



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16:15



The Struggle

George Whitten

And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved. Genesis 32:29-30

In the most extreme moment of his life, when his entire household was threatened with annihilation, the Patriarch Jacob wrestled with a Man through an entire sleepless night. Somehow, after this astounding encounter, Jacob came to the realization that he had been wrestling with God, and face to face! Once again, the Lord God of heaven showed Himself as a human being to a man He loved; this time, for the purpose of rescuing, blessing, and preserving the man's destiny. Jacob was relentless during this struggle and his perseverance changed him profoundly, forever, in several ways: he was wounded and walked with a limp for the rest of his life, a sign of human weakness and dependence on the Lord; he was given a new name ("Israel") and with it, a new identity, as a prince with God, and one whose struggle with the Almighty saved his life, his family, and his God-given inheritance and posterity; and finally, Jacob received the long-awaited relief and closure with the brother whom he had deceived and enraged so many years before. So this wrestling match with God was a massive turning point in Jacob's life, and though it must have taken every ounce of human effort he could muster, the victory he won affected every human being in history, since, of course, the Man that Jacob wrestled with was almost certainly the same Man who became his most important descendant, the Savior of the world, Yeshua, the Messiah, Jesus the Christ. How often difficulties and crises are used by the Lord to bring us closer and to develop intimacy with Him. It is sometimes the Lord's will to draw us to Himself through extreme and even terrible circumstances or threats. The inner transformation that can take place when we pass through these intense prayer battles, cannot perhaps, be accomplished any other way. But consider the fruit and the blessing which can result from these mighty wrestlings. And consider how being that close to God Himself may change you forever. So, you who are gutting out that anguishing trial--don't let go until you receive the blessing, the change, the victory. I believe the Lord also wants to say to you--- that you have struggled with God and with men -- and have prevailed!

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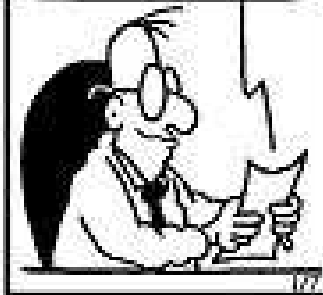
THE TRUMPET 2021 RENEWAL



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I REALLY ENJOYED MY VISIT LAST SUNDAY...



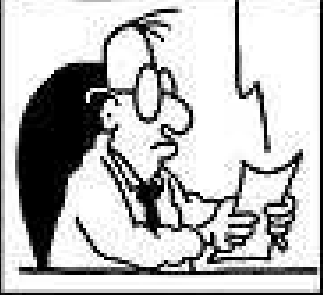
EVERYONE TREATED ME LIKE I WAS PART OF THE FAMILY...



YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...



EVERY FAMILY HAS SOME MEMBER THEY WON'T TALK TO!



Cousin Leroy

Leroy's wife searched for her car keys. They weren't in her pockets or her purse. Suddenly she realized she must have left them in the car. Frantically, she headed for the parking lot. Leroy had scolded her many times for leaving her keys in the car's ignition. He was afraid that the car would be stolen. As she looked around the parking lot, she realized he was right. The parking lot was empty. She immediately called the police. She gave them her location and information, confessed that she had left her keys in the car, and that it had been stolen. Then she made the most difficult call of all to her husband Leroy: "I left my keys in the car and it's been stolen." There was a moment of silence. She thought the call had been disconnected, but then she heard his voice. "Are you kidding me?" he barked, "I dropped you off!" Now it was her turn to be silent. Embarrassed, she said, "Well, come and get me." To which Leroy replied, "I will, as soon as I convince this cop that I didn't steal your car!"

New Years Resolution Diary

2017: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.

2018: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.

2019: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.

2020: I will work out 3 days a week.

2021: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

Mr. Right

Heather and Marcy hadn't seen each other in awhile, so they decided to meet for coffee. The talk naturally got around to their respective love lives. Marcy confided that there really wasn't anyone special in her life. Heather, on the other hand, was beaming about the new man she had found. "He's perfect. He's handsome, and last night when we went out to dinner, he said the four little words I've been waiting to hear a man say to me!" "He said 'Will you marry me?'" Marcy asked. Heather replied, "No. He said 'Put your money away.'"





For Ever, O LORD, Thy Word Is Settled In Heaven

For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. Psalms 119:89

I want to talk to you this month about how important the Word of God is. It is the single most important thing for you to know in the world today. We are warned over and over in scripture of the deception that will come in the last days and I think we are seeing that more and more in the world in which we live. There is only one way to keep from being deceived and that is to know the Word of God for yourself! Not what man has to say about it...not what man thinks about it BUT what thus saith the LORD. The Word of God must be our proving ground for everything that we teach, follow or believe. If one does not know the truth then it is much easier to believe a lie. Simply put...anything that man may teach or preach that does not line up with the Word of God IS NOT of God and must be treated as such. I have heard people over the years share revelations, dreams, visions and teachings that when I weighed them with what the Word of God had to say they fell short and were found wanting. No matter how sincere the person is if it does not line up with the Word of God it is not from God. I know that seems like a simple statement but sadly many people just do not know what the Word of God says. They never study it, they never read it, all they know is what the preacher tells them on Sunday morning. This has brought us to the place in America today where we have churches full of people believing lies and being damned through their own ignorance simply because they do not know the Word for themselves. I want to share with you four important things that you should know about the Word of God. **First, the Word of God is infallible.** There is no error in God's Word. The law of the Lord is perfect concerning our soul. The testimony of the Lord is not only infallible it is inerrant. Proverbs 30:5-6 says, "Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. " The purity of His Word does not need anything added to it. **Second, the Word of God is complete.** The Bible does not need any new chapters or verses OR BOOKS. As one preacher put it "The Bible does not need to be rewritten IT NEEDS TO BE RE-READ!" All you need is God's Word because it is the Holy Word of God and It is complete. In Revelation 22:18-19, God gives us a warning, "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." We believe that God's Word is complete and that scripture bears that out...in the Old Testament Tabernacle The Golden Candlestick was the only source of natural light. It was made from one piece of pure beaten gold; One central shaft with three branches protruding from each side. On each branch there were 3 sets of 3 ornaments, In each set a bowl, a knop, and a flower: 9 total on each branch. On the central shaft there were 4 sets of these same 3 ornaments for a total of 12. Now do some math with me, there were 27 on the right side + 27 on the left side + 12 in the middle = a total of "66". There are 27 NT books and 39 OT books found in the King James Version..."66" books in all. In this one example we see that the Word of God is complete and needs nothing added to it. **Third, the Word of God is totally authoritative.** The Bible says in Psalms 119:89 "LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." The Word of God is the only source for absolute divine authority in our lives. When someone says, "I have a word from the Lord for you," write it down and as you study God's word see if lines up with the Word of God, if it does not than it is not from God. God's Word must be and is the final authority. **Fourth, God's Word is totally sufficient.** In 2 Timothy 3:16-17 it says "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." We can be totally secure in the Lord by studying the Bible because it reveals God's plan for our life. **IT IS TRUTH**, Is it good to know Greek, Hebrew, Jewish history or customs? There is nothing wrong with any of that and those things might even help you understand some things better. BUT all that you need to know can be found in the Word of God. David said in Psalms 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." If we do not know His Word we cannot find our way, we will not know His will and we cannot know the truth. Read it, study it, meditate on it, stand on it, TRUST IT! KNOW IT..."And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." FREE from sin, FREE from bondage, FREE from the spirit of deception!

Until next time...Pastor Billy R. Douglas



Spiritual Burnout (conclusion)

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Luke 5:1-11 - And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: 10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. 11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

A. Partners in Prayer Matthew 18:19 - Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. God desires for us to be people of prayer. We need to be attentive to our personal prayer life, but we also need to pray with one another! We find the examples in the N.T. of the early church spending time with one another in prayer. They would pray with one another in times of trouble. Acts 4:23-24 - And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. 24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Acts 12:5 - Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. Acts 12:12 - And when he had considered the thing, he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark; where many were gathered together praying. Acts 16:25 - And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. They would pray with one another in times of transition. Acts 20:36 - And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. Acts 21:5 - And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and prayed. There is a sense of fellowship and strength when we pray together that's why we SHOULD be doing it daily!!! B. Partners in Burdens. Galatians 6:2 - Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. We need to be sharing our burdens with others...and we need to share other's burdens. I don't mean to gossip about others burdens either. Burdens can be anything that is difficult for us to bear, that which weighs us down. When we are struggling with a burden; we do not become prideful and refuse to ask for help. When we are aware of a brother who is burdened; we don't sit back and selfishly refuse to help! We need to be partners in this area of burden bearing! C. Partners in Stewardship. The Bible says that as believers, we are not our own any longer. 1st Corinthians 6:20 - For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. Our purchase price was paid at Calvary with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Now everything about us, every possession we have, every ability that we have, every talent that we possess no longer belongs to us...it belongs to God. As a result, Paul says in 1st Corinthians 3:9 - For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. The work of the local church here and around the world moves forward as we are partners in stewardship. We need to be Partners not hitchhikers! D. Partners in Ministry. Luke 5:10 - And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. We must work together to reach our community and this world for Christ. Everyone having a part ... that is the key. In our text we find men who were partners in the fishing business. When they needed help, they called or beckoned to their partners to get involved in accomplishing the task at hand. The task is too great for one...but together we can accomplish so much more! How can we avoid spiritual burnout? Realize that we are not in this alone. We need each other. We need to partner with one another in our service to God. Do you see the signs of burnout in your spiritual life? Lack of enthusiasm, lack of activity, or presence of stagnation? Come to the Lord today and renew your commitment to Him and receive a fresh vision for what God can do through us! Do you know the Lord today? Come place your faith in Him right now! Be saved today!

Until next time, let your light shine for Jesus! Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Preaching The Truth Ministries * P.O. Box 21682 * Louisville, KY. 40221 Tel. # (502) 930-5503 -
www.preachingthetruth.net



Liberty: Great Servant - Terrible Master

Pastor Steven Huston

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

Paul gives a warning about liberty and its use; one we would do well to consider both in regards to our American citizenship and our heavenly citizenship. You see, liberty makes a great servant but a terrible master. There are those who believe that liberty should be exercised without any self-restraint or without regard for others. This kind of thinking makes liberty their master and it leads to destruction. Without the restraint of virtue, self-promoting vice takes us into places that bring harm and destruction. These words are true for both national and spiritual liberty. Our founding fathers placed great value on virtue for they knew that virtue was the only thing that could keep liberty in check, stopping it from becoming the monster we see today. Some will demand their rights as American citizens which are laid out in the Constitution and Bill of Rights; while others will state that Romans 13 tells us to give up those rights, regardless the fact that the government is not virtuous nor looking out for the best interest of the governed. As we unpack these very important truths, let us remember the Apostle Paul's words, “use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another,” and his example. This is a difficult task; and one which each of us must prayerfully take up, depending upon the Spirit's leading. To the latter group, which would quickly give up their God-given and constitutionally protected rights, I would remind them that in America “We the People” are the governing force and that those in position of authority must follow our Constitution (which is our governing document). When they step outside those boundaries (enumerated powers) or go against the law, they are breaking the law and they themselves are criminals committing criminal acts. I cannot speak for other countries; but for Americans, obedience to tyrants is disobedience to God. By that I mean, as they compel me to break the law, I must consider if I should willfully break that law (give up my God-given right) in light of my conscience and in light of what is best for my family and fellowman. After all, the great commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength, and all your soul. And the second is like unto it, love your neighbor as yourself; and on these two commands hang all the law and the prophets. Jesus' command was to love. If I willfully take part in lawlessness, instead of standing for the truth and ignoring the true Law of the Land, is that not a form of sin? After all, we are no longer simply talking about God-given inalienable rights that sin-loving governing men can steal away at a whim, we are talking about the fact that our founders have placed those inalienable rights into our governing document—our Constitution—making it the law of the Land, the law which we are called to live and abide by—second to the Bible of course. Oughtn't we to stand for and promote liberty for our fellow citizens and our Christian brethren? Can we so easily ignore the fact that once freedom is lost here, there is nothing to stop tyranny's hand? Communism's god is man and he hates the Creator God as well as Jehovah's creation. “But what of our rights, our constitutionally protected freedoms?” that first group asks in all sincerity. To that we also go to God's Word. It's important to recognize that virtue is the first restraint on liberty and that self-governance is the second. These restraints make liberty a useful servant rather than a monstrous master. Paul calls us to self-governance—to not use our liberty for selfishness; but to use it to serve one another. I may not feel compelled to give up my liberty for the sake of an overreaching government; but I may temporarily set it aside for the sake of a brother or sister in Christ, or even to reach an unbeliever for the sake of the gospel. Whether we are talking about masks, quarantine, vaccines, or whatever, our goal must be to do all things for the glory of God, part of which is serving one another in love. We shouldn't be motivated (forced) by fear of what others will think or even the consequences for doing what is right. Instead, let us fear God rather than men, show true love for our neighbor or brother by the promotion of truth and the gospel, and conscientiously looking out for one another. Even though Paul was first and foremost a citizen of heaven, he was not so quick to give up his rights as a Roman citizen. In Acts 16:37 is one lesser instance; but I urge you to read Acts 25 and 26, ending with verse 32, “Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.” Paul used his earthly citizenship to the glory of God, to the advancement of God's Kingdom. It meant that he would suffer much and eventually be put to death; but it also meant that he would preach the gospel to men in authority and many others along the way. Let us not be so quick to discard our God-given liberty when it may be used for His glory. “According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.” Philippians 1:20

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



No Bake Pineapple Dream Dessert

- 1 8-oz package cream cheese (softened)
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup crushed pineapple (drained)
- 1 8-oz tub whipped topping, like Cool Whip

Crust

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 20 individual graham crackers, crushed

Topping

- 1/4 cup shredded coconut
- 1/4 cup diced pineapple (drained)

In a medium mixing bowl, mix the cream cheese with an electric mixer until slightly fluffy. Gradually add the powdered sugar, and mix until well combined. Mix in the whipped topping, and beat until fluffy. With a spatula, fold in the crushed pineapple, then set aside. In a small mixing bowl, mix the crushed graham crackers, granulated sugar and melted butter until well combined, then, pat mixture into a 9 X 9 baking dish. Spoon the filling over the crust, and smooth with spatula until even. Top with shredded coconut and diced pineapple, and refrigerate for 2 hours or until firm.

Taco Pizza Rolls

- 1 can refrigerated pizza crust
- 2 tablespoons taco seasoning mix (from 1-oz pkg)
- 3 tablespoons water
- 1 cup shredded Mexican blend cheese
- Optional toppings: lettuce, tomato, sour cream, onion

Taco Pizza Rolls Directions - Preheat oven to 400°F and lightly spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. In a medium skillet, cook and brown beef until no longer pink. Drain. Add taco seasoning and water and cook for 2-3 minutes. Set aside and cool slightly before using. Take pizza dough out of its package and unroll it onto a flat surface. Slightly roll or press the pizza dough out into a rectangle. Add the taco meat evenly on top of the pizza dough. Sprinkle the cheese evenly on top. Starting with the long edge of the pizza dough, roll dough tightly up into a roll. Using a serrated knife, make about 1-inch slices along the roll, making about 18 rolls. Place rolls on prepared baking sheet. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until tops are golden brown. Serve immediately and top with desired toppings.

Hoppin John

- 1 (16-ounce) bag dried black-eyed peas, soaked according to package directions, drained, and rinsed
- 1 (32-ounce) carton chicken broth
- 1 (10-ounce) can diced tomatoes and green chiles, drained
- 1 ham hock
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 2 jalapeños, seeded and minced
- 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning
- Hot cooked rice

In a large Dutch oven, bring peas and next 8 ingredients to a boil over medium-high heat; cover, reduce heat, and simmer for 3 to 4 hours or until peas are tender. Serve over rice.

Cornbread Croutons

- 4 cups cornbread cut into 1" cubes (day-old leftover cornbread).
- 2 TBS olive oil
- ½ tsp sea salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Lightly grease a large baking sheet, set aside. Gently cube leftover cornbread and transfer to a large mixing bowl. Drizzle 1 TBS of the olive oil over the cornbread. Gently stir. Drizzle the remaining 1 TBS over the cornbread and gently stir to distribute. Sprinkle half of the sea salt over the cornbread, stir, and repeat with the second half. Spread cornbread onto the prepared baking sheet in one even layer. Bake in preheated oven for 15-20 minutes, gently flipping the croutons over once halfway through baking (around 6 minutes). Remove from oven once they are golden-brown.



Remembering...The Preacher

Pastor Lindel E. Hinton

August 19, 1926 - January 15, 2001

Twenty Years Have 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~

Harvest Time

Rev. Lindel E. Hinton

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2

I saw a farmer gathering or shelling his corn crop yesterday. The good thing is the farmer only planted a few bags of corn but he reaped several truck loads. It's the same with us when we get out of the will of God. We sow a lot of seeds to the flesh, and when they reach the maturity stage we wonder, "LORD, What did I do to deserve this?". We are only reaping what we have sown...same as the farmer. Thank God when we sow to the Spirit we reap life everlasting. We are only promised 70 years here on earth, but we can reap life everlasting if we sow to the Spirit.

The Sacrifice

Pastor Loren Larson

Jesus Christ came to earth as the Son of God to break the power of sin over the human race. He took on the form of a human being and experienced everything that any other living person would experience throughout the course of His life. The one thing that He never encountered, that all of us have, is the experience of disobeying God. He was always faithful to perform every act and maintain every attitude that was pleasing to the Father. He serves as the perfect example of a person in complete and utter obedience to the will of God. His obedience culminated in the act of sacrificing Himself on Calvary for our sins. His perfect life paid the price demanded by God for my imperfect one. He exchanged His life for mine, with no guarantee that I would ever accept His precious offering. Without His payment, His sacrificial gift, I would have no clear path to God. I would have no way to come to God, much less be accepted by Him. But thanks to Christ Jesus and His unspeakable gift, my sins have been forgiven, the power of sin over me has been broken, and one day, even the presence of sin will be totally eliminated.

Hebrews 9:26b - "...but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself."

Blessed By Your Sacrifice

Owen Alstott

Blessed by your sacrifice
 Strong in your love O Christ
 Our grateful voices to you we raise
 True adoration throughout creation
 Rings out in joyful songs of praise
 Old Splendor Glory bright
 Brought forth as light from light
 O day all days enlightening
 Angels with one Accord cry holy holy Lord
 To you our Everlasting King
 Come raise your voices high
 Let Praises fill the sky
 Sing out a new song unto the Lord
 Let all with heart and voice
 Before the Throne Rejoice
 Of Him whom Heaven and Earth adore



In the autobiography of John G. Paton he tells us the story of his journey to Glasgow from his home in the country. This journey marked a crisis in his life. He says—"A small bundle, tied up in my pocket handkerchief, contained my Bible and all my personal belongings. Thus was I launched upon the ocean of life. "My dear father walked with me the first six miles of the way. His counsels and tears and heavenly conversation on the parting journey are fresh in my heart as if it had been yesterday; and tears are on my cheeks as freely now as then, whenever memory steals me away to the scene. For the last half mile or so we walked on together in almost unbro-

ken silence, —my father, as was often his custom, carrying hat in hand, while his long, flowing yellow hair (then yellow, but in later years white as snow) streamed like a girl's down his shoulders. His lips kept moving in silent prayers for me, and his tears fell fast when our eyes met each other in looks for which all speech was vain. We halted on reaching the appointed parting place; he grasped my hand firmly for a minute in silence, and then solemnly and affectionately said,—"God bless you, my son! Your father's God prosper you, and keep you from all evil!" Unable to say more, his lips kept moving in silent prayer; in tears we embraced and parted. I ran off as fast as I could, and when about to turn a corner in the road where he would lose sight of me, I looked back and saw him still standing with head uncovered where I had left him. Waving my hat in adieu, I was round the corner and out of sight in an instant. But my heart was too full and sore to carry me further, so I darted into the side of the road and wept for a time. "Then, rising up cautiously, I climbed the dyke to see if he yet stood there where I had left him, and just at that moment I caught a glimpse of him climbing the dyke and looking out for me! He did not see me, and after he had gazed eagerly in my direction for a while, he got down, turned his face towards home, and began to return, his head still uncovered, and his heart, I felt sure, still rising in prayers for me. I watched through blinding tears, till his form faded from my gaze; and then, hastening on my way, vowed deeply and oft, by the help of God, to live and act so as never to grieve or dishonor such a father and mother as He had given me. "The appearance of my father, when we parted,—his advice, prayers and tears,—the road, the dyke, the climbing up on it and then walking away, head uncovered, have often, often, all through life, risen vividly before my mind,—and do so now while I am writing, as if it had been but an hour ago. In my earlier years particularly, when exposed to many temptations, his parting form rose before me as that of a guardian Angel. "It is no Pharisism, but deep gratitude, which makes me here testify that the memory of that scene not only helped, by God's grace, to keep me pure from the prevailing sins, but also stimulated me in all my studies, that I might not fall short of his hopes, and in all my Christian duties, that I might faithfully follow his shining example."

Positive Confession

Pastor Mike Vaughn

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Mark 11:23

When we hear the word confession, most usually we think about confessing sin, weakness and failures but the Bible has much more to reveal about confession. The word confession has got a lot of negative press in the past but it simply means agreeing and then vocalizing what the Bible says. It is testifying to a Bible truth we have accepted. Our proper confession can increase and strengthen our faith. It gives evidence to something we know is true. If our confession is wrong, our thinking will be wrong. If our believing is wrong, our thinking will be wrong. If our believing is wrong, it is because we have failed to renew our minds. To renew our minds means to exchange our thoughts for God's thoughts. Reading, studying, meditating, and knowing the Word changes the way we think. Here are Five things we should confess: We should confess the Word concerning what God has done for us in the plan of redemption. The Bible declares that we have been redeemed (Gal. 3:13). We should confess what God has done in us through His Word and His Spirit. We should confess who we are to the Father through Christ Jesus. We are the righteousness of God through Christ Jesus. We are sanctified through Christ Jesus. We are redeemed through Christ Jesus. We should confess what Jesus is accomplishing for us right now at the Father's right hand. Jesus is making intercession for us, therefore, we have protection, and all is well with us. We should confess what God can accomplish through us. We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. Let's agree with and declare what we have in Christ and who we are in Christ. Our faith will be strengthened. Remember, you are loved with an everlasting

Love, Pastor Mike. Good News Fellowship Tickfaw, LA 70466 - www.mvmgoodnews.com



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verses for Today: Ephesians 4:22-24

Additional passage for Today: Ephesians 4:21-5:21; Romans 12:1-2

Thought for Today: God wants to rewire your way of thinking. We have been born with a wiring that's default is to sin; but God, through Jesus Christ, has made a way to change our default wiring to one of holiness. Naturally choosing to do right and instinctively living godly can be our default when we live in obedience to God.

Story for Today: "Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Albert Einstein, (attributed) US (German-born) physicist (1879 - 1955) Haley reread the plaque with the quote from the famous physicist, Albert Einstein again as she thought about how many times she had repeated her mistakes. Being a mother of three, she thought she would have more of life figured out by now. Bradley, her 10 year old son, continued to act out at school since his father had dropped the bomb-shell that he was leaving his family for another man. Ray had been a good father. He had loved his children. He was a great provider and was so kind. Although they had not always agreed on everything, they had what she thought was a good marriage. Their home was normally a safe and happy place. Charity, their 7 year old, grew quieter as time went on. At first she asked where Ray was and when he'd be home; but lately, she didn't mention him and just asked to play in her room. Davey was the youngest and had just turned 5. He kept up the constant questions, always at the worst moment asking for his Dad. Ray turned his head as he passed the playground. He wished things were different. He regretted not telling Haley about the abuse from his childhood. He regretted the years of the secrets he'd kept. It seemed like the harder he tried to be successful and make good choices the more he failed. He would plan to just have one drink after work with friends and would find himself looking at things that he had wanted to leave in his past. Day after day, failure after failure, he finally gave up when Bradley found a magazine that he hadn't hid well enough. That day he left Haley for Brett. Brett was a great friend and always found ways to make him forget the pain of his past. But, it always came back. It had been too long since he had seen his kids. He really loved them. He continued to tell himself that they were better off without him. Although he wasn't abusing his children like he had been abused, he knew that he was the cause of much pain to his family. Gratefully, Brett didn't give him much time to think about this. Brett knew just what to give him to make him forget everything or kept him so busy that he didn't have time to think. But all seemed so shallow and only dulled the pain. Today was different. Brett had left on a trip for work and Ray had time to think. He slowed as he drove past the big church on the corner. He had been there a couple of times with friends when he was little. He still remembered the tall, thin man that had shared from his heart. He remembered thinking if he could just stay in that building all the pain would go away. Ray blinked back the tears as he pulled into the parking lot. Slowly he made his way into the building and in a flash he could see the man on his knees crying as he shared how Jesus had died to pay the price for all the bad things people had been doing. He remembered the man reaching up to the sky with the book in his hand saying that when Jesus Christ washes away all that sin, you will be pure, white as snow, and free from the chains that bind you. He saw the joy on the man's face as he thanked God for the work that was done. Ray remembered. He ached so very badly for that freedom. He wanted that warmth he remembered as he sat there that day. Could he be forgiven? The man had said that when Jesus cleansed, he transformed your mind, that he freed you from the sin that made you fail time and time again. Ray wanted to escape the pain; but more than that, he wanted the peace and joy, the love that he could see in the man as he knelt in front of everyone in reverence of the Messiah that had taken on the sin of the world. Ray wanted to think differently. He wanted to make good choices and not be in bondage to his past.

Questions for Today: What is your default thinking? Do you live in bondage to sin, a slave to obey by doing wrong? Is your first response to look out for yourself or is it to do the right thing even if it hurts? God says he will renew a right spirit within us, transforming our mind to the perfect will of God. Do you want to be transformed?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Thank you for doing all that was necessary to free us from the bondage of sin. Please draw us unto yourself and help us to walk in obedience to your will and your way. In Jesus' Name, AMEN.



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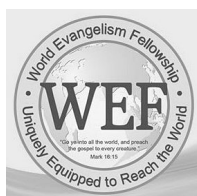
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