



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.
Isaiah 59:19

DON'T FORGET!



**THE TRUMPET
2018 RENEWAL**

It's time to RENEW your TRUMPET subscription! **We must** hear from you in order to keep you on our mailing list. Please fill out and return the enclosed card today!

A NEW YEAR'S PLAN

I tried to think of a clever new phrase –
A slogan to inspire the next 365 days,
A motto to live by this coming New Year,
But the catchy words fell flat to my ear.

And then I heard His still small voice
Saying, "Consider this simple, daily choice:
With each new dawn and close of day
Make new your resolve to trust and obey."

"Don't look back caught in regret
Or dwell on the sorrow of dreams unmet;
Don't stare forward anchored by fear,
No, live in this moment, for I am here."

"I am all you need. Everything. I Am.
You are held secure by my strong hand.
Give me this one thing – your all in all;
Into my grace, let yourself fall."

So, at last, I'm ready; I see the way.
It's to daily follow, trust, and obey.
I enter the New Year armed with a plan,
To give him my everything. All that I am.

--Mary Fairchild

The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

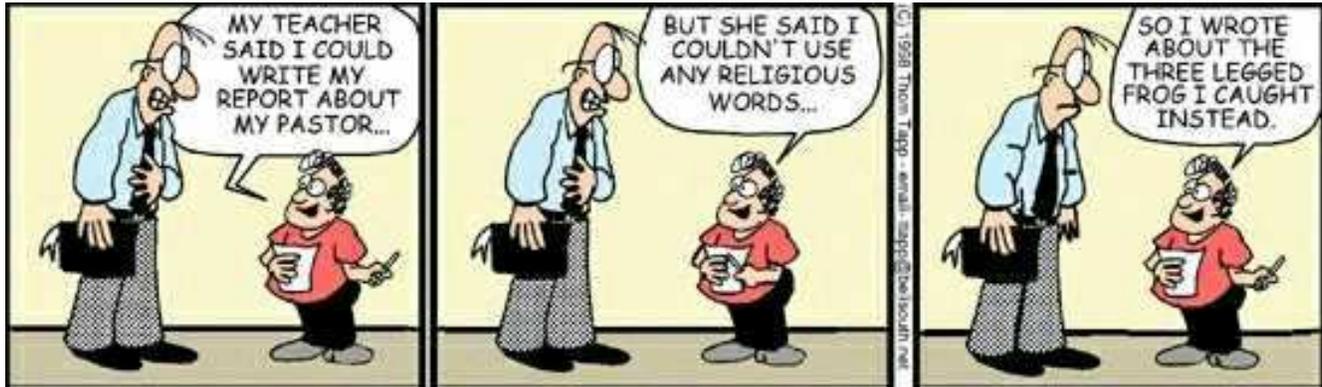
And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Sing praises to the LORD, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings.

Psalms 9:9-11



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH



Cousin Leroy

Leroy and Petunia were at a red light when a car pulled up, its music blasting so loud it was jarring the widows of Leroy's old truck. "He'll be deaf before he's 25," Leroy said. "That won't help us," Petunia replied. "He'll only turn it up."

The New Nightgown

While looking in the mall for a cotton nightgown, Bubba's wife thought she would look in a store known for its up to date, hip lingerie. To her delight she found just what she was looking for. Waiting in the line to pay, She noticed a young woman behind her holding the same nightgown. This confirmed what she suspected all along: despite being over 50, she still had a very "with it" attitude. "I see we have the same taste," She said proudly to the 20 something behind her. "Yes," she replied. "I'm getting this for my grandma for her 85th birthday."

Christmas Presents

This past Christmas, Grandpa was feeling his age and found that shopping for Christmas gifts had become too difficult. So he decided to send checks to everyone instead. In each card he wrote, "Buy your own present!" and mailed them early. He enjoyed the usual flurry of holiday festivities, and it was only after the holiday that he noticed that he had received very few cards in return. Puzzled over this, he went into his study, intending to write a couple of his relatives and ask what had happened. It was then, as he cleared off his cluttered desk that he got his answer. Under a stack of papers, he was horrified to find the gift checks that he had forgotten to enclose with the cards

The Cranky Wife

One day a man came home from work at 6:30 in the evening. He spent the next hour trying to cheer up his wife. Nothing worked. Finally he said, "Let's start over and pretend I'm just getting home." He stepped outside, and when he opened the door, she said, "It's 7:30, and you're just now getting home from work?"

Upgrades

A minister introduced a number of improvements in his church, including hot air dryers in the wash rooms. He had them removed after two weeks because someone had stuck a notice on one of them which read "For a replay of last week's sermon, please press here."



BRO. BLOTZ, I BELIEVE THE OLDER YOU GET THE BETTER YOU USED TO BE!



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

I Have Decided To Follow Jesus

As is always the case at the beginning of a new year so many will be making New Years Resolutions. They are usually things along the lines of "I am going to lose weight...I am going to get in better shape...I am going to get a better job, a promotion or make more money!" As you can see all of these things have a common theme and are centered around one thing "I, Me, My and Mine...SELF!" But it would benefit us all in a much greater way that if whatever we determine...decide...RESOLVE to do was more Christ centered and less self centered. In the long run that is really what is best for us anyway...not only in this life but in the life to come. The word "Resolution" means to "make ones mind up about something, to decide to do something." As we go into this new year I cannot think of a better decision to make then to renew our commitment to follow Jesus! To serve Him with more fervor...to choose to make Him and serving Him our number one priority. I want to share with you the story behind one of the greatest songs every written...one that I believe would be a wonderful declaration for our walk with the LORD not only for the upcoming year but for the rest of the time that we have here on this earth...About 150 years ago, there was a great revival in Wales, England. As a result of this, many missionaries came from England to northeast India to spread the Gospel. The region was known as Assam and comprised hundreds of tribes. The tribal communities were quite primitive and aggressive. The tribesmen were also called head-hunters because of a social custom which required the male members of the community to collect as many heads as possible. A man's strength and ability to protect his wife was assessed by the number of heads he had collected. Therefore, a youth of marriageable age would try and collect as many heads as possible and hang them on the walls of his house. Into this hostile and aggressive community, came a group of Welsh missionaries spreading the message of love, peace, and hope of Jesus Christ. Naturally, they were not welcomed. One Welsh missionary finally succeeded in converting a man, his wife, and two children. This man's faith proved contagious and many villagers began to accept Christianity. Angry, the village chief summoned all the villagers. He then called the family who had first converted to renounce their faith in public or face execution. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the man sung his reply, "I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back." Enraged at the refusal of the man, the chief ordered his archers to arrow down the two children. As both boys lay twitching on the floor, the chief asked, "Will you deny your faith? You have lost both your children. You will lose your wife too." But the man replied, again singing, "Though none go with me, still I will follow. No turning back." The chief was beside himself with fury and ordered his wife to be arrowed down. In a moment she joined her two children in death. Now he asked for the last time, "I will give you one more opportunity to deny your faith and live." In the face of death the man sung, "The world behind me, the cross before me. No turning back. No turning back." He was shot dead like the rest of his family. But with their deaths, a miracle took place. The chief who had ordered the killings was moved by the faith of the man. He wondered, "Why should this man, his wife and two children die for a Man who lived in a far-away land some 2,000 years ago? This God that they served and spoke of MUST be real!!" In a spontaneous confession of faith, he declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" When the crowd heard this from the mouth of their chief, the whole village accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. The song of course is "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus" Oh LORD help us to make this proclamation of faith today that no matter what comes, no matter what goes...regardless or the trial regardless or the storm. No matter what our family, our friends or the back-slidden church decides to do may our proclamation, our DECLARATION, our ANSWER be...

I have decided to follow Jesus...I have decided to follow Jesus...I have decided to follow Jesus...No turning back,
no turning back

Though none go with me, still I will follow...Though none go with me, still I will follow...Though none go with me,
still I will follow No turning back, no turning back

The world behind me, the cross before me...The world behind me, the cross before me...The world behind me, the
cross before me...No turning back, no turning back.

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



"Watchman, What of The Night?" part 01

By: Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Isaiah 21:11-12 - The burden of Dumah. He calleth to me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night? 12 The watchman said, The morning cometh, and also the night: if ye will enquire, enquire ye: return, come.

In Isaiah 21:11 we read, "The burden of Dumah. He calleth me out of Seir, Watchman, what of the night? Watchman, what of the night?" The Hebrew reads, "The Burden of Silence..." Dumah is a land south of the Dead Sea, minerally rich and is also called Seir. It is the home of Esau's ancestors, rivals of the tribes of Jacob. That struggle between those two tribes have been going on since the birth of those two boys. "Dumah" means "Silence" in the Hebrew. Silence can be a blessing or at times, also a burden, as in our text. A man had called out to the watchman, out of Seir, saying, "Watchman, what of the night?" A man that was more concerned than all the rest for the safety and welfare of his people. A man, as the man of Macedonia, who in a vision, called out to Paul, "Come over and help us." This man called to Isaiah to instruct and inform the people. His question is a significant one. He asks, "What of the night?" or as in the Hebrew, "How goes the night?" or "What occurs tonight?" The Watchman's responsibility in Bible times was to watch and warn the people! Isaiah was the watchman for the house of Israel! He announced that the morning of deliverance is breaking for Israel, but a night of defeat and bondage would soon fall upon Edom. Therefore, the Edomites must seek God in repentance and faith. Just as Isaiah's responsibility was to watch and warn the people in his day, surely that is our responsibility today, also! We, as God's watchmen, must ask ourselves, "What of the night?," as we see the Country we love on the brink of destruction, as we see the deterioration of our families, as we see our people turn away from God! I want us to consider three things about watchmen in the message, NOTICE: (1) The Watchman's Appointment Isaiah 21:11—"...Watchman..." *In Bible times, the occupation of Watchman was an important one. His duty was to keep awake while others slept; to keep his eyes open; to keep a sharp lookout in every direction. *All Believers have a similar calling! - John 15:16 - Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. God has appointed each of us as His "watchmen" 2nd Corinthians 5:20 - Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. 1st Corinthians 16:13 - Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. 1st Peter 4:7 - But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. We MUST BE sober, vigilant, and on guard against spiritual foes and dangers. Ephesians 5:15-16 - See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, 16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. *A Watchman Must Be: a) Watching - Matthew 25:13 - Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. ILLUS: A man was overtaken by night on a mountain ridge. The path behind was too perilous to be retraced in the darkness, and the way in front was stopped by a projecting rock, which in his exhausted state, he could not scale. His only alternative was to wait for the morning. But his resting place was a steep slope, ending in a sheer precipice. One careless movement might prove his destruction. As the darkness deepened, the danger was disguised. With a lessening sense of peril, there came on increasing drowsiness. What efforts were his during those long hours to drive off sleep! How he had to stir his mind to a conviction of the necessity of unremitting vigilance! For, should he once be overpowered, he might unconsciously slide down his sloping couch, and be hurled into the valley below. Such is our position. If we would not fall down the precipice, let us watch lest during slumber we slip along the treacherous incline. *That's the problem, many of God's watchmen, are asleep at their post! Romans 13:11 - And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. *Jesus asked Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Could you not watch with me one hour?" *We are living in the hour of grace, Christ has told us to be watchful, but many are asleep, oblivious to what is going on around them, ready to slip and fall! b) Warning - Ezekiel 33:1-7 - Again the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, 2 Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: 3 If when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; 4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. 6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. 7 So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the word at my mouth, and warn them from me. *The second duty of the Watchman was to warn of impending danger.



A New Year for Old Truth

Pastor Steve Huston

During this past year (2017), we have seen a further departure from the Truth and a deepening decline throughout our nation in seemingly every avenue and at every turn. American society and, sadly, many churches and "Christians" have purposefully rejected the facts (according to the Word of God), instead clinging to the flesh, feelings, and foolishness. Man cannot trust in feeling and the arm of flesh unless he first releases the arm of God (Jer. 17:5). By and large, this we have done. In like manner, men don't take hold of error until they have first let go of their hold on truth; therefore, let us tighten our grip on truth, refusing to let it go (2 Tim. 1:13). Unless we tighten our grip on truth NOW, it will likely be lost to us nationally forever. Until the church gets back to proclaiming the Truth of God in all of life with the authority which God has given us (Titus 2:15); until we who are the church live our lives of holiness to which we are called (Eph. 1:4), making God and His Word our highest and sole authority; until we humble ourselves to God and His standards, pray for wisdom and strength to live by those standards, seek His face and repent of doing those things which go against His holy standards and cause Him to turn His face from us (2 Chron. 7:14); this nation shall continue to fall, its people will groan, and the church will continue to lose its saltiness and be judged as worthless (Pr. 29:2; Matt. 5:13). Truth has been set on one side of the balances and has been weighed and "lost out" to the flesh, the world, self, and the temptations which Satan assails the church and her people with. We must once again examine ourselves; allow the sanctifying fires to purge our dross, and love The Truth with all that we are, comparing all else to it. Read the following selection from puritan Thomas Brooks as he gives the fifth remedy against Satan's devices: "... Truth is thy crown, hold fast thy crown, and let no man take thy crown from thee. Hath not God made truth sweet to thy soul, yea, sweeter than honey, or the honeycomb? ... Ah, souls, have you not found truth sweetening your spirits, and cheering your spirits, and warming your spirits, and raising your spirits, and corroborating your spirits? Have not you found truth a guide to lead you, a staff to uphold you, a cordial to strengthen you, and a plaster to heal you? And will not you hold fast the truth? Hath not truth been your best friend in your worst days? Hath not truth stood by you when friends have forsaken you? Hath not truth done more for you than all the world could do against you, and will you not hold fast the truth? Is not truth your right eye, without which you cannot see for Christ? And your right hand, without which you cannot do for Christ? And will you not hold fast truth? Oh! hold fast the truth in your judgments and understandings, in your wills and affections, in your profession and conversation. Truth is more precious than gold or rubies, 'and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared to her,' Prov. 3:15. Truth is that heavenly glass wherein we may see the lustre and glory of divine wisdom, power, greatness, love, and mercifulness. In this glass you may see the face of Christ, the favour of Christ, the riches of Christ, and the heart of Christ, beating and working sweetly towards your souls, Oh! let your souls cleave to truth, as Ruth did to Naomi, Ruth 1:15, 16, and say, 'I will not leave truth, nor return from following after truth; but where truth goes I will go, and where truth lodgeth I will lodge; and nothing but death shall part truth and my soul.' What John said to the church of Philadelphia I may say to you, 'Hold fast that which thou hast, that no man take thy crown,' Rev. 3:11. The crown is the top of royalties: such a thing is truth: 'Let no man take thy crown.' 'Hold fast the faithful word,' as Titus speaks, chap. 1:9. You were better you let go of anything than truth; you were better let go your honours and riches, your friends and pleasures, and the world's favours; yea, your nearest and dearest relations, ay, your very lives, than to let go of truth. Oh, keep the truth, and truth will make you safe and happy for ever. Blessed are those souls that are kept by truth." Our "great" educational institutions proclaim to us, "There is no such thing as truth. Each person determines what truth is for them. Truth is not absolute; but rather it is fluid, according to how you feel." These godless institutions which deny true Truth and deny God are worthless and ought to be avoided. God's word tells us that THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE/WISDOM (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). How can one gain knowledge or wisdom from that which is devoid of such quantities? You cannot give what you do not have. Therefore...RUN TO THE WORD OF GOD! Run to Truth! Cling to that which will not fail and to that which is priceless. Truth is more than facts and more than knowledge. Truth is not a commodity; Truth is the divine man. Truth is Emmanuel, God with us, the Prince of peace; Truth is Jesus (Jn. 14:6). As we enter into 2018 keep this in mind. When you trade Truth for finances, entertainment, convenience, comfort, feelings or anything else, you are choosing these things over Jesus. Is Jesus enough? Does God say what He means and mean what He says? Whether you admit it or not, the answer is YES!

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



Reesie's Recipes



Swedish Meatballs

3 lbs. ground beef
1 pkg. onion soup mix
5 oz. can pet milk
4 T. Worcestershire sauce

Sauce

3/4 cup brown sugar
2 cups ketchup
4 T. Worcestershire sauce

Mix meatball ingredients and let stand for 5 minutes. Shape into balls and broil for 10 minutes. Place in crock pot. Mix sauce ingredients together. Pour over meatballs. Cook until hot. Do not stir.

Chili Party Dip

6 cups prepared Chili
1 (8oz) pkg cream cheese
1 cup salsa
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350. Pour prepared chili into a large baking dish. Slice cream cheese into slices and lay slices on top of chili. Pour salsa evenly over the cream cheese. Top with cheddar cheese. Bake until cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips.

Bacon Cheddar Cheese Ball

2 - 8 ounce packages cream cheese, softened
4 slices bacon, cooked and chopped into small pieces
1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
1 tablespoon green onion, thinly sliced
2 teaspoons Worcestershire
1 cup pecans, chopped
crackers for serving

In a large bowl, add the softened cream cheese, bacon, cheddar cheese, green onion, and Worcestershire. Stir until well combined and cover the bowl in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 1 hour. Using your hands, shape the chilled mixture into a ball. Place the chopped pecans in a rimmed dish and roll the cheese ball through the pecans until the entire surface is coated. Serve immediately with crackers or chill until ready to serve.

Crock Pot Party Smokies

2 packages Lit'l Smokies® Smoked Sausage
1 can (12 ounce) regular coca cola
1 cup (packed) light brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
Open packages of Lit'l Smokies® and drain off any liquid. Combine cola, sugar and pepper in 3-quart slow cooker. Stir until sugar dissolves. Add sausage. Cover and cook on HIGH for 2 hours.

WE NEED YOUR HELP



To help raise funds for our Ministry Outreach Center we are putting together an ALL NEW Cookbook!! We need you to help us out by sending us some of your favorite recipes!! You can email your recipes to voctrladio@juno.com or by mail to PO Box 541 Livermore, KY 42352. We need lots of great recipes so be sure and ask your family and friends to help out as well!!!



Bread Crumbs

“The End of a Thing”

Pastor Loren Larson

It's not all about how you start out in life, it's really more about how you finish. All of mankind starts out lost, a member of God's fallen race. But that doesn't mean that's how we have to finish this life. The option and availability of coming to know the Savior personally is a path that is open to every single soul. The world views those who have chosen Christ as the ones who lose out. But success in the world's eyes is limited to meaning that they have achieved the best, have grown bigger, have more now than they did at the beginning. However, success in the mind of God deals far more with whether or not you have been faithful to that which God has presented to you. Have you experienced contentment despite having little? Those who understand the important things in life treasure the moments that God lends us and takes full advantage of enjoying what is. They don't trouble their souls with complaints about what isn't. An old year ending and a new year beginning is a great time to take stock of where we are, what we hope to see, and it's a great time to be thankful for all that God has given! Happy New Year!

Ecclesiastes 7:8 - Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.



Not long ago our landlord got in touch with me and told me that the space next to the church was about to become available and asked if it would be ok if the current renters turned the key in to me since he does not live here in town. I told him then that we might be interested in it. We have wanted it for several years to add to the space that we already have. And at one time I would have jumped a pew at the news that it was going to be available. But as the LORD usually does He does things when you least expect it and at a time when it takes a little more faith to step out then it would have in the past. That caused me to hesitate and question if we should take it or not. So I started asking a few friends to help us pray about it because we did not want to take on more than we can afford but we also did not want to miss the Lord if it was Him opening the door. Long story short (or short story long) we have taken the keys and have started the clean up and repairs. We intend to use it for the Lord for as long as He provides. To start with we will be using it as a Ministry Outreach Center which will include a fellowship hall, a food bank as well as some other community based outreach events. This will also free up space in the place we have been in for the last 12 years to set up a studio for the radio station and recording. As you can imagine this is a big step that will take a lot of work and more finances. Not only do we need the finances for deposits, supplies, furnishings etc. But our monthly expenses will increase as well. We are already working on some ideas on ways to raise funds and would like to ask you to stand with us in prayer concerning this new outreach of ministry. We also would appreciate you prayerfully considering sending a love gift to help with the expenses. We need one time offerings to help get everything up and running but we are also praying for the Lord to lay in on the hearts of those who can to give monthly as well to help with monthly expenses. We will have more information as things unfold. Thank you for your prayers, partnership and financial support.

Pastor Billy R Douglas





"PETTING PASTORS"

Pastor Don Ragsdale

The function of the Pastor is not to Pet the Sheep but to Feed the Sheep. 1Pet.5:2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; However too many Pastors today have turned the function of Pastor into a Petting Zoo. Instead of leading them into Greener Pastures, beside the Still Waters, they are feeding them Sugar Coated Sermons, that offer no Substance and leave them Spiritually dry, because they themselves are drinking from Polluted Wells, while they offer them much they lead them to no Living Water. Their messages are Sensitive to the Seeker, Social in Content, and are established upon Community. It's a message of Unity, that excludes Truth, founded upon a Community based mindset yet Jesus Christ is not the Central Theme but just an afterthought. Sins are Petted rather than Repented of, because the Preacher remains Silent as a Dumb Dog that cannot Bark. His eyes are open but refuses to speak. He has ears to hear but refuses to listen. Silence is his Manipulator, for his Motive is Money, and His Message appeals to the masses. He fleeces the flock of God at Fair Market Value, By offering them the Poison found in every New York Times best seller book or from Fads of New Way's to do church. He's a Peddler of Pragmatism, a Propagator of Programs, and a Promoter of Pyschology. He don't believe in God's Method of Preaching, nor God's Message of the Cross, all he cares about, is a few Points, a Poem and a Prayer and directs Gods people to Purpose, rather than Power! He cares not for the sheep nor the Power of God, because he's not a Pastor but a Pretender, for He desires not to Preach to them about Sin nor the Sacrifice of Christ but he continues to offer them "Do Goodism's" all in the Name of God, all the while continuing to Pet them in their Sin. Yet the Apostle Paul warned us of such in Act 20:28 and said, Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with His own blood. 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. It's never the Preachers place to Pet your Sin, but to Preach God's Word to bring Deliverance from it.

Word of the Cross Ministries

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Happy New Year - orders remain UNCHANGED!

George Whitten

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

One of the most fascinating sites to visit in Washington D.C. is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. For 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, a platoon of 30 honor guards protects the tomb through rain, snow, and even hurricanes! It's been guarded every minute of every day since 1937. A single sentinel takes his post guarding carefully, walking exactly 21 steps then pausing for 21 seconds before turning around and continuing his duty. The number 21 is in reference to the 21 gun salute which is the military's highest honor given to a soldier. When the changing of the guard takes place, the orders are passed from one soldier to the next – "Orders Remain Unchanged." As we enter into a New Year, the world is rapidly changing before our eyes! War seems inevitable in the Middle East, the world economy is on the brink of complete collapse – one thing hasn't changed -- our orders from Yeshua to preach this gospel of the Kingdom to every one! Continue to stand guard, watching and being ever alert of the times in which we live; and never forget that our "Orders Remain Unchanged!" With so much work to be done, let's be sure we enter 2018 with our priorities intact –

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Additional passages for Today: 2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

Thought for Today: Are you a blessed man? Do you see your crown of righteousness? If you stand in the time of temptation, you will receive the crown of life!

Story for Today: Brady ran down the hall of City High at top speed. The last bell had already rang and he was sure to be kept after for a detention if he didn't get into class undetected. Good, the door was still open. As he quietly slipped in at the back of the class, Mrs. Nader stepped to the front of the class gathering everyone's attention with a quick clap of her hands and a comment that silenced the room. Brady was stunned but relieved. He had avoided detention again. LATER THAT DAY: Felicity brought her head up slowly. Fatigued caused her to sigh deeply as she took her place in the starting blocks. One more race and then she was done for the night. She must focus on this event. What she had already ran and her wins and losses of the past could not distract her or she would not perform her best. She needed to do her best for the team. At the sound of the gun Felicity sprang forward with a burst of speed and dashed her way to the finish line 100 meters away. She had worked hard do be this good. Yes, she had natural talent; but it was her determination to work hard each day, pushing herself to be the best she could be that allowed that natural talent to shine. Those around Felicity were also encouraged and often bettered themselves by taking after her example to give 100%. Brady was also a number #1 runner, but unlike Felicity he often slacked off and coasted along letting his natural talent earn him his wins. When the tough matches came, he often made excuses for his losses, forgetting that he could have worked harder during practices which would have given him better results on race days. The temptations that Brady faced each day and how he handled them, were helping to develop his character. The same as it does for each and every person. Brady didn't realize that his sneaking into classes late and never giving 100% in practice were affecting him. He didn't see these things as the temptations that they are. Felicity recognized that what she did in the little things would determine how she handled the bigger struggles. She chose to daily give her best at whatever she was doing and to own up to her failures, taking responsibility for her actions or lack of action. She realized that even though she may not get "caught" sometimes, in the long run it paid to be honest and do right. She often said that by making restitution or righting her wrongs, it helped her remember in the future to do the right, kind of an extra incentive. She recognized that doing right doesn't save us; but, doing right reflected her heart and love for Jesus Christ her savior. Giving in to even the smallest temptations would open up a gateway for bringing shame to the one that she loved with all her heart, mind and soul.

Questions for Today: Do you allow yourself to make excuses rather than restitution? Do you chose to confess and admit fault, suffering the consequences or do you try to get away with letting sin dwell in your life? Pray for strength to do right and ask God to help you as you work to be faithful. Also, trust that he will help you handle the consequences. His ways are not our ways. It may appear that we suffer unfairly. People may accuse us of being foolish. Matthew 5:11-12 says, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." The reward or crown received in heaven is worth every thing you face here on earth!



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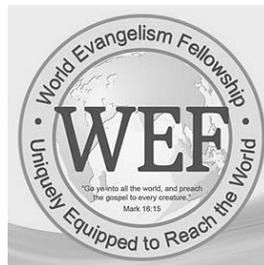
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My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a 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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