



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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VOICE OF THE LORD
ministries

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Have You Forgot Mercy?

*And he said, He that shewed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.
Luke 10:37*

One of my grandsons had got into trouble and his dad grounded him, and he really wanted to go somewhere. He went in another room. Shortly he came back and he set down across from his dad and he said pappy, I know what mercy means. His dad said you do. Its where you give someone a second chance even though they don't deserve it. He said pappy you forgot about mercy didn't you? My son knew he had made a good point. He said okay go get dressed you can go. What my 6 year old grandson was saying is this. He knew he had done wrong, and even though he didn't deserve a second chance, that his dad should give him one, because he wanted mercy, he wanted a second chance. Even though we don't deserve a second chance, Jesus looks down on us and because he loves us so much, he gives us love, forgiveness, and yes even MERCY. All we have to do is the same as my grandson did, ask for mercy and yes another chance.

Sister Nancy Willis

May 29, 1959 - November 12, 2014

The Secret Place

I love hearing from you who have been so kind to respond. Oh how we need to encourage one another during these days of so much trouble. Isn't it wonderful that through all the pressures that we go through there is that place where our Dear Savior abides deep inside our heart that no devil (or nothing) can touch. Glory to God! He has said "My Peace I give to you, not as the world gives, let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid." Thank You Jesus! We are living in Psalm chapter 91 and that secret place is Jesus.

I love you, Sis Betty Jean Robinson

Psalm 91 KJV

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

Betty Jean Robinson Ministries

Box 847 - Brentwood, TN 37024 -
www.bettyjeanrobinson.org



Cousin Leroy

A man was driving down a country road, when he spotted Leroy standing in the middle of a huge field of grass.

He pulled the car over to the side of the road and noticed that Leroy was just standing there, doing nothing, looking at nothing. The man got out of the car, walked all the way out to where he was and asked him, "Ah excuse me mister, but what are you doing?" To which Leroy replied, "I'm trying to win a Nobel Prize." "How?" asked the man, puzzled. "Well, I heard they give the Nobel Prize to people who are out standing in their field."

The Hired Hand

A farmer and his recently hired hand were eating an early breakfast of biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, bacon and coffee that the farmer's wife had prepared for them. Thinking of all the work they had to get done that day, the farmer told the hired man he might as well go ahead and eat his lunch too. The hired man didn't say a word, but filled his plate a second time and proceeded to eat. After awhile the farmer said, "We've got so much work to do today, you might as well eat your supper now too." Again, the hired man didn't respond but refilled his plate a third time and continued to eat. Finally, after eating his third plate of food, the hired man pushed back his chair and began to take off his shoes. "What are you doing?" the farmer asked. The hired man replied, "I don't work after supper."

THE CAKE!

A woman in a diet club was lamenting that she had gained weight. She'd made her family's favorite cake over the weekend, she reported, and they'd eaten half of it at dinner. The next day, she said, she kept staring at the other half, until finally she cut a thin slice for herself. One slice led to another, and soon the whole cake was gone. The woman went on to tell how upset she was with her lack of willpower, and how she knew her husband would be disappointed.

Everyone commiserated, until someone asked what her husband said when he found out. She smiled. "He never found out. I made another cake and ate half of it!"

You Know You're In Trouble When...

- ... Your accountant's letter of resignation is postmarked Zurich.
- ... Your suggestion box starts ticking.
- ... Your secretary tells you the FBI is on line 1, the DA is on line 2, and CBS is on line 3.
- ... You make more than you ever made, owe more than you ever owed, and have less than you've ever had.
- ... The simple instructions enclosed aren't.
- ... People send your wife sympathy cards on your anniversary.
- ... The plumber floats by on your kitchen table.



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

LORD, Remember Me

And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Luke 23:33

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. Luke 23:39-43

In the above passage of scripture we find one of the most if not the most beautiful pictures of grace in all of the Word of God. Anytime that I write about or speak about God's grace I always walk away thinking that I didn't do it justice. The truth of the matter is that the greatest poet that this world has ever known could not put into words how wonderful, marvelous and amazing God's grace is! Someone once said that "Grace is the unmerited love and favor of God"...unmerited because there is nothing that man could ever do to make himself deserving of God's grace. If this is true than surely we see no greater example than the one of the malefactor that hung on the cross next to Jesus. Here we see a man that the Bible has very little say about...there is no name given, no history or lineage of his life. Basically the only description that we find of him is that he was a "malefactor". The word malefactor means the following...wrong doer, criminal, worthless, depraved, evil...need I go on? We do not know anything of his life before this except that it must have been wasted and ruined by the destruction of sin. We can also see that his present situation is that he has been crucified and has only but a short time left to live. And of course with this scene being what it was we certainly see that he had no future in this world. He had wasted his life and was now to the point of death....only moments or a few breaths away from hell. The eternal fires of damnation licking at his heels. He had nothing to offer to God...his past was no more than a painful memory...his present one of execution and no hope of offering anything in his future. Yet in those last moments of his life the Bible says that he turns to Jesus for mercy. We see in the words that this man would speak, first to the other malefactor and then to Jesus a true act of repentance. He confesses that he is guilty...that his punishment was deserving and that Jesus was blameless. He then turns to Jesus and calls Him "Lord" and asks him to remember him when he comes into His kingdom! In these few words we see that he knows of his need for a saviour and of his faith that Jesus was indeed the Saviour and his only means of hope and salvation! What was the answer that Jesus gave? With some of the last strength that He had...with some of the last breath that He had...His answer was one of acceptance and forgiveness! This malefactor that had nothing to offer, nothing to give, no time left for good deeds and certainly none to claim in his past finds mercy...forgiveness and GRACE! Oh, we do not have much trouble understanding the conversion of Paul on the road to Damascus and why the LORD would save him. After all he went on to become the greatest Apostle ever known winning countless souls to the LORD. Or the forgiveness that Peter received when he denied the LORD and then went on to be a great and powerful man of God! But this man...this good for nothing, worthless malefactor?? Surely it was too late for such a one as this man. Nothing to offer...no hope of working for the LORD...no time and no hope that he could give anything or do anything in return for this marvelous gift of grace! If there has ever been a clearer picture of God's grace then I am at a loss to bring it to mind! If you are out there and you think you are too bad or you think that it is too late for you...THINK AGAIN! As long as there is breath in your body there is hope...there is mercy...there is grace to be found in Jesus Christ! The sooner we realize that it's all found in Him and faith in what He did that day on Calvary the sooner we can walk in the Victory that He won there! I will leave you this month with a few words from what I believe is the greatest song ever written...a song that no doubt this malefactor had he of known the words could have sung as he passed from this life to the next that day on Calvary...*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me....I once was lost but now am found, Was blind, but now, I see.* Until next time may the LORD bless and keep you is my prayer. Pastor Billy R. Douglas



The Simplicity That Is In Christ

By: Evangelist Mike Heltsley

Summary: Christian ministry today is often elaborate, expensive, market-driven, and complicated. By contrast, the ministry of Jesus was simple, relatable, and reproducible in all nations and among all people throughout the world.

What can we learn from the simplicity of Jesus' supremely effective ministry?

2 Corinthians 11:2-3 - For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

- One of Satan's primary goals is to lure us away from the "simplicity that is in Christ." The devil loves it when we make Christian life and ministry complicated, and thereby confusing and even discouraging. Matthew 11:25 - At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.
- Remember that God's intent is that we receive Jesus Christ, God's revelations, and all the things of God with simplicity and sincerity, like "little children."
- That simplicity, then, should also characterize our ministries, as it did the ministry of Jesus Himself. Matthew 8:19-20 - And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. 20 And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.
- Not only did Jesus have no home, He also had no church building. Nor did the early Church have what we call "church buildings." Archeological efforts have failed to find a specific New Testament "church building" dated in the first century.
- The Ephesian church is believed to have been the largest local church in the first century A.D. Yet in its early stages, the apostle Paul had the believers meet for two years in a (presumably) rented lecture hall owned by a man named Tyrannus (Acts 19:9-10). The early-Church Christians' ministry did not focus on building church campuses. Matthew 5:1-2 - And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, Matthew 13:2-3 - And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; • Jesus' "pulpit" was often a boat, or a mountainside, or the open plain, or wherever listeners could be found. Yet no greater sermons were ever preached!
- Compare that to some churches today, where the pastor in flowing robes mounts a staircase to an ornate pulpit that looks like the prow of a ship! A far cry from "...the simplicity that is in Christ." Mark 1:16-17 - Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. 17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.
- Jesus' transportation was His own two feet! At least once He "stepped up" and rode on a donkey.
- I'm not suggesting that it's wrong for a minister of the Gospel to have a nice car. I'm just reminding us of how Jesus ministered with such grace and power, despite having mostly to walk from place to place. The lack of modern conveniences did nothing to impair His ministry. Luke 6:12 - And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
- Praying on a mountainside. Jesus had no plush, carpeted prayer room with soft, piped-in music. He prayed in gardens and on mountainsides and in the desert. Luke 22:25-27 - And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.
- Jesus, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, never pursued being a prominent, famous minister. In fact, at times He would even instruct His followers not to make mention of some of the supernatural ministries He had done.
- Jesus never lost His servant's heart. And He exhorted His followers to imitate Him in that regard. What a lesson for us — to "be among [people] as one who serves." Just think of the simplicity of Jesus' ministry:
- He had no home church to finance him.
- He had nowhere to lay His head.
- He had places like hillsides and fishing boats for His pulpit.
- He had no "connections" among Judaism's leaders.
- He traveled "foot class," not first class.
- He used the hills, the desert, a garden, and the like for His prayer room.
- He taught with simple stories (parables) about birds, plants, seeds, etc., not with flowing rhetoric and artfully crafted messages.
- His ministry of healing was not preplanned. He simply healed people as He encountered them wherever He went.
- He had simple faith in His Fathers' provision, unlike many of today's high-powered, high-pressure financial appeals.
- He had the heart of a servant, versus an "I-am-leadership" mentality.
- He received a cross for all His labors, rather than this world's esteem, favor, and adulation. So what is the message in all this? Quite simply, that the ministry of Christ is an example for our ministries. He kept it simple. As a mature pastor once told me, "The main things of the Bible are very plain, and the plain things are the main things. If you are going to build a great church, you must make the basics beautiful." Jesus did not depend on externals. He needed no facilities, no equipment, no advertising, no "stuff." Rather, His effectiveness in ministry sprang from a powerful Holy Spirit anointing ... from the declaration of truth ... from honoring God the Father ... from relating to people with love — precisely the type of things that we, too, can do in ministering effectively for Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2-3 - For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.



Purity in a Digital World

Pastor Steven Huston

“I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes.” (Psalm 101:3a)

I wonder how David would accomplish this task in a digital world that is more than eager to place all manner of vile wickedness, immodesty, pornographic images and verbal descriptions—indiscriminately—before the eyes of young and old alike. How do we walk and surf with integrity offline and on? How do we keep our heart and mind pure, walking in holiness rather than walking close to the “line” and at times “falling over it”? What is the key to keeping both feet in the light rather than letting one foot wander after worldliness and stand in darkness? If James tells us that our tongue shouldn’t speak blessings and cursing and that a fountain doesn’t send forth both sweet and bitter water (3:8-11), neither should our digital devices be used for both good and evil. We ought not to consume the Bible on our phones in the morning, only to find ourselves using that very same device to consume pornography at night. Posting Bible verses and words of encouragement one minute and then swearing, sexting, or promoting evil the next shouldn’t be our practice. In ALL that we do, we are to glorify our Creator; we are to do ALL in the name of our Savior, Jesus. Read on as Tim Challies describes the problem of online pornography and then tells us how to protect ourselves and our children from this addictive evil. Mr. Challies presented five facts for our consideration in regards to online pornography. The statistics given for each point were relayed by him. We are not sure where he gathered his information, but it is very similar to other reputable sites which give stats on this topic. 1. Exposure to Internet Pornography Happens Early: The average age of first time exposure is 12 years old. It’s expected to settle in around 11 years old. Many of these first time exposures are inadvertent; they come through pop-ups or just searching for answers to innocent questions. Sometimes it’s because a father has left these images behind or a friend has brought them up. One thing is for sure, regardless of the age at one sees them or how they were introduced, the child is forever changed. He or she cannot un-see the images that have been placed before their eyes. By age 18, 90% of boys and 60% of girls have been exposed to “really vile stuff.” 2. Exposure to Internet Pornography Happens Often: 7 out of 10 young adult men and 2 out of every 10 women access pornography almost weekly. These statistics hardly change whether one attends church or not. Curiosity becomes a repetitive pattern; it morphs into an addiction, drawing people in deeper and in increased frequency. Almost 9 out of 10 young adults make pornographic viewing a monthly habit. 3. Exposure to Internet Pornography Happens EVERYWHERE: More than half of the pornography consumed is done so on mobile devices. 1 of every 5 searches on a mobile device is for pornography. In cars, parks, the beach—ANYWHERE—people can search for and/or consume pornography. Be ever vigilant over your children’s safety and over their devices. 4. Exposure to Internet Pornography CHANGES People: Half of Christian men and 20% of Christian women admit to being addicted to pornography. Christian or not, pornography rewires our brains; it changes the way we think, behave, and our perception of other people. Porn shapes us as individuals and shapes us as a society. “You can watch pornography from the time you’re twelve until the day you get married and you’ll never learn the meaning and the true value of sexuality as God intends it. Every single message in pornography goes directly against God’s plan for sexuality. It’s opposite in every way. As people give themselves over to it, they become ‘pornified,’ you could say. So over time, they start to see everything through the lens of pornography, which is why when I wrote a book on this subject I called it, Sexual Detox. It’s really like people need to detoxify from its effects on them.” 5. Exposure to Pornography Causes Shame: People always try to cover their tracks. 7 of 10 teens admit they’ve done something to hide what they’ve seen online from their parents. Like Adam and Eve, we try to hide our shame, covering our sin. Mr. Challies goes on to encourage us, stating that this is not a hopeless situation. We need to deal with it. “God’s Word speaks directly into our despair.” We must warn our children of the dangers of these useful devices and teach them to guard their heart and mind for the glory of God. How do we live well in a world like this, a world filled with filthy images, seemingly where ever we turn? We are encouraged with two mind-protecting activities: 1) (Personal) Commit to developing godly character: Arm yourself with Christian character, “godly character that despises sexual sin and that loves and embraces sexual purity.” We should look at God’s laws as a guard rail to keep us from running off a cliff as opposed to a fence that prohibits us from playing on the grass. “God’s law isn’t meant to steal our joy; it’s meant to multiply our joy!” The Bible assures us that when we ignore His boundaries, pain will be our reward. We are only one person, let us live with integrity. We dare not compartmentalize our life. All areas of our life—online and off—are meant to glorify God and to enjoy Him. All areas of our life are to pursue holiness and live in the blessings of God’s good rewards. Strive for godly character at any cost. 2) (Family) Be active in “Digital Discipleship” with your children: “As parents we need to take responsibility for what our children do and how they behave online.” We need our children to develop godly character. Pornography delays or destroys that godly character. Our children need to be trained and taught how to honor God with and through these digital devices. They must be taught, and led by example, to glorify God online as well as off. As parents (grandparents or any in authority), take an active role in protecting your children in this online world. Be proactive in guiding them to godly character, and to God’s glory, in this brave, new, digital world. With joy and solemnity, take up the heavy blessing of responsibility to lead, train, and help them avoid pornography, do good to/for others, and to glorify God...even when it appears no one is looking. Pastor Steve Huston 103 N. Division Ave. Fremont, Michigan 49412



REESIE'S RECIPES

Grape Salad

by Amy Willis

- 1 (8oz) softened cream cheese
- 1 (8oz) sour cream
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 lbs seedless grapes (red or green)
- Pecan pieces

Combine cream cheese, sour cream, sugar, and vanilla, mix until well blended. Slice grapes in half length ways and add to mixture until desired thickness is obtained. Toss in pecans to taste. Serve chilled.

Slow Cooker Cinnamon Sugar Glazed Carrots

- 2 pounds baby carrots
- 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons McCormick® Cinnamon, Ground
- 1/2 teaspoon McCormick® Ginger, Ground
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Spray inside of 4-quart slow cooker with no stick cooking spray. Add carrots and melted butter; toss to coat.

Cover. Cook on HIGH 3 to 4 hours or until tender.

Meanwhile, mix brown sugar, cinnamon, ginger and salt in small bowl until well blended. Toss cooked carrots with brown sugar mixture in slow cooker just before serving.

Corn Pudding

- 1 box of jiffy cornbread
- 1 stick butter, melted
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 eggs

Preheat oven to 375. Grease 9x13 baking dish. Pour butter and corn into prepared dish. Blend in sour cream. In separate bowl beat eggs and stir into dish with jiffy mix. Bake 35-40 minutes or until center is firm.

Double Layer Pumpkin Cheesecake

1-1/2 cups crushed gingersnap cookies
(about 30 cookies)

3/4 cup chopped pecans, toasted

1 tablespoon sugar

1/8 teaspoon salt

1/4 cup butter, melted

CHEESECAKE LAYER:

1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened

1/3 cup sugar

1 large egg, lightly beaten

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

PUMPKIN LAYER:

2 large eggs, lightly beaten

1-1/3 cups canned pumpkin

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

1/8 teaspoon salt

2/3 cup heavy whipping cream

Sweetened whipped cream, optional

Toasted chopped pecans, optional

Preheat oven to 325°. Pulse first four ingredients in a food processor until ground. Add butter; pulse to blend. Press mixture onto bottom and up sides of an ungreased 9-in. deep-dish pie plate. Refrigerate while preparing filling. For cheesecake layer, beat all ingredients until smooth. For pumpkin layer, whisk together eggs, pumpkin, sugar, pie spice and salt; gradually whisk in cream. Spread cheesecake mixture onto bottom of crust; cover with pumpkin mixture. Bake on a lower oven rack until filling is set, 55-65 minutes. Cool at least 1 hour on a wire rack; serve or refrigerate within 2 hours. If desired, top with whipped cream and pecans.

CD & Cook Book Giveaway!

Christmas is just around the corner! Share one or more of your favorite recipes with our readers and enter for a chance to win a FREE copy of our cookbook & our latest Christmas CD! Send your recipes to the address on the back of this newsletter!! Drawing will be held December 1st!

or email recipes to votlradio@juno.com



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE WITH MARSHMALLOW & PECAN STREUSEL

Mashed Sweet Potatoes:

- 3 pounds sweet potatoes* (see note), peeled and chopped into large chunks
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ¼ cup milk or half and half
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon or pumpkin pie spice
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- salt, to taste

Topping:

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ⅛ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- 2 cups (or more) mini marshmallows

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease a 2-quart casserole dish and set aside. Place the sweet potatoes in a large pot, cover with water, and boil until tender (about 7 minutes, depending on the size). Drain and return to the pot. Add butter, milk, cinnamon, brown sugar and salt to the potatoes and mash until smooth. Use a hand mixer, if desired, to make them extra smooth. Taste the potatoes and add additional seasonings, if desired. Transfer the mashed potatoes to the prepared casserole dish. Place in the oven until heated through. While the sweet potatoes are heating, prepare the topping. In a medium bowl, combine butter, brown sugar, flour, cinnamon, salt, and pecans. Stir until thoroughly combined. Remove the sweet potatoes from the oven. Top with half the marshmallows, then sprinkle half the streusel over the marshmallows. Top with the other half of the marshmallows and sprinkle the remaining streusel over the top. Place back into the oven for 10-15 minutes, until the topping is bubbly and brown (keep an eye on it so the marshmallows don't burn).

Pecan Pie Cheeseball

- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup butter, softened
- ¼ cup powdered sugar
- ½ cup chopped pecans

Pecan Filling

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons corn syrup (Karo)
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup chopped pecans

Using a mixer, combine cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar with a on medium speed until fluffy. Spread onto a parchment lined pan and place in the freezer while making the pecan filling.

Filling

In a large non-stick pan, combine butter, brown sugar, corn syrup and eggs. Cook on the stove top stirring constantly over medium-low heat until thickened and the mixture begins to bubble. Reduce heat slightly and let cook while stirring one minute more. Remove from heat, stir in pecans and cool slightly (about 5 minutes). Remove cream cheese mixture from the freezer and spread the pecan mixture otop ensuring you leave about ½" on the sides. Return to the freezer for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, place the remaining ½ cup pecans in a non-stick frying pan over medium low heat to toast. Stir every couple of minutes until pecans are lightly toasted and fragrant. Set aside to cool. Remove the mixture from the freezer and working quickly to keep it cold, fold each side of the cream cheese/pecan mixture into the middle trying to keep most of the pecan mixture on the inside while gently removing the cream cheese from the parchment paper. Wet your hands and gently roll into a ball. Roll the ball into the toasted pecans and refrigerate at least 2 hours before serving.



Let The Rivers Flow

George Whitten

And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water.

Genesis 26:18-19

There are times in our lives that we are going through a spiritual valley and we want to obtain victory -- we want to have answers -- we want God's power to flow through us again. In this passage, Isaac found springing water after digging up the wells of his father Abraham again. In Hebrew, the phrase springing water is "mayim chayeem". It literally means "living waters". Jesus made us a promise that "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." - John 7:38 The Lord promises us rivers of living water -- not a puddle, not a pond, not a lake -- He said rivers! These waters are not meant to be stagnant and not meant to be dammed up! They need to be flowing -- unrestricted! We, who are believers in Jesus, have those living waters within us -- but we must clear out the obstacles in our lives that prevent them from flowing! Sins of unforgiveness, resentment, bitterness, and clinging onto pet sins are just a few of the barriers which can damn up the "rivers" of living water! Let's seek the Lord and ask him to search us deeply and thoroughly that we know how to destroy those obstacles that clog the free movement of His Spirit in our lives!

www.worthydevotions.com

THE PLEASURE OF HIS PRESENCE

by Pastor Mike Muzzerall

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE BEING in the presence of the Lord. Songs have been written, lives changed, and sermons had their genesis in the presence of the Lord. There is nothing like the pleasure of His presence.

WHERE IS HIS PRESENCE? UNDER LAW THERE WAS a specific geographical location where God met with His people. He told Moses, "I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims" (Ex. 25:22). In Exodus 29, it is worded slightly different: "at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the Lord: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee" (42). Of course God was still omnipresent but for man to come into His presence, the tabernacle was the established place. LIMITED ACCESS However, that meant limited access to His presence. Not every human on the face of the earth could come to the door of the tabernacle. Furthermore, only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and approach the mercy seat. Even then, it was only permitted once a year on the great Day of Atonement. Even then, it necessitated the atonement sacrifice. Without the required blood, the mercy seat became the judgment seat. In other words, without sin being atoned for, death would come upon any who would dare enter into the presence of a thrice Holy God. LET US COME BOLDLY Under grace we are invited to go into the presence of God. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:16). Before we can "go boldly," we need to understand where this confidence to enter into the very presence of God comes from. Previous to this verse we are told that Jesus went as a forerunner. "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4:14-15). It is because Jesus passed into the heavens that we can boldly experience the pleasure of His presence. REST AND RELATIONSHIP No man has ever been granted access into the presence of the Lord based on his works or his religion. Access is only available through rest and relationship: resting in the completed work of Calvary and relationship with Jesus Christ. Our heavenly High Priest made the way so that whosoever believeth could have access into His presence. Through faith in the completed work of Calvary, we can have the assurance that we are acceptable to God. BOLDLY NOT ARROGANTLY There's a difference between coming into His presence boldly and coming into His presence arrogantly. Are you coming on the basis of your faith in the blood of the Lamb or are you coming into His presence trusting in your own merit? You will notice that we come into His presence boldly for the purpose of obtaining mercy. We enter boldly believing that access into His presence will be granted based solely on our profession that the blood of Jesus Christ makes us acceptable to our heavenly Father. FULLNESS OF JOY AND PLEASURES EVERMORE Once in His presence, we can experience what the psalmist spoke of. "In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps.16:11). Amen! To what do we owe for the pleasure of His presence? Our hearts.



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Additional passages for Today: Colossians 3:5 Eph. 5:3; Heb. 13:5; I Tim. 6:7-10; Matt. 6:25, 33, Luke 21:34-36; 2 Peter 3:3-4

Thought for Today: What do you CHASE after?

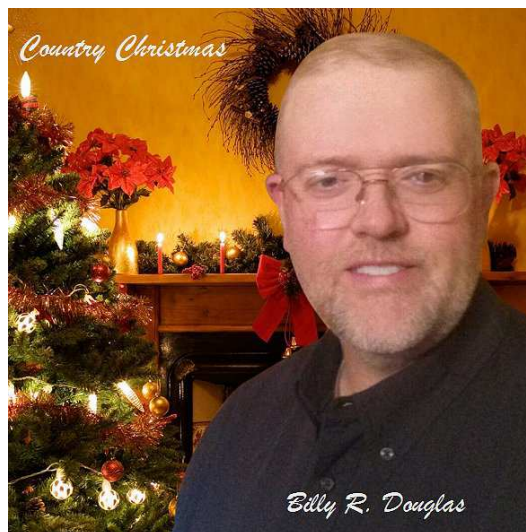
Story for Today: Nan and Sue were so excited as they left gym class and headed down the sidewalk to their waiting Grandmother. Today they would be going to Grandma and Grandpa's to spend the weekend. Spending the weekend at their Grandparents farm was always a treat, but this weekend was going to be extra special! It was the weekend before Thanksgiving and the twins were going to be helping prepare for the big dinner! Every year the entire family gathered for a spread of food that made their mouths water just thinking about it. There would be the normal delicacies, like the oven roasted turkey stuffed with the best tasting dressing imaginable, the mashed potatoes creamed to perfection, the baked carrots and sweet potatoes topped with marsh mellow fluff and brown sugar, beets, green bean casserole, soups, salads and so many more things, including the special table just for desserts. So much food and so many to enjoy it! Today, they were heading to the store on their way home to finish buying the final ingredients needed to begin the task of preparation for one of the largest meals they would ever have the chance of preparing. As they drove down the street to the store, Nan noticed a sign outside the church inviting people to join in the community Thanksgiving Day feast for the needy being held at that church next Thursday. Being the compassionate girl she was, she asked her Grandma if they would be helping at that event. Her Grandma thought for a minute and then asked if each of the girls would like to pick up a couple of things from the store that they could drop off at the church on their way back to the farm. Excitement continued to build and the girls were thrilled to buy "extra" groceries. Nan picked out a couple extra dozen rolls while Sue chose a nice big ham. Grandma picked up some sweet potatoes and they were off. After dropping off the goodies at the church, they finally arrived at the farm and the real work began. The girls were in charge of making brownies, and slicing apples for the pies. Before long, the kitchen was filled the wonderful smell of fresh baked pies and other goodies that kept popping out of the oven and off the stove. Thanksgiving day found the girls back at the farm with all the family gathered around several very large tables! The room was filled with the delicious scents of some wonderfully cooked foods. Plate after plate was filled. Sue and Nan each filled their plate twice and had another plate filled with desserts. They were so full; but, the food was so good! They were sure they wouldn't have to eat for weeks. With the clean up done and several of the family members taking naps, Nan and Sue asked their grandma if they could go help at the community church feast. After some discussion and a phone call the girls went to help with the clean up at the lunch. They were amazed to see so many people. A few had just gotten their plates of food. They didn't have an over abundance but, just enough. And to their surprise as the last person was seated, a minister stood up in front and began to share about God and how each person alive has so much to be thankful for. After he finished sharing the gospel story. He went on to explain that being thankful was something that needed to be done all throughout the year. He told how with Christ as your savior, there was always something to be thankful for! The girls were touched by the special service they had just witnessed. On the ride home they talked to their grandma. They found out that even though some of the people at that church had bad habits that had consequences which cost them much materially, the cost to their soul was even greater. However, today's feast had been better for them than the one the girls had. They realized they had over-fed their bodies and starved their souls. Sue remembered a Bible verse that talked about covetousness and how her Dad had said that some people can covet and not even realize it. He said that paying more attention to, or desiring things that please the flesh, are ways that people covet. The girls thought about the past weekend. They realized that they had been focusing more on the things that pleased their flesh. They decided they needed to have a talk with God to apologize. They also decided that this coming year they would be more thankful everyday and focus more on the eternal rather than the flesh.

Questions for Today: How about you? What does your Thanksgiving feast look like? Do you feed your body or your soul? Do you focus daily on things that please God or your flesh? What are the things that you chase after? Is it pleasure in food or entertainment? We are warned to beware of covetousness. Chase after God and things of eternal value!



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



PRAYER LIST

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

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My Friend: we are about to ask you the most important question of your life. Your joy or your sorrow for all eternity depends upon your answer. The question is: Are you saved? Do you know Jesus Christ as your personal LORD and Saviour? It is not a question of how good you are, nor if you are a church member, but have you put your faith in Jesus? Are you sure you will go to Heaven when you die? The Bible makes the plan of salvation plain and simple. *Romans 10:13* says *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* Call on Jesus today. Put your faith and trust in him and ask him to forgive you of your sins and to be your LORD and savior and you will be born again...SAVED!! Do this today, tomorrow may be to late! Please write or call us if you have made the decision to accept Jesus. We would love to send you some material to help you with your new life with the LORD.

A Time To Give...

To every thing there is a season, and a time...Ecc 3:1

Is this newsletter a blessing to you? Please prayerfully consider sending a love gift today to help us cover the cost of this outreach.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7



VOTL Tabernacle

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