



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

Vol. 21 No. 01

January 2017



www.voiceofthelordministries.com



DON'T FORGET!



THE TRUMPET 2017 RENEWAL

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Let Every Day Be Christmas

by Norman Wesley Brooks, 1976

Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away.

Like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself.

Peace on Earth, good will to men, kind thoughts and words of cheer, are things we should use often and not just once a year.

Remember too the Christ-child, grew up to be a man; to hide him in a cradle, is not our dear Lord's plan.

So keep the Christmas spirit, share it with others far and near, from week to week and month to month, throughout the entire year!

Let brotherly love continue. Hebrews 13:1

Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year Just one request I bring: I do not pray for happiness, Or any earthly thing...

I do not ask to understand The way Thou leadest me, But this I ask: Teach me to do The thing that pleaseth Thee.

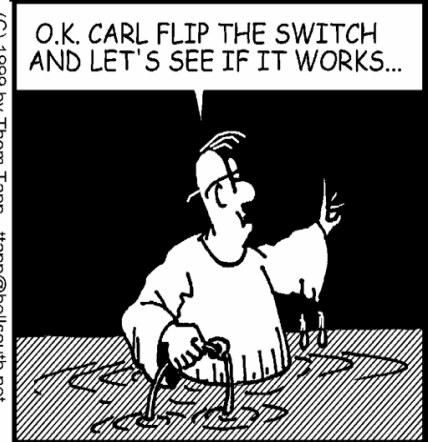
I want to know Thy guiding voice, To walk with Thee each day. Dear Master make me swift to hear And ready to obey.

And thus the year I now begin A happy year will be If I am seeking just to do The thing that pleaseth Thee.

~author unknown~

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1Thessalonians 5:18



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Cousin Leroy

On New Years day a very concerned Leroy approached the Pastor and with trembling voice he said "Can I ask you a question Pastor?" to which the Pastor replied "Certainly Brother Leroy, what can I help you with?". "Well", Leroy said. "A couple of the sisters here in church told me that they stayed up till midnight last night to pray because what you are doing at midnight on new years eve when we leave one year and enter another is what you will be doing most in year ahead, is that true?" The Pastor looked at Leroy, gently smiled and said "No not at all, that is just some foolish superstition". To which Leroy replied "Thank the LORD, because although I didn't look at the clock I am pretty sure I was in the outhouse when the clock struck twelve!"

Bubba's Road Trip

Bubba was taking his mother in law Gertrude home after the holidays when he was pulled over by the highway patrol. The officer said, "Sir did you know you were speeding?" Gertrude, hard of hearing, looked at Bubba and asked, "What did he say to ya?" Bubba yelled, "He says we were speeding!" The patrolman said, "May I see your license?" Gertrude once again asked, "What did he say?" Bubba yelled, "He wants to see my license!" He gave the officer his license. The patrolman then said, "I see you are from Kentucky. I spent some time there once and went on a blind date with the ugliest woman I've ever seen." Once again Gertrude turned to Bubba and asked, "What did he say?" Bubba yelled back at her, "He said he thinks he knows you!".

Veterans

A trio of old veterans were bragging and jokes about the heroic exploits of their ancestors one afternoon down at the VFW hall. "My great grandfather, at age 13," one declared proudly, "was a drummer boy at Shiloh." "Mine," boasts another, "went down with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn." "I'm the only soldier in my family," confessed vet number three, "but if my great grandfather was living today he'd be the most famous man in the world." "Really? What'd he do?" his friends wanted to know. "Nothing much. But he would be 165 years old."

Seven Stages of Sickness for Married Couples

- 1ST YEAR: The husband says, "Oh, sweetie pie, I'm really worried about those nasty sniffles you have!
- 2ND YEAR: "Listen, honey, I don't like the sound of that cough. You should have it seen about.
- 3RD YEAR: "Maybe you better go lie down, darling. You need the rest.
- 4TH YEAR: "Sweetie when you finish those dishes you ought to go to bed!"
- 5TH YEAR: "Why don't you take a couple aspirin?"
- 6TH YEAR: "You oughta go gargle or something, instead of sitting around barking like a dog!"
- 7TH YEAR: "For Pete's sake, stop sneezing. Are you trying to give me pneumonia?"



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

It's A Wonderful Life

Over the Christmas season we watched the movie "It's a Wonderful Life" like we do every year. I'm not sure how many times we have seen it but it blesses us each time. Unlike most movies made today it is one that the entire family can sit down and enjoy and learn a valuable lesson from. It is black and white, the scenes and styles have changed BUT the Biblical moral of the story still rings true as ever..."For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Romans 14:7. Each and every one of us leave foot prints and influence in the lives of so many others. You may feel as if your life effects no one else or that you are very small compared to others. But the truth remains that even the smallest pebble makes ripples in the water and effects everything around it. So it is with our life. The choices that we make the things that we do effect the lives of others. In the movie the main characters name is George Bailey...a young man who had plans to leave his small hometown and travel the world. But one circumstance after another kept him home running the family business. Then something happens that causes him to wish that he had never been born. And in the story the Lord allows him to see what the lives of his family and friends would have been like if he indeed there had never been a George Bailey. At the age of 8 he saved his brother from drowning and then later in life his brother was a war hero and saved the lives of many others. But since George Bailey was never born he was not there to save his brother so his brother died and so did the men that his brother went on to save. As a teen he worked in a drug store and noticed that the pharmacist had made a terrible mistake and filled a prescription with capsules that contained poison instead of medicine and he stopped it. But since George Bailey was never born no one else caught the fatal mistake and the one that took the capsules died, the pharmacist went to prison and later when released became the town drunk. That is only a couple of examples...so many lives touched by this one life...by this one man who thought everyone would have been better off if he had not been born! Maybe you feel that way sometimes...or maybe you feel as though your life just "doesn't matter". That my friend is a lie from the enemy...your life does matter! You do make a difference! The truth is ALL of us have influence on others...for the good or for the bad our life does effect the lives of others! Our life does make an impact that lives on long after we are in the grave. I remember hearing the story once of an atheist who had lived his life on a crusade of telling others that there was no God! To everyone who would listen he would share his thoughts on the impossibility of a God! Then on his death bed after coming to the realization that there was indeed a God and realizing what he had done with his life. With his last breath he cried "Oh God please let my influence die with me." That man died and was buried but sadly the influence that he had...the life that he lived lives on today in the lives of those that his life touched! With this powerful thought in mind let us ALWAYS be aware of the undeniable fact that our life does matter...that our life does have a lasting effect on those that we come in contact with. Let this be our hearts prayer today "LORD let the light and the love of Jesus shine in our hearts and through our lives and into the darkness of those who do not know you so that they too can know this joy...this peace...this ABUNDANT LIFE that comes only by receiving the GREATEST GIFT ever given...Jesus Christ God's only begotten SON!" For you see when you know Jesus it really is a wonderful life!! Until next time may the Lord bless and keep you is my prayer...Pastor Billy R. Douglas

Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.

Do a deed of simple kindness, Though its end you may not see;
It may reach, like widening ripples, Down a long eternity.

**“Cowards in the Pulpit” conclusion**

By Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Timothy 4:2-4 - Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. The inspired writer 20 centuries ago foretold something that we are certainly seeing happen in our day — that is, “to suit their own desires ... [people] will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.” They will not be receptive to sound doctrine. And part of the sound doctrine that they will not put up with is the Scriptures’ consistent call to repent, change our ways, and walk a holy walk. The solution? The apostle’s command to Timothy and to all preachers is: “Preach the Word.” Don’t preach what people with itching ears want to hear to suit their own desires. Rather, preach the uncompromised truths of God’s Word, the Bible. 2nd Peter 2:5 - And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; • That’s what we still need today, thousands of years after Noah. We need church pulpits filled with preachers of righteousness, who are not intimidated by man’s opinions and are not snared by the fear of man. • We need pastors and evangelists (and indeed all believers) preaching “repentance and remission of sins” (Luke 24:47 -And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.) and reminding us of Jesus’ words in Luke 13:3 - I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. • We need Christian leaders willing to be faithful to Scripture, rather than to spout non-biblical excuses for unholiness such as: “That’s OK, God understands” or “Grace covers all sins” (conveniently omitting the fact that repentance and changed conduct are expected by God). Matthew 3:1-2 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Matthew 4:17 - From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. • In the very beginning of their public ministries, both Jesus and John the Baptist preached the theme of repentance. In his first post-Pentecost sermon, the apostle Peter replied to the people’s “What shall we do?” with the same command: “Repent...” • Jesus and His followers did not try to ease people comfortably into the kingdom of God. No! Each of them, in various ways of saying it, emphasized the truthful necessity that “godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation” 2nd Corinthians 7:10 - For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. I will fail God and the people terribly if I just encourage a non-challenging, repentance-ignoring, simulating “Christianity.” • To all my fellow preachers, teachers, evangelists, elders, and other sharers of God’s Word — “Preach the Word!” The whole word, not just the comfortable parts of it. Rather, like the great apostle Paul in Acts 20:27 - For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. And that includes His call to holy living — Ephesians 4:24 - And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness Titus 2:11-12 - For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; • I am eternally thankful for the grace of God that has brought me salvation, by repentance and faith in Jesus Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection for our sins. But I learned long ago that grace is not a license for loose living or an excuse to continue in carnality. No! Rather, grace goes on to “teach us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness...” Romans 6:1-2 - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? • This is part of the Gospel message of the grace of our Lord. We not only are saved by His grace, we are also enabled by His grace to increasingly enter into a walk of holiness befitting our remarkable position as born-again sons and daughters of God Almighty, who cries out to us in 1st Peter 1:16 - Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. Lord, let this message of repentance unto holy living be increasingly preached from the pulpits of our land today in Jesus name!

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Do You Ponder
Pastor Steven Huston

Luke 2:19 "But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."

There are so few who ponder things of importance today. We give our minds over to many, earthly and frivolous things; but how often do you think of your soul and its worth? How often do you ponder on the state of your soul? How often do you really think on things which are holy? So often the true historical account of Christmas is glossed over; we've heard it so many times. Do YOU ponder the points of Christmas? Mary pondered these things in her heart. What exactly was it that she kept and pondered in her heart? We can't know for sure, what "all" entailed. Certainly she would remember the angel Gabriel telling her she was chosen to give birth to the very Son of God. Perhaps some of the prophecies that she had heard of growing up, awaiting the Messiah, of whom this virgin had just given birth. And of course the shepherd's account which they just shared. Wow! That's a lot to keep and ponder. How about you? Do you keep and ponder the truths of this First Advent? Not just at Christmas, but all through the year, do you ponder the importance of the state of your soul? Do you think on the fact that Jesus came to save His people from their sins, and that your relationship with Him is of extreme importance? There is NOTHING more important about you than your soul. The words "kept" and "ponder" are two very different words. Let's look at them for a moment. "Kept" means to keep closely together, to conserve (from ruin); mentally, to remember (and obey) to keep, observe, or preserve. As I read this verse, my mind goes directly to the first time it's mentioned in the Bible, Genesis 2:15. "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Adam was given the job of not only dressing the Garden of Eden, but to keep it as well. He was called to protect it. Mary chose to keep these thoughts or protect them from being changed or forgotten. She held on to them as dear and important—she would not forget. This reminds me of the great warning Paul gave to the Hebrew people in Hebrews 2:1. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." We should consider "giving earnest heed" to be much like keeping (protecting from loss) and pondering (thinking deeply). Why? Because as the waters slip through the sand on the shore, so truth which is not protected and considered deeply will slip through the sands of our mind and conscience. It endangers our faithful living and growth in holiness (sanctification). Are you keeping (guarding) the memory of your salvation and the things that God has brought to pass in your own spiritual birth and growth? Do you often "keep" and "ponder" the condition of your soul? What about the word "Pondered"? It means to think about, consider, or weigh. One very familiar verse using this word is found in Proverbs 4:26. "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." God calls us to consider our actions each moment. Mary was thinking about all the things that had happened up to this event and even now what was taking place. She gave deep consideration to these things of God and so should we. Don't forget all the miracles and events which took place so that the Messiah would fulfill EVERY prophecy spoken of Him, long before His birth. Be amazed that God used an ungodly government to fulfill His Word that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). "Keep" the amazement that God would take on flesh and be born of a virgin, that His name would be Emmanuel—God with us (Is. 7:14). "Keep" even the bitter truth of other prophecies concerning Jesus' birth like the murder of the Jewish children in Bethlehem (Jer. 31:15) and the journey to Egypt to escape the killing (Hos. 11:1). "Keep" and "ponder" the many other prophecies that Jesus fulfilled through His birth, life, death, and resurrection. Including the specific promises referenced above, there are over 300 verses in the Old Testament that speak of Jesus' first coming. This was all done that the Lamb of God would come and take away the sin of the world. Peter W. Stoner, the former Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College, and Robert C. Newman wrote the book *Science Speaks*. They calculated the odds of any one person in history fulfilling eight key prophecies regarding the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. They say the odds of that happening are only 1 in 1017. That would be like covering the entire state of Texas two feet deep with silver dollars, painting one of those silver dollars red, and a blind man walking into Texas and picking up that red painted silver dollar on his first try. As you "keep" and "ponder" the things of Christ; don't forget to "keep" the thought that you are an eternal soul. "Ponder" on the state and condition of your souls daily, often throughout the day. After all, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mark 8:36-37)" Yes, let us ponder. As we do so, let us remember that there are 3 times as many prophecies of Jesus' second coming as there are to his first. Let us keep all these truths in our heart and ponder on them. Let us consider the condition of our soul each day. Let this move us to share the warning and the good news of both advents of Jesus, the Messiah, our soon coming King!

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



REESIE'S RECIPES

Crock Pot Beef Stroganoff

2 pounds of cubed stew meat.
 2 cans of condensed Golden mushroom soup.
 1 large diced onion.
 2 tbsp of worcestershire sauce.
 ½ cup of water.
 1 tsp of salt.
 8 oz of cream cheese.
 Noodles.

In the crockpot, place the mushroom soup, onion, worcestershire sauce, water, salt and mix all together. Add in the meat and mix to combine. Cook on low for 8 hours. Once it's cooked through, cut the cream cheese into cubes and add to the crockpot. Mix to combine and let cook for 15 more minutes on high. Cook the noodles and serve with the beef.

Super Bowl Chili

1 lb ground beef
 1 medium onion, chopped
 2 tablespoons brown sugar
 3 tablespoons chili powder
 2 tablespoons ground cumin
 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
 1 cup coke
 3/4 teaspoon salt

1 can (14-1/2 ounces each) diced tomatoes
 1 can (14-1/2 ounces each) diced stewed tomatoes
 2 cans (15 ounces) chili beans, drained

Crumble and brown ground beef with the onion until done, drain. Place beef in large pot. Add brown sugar, chili powder, cumin, cayenne, coke and salt; stir thoroughly. Stir in tomatoes and beans. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 30 minutes to allow flavors to blend. Serve with sour cream, onions, cheese and jalapeno slices if desired.

Mississippi Mud Pie

3 ounces semisweet chocolate, chopped
 1/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
 1 chocolate crumb crust (8 inches)
 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 2 cups cold 2% milk
 2 packages (3.9 ounces each) instant chocolate pudding mix
 1 carton (8 ounces) frozen whipped topping, thawed, divided

In a microwave, melt chocolate; stir in condensed milk until smooth. Pour into crust; sprinkle with pecans. In a small bowl, whisk milk and pudding mixes for 2 minutes (mixture will be thick). Carefully spread 1-1/2 cups of pudding mixture over pecans. Fold 1/2 cup whipped topping into the remaining pudding mixture; spoon over pudding layer. Top with remaining whipped topping. Chill until set.

Cheesy Mushroom Chicken

4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves
 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
 3 tablespoons butter, divided
 1 cup sliced fresh mushrooms
 1/2 cup chicken broth
 1/4 teaspoon salt
 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
 1/4 cup sliced green onions

Flatten each chicken breast half to 1/4-in. thickness. Place flour in a resealable plastic bag; add chicken, a few pieces at a time. Seal and shake to coat. In a large skillet, brown chicken in 2 tablespoons butter on both sides. Transfer to a greased 11-in. x 7-in. baking dish. In the same skillet, saute mushrooms in the remaining butter until tender. Add the broth, salt and pepper. Bring to a boil; cook for 5 minutes or until liquid is reduced to 1/2 cup. Spoon over chicken. Bake, uncovered, at 375° for 15 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink. Sprinkle with cheeses and green onions. Bake 5 minutes longer or until cheese is melted



YOU CANNOT SEPARATE THE TWO—WHO CHRIST IS AND WHAT HE DID

Pastor Scott Corbin

Even though I had prayed at a relatively early age to be saved, I came to realize in the late 1980s and early 1990s that there was much more to a relationship with the Lord than I had realized or known. In February 1991, I attended my first Pentecostal service at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. It was a Jimmy Swaggart crusade. Though I had attended many secular music concerts, I had never seen or felt anything like this! At the time I couldn't identify it, let alone name it, but now I know that I was sensing the presence of God and the moving and operation of the Holy Spirit like I had never known in my life. As was Brother Swaggart's custom in those days, that Sunday afternoon he preached on the baptism with the Holy Spirit. As a result, I was introduced to Pentecost (completely unknown to me prior), and later I prayed to receive the infilling that was preached about that afternoon. I fondly and humorously remember my Presbyterian grandmother saying as she, my mother, and I left the service that day, "Well I've never been in anything like that in my life before!" Until that day we were all largely uninformed on the Pentecostal way, and little did I realize then that what I had just experienced during the previous two hours, not to mention the Friday night service, would impact the rest of my life. The Lord began to use me in some small ways in ministry after that, but I'll jump to 1996 when I started a ministry website and then later that year, began to write gospel tracts, which I had the privilege of offering on the website and responding to requests made for me to ship them to various places in the U.S. and other nations. At the same time, I was receiving the home church videos offered by Family Worship Center and was being fed spiritually and instructed in the Word in a great way. In the late 1990s, as Brother Swaggart began to deal with the revelation of the Cross that the Lord had given him concerning sanctification and living victoriously for the Lord, admittedly, one of my first thoughts was, Hasn't Brother Swaggart always preached the Cross? Indeed he had, but it took me a little while to see where my faith was lacking as far as telling someone who is struggling how to live victoriously. I likely would have responded like many others with statements such as "Pray more," and "Seek the Lord more." But as I began to understand what he was teaching, I realized that this foundation of all doctrine was much needed in my own personal faith and ministry. I recall Brother Swaggart saying many times, "The Cross is the dividing line between the true church and the apostate church." My, how we have seen that powerful statement develop and come to pass before our very eyes in the last couple of decades. Back in 1996, one of the tracts that I wrote was called "You Can Be Set Free" and it dealt with various sins and bondages that are rampant in our world today. I knew enough when I wrote that tract to point people to Christ, and not to what was popular, even in the church, such as psychological counseling, etc. But a few years later, when I began to understand the Message of the Cross from Brother Swaggart, I realized that the tract fell short in that it did not specifically tell people that it is Christ and what He did at the Cross and faith in that which will give the believer the victory. So to me, that is an example of where I was in my faith in the Lord, and where much of the Church remains today. I loved the Lord and knew to point people to Him, but I did not know to emphasize, in my own personal faith nor in my witnessing to others, that it is not only Christ and who He is, but also what He did for us at Calvary. You cannot separate the two—who He is and what He did—and as those of us who now know and understand the Message of the Cross, our faith must be exclusively in the sacrifice as well as in the One who was the sacrifice. A few years later I met Nikkie, who would become my wife in 2002. She had been saved at an early age, Spirit-filled as a young teenager, and very involved in church. I remember one Sunday asking her about her understanding of the Cross and she immediately responded, as many would, "Of course I understand about the Cross!" We smile as we remember that today, and Nikkie brings it up often when she is telling how she later genuinely came to an understanding of the Message of the Cross. To make a long story short, as she began to listen to my CD collection of Brother Swaggart's teaching, she really did eventually come to a proper understanding, and we are still growing in that knowledge and grace today. The Lord called us to start a church in 2004 and though we are still relatively small in numbers, the Lord has also opened the doors for a Christian school and for an FM radio station, on which we broadcast programming and music from SBN, along with our own locally-originated programming. To God be the glory, but oh how thankful we are also, not only for salvation, but also for daily victory, which was taught to me through Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, and now for the privilege of helping to carry that message to others.

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Keep Your Eyes On The Prize

Pastor Don Ragsdale

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:12-13 (KJV)

The warning given here is not to unbelievers but to believers in fact the entirety of the word of God is for believers, while many passages prove to unbelievers their lost position, this one in particular shows us that without proper and constant faith, the potential to depart from the faith can be done. So first we must ask, what is it that brought me near to God, if there is a possibility of me leaving? The answer is found in Eph.2:8-9. The believer is saved by faith through grace wherein we stand. Also Eph.2:13 tells us what made it possible for us to draw nigh unto God, which was the blood of Jesus, therefore the faith that God is pleased with is Faith in His Son, the One Who would shed His blood on the Cross. With that said, it's the preaching of the Cross and believing of Christ finished work that God accepts, 1 Cor.1:18 and nothing else. The ultimate sin is refusing what God has said about His Son, by rejecting to put ones faith in Him. Hebrews 12:25 says, See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven: God clearly tells us believers to take heed brethren lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief. If it were not possible God would not have said it. Take heed to the warning and examine yourself whether you be in the faith, for the Bible says in, Hebrews 10:38-39 - 38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul. Don't quit believing, keep your eyes on the prize, keep looking to Jesus Christ the Author and Finisher of our Faith, so you can stay and run in the Race for we are almost at the Finish line!

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Flea the Pea!

Greg Allen

Charles Spurgeon told the story of a preacher who was strolling through a village. As he walked along, he saw a man going down the road with a herd of pigs following in line behind him like sheep following behind a shepherd. This was a very unusual sight, because pigs, ordinarily, are very self-centered, independent creatures that never follow anyone. So the preacher asked, "Sir, how do you get those pigs to follow you like that?" "Oh, it's easy," the farmer said. "I have a sack full of peas in my pocket; and I just keep walking, occasionally dropping a pea on the road behind me. The pigs follow along wherever I drop a pea and gobble it up, never caring where I'm leading them." "That's very clever!" said the pastor. "By the way; where are you leading them?" And the man said, "To the butcher's shop, of course." The devil often follows the same strategy. The Bible warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:" (1 Peter 5:8; KJV). But he rarely carries a big sign that says, "Follow me, so I can devour you." He knows we wouldn't follow him if he was that obvious. Instead, he works subtly to draw us away from God's good will for our lives. Just like the farmer in that story, the devil drops little, fleshly temptations in front of us through the elements of our culture: a suggestive movie or television show here; an off-color story or inappropriate joke there; a seductive advertisement or pop song here; a pornographic magazine or web page there. And if we aren't alert, we follow along behind, picking such things up and thinking, "I can handle this. This isn't so bad. It's just a little pea, after all. It tastes good. Who's it going to hurt? Who's going to care? Who's going to know?" We gobble these tempting little "peas" up, one after another; never realizing that they're forming a straight line that is leading us down a slippery slope to destruction and loss. The answer that the Bible gives to such things is summed up in one word: "Flee" (1 Corinthians 6:18). As followers of Jesus Christ, let's remember the devil's strategy; and by His help, let's "FLEE THE PEA!"



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Matthew 18:35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Additional passages for Today: Matt. 18:23-35

Thought for Today: How much do you need to be forgiven for? Can anyone owe you that much?

Story for Today: *Candace was a good queen. She treated her subjects well. She tried to help those that were in trouble and often met with those who had fallen on hard times. Saji was one such man. He had many employed on his farm. However, two years ago when his crops were destroyed by the locust he had needed some help; and Queen Candace had gratefully helped! Then last year just when it seemed all would be recovered, and he would be able to pay the queen back, lightning had struck and the fields that were ripe for harvest went up in flames. Saji was beside himself. He lost all of his profits and was only able to save enough of the harvest to have seed for this year there was no way to pay off his debt and no way to pay his workers. Saji knew that he was at the queens mercy each day as he watched the crops grow, he watched with one eye turned toward the road expecting to see the queens men come to demand the payment. And each day that passed without their arrival he grew more and more apprehensive. Finally the day came. The men appeared and Saji had nothing to give them. They grabbed him roughly and threw him in the trap to take him before the queen. He would have to explain. He would be given an opportunity to beg for mercy. Saji prayed she would give him mercy. As soon as he was removed for the trap and taken into the court, he threw himself on the floor and begged. He pleaded. He explained that he would pay all the debt if just given a chance. Queen Candace looked at the man before her and listened to what was being said. She had heard of the fire and she knew of the locust trouble. She knew that neither of these things were really her concern and that the money owed was long overdue. She also believed that given the time, Saji would pay her back. She also knew that repayment would cause great distress to him, his family and the workers that he employed. She looked at Saji and asked him to rise. She then proceeded to tell him that the debt was clear. He wouldn't need to pay it back. Saji left feeling so blessed! The next week Saji saw Samuel. Samuel was one of his workers. Samuel had been traveling on Saji's dime. He had been trying his hand at selling wares to the communities on the other side of the country. Three years had passed since Samuel had left on his expedition with the goods that Saji had purchased for him. Today, Samuel would pay him back, with interest! As he approached Samuel, Saji was feeling so good! He would finally have some extra cash and he wouldn't have to feel so anxious! How disheartening to hear that Samuel didn't have all of the money that he owed him! He did know that robbers were real trouble sometimes, but that wasn't his problem. His only concern was that Samuel didn't have the money. And that meant no extra for him! Now he was angry and demanded the money. Then, demanded the officers to throw him in the jail until he could pay! Rueben was appalled. Yeah, he would do as he was told; but, this man had just been before the queen last week for owing a lot more than this man owed. And he was sure Queen Candace would not be impressed. Rueben was right! Queen Candace was not a happy queen the next time Saji saw her. He was not given any opportunity to speak, but, boy did he hear it! He would be in jail, his family would be in jail and he would never be free!

Questions for Today: How great a debt did Jesus pay on our behalf? Could any human ever owe us close to what we owed God for our sins? What Jesus paid for us?

The next time we become angry or frustrated over our brothers or sisters that fail us, keep in mind the grace and mercy shown to us and be grateful. Pass on the blessing and help bring others back to Christ.



Ministry Resources

The Snake You Can't Seem To Shake

by Pastor Billy R. Douglas

This months CD not only includes this POWERFUL sermon dealing with unforgiveness, bitterness and grief but also includes the following songs from the service!

01-Drinking From My Saucer

02-Where Could I Go

03-When All Gods Children Get There

04-When All Gods Children Get There (2)

05-Blessed Be The Name of the LORD

Request your copy on CD for a love gift of Any Size.

Lean On Me

As the road ahead seems rugged and the path is getting steep, I feel that I can't make it so my heart begins to weep.

Then my eyes are suddenly opened to One beside me on my way I see it is my Lord and He slowly turns to say,

"Lean on me..... when you have no strength to stand. When you feel you're going under, hold tighter to my hand.

Lean on me..... when your heart begins to bleed. When you know I'm all you have, then you'll find I'm all you need."

Then when I felt that no one cared if I lived or died, and no one bothered asking why I'd go alone to cry.

When the burden got so heavy I could barely face the day, I felt His arms around me as I gently heard Him say,

"Lean on me..... when you have no strength to stand. When you feel you're going under, hold tighter to my hand.

Lean on me..... when your heart begins to bleed. When you come to know I'm all you have, then you'll find I'm all you need."

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. 1 Peter 5:7

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Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. James 5:16



PRAYER LIST

If you would like to send a picture of a loved one, a special prayer request or when you send a name to be added to our prayer list we will place it in our Prayer Box. Our Prayer Box sits on the altar at VOTL Tabernacle and your prayer requests are prayed over daily and in our services.

Ruth & Betty Slinker
Rodney Howell
Ann Hinton
Jamey Howell
Harvey & Betty Willis
Bill Johnson
Kelly & Carolyn Ralph
Bill & Kathy Willis
Samantha Ashby & family
Jeff Dickenson
Tonya Shocklee
Judy Frizzell
Letha Baize & family
Betty Butterworth
Bruce Taylor
Bobby Grove
Winfred & Linda Burden
Ray & Mary Owens
Rock & Joni Varble
Wanda & Oscar Walls
James Coates & family
America & our leaders
Israel
James & Teresa Daugherty
Myrtle Douglas
Verna Beasley
Wayne & Nora Carter
Chet Daugherty & family
Joyce Douglas
Charles McLaughlin
Barak Obama
Keisha Thurman
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Dwayne Pitts & family
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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 to late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus. We would love to send you some material to help you with your new life with the LORD.

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MINISTRY PARTNERS NEEDED

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VOTL Tabernacle

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