avoid the pitfalls of those who have gone before you. Read, remember, recognize, and repent of the dangers you find in Revelation 2 and 3. Consider how easy and dangerous a thing it is to lose your first love (Ephesus), or, through lukewarmness, become the object of loathing in God's sight (Laodicea). Dear Reader, pray that God will awaken you to the dangers which would devour your own soul. Do not ignore the various means of grace available to you—prayer, Bible reading/study/meditation, fasting, thinking upon God and the person of Jesus, watchfulness, fellowship of the saints, to name a few. Be steadfast in devotions to strengthen your devotion to your Saviour.

Awake! Awake!!

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



Reese's Peanut Butter Banana Bread

submitted by Angela Smith

- 3 very ripe bananas, mashed
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 8 oz bag of Reese's Mini cups

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease 8x4 loaf pan with shortening. In a medium bowl whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt, set aside. In a large bowl stir together your bananas, peanut butter, oil, egg and sugars. Pour dry ingredients into wet ingredients and stir until just combined. Batter will be lumpy. Fold in Reese's Mini cups and spread batter into prepared pan. Bake for approx 1 hour or until toothpick inserted into center comes out clean. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes, then loosen the edges of the pan with a knife and remove from loaf pan, transferring bread to a cooling rack.

Chili Cheese Dip & Nachos

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (15 ounce) can Hormel Chili without beans
- 1 (12oz) pkg shredded Cheddar cheese
- 2 Green onions, finely chopped
- 1 tomato, diced
- sour cream, optional
- 1 (13.5 ounce) package tortilla chips

Heat oven to 325. Spread cream cheese on the bottom of a pie plate. Spread chili over the cream cheese. Finish with a layer of shredded cheddar cheese. Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until heated thoroughly and cheese is melted. Top with onions, tomatoes and sour cream. Serve with tortilla chips.

Orange Crush Salad

- 2 pkgs orange jello
- 2 cups hot water
- 2 cups orange crush
- 3 bananas

1 small can crushed pineapple, drained

Mix all ingredients and chill.

Topping

- 1 cup pineapple juice drained from pineapple
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 pt. whipping cream

Mix all ingredients. Cook until thick, let cool. After cooling fold in whipping cream. Spread on top of jello mixture and refrigerate.

Beefy Nacho Soup

- 1 lb lean (at least 80%) ground beef
- 1 tablespoon taco seasoning mix (from package)
- 1 can (10 3/4 oz) condensed nacho cheese soup
- 1 can (10 oz) diced tomatoes and green chiles, undrained
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/2 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese (2 oz)
- 1/2 cup crushed corn tortilla chips

In 2-quart saucepan, cook ground beef over medium-high heat 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until no longer pink; drain. Reduce heat to medium. Stir in remaining ingredients except shredded cheese and tortilla chips. Cook 8 to 12 minutes, stirring frequently, or until thoroughly heated. Top individual servings with shredded cheese and tortilla chips.



The Voice of the LORD

Pastor Mike Vaughn

'The voice of the Lord is upon the face of the waters: the God of glory thundereth Psalm 29:3

Some people think it's a waste of time to simply sit at God's feet and listen. It is not a waste of time to wait on God any more than a woodsman is wasting his time when he sharpens his axe. In his booklet " Tyranny of the Urgent," Charles Hummel wrote, "When we fail to wait prayerfully for God's guidance and strength, we are saying, with our actions if not our lips, that we do not need Him. Prayerful waiting on God is indispensable to effective service. Like the time out in a football game, it enables us to catch our breath and fix a new strategy. Read Psalm 29 and count how many times the phrase "voice of the Lord" is used. Spend at least that many minutes listening for his voice and trusting He will speak His will to you.

Good News Fellowship Tickfaw, LA - www.mvmgoodnews.com

The Cure for Racism

Pastor Lewis Taylor

Over the last several days as our nation remembers the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, a commendable man who devoted his life to ending racial discrimination, we need to also remember the One Who died to save us from the tragedy of Racism...the Lord Jesus Christ! Political and governmental efforts that try to cure the problem of Racism, as sincere as they may be, CANNOT transform the heart of mankind. Racism is a SIN problem. Due to the sin and wickedness that entered the world through the fall of Adam the hearts of unregenerate man has allowed the evils of Racism to plague virtually all of mankind throughout the course of world history. Our own nation has not been exempt from this terrible sin. The false idea that one race or ethnicity is superior to the other has caused much division and strife in the United States of America. One only has to look through the pages of a history textbook to see the tragedy of African American slavery, discrimination, and societal segregation. Sadly the issues concerning Racism still continues today and has begun to escalate. This problem is existent on all sides of the "race" spectrum. Our nation and other nations around the world need to REPENT of their sinful ways! The ONLY answer for the sin of Racism is the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood!!!! At the turn of the Twentieth century the Lord began to pour out His Spirit in a wonderful way. This Latter Rain outpouring helped shed great light on Biblical Truths such as the Baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, the Gifts of the Spirit, Holiness, and divine healing. This Revival movement paved the way for modern Pentecostalism. One of the key leaders of the early Pentecostal movement was an African American man from Louisiana named William J. Seymour. Brother Seymour was used of the Lord to help further the Pentecostal message at the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, California. Brother Seymour stressed the importance of breaking down racial barriers in order to see true Biblical unity in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what we need today....TRUE BIBLICAL UNITY IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST!!!! ONLY THE BLOOD OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CAN BRING ABOUT TRUE BIBLICAL UNITY!!!! This Azusa Street revival was a place where people of all races and ethnicities gathered to worship the Lord. One Pentecostal historian and eyewitness to the Azusa Street Revival, Frank Bartleman, stated that the "The color line was washed away by the blood". It needs to be kept in mind that this was during a time frame when racial bigotry, discrimination, and segregation was a common occurrence. The inter-racial aspect of the Azusa Street Revival has been a significant topic discussed amongst students of revivalist history for many years. Thank God for the Power of the Holy Ghost! Only the Power of the Lord can bring about such a revival! We need this same type of Pentecostal revival today! We need another Azusa Street revival! This is the ONLY answer for Racism. The ONLY answer for the problems surrounding Ferguson, Missouri. The ONLY answer for the protestors in New York City. The ONLY answer for the United States of America. The ONLY answer for the world. ONLY the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can take a man's heart and transform it! Biblically speaking...there is only ONE culture! The Saved and the Un-saved. The Righteous and the un-righteous. The Word of God states in Galatians 3:26-28 that: Gal 3:26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" (King James Version). If you have placed your Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Shed Blood then you are a member of God's family! It does not matter the color of your skin! Our ministry strives to reach this lost and dying world for the Lord Jesus Christ in these last days. Our prayer is to reach the red, yellow, black, brown and white because ALL our precious in HIS SIGHT!

Send The Rain Ministries PO Box 12172 Charleston, WV 25302



Is Your Axe Dull?

(Author Unknown)

Years ago a young lumberjack asked the foreman of a logging crew for a job. After watching the man skillfully cut down a large tree, the foreman exclaimed, "You can start Monday!" Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday rolled by. On Thursday afternoon the foreman approached the young man and said, "You can pick up your paycheck on the way out today." The young man was startled and replied, "I thought you paid on Friday." "Normally we do," answered the foreman, "but we're letting you go today because you've fallen behind. You just aren't cutting down enough trees." "But I'm a hard worker," the young man objected. The foreman knew what the young man said was true and thought about the situation for a moment. A thought crossed his mind and he asked, "Have you been sharpening your axe?" The young man replied, "I've been working too hard to take the time." It is amazing how easy it is for us to neglect the most obvious. If you are to be used by God as a witness for Him, some of the most basic, obvious needs in your daily life are personal purity and your devotion to God. Just as the young lumberjack neglected the most obvious chore of sharpening his axe, we, too, often fail in the basic areas of daily prayer and devotions or personal holiness. Any tool needs to be sharpened from time to time. How is your quiet time coming along? Have you been keeping your axe sharp?

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 24:30-34

Waiting For God

(Author Unknown)

Ruth went to her mail box and there was only one letter. She picked it up and looked at it before opening, but then she looked at the envelope again. There was no stamp, no postmark, only her name and address. She read the letter: "Dear Ruth: I'm going to be in your neighborhood Saturday afternoon and I'd like to stop by for a visit. Love Always, GOD" Her hands were shaking as she placed the letter on the table. "Why would GOD want to visit me? I'm nobody special. I don't have anything to offer." With that thought, Ruth remembered her empty kitchen cabinets. "Oh my goodness, I really don't have anything to offer. I'll have to run down to the store and buy something for dinner." She reached for her purse and counted out its contents. Five dollars and forty cents. "Well, I can get some bread and cold cuts, at least." She threw on her coat and hurried out the door. A loaf of French bread, a half-pound of sliced turkey, and a carton of milk...leaving Ruth with grand total of twelve cents to last her until Monday. Nonetheless, she felt good as she headed home, her meager offerings tucked under her arm. "Hey lady, can you help us, lady?" Ruth had been so absorbed in her dinner plans, she hadn't even noticed two figures huddled in the alleyway. A man and a woman, both of them dressed in little more than rags. "Look lady, I ain't got a job, ya know, and my wife and I have been living out here in the street, and, well, now it's getting cold and we're getting kinda hungry and, well, if you could help us, lady, we'd really appreciate it." Ruth looked at them both. They were dirty, they smelled bad and, frankly, she was certain that they could get some kind of work if they really wanted to. "Sir, I'd like to help you, but I'm a poor woman myself. All I have is a few cold cuts and some bread, and I'm having an important guest for dinner tonight and I was planning on serving that to Him." "Yeah, well, okay lady, I understand. Thanks anyway." The man put his arm around the woman's shoulders, turned and headed back into the alley. As she watched them leave, Ruth felt a familiar twinge in her heart. "Sir, wait!" The couple stopped and turned as she ran down the alley after them. "Look, why don't you take this food. I'll figure out something else to serve my guest." She handed the man her grocery bag. "Thank you lady. Thank you very much!" "Yes, thank you!" It was the man's wife, and Ruth could see now that she was shivering. "You know, I've got another coat at home. Here, why don't you take this one." Ruth unbuttoned her jacket and slipped it over the woman's shoulders. Then smiling, she turned and walked back to the street...without her coat and with nothing to serve her guest. "Thank you lady! Thank you very much!" Ruth was chilled by the time she reached her front door, and worried too. The Lord was coming to visit and she didn't have anything to offer Him. She fumbled through her purse for the door key. But as she did, she noticed another envelope in her mailbox. "That's odd. The mailman doesn't usually come twice in one day." She took the envelope out of the box and opened it. "Dear Ruth, It was so good to see you again. Thank you for the lovely meal. And thank you, too, for the beautiful coat. Love Always, GOD" The air was still cold, but even without her coat, Ruth no longer noticed.



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Matthew 7:21-23 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Additional passages for Today: Matthew 7:24-27; Matthew 25:14-30

Thought for Today: What will Jesus say to you? What needs to be done if you want to hear “well done” rather than “depart from me,?”

Story for Today: Ricky couldn't believe his eyes. Never before had he seen anything like it. But, he had seen it and he felt it too. Drake had said a few words and something about Jesus and then the girl had fallen down and after rolling around a few times she had gotten up a changed person. She was no longer controlled by the demons of her past. Ricky was awestruck. He had heard about such things but, to think that he was in the presence of one that was able to do this. Drake just smiled and enjoyed the glory of those that watched. He knew that what he had done was good. He knew that people would talk about him for days and longer. He knew that whatever he wanted in this area, he could get because of the miracle he had just performed. Drake was a charismatic speaker and loved the adventure he was living. He wasn't a big name TV evangelist yet, but, he was feeling the glow from the impact he was making as he changed people's lives through healing them from disease or demon. He hadn't started out so popular and in the beginning he gave God all the glory. Oh, he still told people it was God that did the miracles, but, it was different now. Now, he desired the rush he felt when he changed someone's life and the joy and adoration he received. Ricky was his new project. He wanted to have a right hand man to help whenever the need arose and Ricky seemed to have all the desired qualities. He had just witnessed his first exorcism and he hadn't freaked out. He had just stood in awe, something that pleased Drake to no end. Ricky wasn't the good Christian boy that wore a suit and tie or even the one that seemed to hang on the youth pastors words. However, he knew that Ricky was interested in power and from what he had just witnessed, he knew he would be able to work with him. Drake never doubted for one minute whether or not he was a Christian. He was proclaiming the word of God and he was performing many wonderful works. He just knew that he was a powerful tool being used by God. Only on occasion did he feel the prick of his conscience as he realized how the power and popularity, the glory that so many showered on him pleased him in a way that nothing else did. But he just decided that was how one should feel when they were in the center of God's will. He ignored those that cautioned him about pleasing his own flesh and for making sure he was doing what God wanted. Of course he was doing what God wanted. Look at how many were listening to him. Look at all those that were hearing about Jesus because of the way that someone they loved had been healed. His following was growing all the time and just like Ricky, others would do whatever he suggested. He had access to as much money as he desired. He convinced himself that he could help lots of people. He recognized that his prayer life wasn't what it had once been. He didn't have time to himself, people needed him. And he never fasted anymore, he was always eating on the run as he went from location to location gaining more popularity every day. But, HE did read the Bible, well, sort of, he preached and was healing people and sometimes that meant quoting a verse or at least the idea behind it. He was right where he needed to be and it felt good. Or was he?

Questions for Today: Do your actions and reactions point others to Christ or do they just make you look good? Do you ask for God to guide you daily actions? Do you follow His will for your life or do you sometimes like to do things just because you enjoy them? What is your motive for the choices you make?

Heavenly Father, Please keep our hearts pure as we live for you. Please help us to love you with all our heart, mind and soul...



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The Problem Is Sin & The Only Answer Is The Power Of The Gospel

Pastor Wayne Voss - PO Box 9097 Greenwood, MS. 38930

It's another heart breaking and very sad day in America. The head lines read; The state of New York legalizes abortion up to the baby's birth day on the anniversary of Roe vs Wade. A Nation that murders its own children, celebrates homosexuality, transgenderism, and sexual perversion of every kind, and runs to embrace every idol and false way; God cannot bless. America, it's not only time to consider your evil ways but it's time for the Blood Bought Church to embrace and boldly declare the only answer!! The Problem is Sin and the Only Answer is the Power of the Gospel!! The only way anyone can "turn from their wicked ways" and walk in Righteousness is through faith in the Cross! What should this mean to those who claim to have the Message of the Cross? Correct Answer: The Harvest is ripe and ready! Go you therefore now into all the world and PREACH the GOSPEL!! It's time to turn from powerless politics and a false hope, and get back to what God has raised His Church up to do: Preach the Power of God, preach the Cross, preach the Gospel to a lost and dying world!!

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."
2Chronicles 7:14"



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