



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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Evangelist Ronny Brooks

from Central City, KY

Saturday June 15th @ 6 PM

@ Voice of the LORD Tabernacle

Come join us for this POWERFUL service!

Fellowship & food following the service!

216 Hill Street Livermore, KY

In Jesus Name I Pray

Father give me strength, to do what I must do. Father give me courage, to say what I must say

Let thy spirit move me, I'm nothing on my own. Father stand by me, I cannot stand alone

In Jesus' Name I pray

Father open up my eyes to your wonders all around. Father let me see the good & beauty of this day

Fill my heart with love for my fellow man. And if I'm tempted Father. Father stay my hand

In Jesus' name I pray

Father help me through the troubled days that lie ahead. Let your light shine before me, that I may find the way

Don't let me stumble Father, or fall beneath my load. Father guide my footsteps, hold me to the road

In Jesus' Name I Pray

Let not hunger be my guide, nor fear be my master. Father let not envy be a part of me in any way

Father search my soul, take away my fear & doubt. Any smallness that you find there, Father cast it out

In Jesus' Name I pray.

**Church of the Covered Dish** by Thom Tapp**Brother Eli prepares to preach a sermon against sin.**

Cousin Leroy

One Friday night ole Leroy went to the local auction house. After a few items came and went a talking parrot came up for auction. Leroy had always wanted a talking bird! And he REALLY wanted this bird, so he got caught up in the bidding. He kept on bidding, but kept getting outbid, so he bid higher and higher and higher. Even to the point that he was digging into the funds he had been saving to redo the outhouse! Finally, after he bid way more than he intended, he won the bid - the parrot was his at last!! He felt a little sorry for the guy who lost but he was proud that he had outbid and outsmarted him!! As he was paying for the parrot, he said to the auctioneer, "I sure nuff hope this bird can talk. I would hate to have paid this much for it, only to find out that he can't talk...plus the misses would kill me!!!" "Don't worry," said the auctioneer, "he can talk real good. Who do you think kept bidding against you?"

The New Member

A man who hadn't attended church in years suddenly began attending faithfully on Sunday mornings instead of going fishing as was his normal habit. The pastor was highly gratified and at the end of service one morning told him, "How wonderful it makes me feel to see you at services with your good wife!" "Well, Preacher," said the fisherman, "Quite honestly, it's a matter of choice. I'd much rather hear your sermon than hers."

The Good Life

A new man is brought into Prison Cell 102. Already there is a long-time resident who looks 100 years old. The new man looks at the old-timer inquiringly. The old-timer says, "Look at me. I'm old and worn out. You'd never believe that I used to live the life of Riley. I wintered on the Riviera, had a boat, four fine cars, the most beautiful women, and I ate in all the best restaurants of France." The new man asked, "What happened?" "One day Riley reported his credit cards missing!"

Daddy Daughter Day At Work

It was daddy daughter day at work so Bill brought his 5 year old daughter Julie to work with him. Everything seems to be going fine for the first hour or so but then Bill noticed the little one starting to pucker up and cry. As he picked her up and sat her on his knee all the other concerned workers gathered around as well. "What's the matter with daddys little girl?" Bill said. Through tear filled eyes little Julie looked up and said "Daddy, where are all the clowns that you said you worked with?"





**Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have
entered into the heart of man...**

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R Douglas

One day a woman named Louise fell asleep in her bed, and dreamed a very frightful dream. She dreamed that someone in Hell wrote a letter to her, and it was delivered to her by a messenger. Louise dreamed that the messenger walked to her house, came inside, and gently but firmly woke her up. He gave her the message, saying Only that a friend had written it to her from Hell. Louise, in her dream, with trembling hands took the letter and read:

My Friend I stand in Judgment now, And feel that you're to blame somehow. On earth, I walked with you day by day And never did you point the way. You knew the Lord in truth and glory, But never did you tell the story. My knowledge then was very dim; You could have led me safe to Him. Though we lived together on the earth, You never told me of the second birth, And now I stand this day condemned, Because you failed to mention Him. You taught me many things, that's true, I called you "friend" and trusted you. But I learn now that it's too late, You could have kept me from this fate. We walked by day and talked by night, And yet you showed me not the light. You let me live, and love, and die, You knew I'd never live on high. Yes, I called you a "friend" in life, And trusted you through joy and strife. And yet on coming to the end, I cannot, now, call you "My Friend." Marsha

After reading the letter, Louise awoke. The dream was still so real in her mind and sweat dropped from her body in pools. It seemed she could almost smell the stench of brimstone and smoke in her room. As she thought about her dream, she realized that she had failed in her duty to share Jesus with her friends. She promised herself that the next day she would call Marsha and invite her to church with her. The next morning she called Marsha and this was the conversation: "Bill, Is Marsha there?" "Louise, you don't know?" "No, Bill, know what?" "Marsha was killed last night in a car accident....I thought you knew."

What a sobering picture this story paints. It brings me no pleasure or joy to speak with you about hell...but I have no choice. Sadly the church of today rarely speaks on the subject of hell. Oh yes they still preach that there is a Heaven to gain but more times than not they stop short of warning that there is a hell to shun. The Bible tells us when speaking of Heaven in 1 Corinthians 2:9 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." The same can be said of hell today my friend...there is absolutely no way that we in our feeble carnal minds can even begin to grasp what an awful, terrible place hell must be. I have often heard people (even church folks) say that they have been "going through hell"...trust me when I tell you that there is nothing...absolutely nothing that we will ever go through here on this earth that can even come close to being compared to what hell is like. Think about it, even if we suffer the worst that this world holds it can only last until we pass from this life to the next for this life is not an eternal one. But the next life...in eternity....the pains and torments of hell will never cease, for it is eternal. Never ending! There is no hope of death that would end the pain or the suffering for just as sure as in Heaven there is eternal life and joy, in hell there is eternal death, and torment. Countless souls die every day and leave this life lost and will spend eternity in hell while the church holds it's functions, it's conventions, it's seminars and never even bother to warn the lost of this terrible fate. It is the responsibility of EVERY Pastor to make known the reality that if one leaves this life without having their faith in Jesus Christ they will wake up in the fiery pits of the damned and there they will suffer days without end! If your pastor never mentions hell perhaps you should ask him why? I heard a pastor of a mega church who was asked this question once "Why don't you preach about hell?"...the pastors response was this "That's not my calling"! My response to that is...if you are not called to preach on hell then you are not called to preach! I realize that we preach on a myriad of subjects and are not expected to preach on hell every time that we stand in the pulpit BUT to completely avoid, neglect and never address the subject of hell is nothing less than spiritual malpractice! And the responsibility does not stop at the pulpit. Each and every born again believer should do their part in sharing the truth and reaching the lost. Here are just a few ways you can do that. 1.Spend time in prayer each day for the lost, that somehow someday someone will share the message of Jesus with them before it is eternally too late. 2.Support ministries and churches financially and prayerfully that preach that Heaven is real and hell is hot and the only way to escape spending eternity in hell is to accept Jesus Christ as LORD and Saviour NOW in this life while they have a chance. 3.Share that message yourself with those who the LORD brings your way and opens the door for you to reach. 4.Share a Gospel tract or card that tells of the great salvation they can find in Jesus and ONLY in Jesus. You can put these in with your bills when you mail them, leave them on tables at restaurants, etc. And those are just a few of the things that you can do. As I close this month let me encourage you to ask the LORD what He would have you to do, ask the LORD to open the door for you to be a light, to be a witness and trust me my friend He will do it! Until next time may the LORD bless & keep you. Pastor Billy R. Douglas



Setting Boundaries

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Galatians 5:13-15 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

I want to discuss with you about setting up some Biblical Boundaries. Establishing some guidelines for healthy living. In order to live holy, separated and acceptable unto God, we must set the boundaries found in the Word of God...by doing so, you protect and guard your Godly decisions, which place you on the path to your Godly destination. The road you travel depends on the boundaries you establish based in the Word. That's why it's so very important to study and read the Word every single day not just on Sundays and Wednesdays. If you do not set boundaries then no boundaries lead to a life that is out of control and destined for hell. Boundaries are like a road map. You can't get to where you want to go without planning. Otherwise, you won't know when you arrive. Boundaries get you where God wants you to be. Setting boundaries in your life is not wrong! Biblical boundaries guide you to the destination of Godly promises. Let's see what the Bible has to say about Biblical Boundaries...Galatians 5:13-15 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. 1) Healthy Christian Boundaries Shout... Jesus help me create healthy boundaries from your Word. Let's define a boundary as something that indicates a border or a limit. When you draw a physical boundary, it can be seen; it separates one area from another. (i.e. - a fence or a block wall in a neighborhood) It is difficult to see boundaries in the spiritual realm. God has boundaries in His Word and He has given us rules to live by. These rules or boundaries activate the promises of God in your life but we have to obey them. In today's society, boundaries are being eliminated, uprooted and discarded. (Prayer taken out of schools, 10 Commandments being removed, etc....) Where there are no boundaries, there is bondage and we know who is behind that, none other than Satan himself. We need to place boundaries around our good decisions. Boundaries promote true freedom; however, Satan will try to use your emotions to destroy your boundaries. When we allow our liberty to surpass the boundaries we have set, chaos and bondage are inevitable. God has given you freedom; however, you must not use it to sin as we see here in Galatians 5:13 - For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. Sin begins in the mind. It starts off as an idea or a whisper from Satan. Don't bite the bait of Satan. (Set boundaries with your children, work, spouse, family, church, etc. I set boundaries such as a set prayer times or alone time with God. Family time to discuss issues and just hang out. Church boundaries such as counseling time (man to man, woman to woman). These are healthy boundaries.) 2) While some things may be lawful for you, not all things are beneficial for you. 1st Corinthians 6:12 - All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Shout... Jesus help me made wise decisions that are beneficial for me. Shout... Jesus bless my Godly decisions. Make a quality decision regarding how you will live your life. Choose Jesus and His ways today. Don't do things the world's way. It never turns out the way you expect. Romans 14:12 - So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. The choices you make will bring you happiness or sadness. If we are truly grounded in God's Word then we will have wisdom to discern right and wrong if we listen to His instructions. We have to be very careful in the choices we make... (going to a bar and getting drunk is a bad choice.) It's lawful but not good for you. You may cause another to stumble by your witness. The feeling of condemnation comes when you choose to disobey God. The devil brings forth condemnation, God brings conviction. Romans 8:1 - There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. If you continue in God's Word, you are His disciple. John 8:31 - Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; Knowing the Word brings you benefits. 3) How do we establish boundaries in our life? Shout... Lord Jesus lead me in your Word to establish Godly boundaries. Obey the Word. Obey the Word. Obey the Word. Respect the laws of God; govern your actions around them. Develop a real relationship with God, and the Holy Spirit will tell you when you are not in line with the Word. Meditation in the Word helps establish clear boundaries. Be a doer of the Word, not a hearer only. Blessed are those that do His commandments. Revelation 22:14 - Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. Ask God to lead you. Check your decisions against what the Bible says. Test the Word of God daily!

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

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Unity

Pastor Steven Huston

"That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." John 17:21-23

Jesus, in His high priestly prayer, prayed for the unity of believers; with the express purpose that the world would believe that the Father had sent Him. Jesus, again in His prayer, stated that He had given us a unifying glory so that we could be perfectly one. Again, the purpose for such unity was for the sake of the world, that they may know and believe. Sadly, there is little unity in the body of Christ today; that translates to little love and even less effectiveness in the world around us. This ought not to be so. Whether we get caught up in denominational differences or a selfish lusting after our own way within our own local church, the reason is a loss of focus on the One who unifies. I know that doctrine divides, the Bible divides, and one can make a case for the fact that Christ Himself divides; but most importantly for the Church, Christ also unifies. He makes us one! Rather than focusing on that which readily divides, why doesn't the Body focus on He who unifies? We are to keep "looking unto Jesus"—that phrase means to look away from ALL else that we might focus on Him, look upon Him, and be united IN HIM. Those things which should cause a hard divide should be that which divides the sheep from the goats—the saved from the unsaved! When the goats see the unity and love of the sheep, when the grace of God is visible in our lives, it herds them to belief; they'll wish they were sheep and seek the great Shepherd. Am I saying that we should just ignore our differences? No, we have rich and beautiful distinctives and ecclesiastical heritages that we should be grateful for and enjoy; but God is to be the object of our worship. He is where our focus must be. Each of us, either through divine creation or through a molding by our experiences, is moved by the Holy Spirit in different ways. God is kind to meet with us where we are and we tend to gather in like-minded circles; yet, each circle should have the mind of Christ. Each circle should, in love and unity, show the same grace to others which God for Christ's sake has shown to us. Each circle must recognize and beware that we do not worship our brand of experience rather than worshiping God in all His unifying holiness. In other words, stoicism can become as much an idol as charisma can. The root of pride can grow from any circle or any heart which forgets that it is only by the grace of God that we are able to worship the One true God at all; He calls the exuberant as well as the passive. In the first half of Ephesians 4, we are instructed that "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." We are reminded to speak the truth in love. When issues arise we are called to reprove, rebuke, and exhort (forbearing in love), not run, murmur or cast stones. Whenever we speak into real or perceived issues, we must do so from the whole counsel of God found in the Bible, not our little books of discipline or the traditions of men. After all, it is the Word of God which is authoritative and living. Let us approach each issue with the mind of Christ, in humility with the glory of God our highest concern. Let us, with Paul say, "whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice." We are called to unity in Jesus that the world may believe that the Father has sent Jesus. The church is hindered, the glory of God eclipsed in our life, and Jesus minimized rather than magnified in our life, when we look for points of division and contention rather than the point of unity—"God manifest in the flesh." Can we agree that Jesus was born of a virgin, is the only begotten of the Father, that He died an atoning death upon the cross only to be resurrected by the Father three days later, and now sits on the right hand of God? Do we agree that salvation is in Christ alone by the grace of God and that no one comes to the Father except through Him? Then let us hug our brother and call out together in unity, "LORD," even as we recognize that there are vast differences between ourselves and our flesh and blood siblings, yet we care for them. In 1888, Charles Ross wrote, "Oh! brethren, it is not until the spiritual unity of believers in Christ shall show itself strong enough to destroy the selfishness, carnality, worldliness, and indifference that feed like a canker-worm at the root of our Christianity, in all the visible sections of it—it is not until then that we may expect the world to be won to the Saviour. It is when the Spirit shall be poured out upon us from on high, as the Spirit of truth and love, taking out of the way for ever sinful differences, jealousies, and heart-burnings; producing astonishment, humiliation and shame, at past unfruitfulness and unprofitableness; drawing forth living, longing desires after a holy catholic union; and awakening deep yearnings of soul after a lost and perishing world—and all this manifesting itself in outward forms and palpable proofs—it is then, and only then, that we may expect the effect here announced to be produced; but then, it shall be produced without fail." "Let us earnestly pray that the Lord may bless his church with more unity; that he may take out of the way everything which divides her—every error which splits her up into fragments; that he may bring her to be one in the truth, one in Christ, and one in love to one another..." All this to the glory of God, the name of Christ, and to the good of a dying world—that they may know and believe upon the only name that can save them from an eternal hell—the name of Jesus!

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



Caramel Nut Cookies

- 3 chopped snickers bars
- 2 (16.5oz) refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Powdered sugar (optional)

Preheat oven to 375. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. In a large bowl knead chopped snickers into cookie dough. Roll dough into small balls. Place 1 inch apart on baking sheet. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until light brown. Cool on a wire rack. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Squash Fritters

- 1 lb yellow summer squash
- 1/2 medium sweet onion
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- vegetable oil

Wash the squash then grate them on a box grater. You should end up with about 3 cups of grated squash. Grate the onion as well. Place the grated squash and onion in a mesh strainer and press to squeeze out some of the water. Place the squash and onion in a large bowl, then add the flour, egg, sugar, and salt and mix until combined. Allow the mixture to sit for about 5 minutes. Place a large skillet over medium-high heat and add enough oil to barely cover the bottom. Once the oil is hot, carefully place dollops (about 1 heaping tablespoon) of the batter into the skillet. Cook for 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown. Carefully flip the fritters over and gently press them flat with the back side of a spatula. Cook another 3 to 4 minutes or until golden brown. Cook in batches, adding more oil if necessary, Drain on paper towels.

Pizza Pot Pie

- 1 (8oz) cream cheese
- 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1/2 lb sausage
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1 diced green bell pepper
- 1 (14.5oz) diced tomatoes, drained
- 1/4 cup sliced black olives
- 2 refrigerated pie crusts
- 1 beaten egg
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 8 to 10 pepperoni slices

Preheat oven to 425. In a large bowl stir together cream cheese and shredded mozzarella. In a skillet cook sausage over medium heat until almost cooked through. Add mushrooms and green pepper and cook while stirring, about 5 minutes. Drain and stir sausage into cream cheese mixture. Fold in diced tomatoes (drained) and black olives. Press 1 of the pie crusts into the bottom of a 9 inch pie plate and fill with mixture. Top with the other pie crust and press edges to seal. Cut slits in center of top pie crust. Brush with 1 beaten egg. Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp oregano and top with pepperoni. Bake 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for 15 minutes before slicing.

Pineapple Pretzel Salad

For the topping:

- 1 C coarsely chopped pretzels
- 1/3 C sugar
- 1/2 C butter, melted

For the salad:

- 8 oz cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/2 C sugar
- 8 oz Cool Whip
- 20 oz can pineapple tidbits, drained

For the topping: Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix melted butter and sugar together. Stir in pretzels. Spread in a 9 x 13 pan and bake for 7 minutes. Stir to break it up and cool completely.

For the salad: Cream together the cream cheese and sugar until well mixed. Stir the Cool-Whip and pineapple tidbits into the cream cheese mixture. Chill 2-3 hours. Add pretzel mixture right before serving.



Love Not The World

Pastor Mike Vaughn

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man loves the world,
the love of the father is not in him," 1 John 2:15

It stands to reason: If you love flowers, you'll hate weeds. If you love cleanliness, you'll hate filth. If you love health, you'll hate germs. If you love God, you will hate sin. What does the bible mean when it say's "love not the world"? Are there not good things in the world? Sure there are. There is God's creation for one, like the mountains, trees and rivers. These are good things. When the scripture says, "do not love the world" it is speaking of the "world system that is presided over by satan. The bible says that satan is the prince and power of the air. He influences those that don't follow Christ and he influences the world system. We are not to allow the ungodly, secular, humanist system to cause us to be conformed to their way of thinking as Romans 12:2 explains "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." We are not to love the world because of the character of the world-what it is. Number two, because of the corruption of the world-what it does and number three, because of the condemnation of the world-where it's headed. I then ask the question, "If we're not to love this world and give our all to this world then who do you suppose that we should love and give our all to? Jesus answered that question by saying, You shall Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. Don't share your heart with the world. God deserves your complete devotion.

You are loved with an everlasting love

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

The Other Side Of The Mountain

John Steed

verse

I found peace for my soul On this road I have taken

But the way it gets so rocky Let there be no mistaken

But I'll Trust the hand that leads me Up that mountain towards His will

Cause on the other side of the mountain It'll all be down hill

Life is full of mountains. If we choose to keep climbing them they make us stronger until we don't even notice them. If we give up and refuse to climb we stay weak and complacent and life becomes a constant struggle marred by defeat. But when times are tough and I feel like giving up, I remember that Jesus had his own Hill to climb called Golgotha and he he climbed it to save me from hell. That knowledge gives me the strength to keep going no matter what mountain lies in my path because on the Other Side of the Mountain the victory is all downhill.

chorus

He puts me on the rough side To keep me looking up

And the hill is worth the climbing When He meets me at the top

And I'll quench my thirsty soul In His life giving fountain

And then from there it's all down hill On the other side of the mountain

www.johnsteed.org

Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 1 Peter 4:12-13



Hated Without A Cause

Pastor David Wilkerson

Jesus said he came to seek out and save the lost. This was the same One who had power to subdue the very winds and waves, yet he came as a humble servant. The gospels tell us he listened patiently to people's heart-breaking cries. Multitudes pleaded with Christ to deliver them from their afflictions and he met their needs. He healed the sick, opened blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, loosed tied tongues, and made cripples to walk. Jesus set captives free from every form of bondage — he even raised the dead. No one ever loved humankind more than Jesus; he grieved over the multitudes before him, seeing them as lost sheep in need of a shepherd. The truth is, nobody in history should be more revered, respected and loved than Jesus Christ. He performed works of compassion for the people he met; he wept over the world's spiritual blindness and poured out his life for all. But in spite of the good things Jesus did, the world hated him without cause. What did Jesus do that he should be so despised, both in his own day and today? Simply put, the world hated him because he came as a light to deliver all from darkness. He declared: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12). Jesus also told us, "For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." (John 3:20). Jesus promised to deliver people from their chains of darkness and pledged to set men everywhere free from all satanic power. However, what we Christians see as a holy gift of deliverance and liberty is viewed by the world as a form of bondage. Such people love their sins and have no desire to be free from them. The Light of the world is come and dwells within you. As you embrace this truth and walk in the Spirit, you will be able to shine forth his light to those around you.

Walk By Faith Not By Sight

George Whitten

And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 2 Kings 6:15-17

So often in our walks with the Lord, we become focused on what we can see, what we can hear and what we can sense in the physical realm. Like the young man in Elisha's day, we focus on the enemy's attacks around and about us. At times we can get so focused on our physical circumstances that we forget that the Lord has already provided for us the victory! That servant was frightened by the size of the enemy's army heading their way -- but Elisha was focused on the Lord. He knew that God had a much bigger army prepared...and that is what won him the victory. Do not fear, nor be discouraged! Let's allow our spiritual eyes to be opened today so that we may see that God has prepared a plan of victory from the beginning of time!

www.worthydevotions.com



Stoney & Beth Buckner

from Jamestown, TN

@ VOTL

Saturday July 20th @ 6 PM

**Fellowship & free meal
following service!**



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Ephesians 4:14-15 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Additional passage for Today: Luke 21:8; 2 Corinthians 4:2

Thought for Today: Speaking Truth in love is key to growth. Are you tired of being deceived? Learn the truth of Christ and stop being tossed to and fro!

Story for Today: Maddy and Aaron sat on the edge of the cliff. They came here often when they wanted to think. Many items had fallen from their grasp as they would unconsciously toss items as they processed the great need of the day. As teenagers they hadn't been here often, but the dilemma's they faced seemed even bigger. Aaron dropped a stone as he looked out at the great cavern before him. He listened as Maddy told him about the meeting that was taking place that night. Many of her friends were planning to go and she was hoping to join them. It wasn't a big deal. The guys that had invited them were really cool and although they seemed a little arrogant, they were nice. Aaron was concerned. His sister was a people pleaser and while sometimes that worked to his advantage, this was one of those times that it concerned him. He knew of the guys that she was talking about. They were smooth talkers. They seemed to always know the right things to say to stay out of trouble and to get their own way. He had heard one of the guys talking to a friend about their meetings. Aaron was very concerned. He and Maddy attended church not far from their house. They both went to youth group and to lots of the activities. Reminding Maddy about the verse Pastor Matt had shared recently, Aaron encouraged her to read the passage again. In Luke chapter 21, they had learned that not everyone that speaks eloquently is trustworthy. Sometimes the more elegant the speech, the more the danger. Aaron didn't tell Maddy that she couldn't go, but he did caution her about the things he had heard. Maddy listened; she wasn't convinced that Aaron really needed to be concerned. Sure they didn't know these guys that well, but they went to school together and they lived in the same community. She knew that they went to different churches or Mosques or whatever they called their place of worship, but she wasn't going to hold that against them. Asad had been telling her a little about their services. He seemed very dedicated to his god and she was very impressed with how diligently he performed all of the religious acts that he carried out daily. Maddy was drawn to Asad like she had never been drawn to anyone else. She was sure that if she went with a group of her friends, everything would be alright. Part of her wanted to please Aaron. He was her best friend and confidant. However, she really didn't have time to read and pray and still get ready to go. And if she didn't go, Asad would be disappointed and so would the girls she had planned to go with. As she rose from the ground, she glanced down the ravine and shuddered a little. It was a long way down. The items they had dropped were too far away to see and she felt an ominous squeeze on her heart as she stepped away from Aaron. Aaron dropped his head in prayer. He needed God to guide him as he rose to join Maddy in the trip home. Maddy claimed to be a Christian. However, her walk with the Lord was weak. She tended to go along with whomever she was hanging out with that day. What could he say?

Questions for Today: While speaking the truth in Love, what could be said? Do we, as Christians, have a duty to warn other believers when we see them taking a dangerous path? What could possibly be wrong with joining friends and attending meetings held by a different religion? Are you a committed Christian? How do you stand up when compared to others of different religions?



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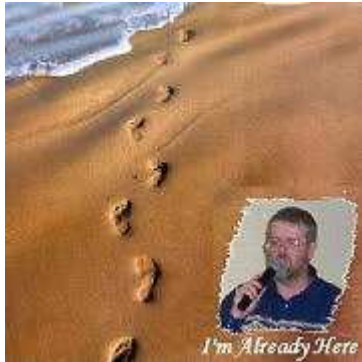
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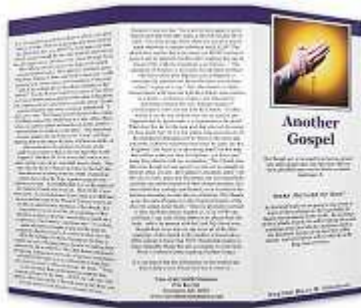
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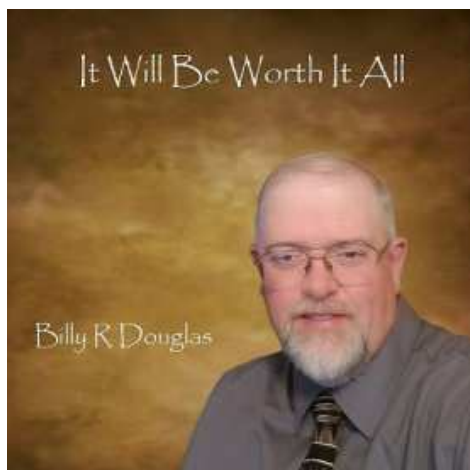
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