

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">THE TRUMPET</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">WWW.THETRUMPETONLINE.COM</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Voice of the LORD Ministries</p>
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## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Author unknown

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

Thomas Chisholm didn't take his blessings for granted. When he looked back on his life, he realized just how much God had blessed him. Reflecting on the verses from Lamentations, he recognized that the Lord had been faithful. In 1923, when he was 55, Chisholm wrote a hymn called "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." Through his words, he shared the truths he had experienced about God. Chisholm knew that God never changes, and He's the same in every season and every kind of weather. Along with all of creation, Chisholm had been a witness to God's great faithfulness. He had seen how God was faithful to forgive the sins of even the most vile of sinners. He recognized that the Lord could fill troubled hearts with peace. In every situation, He was by our side, ready to encourage and direct our steps. He was able to meet every need - physical or financial, emotional or spiritual. What is your story? As you look back at your life, can you remember times when it seemed like you were all alone? When you came to a crossroads and didn't know what to do? When you didn't know where to turn? When the future looked bleak and uncertain? When someone you knew faced a crisis? What happened in those situations? Could you recognize the hand of God? Could you realize He was with you, even when you felt all alone? Today, think about the faithfulness of God. Start thanking Him. Praise Him that His mercies are "new every morning." And remember that just as He has been faithful in the past, He will be faithful today and in the days to come. Great is His faithfulness! Meditate on the words to "Great is Thy Faithfulness":

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided -  
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Prayer: "Father, thank You for being faithful to me. Take away my burdens, and give me Your peace. I trust my life to You. Thank You for your great mercy and care. Thank You for your Great Faithfulness!  
In Jesus' name. Amen."



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Thanks to Stacy Jackson (See Exodus 16)

04-06-2015

DUDE, THAT'S NOT MANNA



## Cousin Leroy

One day down at the barber shop, some old veterans were bragging about the heroic exploits of their ancestors. The first declared proudly, "My great grandfather, at age 13, was a drummer boy at Shiloh." The second boasted, "Mine went down with Custer at the Battle of Little Big Horn." Ole Leroy finally spoke up and said "If my great grandfather was living today he'd be the most famous man in the world." "Really? What'd he do?" his friends wanted to know. "Nothing much. But he would be 165 years old."

### After All These Years

The old couple were sitting together at home, getting cuddly; he takes off his glasses & moves closer. His wife of many years looks into his eyes and says "Sweetie, without your glasses, you still look like that handsome young man I married." The husband smiles back and says "Well, Honey, after all these years without my glasses, you still look pretty good too!"

### Moving Out

A person calls a pet store: "Send me thirty-thousand cockroaches, at once." Astonished clerk: "What in the world do you want with thirty-thousand cockroaches?" Caller: "I'm moving out today, and my lease says I must leave the premises in exactly the same condition I found them."

### You Know Your In Trouble When...

- All your modeling jobs are for cartoonists.
- Nothing you own is actually paid for.
- The bird singing outside your window is a vulture.
- The bride's family throws rocks instead of rice.
- There are enough candles on your cake to set off the smoke alarm...at your neighbors house.
- The health inspector condemns your office coffee maker.
- You have to borrow from your Visa card to pay your MasterCard.
- You have to take out a loan just to get money for the down payment.
- You put both contacts into the same eye.
- You wake up and your braces are stuck together.
- You wake up and can't remember where you put your teeth.
- Your chauffeur is on parole for car theft.
- Your children's school calls to surrender.
- Your doctor tells you that you're allergic to food.
- Your engagement ring is, upon closer inspection, plastic.
- Your plants do better when you don't talk to them.
- You have to hitch hike to the bank to make your car payment.
- Your suggestion box starts ticking.
- You see the captain running toward the railing wearing a life jacket.
- The plumber floats by on your kitchen table.
- The pest exterminator crawls under your house and never comes out.

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### Rejected Greeting Card Lines

Kind, intelligent, loving and hot. This describes everything you are not...

I want to feel your sweet embrace. But please don't take that paper bag off of your face...

I see your face when I am dreaming. That's why I always wake up screaming...

My love, you take my breath away. What have you stepped in to smell this way?



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **The Precious Gift of Time**

Pastor Billy R Douglas

To realize the value of four years: Ask a graduate.

To realize the value of one year: Ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of nine months: Ask a mother who gave birth to a still born.

To realize the value of one month: Ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby.

To realize the value of one week: Ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of one hour: Ask sweethearts who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of one minute: Ask a person who has missed the train, bus or plane.

To realize the value of one second: Ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of one millisecond: Ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

To realize the value of time spent with a friend: Lose one.

Time is precious...it waits for no one. And a missed opportunity is a lost opportunity. We often say that "None of us are promised tomorrow" and that is true. But in reality none of us are promised our next breath. Every heartbeat, every breath is a precious gift from God. That's why we should treasure every moment that we have. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 5:15-16 "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, **Redeeming the time**, because the days are evil." And in James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For **what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**" No matter how many tomorrows we have left there will never seem to have been enough. When we get to the end of our way and look back at our life here on this earth we will wonder "Where did all the time go?". It would behoove us all to pray for the wisdom of the LORD and ask for His help to make the most of the time that we have left...however long that may be. I want to leave you this month with the words of a poem that I recently ran across. I pray that it will be a blessing to you and that we will all take these words to heart...

I knelt to pray but not for long; I had too much to do.

I had to hurry and get to work For bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer And jumped up off my knees.

My Christian duty was now done. My soul could rest at ease.

All day long, I had no time To spread a word of cheer.

No time to speak of Christ to friends. They'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do; That was my constant cry.

No time to give to souls in need, But at last the time, the time to die.

I went before the Lord. I came, I stood with downcast eyes.

For in his hands, God held a book; It was the book of life.

God looked into his book and said, "Your name I cannot find.

I once was going to write it down But never found the time."

Until next time may the LORD Bless and keep you is our prayer.

Pastor Billy R Douglas

**REPENT part 01**

By Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Matthew 3:1-3 - In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. 3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

When you mention the word REPENT...many especially in the modern day churches do not want to hear that because they say "It's a negative message" but it's the message that NEEDS to return to the pulpits all across America and the world. JOHN THE BAPTIST had just one sermon when he started.....Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. JOHN THE BAPTIST was perhaps one of, if not the most unusual PREACHER God ever called into the ministry. John's idea of a two-piece suit was a garment made of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. John the Baptist would never be caught dead wearing a white shirt and tie. JOHN THE BAPTIST never preached from behind a pulpit, nor did he ever preach inside a church building.....a synagogue.....or the Temple in Jerusalem that we know of...Instead, John would go out to the HOT, DUSTY JUDEAN DESERT day after day to preach the one sermon that burned in his soul like a BLAZING FIRE..... Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. JOHN'S one sermon didn't have any homiletical structure to it. It didn't have THREE MAIN POINTS and several SUBPOINTS. His one sermon had NO ILLUSTRATIONS, NO JOKES and NO TEAR-JERKING STORIES. His sermon was just a SIMPLE, POWERFUL, STRAIGHTFORWARD MESSAGE that cut right to the very soul of a man..... Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. JOHN THE BAPTIST didn't preach the HEALTH and WEALTH GOSPEL.....HE didn't promise people CARS and BOATS and FINANCIAL PROSPERITY. JOHN simply preached a message from GOD that called all men into accountability for their sins. JOHN THE BAPTIST wasn't worried that his preaching might make him unpopular or that he might "step on people's toes" or "ruffle someone's feathers." JOHN THE BAPTIST didn't preach to please people.....HE PREACHED TO PLEASE GOD. In a day and time when all the self-righteous religious leaders were preaching their vain human traditions, John the Baptist stood as God's "lone voice" of truth to sinful man! Throughout history, GOD has always raised up MEN to preach the message of REPENTANCE. NOAH preached repentance! ISAIAH preached repentance! ELIJAH and ELISHA preached repentance! JEREMIAH preached repentance! EZEKIEL preached repentance! JESUS CHRIST preached repentance! ALL THE APOSTLES preached repentance! OUR RESTORATION FOREFATHERS all preached repentance! AND THE PREACHERS of just one generation ago were still preaching REPENTANCE! WHERE ARE THE VOICES CALLING FOR REPENTANCE TODAY? We hear the voices of POLITICAL CORRECTNESS. We hear the voices of CONSERVATISM and the voices of LIBERALISM. We hear the voices of TOLERANCE and the voices of SECULAR HUMANISM. We hear the voices of THE HEALTH and WEALTH GOSPEL and the "FEEL GOOD" religion. BUT WHERE ARE THE VOICES CRYING OUT FOR THE REPENTANCE OF SINFUL MAN? WHERE ARE THE VOICES THAT ARE CALLING MAN BACK TO GOD! Is the message of REPENTANCE outdated? Is the message of REPENTANCE too old fashioned? I submit to you this day that now more than ever before, the message of REPENTANCE needs to be preached from every pulpit across AMERICA! What we need today are MORE PREACHERS like JOHN THE BAPTIST! PREACHERS who aren't worried about their own popularity. PREACHERS who aren't concerned about keeping their job. PREACHERS who aren't afraid to "step on toes" and "ruffle feathers" and "confront man with his sins." I truly believe one reason why many of today's FAMILIES are in the pitiful condition they are in is because PREACHERS have stopped preaching the NEED OF REPENTANCE! I believe one reason why many of TODAY'S CHURCHES are in the pitiful condition they are in is because PREACHERS HAVE STOPPED PREACHING THE NEED OF REPENTANCE! And I believe with all my heart that one of the biggest reasons why AMERICA is in the pitiful condition SHE is in is because PREACHERS HAVE STOPPED PREACHING THE NEED OF REPENTANCE! It is getting harder and harder to tell the difference between CHRISTIANS and NON-CHRISTIANS. Many who claim to be CHRISTIANS lived for the DEVIL before they walked down the aisle to accept CHRIST and they are STILL living for the DEVIL! Our CHURCH PEWS today are filled with CHURCH MEMBERS who want to.....DRINK UP, SHACK UP, STIR UP AND ACT UP! But don't want to.....STRAIGHTEN UP, FESS UP, CLEAN UP, GIVE UP OR LOOK UP TO JESUS! The attitude that many CHRISTIANS seem to have these days is "PREACHER, I don't mind if you preach about SIN.....just as long as you don't preach about MY SIN!" "I don't mind if you tell the other guy he needs to straighten up, but don't talk to me about MY SINS, MY HABITS and MY LIFESTYLE!"



## Rise Up and Step Out

Pastor Steven Huston

I Corinthians 16:13-14 "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with charity."

Where's the church on important cultural issues and social problems that affect us as a nation and as Christians? Where is the outrage against the mockery of holiness? Where is the weeping before God for a nation—our nation—that has embraced a culture of death and has replaced its Biblical building blocks of family and the Bible with the unsteady and crumbling blocks of rebellion that have printed upon them the letters "L," "G," "B," "T," "Q," with more letter blocks of rebellion being added. This brings a national crisis as our culture rebuilds on sinking sand; yet mostly there is silence from the Church. Why do so few take a bold stand for righteousness, a willingness to stand against evil regardless the personal cost? John Calvin once said, "A dog barks when his master is attacked. I would be a coward if I saw that God's truth is attacked and yet would remain silent." By and large, the church's bark has become a mere "yip" at best; instead of standing steadfast, we run back to our cushion in the corner smugly satisfied with our Chihuahua-like bravery; or our righteous indignation is replaced with either personal anger or a fear of being called a racist, some form of "phobe," or a fear of being seen as unloving and unkind. One could point to several reasons as to why this has happened; regardless the reason, the church needs to love God and her neighbor enough to bark loud and long with righteous indignation. The church needs to stand firm against deception, giving words of warning and compassionate communication that has the fiery boldness of righteous indignation at its core, fueled by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christians should feel a sense of righteous indignation (not personal anger) over several issues that are taking place in our nation. It should bother us because according to God's Word, it bothers Him. Either directly or indirectly the following are a small list of things that Christians should be aware of and vocal about: Chick-fil-A, Netflix, the Super Bowl/human trafficking, interfaith dialogue attacking the supremacy of Christ, China building databases on US citizenry, the search for justice, drivers licenses and entitlements for illegals, FGM, and the mockery of all that is holy. Don't forget the Leftist policies that attack life (babies, elderly, depressed, etc), the church, the Bible, and the heart of freedom through socialism. The list goes on but the response Christians once had against evil has waned! Again, where are God's people when it comes to standing for and teaching the difference between the holy and the profane? But how can we be holy—separated unto God—when the profaneness of this world largely describes our existence? We've lost our fire; we need repentance for a rekindling of God's holy righteousness in our daily lives. We need to cry out for God to burden us until we will stand in the gap with a bold warning against sin! In writing to the Corinthians Paul exhorts: "Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame." So, I ask again, "Where are you, O church?" We must be about the business of studying the Scripture and of training our children, building into them and others a Biblical conviction of what's pleasing to God and what is not pleasing to Him and taking a courageous stand. Righteous indignation must first be aimed within. It must start a fire within our own heart first, before we can "Cry aloud, spare not, lift thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression..." (Is. 58:1) Make no mistake, the church (you and I--the body of Christ) are in desperate need of righteous indignation. The world is in need of us having righteous indignation. William Gurnall didn't mince words: "A minister, without boldness, is like a smooth file, a knife without an edge, a sentinel that is afraid to let off his gun. If men will be bold in sin, ministers must be bold to reprove." Each of us is called to be ministers in this sense. Each of us needs to be bold against the sin that so boldly surrounds us. Above all...We MUST LOVE! Without love we will be no more than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. History book writer Wilfred M. McClay rightly states, "Love is the foundation of the wisest criticism, and criticism is the essential partner of an honest and enduring love." As a wood fire warms the whole room, so the flame of holy zeal will warm the Christian's whole life. May the zealous fire of righteous indignation burn the carnality out of my own heart, give the warmth of compassionate warning to those about, and light the way to He who is Faithful and True.

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

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Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; Philippians 1:27



### Cherry Dr. Pepper Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix, using dry mix only
- 1 1/2 C Dr. Pepper Cherry Soda
- 1 jar maraschino cherries with no stem (Remove 24 cherries from the jar and set aside)
- 1 C unsalted sweet cream butter, softened
- 3 C powdered sugar, plus 2 more cups if needed
- 1 container of chocolate shavings (optional)

**Cake Directions:** Preheat oven to 350F. Spray a 9x13 baking dish with pam baking spray and set aside. Using a standing mixer, mix together the cake mix and soda until combined. Cut the cherries in half and mix into the batter. Pour the cake batter into the baking dish. Bake in the oven for 30 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Allow cake to cool completely before frosting. **Frosting Directions:** Using a standing mixer, cream together the butter, powdered sugar and cherry juice until combined and stiff. If your frosting is thin, add in another cup of powdered sugar. Scoop the frosting onto the cake and smooth evenly with a angled spatula. Sprinkle the chocolate shavings onto the frosting and add a few cherries. Place into the fridge for an hour to allow the frosting to harden before cutting!

### Bacon Appetizers

- 1 lb. bacon
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 8 oz. Gouda cheese, grated
- Cocktail rye bread

Fry bacon until crisp and drain on paper towels. Crumble bacon. Mix bacon, mayonnaise and cheese together. Place mixture on cocktail rye bread. Heat until cheese is bubbly at 350.

### Monkey Bread

- 3 cans biscuits
- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 tsp. water
- 1/2 cup nuts (optional)

Mix cinnamon and sugar together. Quarter biscuits, roll in cinnamon and sugar mixture. Put in greased bundt pan. Melt butter, add brown sugar and water, boil 2 minutes and pour over biscuits. Bake at 350 for 25 minutes. (Optional-place nuts in bottom or pan before adding biscuits)

### Sweet and Sour Chicken

- 2 whole boneless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 Tbsp. oil
- 1 medium green pepper, cut into strips
- 1 medium red pepper, cut into strips
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1/4 cup light soy sauce
- 1 (8oz) can pineapple chunks, with juice
- 3 Tbsp. vinegar
- 3 Tbsp. brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 1/2 cups cooked rice

In a large skillet cook and stir chicken in hot oil until well browned. Add peppers, cook and stir for 1 to 2 minutes longer. Mix corn starch and soy sauce, add to chicken. Add pineapple, vinegar, brown sugar, ginger, and garlic powder. Bring to a full boil. Serve over rice.





## **In The Hands of the Good Shepherd**

George Whitten

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

John 10:10-11

And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. 1 Peter 5:4

Joseph, the son of Jacob grew up caring for flocks, a shepherd boy,(Genesis 37:2). While we might have a romantic view of an easy pastoral life among sheep and goats, the main responsibility of a shepherd was to protect the flock against hungry predators (wolves, lions, etc.) looking for an easy meal, actually quite a dangerous job. The shepherd loved his sheep; and Joseph was a good shepherd. Mashiach "ben Yosef " the "Suffering Servant" Messiah was illustrated in the life of Joseph. Jesus came as a good shepherd to protect His flock against the enemy whose sole purpose is to steal, kill and destroy. Our Shepherd Messiah was ready to give His life to protect us. And He is still watching over us – He gave His lifeblood to protect us because He loves us and we are incalculably precious to Him, each one. Do you know how precious and loved you are? How the Son of God exposed Himself to the ultimate danger because of His incalculable love for you? How He protects you from unseen danger every day of your life? We can rest in His protective love, no matter what happens, especially because where we're going, there will never be danger again.

## **REVIVE Me, O LORD!**

Pastor Mike Vaughn

"Revive me, O Lord,for your names sake!"[ Psalm143:11a]

David needed revival. His enemies had persecuted him,and he was in hiding. He cried out to God to pay attention to him. David said,"My spirit is overwhelmed within me; My heart within me is distressed". He was overcome with tragedy and grief.At this moment, David longed for the days of old-but not for the days of the parties in the palace, but for the days when he had a rich full relationship with the Lord. David wanted revival because he needed to be restored to a complete and spirit-filled fellowship with the Lord. Like David,we can think of the days of old when the great national revivals spread across the country. Men like Jonathan Edwards, D.L. Moody, Smith's Wigglesworth, A.A. Allen, etc. led great awakenings and mighty moves of the Holy Spirit. For personal great awakenings,Christians need to cry out just as David did for God to revive them.As believers we need to be committed to seeking God's direction through bible study and prayer. We are called by God to be salt and light in our workplaces and schools, in our neighborhoods and homes. God will honor such prayers and change our nation, one person at a time, one church at a time, and one city at a time.

Remember, you are loved with an everlasting Love., Mike

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## **THE DOWELL BROTHERS**

*Chris & Dave Dowell*

**@ VOTL**

**Saturday April 18th @ 6 PM**

**Fellowship & Food following service!**



## **HE IS!**

Author unknown

He is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End! He is the keeper of Creation and the Creator of all! He is the Architect of the Universe and the Manager of all times. He always was, He always is, and He always will be . . . Unmoved, Unchanged, Undefeated, and never Undone! He was bruised and brought healing! He was pierced and eased pain! He was persecuted and brought freedom! He was dead and brought life! He is risen and brings power! He reigns and brings Peace! The world can't understand him, The armies can't defeat Him, The schools can't explain Him, and the leaders can't ignore Him. Herod couldn't kill Him, The Pharisees couldn't confuse Him, and The people couldn't hold Him! Nero couldn't crush Him, Hitler couldn't silence Him, The New Age can't replace Him, and non-believers can't explain Him away! He is Light, Love, Longevity, and Lord. He is Goodness, Kindness, Gentleness, and God. He is Holy, Righteous, Mighty, Powerful, and Pure. His ways are right, His Word is eternal, His will is unchanging, and His mind is on me! He is my Redeemer, He is my Savior, He is my Guide, and He is my Peace! He is my Joy, He is my Comfort, He is my Lord, and He rules my life! I serve Him because His bond is love, His burden is light, and His goal for me is abundant life. I follow Him because He is the Wisdom of the wise, the Power of the powerful, the Ancient of Days, the Ruler of rulers, the Leader of leaders, the Overseer of the overcomers, and the Sovereign Lord of all that was, and is and is to come. He will NEVER leave me, NEVER forsake me, NEVER mislead me, NEVER forget me! When I fall, He lifts me up! When I fail, He forgives! When I am weak, He is strong! When I am lost, He is the way! When I am afraid, He is my courage! When I stumble, He steadies me! When I am hurt, He heals me! When I am broken, He mends me! When I am blind, He leads me! When I am hungry, He feeds me! When I face trials, He is with me! When I face persecution, He shields me! When I face loss, He provides for me! When I face Death, He carries me Home! He is Faithful. HE IS JESUS!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1:1-4

## **The Great I Am**

By Linda Moore

In the dark still of night, a peaceful sleep. Jesus watches over, a vigil he keeps  
 He knows the wolf howling in the night. He sends it running, for him no fight  
 More Powerful than the terror, it bows to him. He is the Shield from evil and sin  
 Turned head, eyes on Jesus, Our Protector. Turned head, eyes on Jesus, Soul's Perfecter  
 The Author of all things and of Man. First Story writer, 'The Great I Am'  
 Almighty his pen, blessed are his Scribe. Eye's on Jesus, In Peace Abide



## **Upcoming Events @ VOTL**

The Dowell Brothers - Saturday April 18th @ 6 PM  
 Evangelist Ronnie Brooks - Saturday May 16th @ 6 PM  
 Jayson & Leslie Cardwell - Saturday June 20th @ 6 PM

VOTL Weekly Sunday Morning Services - 11 AM





# A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

**Verse for Today:** Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

**Additional passage for Today:** Hebrews 12:12-14 Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

**Thought for Today:** If you want to develop the peaceable fruit of righteousness you need to endure the chastening required no matter how hard it may seem.

**Story for Today:** "I hate you. You don't love me!" shouted Addy at her mom as she stormed from the room. Hannah let out a sigh as she sank down into the sofa in exasperation. Dealing with her kids had always been hard, but with Jim gone things had gotten much worse. Hannah had always considered herself an easy-going person and had a nature that wanted to please others. Addy had not seemed to acquire her personality and it seemed they were always at odds. Addy slammed her bedroom door and flung herself onto her bed. She rolled over and stared at the ceiling as she thought of things she could do that would convince her Mom to let her go to the sleepover Friday night. She had already tried the "I have my homework done", and "I won't ask for anything else". Now she would pout. It didn't normally work, but it would give her time to come up with a new plan. Why did her Mom have to choose now to start wanting to put her foot down. Yes, she remembered that she was grounded! But, her Mom was the one that grounded her, so she could lift the grounding if she wanted. Addy also remembered that she had gotten into trouble at the last sleepover and that her Mom had to pick her up at 3 a.m. when she was caught outside with rolls of toilet paper, fire works and cigarettes. Addy was determined to get her way. She would be at that sleepover even if she had to sneak out. Hannah reached over to the coffee table and picked up the worn Bible. Jim had read from that Bible every night as they sat at the table following the meal. The kids had always obeyed Jim. She had just started reading the Bible again after many months of mourning the loss of her husband and struggling with believing that God really loved her. She read the words from Hebrews again. Yesterday they had not meant much but after this latest altercation with Addy, the words had popped back into her head. She had never been one to discipline the kids. Jim had always stepped in or had handled them when he got home. She hated seeing them cry. She didn't want them angry with her. But at this point, she realized, she needed to do something. The kids were getting out of hand and there was no hope in sight. They were crying or yelling and the look in her eyes had already told her what Addy had most recently shouted at her. Hannah couldn't believe how quickly her sweet, well-behaved children had changed with the loss of their Dad. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous", wasn't that the truth. But, she realized that giving them their way was not working. She needed to be firm. She had seen Jim do it for many years. And the kids had always seemed to adore him. They would never have back-talked to him, let alone shout the horrible words she had just endured. Hannah continued reading. "peaceable fruit" and "healed" jumped out at her. Her desire was for peace in their home. And how she prayed for healing of the souls of her children. She had been a horrible example as she had shut out God and all that was good, including her children, for the past 18 months while they had dealt with their pain in much the same way, rejecting all that was good. Hannah began to pray and seek wisdom from her Heavenly Father. She was so glad that she had already found forgiveness and could claim the promises for those that believed. She was also grateful that she knew she was no longer alone. No matter how exasperating the kids were, she had a Heavenly Father there to help her do the right thing. After a few moments with the Lord, Hannah rose and went to find her little lost lamb. She knew that she needed to be firm. She also knew that she would need to punish the bad behavior. She loved her children and she would do what she could to help them!

**Questions for Today:** Do you accept punishment with grace from your Heavenly Father? Or do you reject it hoping to find a way to change God's mind, thereby creating a god in Your own image? No chastening is pleasant at the time, but if it saves our soul from hell, isn't it a joyous thing?



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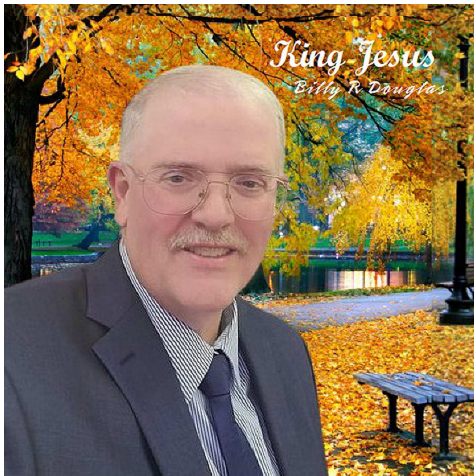
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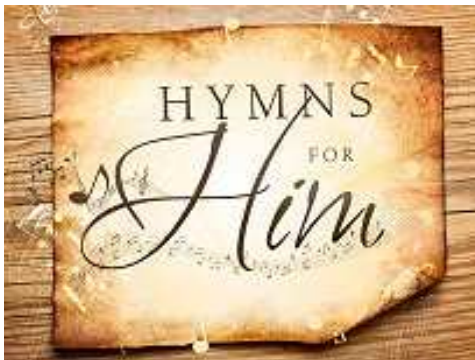
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**I See A Crimson Stream Of Blood**

Garfield T. Haywood, 1920

On Cal'vry's hill of sorrow  
Where sin's demands were paid,  
And rays of hope for tomorrow  
Across our path were laid.

I see a crimson stream of blood,  
It flows from Calvary,  
Its waves which reach the throne of God,  
Are sweeping over me.

Today no condemnation  
Abides to turn away  
My soul from His salvation,  
He's in my heart to stay

When gloom and sadness whisper,  
"You've sinned—no use to pray,"  
I look away to Jesus,  
And He tells me to say

I see a crimson stream of blood,  
It flows from Calvary,  
Its waves which reach the throne of God,  
Are sweeping over me





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