



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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DON'T FORGET!



THE TRUMPET 2019 RENEWAL

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God With Us

George Whitten

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. Matthew 1:23

When Daniel was in the midst of the lion's den...God was with him. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were in the midst of the fiery furnace...God was with them. It would have been perfectly easy for God to immediately transport these saints out of their difficulties, but no, He chose instead to be with them in the midst of their trials. God chose to reveal His power through the trials instead of exercising His power to remove them. Trials and difficulties are simply a part of life and quite honestly, the longer I walk with the Lord the bigger these trials become. But how do we react when our faith is challenged by these adversities? James 1:2 says to count it all joy! What could possibly be joyful about difficult situations? Painful, yes...but joy?? Yet, somehow, I do find joy in knowing, and even sensing that God is with me in the midst of my problems -- in the midst of my trials. He did promise never to leave or forsake me; and as I look over my life, I find it to be absolutely true...no matter what crazy situation I'm in, God is with me. We all have this decision: either to complain because of the trials we're enduring...or to prayerfully lift our souls before him (Psalm 25:1) ...and rejoice in the midst of our troubles -- knowing, believing, and even feeling, that God is with us, now...always...all the way!

www.worthydevotions.com

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:5-6

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

Cousin Leroy

**Learners Permit**

A teenager who had just received her learner's permit offered to drive her parents to church. After a hair-raising ride, they finally reached their destination. The mother got out of the car and said, "Thank you!" "Anytime," her daughter replied. As the woman slammed the door, she said, "I wasn't talking to you. I was talking to God."

TOP SIGNS YOUR HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM IS STRUGGLING

Janitor Bob's 'upchuck powder concession stand is a big hit

Team mascot just a roadkill possum nailed to a stick by the shop kids

Coach draws out the plays on an Etch-a-Sketch

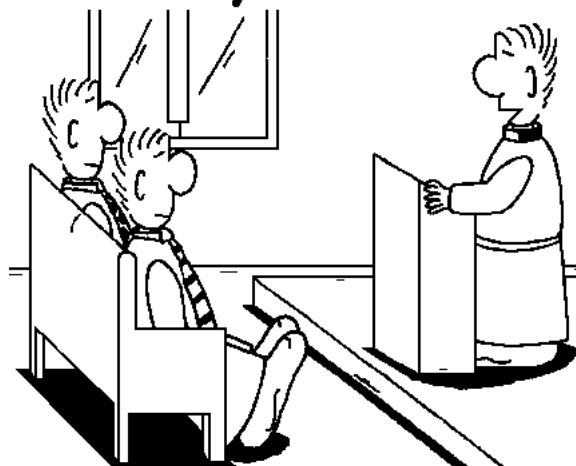
Whole team is red-shirted for game

Quarterback starts getting sacked at pre-game meals

"Brown paper sack with eye holes" promotion night

Cheerleaders form human pyramid, then escape from stadium

Refs taunt your players

Daily 'Toons

"And Moses said to Pharaoh, I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your palace down'. WAIT A MINUTE! Who's been messing with my sermon notes?"



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

"PREACH THE WORD"

Pastor Billy R Douglas

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2 Timothy 4:1-5

As we begin another year I want to share with you a Word that the LORD spoke to my heart a few days ago. Each year it seems as though you will see and hear popular ministries coming out with a new catch phrase or sales pitch. Usually it is something like "This is the year of breakthrough...This is the year of jubilee...This is the year of plenty" or some something else along those lines. For example I listened to a minister not long ago talk about how that 2019 was the year for you to "give birth to your miracle" and of course the first step in doing that was to sow a seed into his ministry. And I am sure there will be countless others in the religious world that will offer similar so called new revelations for the coming year. BUT...here is a Word not only for the preachers that offer such things but for the Church to take heed to as well. 2019 needs to be the year that the church decides to be THE CHURCH! The year that the church stops comprising the truth and going with the flow and TAKES A STAND for the WORD! The year that the church RETURNS to preaching THE CROSS and forsakes all of the idols, false gods and doctrines of devils that it has chased!! The year that it is once again ALL ABOUT JESUS and not about this world and all it has to offer that will one day burn into ashes!! The year that the church rises up out of the muck and the mire of sin and worldliness that it has been wallowing in and stands as a city that sits on a hill...shining the light of the GOSPEL to a lost and dying world that is on its way to hell!! The year to proclaim THERE IS NO HOPE WITHOUT JESUS! THERE IS NO LIFE WITHOUT JESUS!! That JESUS CHRIST is not "a way" BUT He is THE ONLY WAY, THE ONLY TRUTH, AND THE ONLY LIFE!!! The year for preachers to take heed to the charge that Paul delivered to Timothy and that today is being echoed by the Holy Spirit...PREACH THE WORD!! Forsake the fables, the infomercials, the silliness of man and PREACH THE WORD!!! Paul goes on to write..."be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." In other words there will be those who turn their backs on the Truth, but PREACH THE WORD! There will be those who forsake you and what you are preaching but PREACH THE WORD! You will be outnumbered by those who are more than willing to scratch their itch but PREACH THE WORD!! There will be afflictions, but PREACH THE WORD!! Stay true to the Word and be faithful to the ministry! And at the same time this charge does not stop with the pulpit...we see in Matthew 5:14-16 a charge to the body of Christ to take a stand, to unashamedly let our light shine in the midst of a dark and perverse world "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."! Let that get down in your spirit today...preacher PREACH THE WORD!! Christian LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE!!! Come out from among the world and dare to be different! Proclaim the Word of God and the name of Jesus not only in Word but in deed!! Let it be our hearts cry for 2019 to reach more souls with the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST...THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS and the everlasting life that can ONLY be found in placing ones faith in what Jesus did on the cross of Calvary. Until next time may the LORD bless and keep you. Pastor Billy R Douglas



The Entitlement Generation conclusion

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Ecclesiastes 5:18-19 - Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. 19 Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God. Now look at what happened here in: Acts 5:4 - Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. Of course, those who have been richly blessed ought to share with those in need...1st Timothy 6:18 - That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; But this is done out of good will, free choice. We are not entitled to take or steal from others to help ourselves. Ecclesiastes 6:1-2 - There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: 2 A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease. Ephesians 4:28 - Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. We Are Not Entitled to Marry Whoever We Want These days, this issue usually comes up regarding homosexuality, but it is not limited to that – people believe they are entitled to marry whoever they want, but that is not true. God created the institution of marriage...Genesis 2:18, 22-24 - And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. 22 And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. 23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. 24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. – Therefore, He (THE LORD) makes the rules... Hebrews 13:4 - Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. “Male and female...two become one flesh” (Matthew 19:4-5) – no homosexuality, no polygamy Matthew 19:4-6 - And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, 5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? 6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Many will say that I shouldn't say that...THE WORD OF GOD is very clear about the subject. Also it talks about that you cannot marry another while your spouse is still living. Let's look at Romans 7:2-3 - For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Unless you put away your spouse for fornication. The Bible says in: Matthew 19:9 - And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. We Are Not Entitled to Our Own Interpretation of Truth Everyone wants to believe what seems right to them – this way leads to death according to: Proverbs 14:12 - There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. God's word is truth – we must accept it. There's so many out there that's deceived the devil. The Word will NEVER contradict itself. We have to rightly divide the word according to: 2nd Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. We should not twist it to your own destruction. It's very dangerous. The Bible says in: 2nd Peter 3:16 - As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction. The “mentality of the entitlement generation” is dangerous – it is a threat to contentment and a subtle beginning to rebellion against God. We need to be content with all the good things that God has given us. James 1:17 - Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. We must submit to God's will rather than pursuing our own will. Luke 9:23 - And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

**Awake! AWAKE!! Pt. 1**

Pastor Steven Huston

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

Long ago, and by Biblical application, those who are careless in regard to the condition of their soul and in regard to salvation were said to be asleep. The slumbering and sleepy soul is generally used to describe the unconverted; but, the sleepy condition of a mostly apathetic and careless church is in much need of, and is the subject of this article. To be bluntly honest, each of us are in need of greater awakening—often becoming drowsy by the cares/allurements of the world or the many preachers who gently rock the cradle, delivering the laity to the sandman rather than shaking us awake and delivering us to the Holy Ghost for the gifts of poking conviction and prodding to repentance. Instead of singing "Rock-a-bye Baby in the tree top," they should be shouting, "Awake! Up! Awake! Awake!" Three times in this verse the psalmist calls himself to awakening. In light of the preceding verse his desire is to be awakened to praise the most High and Holy One, the God of his salvation. If we were to be truly awakened, we'd recognize the importance of praise and how our praise should be used as an awakening call to others. We must become really awakened to and burdened by the plight and destination of the unsaved. We must become more awakened and alert to our own spiritual dangers. Finally, we must awakened and compelled to being more fruitful in good works. In the following months I pray that God will awaken us through His Spirit to these areas; it's on this topic I feel burdened to write. Though not a prophet, I am burdened like Isaiah to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins (Isaiah 58:1)," awakening God's people out of their slumber. (I know it's the Holy Ghost who will awaken, not I; yet in obedience I will "cry aloud." So, for these next few paragraphs, please agree to pull off your world-colored or self-righteous sunglasses (whichever shades you happen to be wearing) and prayerfully look into the bright light of the Word of God. I freely admit that I'm in as great a need of awakening as any of you readers; I'm pointing fingers at none, only calling us to the Lord Himself. First, if God's people were not asleep, they would urgently feel for the unsaved. We would follow our Saviour's example, Who had compassion upon the masses for they were like sheep without a shepherd. Are we annoyed by the bleating of these unrepentant and misguided sheep or do we have compassion on them, praying for and sharing the gospel with them, pointing them to the Great Shepherd? Do you often recognize and feel deeply for the masses around you whose deaths are imminent and will surely go to an eternal and literal hell? Are you awake enough to do more than feel; are you moved to warn of the impending danger of the just and Divine wrath of the most Holy God? Surely if your family, friends, or mortal enemy were asleep in a burning building, you would do more than feel for them; you would urgently do all within your power to awaken them and bring them to safety. With anything less than desperate action on your part, you would be considered worse than a beast and perhaps even be brought under criminal investigation. How much worse for those who are content to know that there are nominal Christians, unbelieving sinners, friends and foes who "shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone," yet remain apathetically and sleepily silent while these multitudes are rushing to that fearful and eternal doom! Are we awakened as Jeremiah was, as he saw the coming judgments of God coming fast upon his people? "My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war." (Jeremiah 4:19) Or with Paul in Romans 9:2-4 "That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises." Are we awake enough to say with Spurgeon, "If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for." Are we blessed with a burden to be awake for the lost? What a blessing it would be to toss off the cloak of being civilized and to be viewed as a madman for Jesus. Jesus was viewed as such a madman and found Himself to be rejected by His own as well as by the church of His day. The more awakened we become, the more we can expect the same treatment. As we call the church to awakening and to repentance from her sleepiness, we can expect extreme opposition. Where is the weeping between the porch and the altar that God would spare the people (Joel 2:17)? I urge you to pray that God would awaken you. O that we would weep and groan with brokenness, that we would pray for the Holy Spirit to fall upon us so that we could no longer hold back, but tearfully share the plainest of Scripture declarations, helping them to see their imminent peril. We mustn't be content to sleepily watch the masses (within and without the church) sleep on.

AWAKE! AWAKE! Then shout out in turn, "Awake, AWAKE!"

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



Cheesy Lasagna Roll Ups

- 12 lasagna noodles
- 1 container (15oz) ricotta cheese
- 1 egg
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided
- 1/3 cup grated Romano cheese
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp garlic salt
- 3 T chopped parsley, divided
- 2 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
- 1 jar Ragú Homestyle Meat Sauce

Preheat oven to 350. Spread enough pasta sauce in the bottom of a 9x13 pan to lightly coat. Set aside. Cook lasagna noodles in a large pot of water until al dente, according to package directions. Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, add egg and lightly beat. Add ricotta cheese, pepper, salt, and garlic salt and mix well. Stir in 3/4 cup grated Parmesan, 1/3 cup grated Romano, 2 cups of shredded mozzarella, and 2 tablespoons of chopped parsley. Lay out cooked lasagna noodles on 2 baking sheets. Evenly spread a thin layer of cheese mixture down the center of each noodle. Spread a spoonful of the meat sauce down each noodle, on top of the sauce. Roll each noodle up, jelly roll-style, and place seam side down in prepared baking dish. Top the roll ups with remaining sauce. Sprinkle with remaining cup of mozzarella cheese, 1/3 cup grated Parmesan, and 1 tablespoon chopped parsley. Loosely tent with aluminum foil and bake for 35 minutes.

Scalloped Potatoes

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 1 small white or yellow onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- 4 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup chicken stock or vegetable stock
- 2 cups 2% or whole milk
- 1 1/2 teaspoons Kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves, divided
- 4 pounds Yukon Gold Potatoes, sliced into 1/8-inch rounds
- 2 cups freshly-grated sharp cheddar cheese, divided
- 1/2 cup freshly-grated Parmesan cheese, plus extra for serving

Preheat oven to 400°F. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. Melt butter in a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add onion, and sauté for 4-5 minutes until soft and translucent. Add garlic and sauté for an additional 1-2 minutes until fragrant. Stir in the flour until it is evenly combined, and cook for 1 more minute. Gradually pour in the stock, and whisk until combined. Add in the milk, salt, pepper, and 1 teaspoon thyme, and whisk until combined. Continue cooking for an additional 1-2 minutes until the sauce just barely begins to simmer around the edges of the pan (avoid letting it come to a boil) and thickens. Then remove from heat and set aside. Spread half of the sliced potatoes in an even layer on the bottom of the pan. Top evenly with half of the cream sauce. (I usually strain out all of the onions and add them here too.) Then sprinkle evenly with 1 cup of the shredded cheddar cheese, and all of the Parmesan cheese. Top evenly with the remaining sliced potatoes, the other half of the cream sauce, and the remaining 1 cup of cheddar cheese. Cover the pan with aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes. The sauce should be nice and bubbly around the edges. Then remove the foil and bake uncovered for 25-30 minutes, or until the potatoes are cooked through. Transfer the pan to a cooling rack, and sprinkle with the remaining teaspoon of thyme and extra Parmesan. Serve warm.

Texas Trash Dip

- 2 (16 ounce) cans of refried beans
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 Taco Seasoning packet
- 2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. With a mixer, whip together cream cheese, beans, taco seasoning and sour cream until smooth. Spread into a 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with both shredded cheeses, and bake for 25-30 minutes, or until cheese is slightly brown and dip is hot and bubbly around the edges. Serve with tortilla chips.



You Are Loved

Pastor Mike Vaughn

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:6

If you are going to face this year with steadfast resolve, you must find your contentment, your companionship, and your confidence in Christ. And then you will find your comfort in Christ. Then you may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear what man shall do unto me." I'm not saying that life's going to be a bed of roses. No, the Christians in the book of Hebrews faced troubles and trials. They had opposition from family, friends and foes alike. They faced mockery and brutality. Yet they could boldly say, "The Lord is my helper." We don't know all that this new year holds but I do know that good things await you because God is a good God and He desires to bless you and even though it also holds its share of challenges, if you are prepared by walking in Faith, the Word and in the Spirit you can overcome every trial and proclaim "The Lord is my helper." Find your contentment, your companionship, and your confidence in Christ. In Him you will find there is comfort and courage.

You are loved with an everlasting love, Mike

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

All This And Jesus Too

Objects seem large or little according to the medium through which they are viewed. In the microscope, what a remarkable change they undergo! The humble moss rises into a graceful tree; the beetle, armed for battle, flashes in golden or silver mail; a grain of sand swells into a mass of rock; and, on the other hand, a mountain looked at through the wrong end of a telescope sinks into a mole-hill, and the broad lake contracts into a tiny pool. Even so, according as we look at them, with the eyes of self-condemning humility, or of self-righteous pride, God's mercies seem great or little. For example, a minister of the Gospel passing one day near a cottage, was attracted to its door by the sound of a loud and earnest voice. It was a bare and lonely dwelling; the home of a man who was childless, old, and poor. Drawing near this mean and humble cabin, the stranger at length made out these words, 'This, and Jesus Christ too! This, and Jesus Christ too!' as they were repeated over and over in tones of deep emotion, of wonder, gratitude, and praise. His curiosity was roused to see what that could be which called forth such fervent, overflowing thanks. Stealing near, he looked in at the patched and broken window; and there in the form of a grey, bent, worn-out son of toil, at a rude table, with hands raised to God, and his eyes fixed on some crusts of bread and a cup of water, sat piety, peace, humility, contentment, exclaiming, 'This, and Jesus Christ too!'

William Guthrie (1620-1665)

"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!

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

Ecclesiastes 7:8



Broken Pieces

writer unknown

Today I was walking in the Grocery store and suddenly I heard a noise of things breaking. I walked down the aisles and saw that some people were murmuring . When I walked down their aisle, I saw a group of people staring at them. An older lady had hit the shelf containing plates and glasses with her cart and many had fallen to the floor and broken. Kneeling on the floor embarrassed, the old lady was frantically picking up the shattered pieces, while her husband peeled off the bar code from each broken dish saying: See!!! Now we will have to pay for all this. What a sad scene. Someone has a mishap, and all eyes were on her. When I knelt beside her to explain to her not to worry, a young man came and knelt beside us and said: - Leave it, we will pick this up. Let's get your information, so you can go to the hospital and have that wound in your hand looked at. The lady looked at him, embarrassed and said: - No. But I have to pay for all this. The young man said: - No maam, We have insurance for that kind of loss, and you do not have to pay anything. When the young man got up, I could see that he had the information for the supermarket manager and sent the customer to get checked out.

For you who have read this so far, I would like you to give me a minute. Wherever you are, close your eyes, and imagine God doing the same for you! Collect the pieces of your broken heart for all the blows that life has thrown at you. God will heal all your wounds and I assure you that your sins and mistakes will be forgiven. There is a warranty called grace, that when you recognize that you were wrong and you accept Jesus Christ as your only savior, the manager of the existence of the universe (GOD) will tell you: "Everything is already paid for... go on your way, go!

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 5:20-21

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.

Unknown Author



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: 2 John 1:6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.

Additional passages for Today: 2 John; John 14:15-23; John 15:5-14

Thought for Today: Whom you obey IS whom you love.

Story for Today: Rae sat perfectly still by the edge of the water as tears coursed down her cheeks. She made no attempt to stop the flow but neither did she make a sound. Why did life have to be so difficult? How would she ever decide what to do? The 17 year old daughter of Pastor James was normally the life of the party with a smile for everyone and a crazy idea that seemed to be perfect for breaking the sometimes somber mood at the little Bible believing church just on the outskirts of town. Rae was so gifted. She not only had a beautiful voice, but she was able to play almost any instrument she touched. The kids loved her and she loved them, which made teaching the class of 8 & 9 year old's as much fun for her as it was the rest of the class. The fight with her Dad was so troubling to the teen. She had disagreed with him in the past, but they always spoke respectfully and normally she was able to help him see things her way. Today was different. He had seemed preoccupied and uninterested in listening as she tried to explain why it was so important to her that she attend the college she wanted rather than the expected choice they had planned for her. She understood that the college Devon was attending was several hours away, but, she was eligible for scholarships and the only cost difference would be transportation. This college offered her the courses that she needed for the degree that she desired. Today she was told it didn't matter what she wanted. Her Mom and Dad wanted something different for her life and they weren't about to let a boy destroy that. She tried to tell them the choice had little to do with Devon, that she had chosen this college before she ever found out he was going there. Her Dad had refused to listen and had insisted that she rethink her plans. He wasn't about to have her throw her life away. They had raised her up knowing that she would be the perfect pastor's wife and she could forget about becoming anything else. Rae prayed. She had been raised to honor her parents. It wasn't always easy being the preacher's kid. Often times kids made fun of her and pressured her to break the rules. She tried to live a godly life and make the right choices. The tears finally stopped and she picked up her Bible. The reflection off the water was peaceful even if her soul was not at rest. As she read, the peace of God began to fill her again. She realized that obeying her parents wasn't an option. If they insisted she attend a certain college, she would need to trust God to get her the degree He wanted her to have. As she closed her Bible, she confessed again that God was righteous and that she would trust His ways were best. She couldn't see how God would work it all out, but, she didn't need to. She would trust and obey. She knew her friends wouldn't understand. Even the school counsellor had assured her that she could make her own choice, that she was determining her own future and that she should do what she thought was best for herself. She knew that wasn't God's way and that no matter what others thought of her, she needed to do what God wanted. Rae packed up her bag and started back to the house. She would tell her Dad that she would sign the papers and he could start making arrangements. She was startled when her Dad came around the corner and even more so when with just a few words he apologized for his earlier hasty words. He asked if she would go to lunch and talk with him. He had been praying and believed God had some plans for her life he hadn't realized before today.

Questions for Today: Who do you love? Do you love God more than self or anything else? Do you trust God to work things out for your life or do you try to circumvent the will of God proving you love self more than Him?

Heavenly Father, Please forgive us, and help us to love you with our whole heart, mind and soul. Help us to obey Your word and trust You. In Jesus' Name AMEN



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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.

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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 too 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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