



THE TRUMPET

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Voice of the LORD
Ministries

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In all things Give Thanks

Thank You Lord

I thank you Lord for hearing me
When I get on my knees to pray
I thank you Lord every day for life
As I go from day to day.

I thank you Lord for your sacrifice
When you died on the cross for me
I once walked through life being blinded
But, because of you I now can see.

I thank you Lord for the miracles you send
Your love, forgiveness and grace
I thank you Lord for carrying me
When I could no longer set the pace.

I thank you Lord for lifting me
My spirit you lift so high
I thank you Lord when I'm feeling down
'cause you give me the will to try.

You gave me the path to eternal life
And, only you my Lord know when
The day I can thank you face to face
In Jesus name, Amen.

by Roger Horsch

Famine

Pastor Don Ragsdale

Many of God's people throughout the ages have faced Famine, yet through it all God delivered them. Yet today due to the Prosperity Gospel, Gods people think if they face Famine then God's not in it, however Abram faced Famine in the Land of Canaan. Regardless of where you are physically, Famines will arise, in which God allows to see if your heart is truly to follow Him, or only His blessings. Abram faced a famine in Canaan, the Land of Promise, yet when he went down to Egypt due to his physical needs, he left God's provision, so us too, when we leave God's land, we too leave His promises, for within them is His provision. Because it wasn't until Abram came out of Egypt and returned to Bethel, the House of God, which was the place of the Altar, that God could restore His Blessings!-Gen. 12:10 / 13:1-4. So don't exchange the Riches of Egypt for the Famine in Canaan for God is testing you and proving you in order for you to walk freely in all the Land He has given unto you, yet if you refuse you'll continue to go down just as Abram did. When Abram came out of Egypt and back to the Altar, then he was walking in faith again and not by sight. So the famines that we face are either because we have forsaken the Truth, to Draw us back or to prove that we don't only want the Blessings, but even more so the Blesser!

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In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus concerning you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give
thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.
Psalms 30:4

For the LORD shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all
her waste places; and he will make her wilderness
like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the
LORD; joy and gladness shall be found therein,
thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.
Isaiah 51:3



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH



Cousin Leroy

Ole Leroy went to visit his 90-year-old grandpa who lived back up in the hills. After spending the night, grandpa prepared breakfast he fixed some eggs and bacon. He noticed a film-like substance on his plate and he questioned grandpa, "Are these plates clean?" Grandpa replied, "Those plates are as clean as cold water can get them so go on and finish your meal." That afternoon, while eating the sandwich grandpa made for lunch, he noticed tiny specks around the edge of this plate, and a substance that looked like dried egg yolks. So he asked again, "Are you sure these plates are clean?" Without looking up from his plate, grandpa said, "I told you before son, those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them, now don't ask me about it anymore!" Later that afternoon, Leroy was on his way out the back door to go to the well. As he was going out, Grandpa's dog started to growl and would not let him pass. "Grandpa, your dog won't let me out." Without diverting his attention from the piece of wood that he was whittling, Grandpa shouted, "COLDWATER, GET OUT OF THE WAY!!"

Life's Too Short Too Worry

Jack had been a compulsive worrier for years, to the point it was ruining his life. He saw a psychologist who recommended a specialist who could help him. His friend, Bob, noticed a dramatic change and asked "What happened? Nothing seems to worry you anymore." "I hired a professional worrier and I haven't had a worry since," replied Jack. "That must be expensive," Bob replied. "He charges \$5,000 a month," Jack told him. "\$5,000!?! How in the world can you afford to pay him?" exclaimed Bob. "I don't know. That's his problem."

The Sissy

Three burly fellows on huge motorcycles pulled up to a highway cafe, where a truck driver, just a little guy, was perched on a stool quietly eating his lunch. As the three fellows came in, they spotted him, grabbed his food away from him, and laughed in his face. The truck driver said nothing. He got up, paid for his food, and walked out. One of the three cyclists, unhappy that they hadn't succeeded in provoking the little man into a fight, commented to the waitress: "Boy, what a sissy! He sure wasn't much of a man, was he?" The waitress replied, "Well I guess not." Then, looking out the window, she added, "I guess he's not much of a truck driver, either. He just ran over three motorcycles."

Automation

At the automated coffee vending machine, a man put in his money and watched powerlessly while the cup failed to appear. One nozzle sent coffee down the drain while another poured cream after it. "Now that's real automation!" his equally friend exclaimed. "It even drinks for you."

The Repair Order

An auto mechanic, received a repair order that read: "Check for clunking sound when going around corners." Taking the car out for a test drive, he made a right turn, and a moment later he heard a clunk. He then made a left turn and again heard a clunk. Back at the shop, he opened the car's trunk, and soon discovered the problem. Promptly he returned the repair order to the service manager with this notation: "Remove bowling ball from trunk".



VOTL
Voice of the LORD

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Billy R. Douglas

A Word Spoken In Due Season

A doctor wrote a letter of thanks to a schoolteacher for having given him so much encouragement when he had been in her class 30 years before. He later received this reply: "I want you to know what your note meant to me. I am an old lady in my eighties, living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely, and seeming like the last leaf on the tree. You will be interested to know that I taught school for 50 years, and yours is the first letter of appreciation I have ever received. It came on a cold, blue morning and cheered my lonely old heart as nothing has cheered me in many years." How true it is that the words we speak can make or break someone's day. Proverbs 25:11 says "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Another passage reads "a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" During this time of thanksgiving let us give thanks unto the LORD for all that he has done AND also take the time to let someone know who has helped you along the way or has been an inspiration to you and simply say "Thank You". What a powerful impact "a word spoken in due season" can have on ones life. I have been in the ministry for over 30 years and I can tell you that there have been times (seasons) when the enemy would whisper in my ear..."Your not helping anyone"... "You are standing alone" etc. And then I would get a letter, email or phone call from someone simply saying "I appreciate you" or "Your ministry is a blessing to me". What a blessing it was to hear those words and it seemed as though new life would spring forth in what seemed like a dry season in my life. There are many stories that come to mind and I would like to share one of those with you. Some years back I received a letter from a dear elderly lady who lived in another state. Her letter went something like this, "I just wanted to write you and let you know what a blessing VOTL Radio has been to me. I am getting up in years now and live alone and rarely have any visitors. For the most part I am confined to a wheel chair due to my legs being so weak. I have a small desk that sits near a window in my room overlooking the freeway. So many times I have sat there looking out the window watching the cars go by and listening to your station...the music and the ministries have blessed me so very much and I just wanted you to know." I cannot tell you what that meant to me. There was no offering enclosed but her letter was worth more to me than all the money she could have offered. I want to remind you again of what the Word says in Proverbs 15:23 "a word spoken in due season, how good is it!" You may be the one that has that word that needs to be spoken in the season of someones life!! Take the time to let someone know you are praying for them, that you love them, that you appreciate them and that they are a blessing to you and watch the difference that it can make! In closing I want to tell you how much I love and appreciate you all. Thank you for the blessing that you are in my life! "We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers" 1 Thessalonians 1:2

One more thing...I would like to remind you...if you have ever prayed a prayer for this ministry or given financially to support this work then that letter from that dear lady was not only a thank you to me...but a thank you to you as well!

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

Oh Be Not Weary

William Wilberforce led a campaign against the British Parliament to abolish slavery in the late 1700's and early 1800's. During the course of his intense efforts, Wilberforce came to a desperate place of discouragement, feeling he had absolutely no more strength to continue. In this condition, he was about to give up, when his elderly friend, John Wesley, lying on his deathbed, was informed of his friend William's distress. Wesley requested pen and paper, and with a quivering hand, wrote these words, "Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God? Oh be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of his might, till even American slavery shall vanish away before it." John Wesley died six days later, but William Wilberforce fought for forty-five more years, and in 1833, three days before his own death, witnessed the abolition of slavery in Britain.



Are You Warming Your Hands By The Wrong Fire?

By: Evangelist Mike Heltsley

John 18:15 -27 - And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. 16 But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. 17 Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. 18 And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself. 19 The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. 20 Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. 21 Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said. 22 And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, Answerest thou the high priest so? 23 Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me? 24 Now Annas had sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest. 25 And Simon Peter stood and warmed himself. They said therefore unto him, Art not thou also one of his disciples? He denied it, and said, I am not...26 One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? 27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew. Our text records the saddest hour in the life of one of our Lord's most interesting disciples. No other follower of Christ demonstrated 1-Such COURAGE At Times 2-Yet Such A COWARD At Other Times. A-The night before the crucifixion was a very cowardice night for Simon Peter. He said things and did things of which he would forever be ashamed! B-If there was one segment in Peter's life he would love to blot out of his record it would have been that night! Several events took place on that fateful night which led up to Peter's spiritual collapse. The events occurred as follows: 1. His DISPUTING about Foot Washing. John 13:6 - 10 -Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. 10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. "Thou shalt never wash my feet" (v.8) Rebellion! 2. His DECLARATIONS of Loyalty. Matthew 26:33 - Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. John 13:37 - Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake. The very thing that Peter proudly boasted that he would NOT do, he did! Christ's warnings were simply cast aside! 1st Corinthians 10:12 - Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 3. His DROWSINESS in Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36 - 45 - Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. "If Peter could not be faithful in the face of DROWSINESS, he certainly will not be faithful in the face of DEATH!" "If you sleep during PRAYER time, you will fail during PROVING time!" 4. His DEMONSTRATION of Swordplay. John 18:10-11 - Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. 11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it Christianity does NOT conquer with the Sword of STEEL, but rather with the Sword of the SPIRIT! Ephesians 6:17 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 5. His DRIFTING from Fellowship. Matthew 26:58 - But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. The phrase "afar off" represents more than just Peter's physical distance from the Lord, but it also reflects his distance apart from his spiritual relationship with the Lord. Instead of being close to the Lord (the True Fire), Peter found himself by the worldly fires with the ungodly! Warming himself with this fire says that Peter was more concerned about his physical coldness than his spiritual coldness. I. He FELLOW SHIPPED with the WORLD! John 18:18 - "and Peter stood with them" 2nd Corinthians 6:17 - Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. Any time your fellowship with the Lord and His people begins to wane, you will soon move into the camp of the ungodly! "Birds of a feather flock together!" "It is unwise to warm yourself beside the fire with people of whom you may get burned!" II. He FORGOT His WORDS! Luke 22:61 - And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. III. He FORSOOK His WILL! Luke 22:56 - 60 - But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. 57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not. 58 And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not. 59 And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean. 60 And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. A. His Wickedness (He Denied Christ!) The same Peter who once said of his Lord, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."(Matt 16:16), now refers to Him as "this man of whom ye speak" (Mark 14:71) B. His Weeping Luke 22:61-62 - And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. 62 And Peter went out, and wept bitterly. If you are warming your hands by the world's fire of PASSION and PLEASURES, instead of the PRAISE, PRAYER, and POWER of God, then you are warming yourself by the wrong fire!!!



What Do Christians Do?

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

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

Although its impact is much greater when hearing this godly man speak with his Mississippi accent, read the following words of Minister Don Wildmon (Founder of the American Family Association) from around 1999: “In 1973, the Supreme Court said it was okay to kill babies. Since then, we’ve killed more than the entire population of Canada. And it continues. A woman’s choice? Half of those who’ve died in the mother’s wombs have been women; they didn’t have a choice. It’s called abortion. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. First it was in dingy, dirty theaters, then convenience stores, then grocery stores, then on television, now it’s in the homes of millions who view the internet. It’s called pornography. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. They call it “no fault;” why should we blame anyone when something so tragic happens? Haven’t they already suffered enough? Half the marriages in America end this way. The children suffer, the family broke down. It’s called divorce. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. One time it was a perversion; we kept it secret. We secured help and hope for those who practiced it. Now it’s praised. We have parades celebrating it and elected officials give it their blessing. Now it’s endowed with special privileges and protected by special laws. Even some Christian leaders in denominations praise it. It’s called homosexuality. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. It used to be an embarrassment, a shame, now a third of all births to mothers, are to mothers who aren’t married. Two-thirds of all African American children are born into a home without a father. The state usually pays the tab. That’s why we pay our taxes, so the government can take the place of parents. After all, government bureaucrats know much better how to raise children than parents do. It’s called illegitimacy. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. At one time it was wrong but then the state decided to legalize it, promote it, and tax it. It has ripped apart families and destroyed lives. But just look at all the money the state’s raised. No longer do we have to teach our children to study and work hard; now we teach them they can get something for nothing. We spend millions encouraging the people to join the fun and excitement. Just look at the big sums people are winning; they’ll never have to work again. It’s called gambling. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. Not long ago Christians were the good guys; but now any positive image of Christians in movies or on the television is gone. We’re now depicted as the bad guys—greedy, marrow minded hypocrites. The teacher can’t have a Bible on her desk but can have playboy. We don’t have Christmas and Easter holidays just winter and spring breaks. We can’t pray in school but we can use foul language. It’s called being tolerant. Me? I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now. Yes, all of these things came to pass in 30 years. Where were the Christians? They were in church! All these things are for somebody else to deal with! Times have changed; involvement has been replaced with apathy. But don’t blame me! I didn’t do anything. I go to church; the minister preaches, and I go home. That’s what Christians do now.” Too often “Christianity” never leaves the church. Friends, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus! Follow Jesus where? He went everywhere. He took truth to the church and into society. He showed compassion but never at the expense of truth; rather, truth compelled Him to compassion and compassion compelled Him to speak truth. Silence is nothing more than a form of acceptance. Inactivity is a sign of death. Dead men don’t move unless someone picks them up and moves them...is that what happens in the church today? I’ve known several churches that can’t even get a majority of their people to move. Jesus said, “If any man will come after me...”—Action—purposely coming to Jesus. “Let him deny himself...”—Action—purposely choosing to submit your will to that of God’s (a form of dying). “and take up his cross daily...”—Action—purposely taking up your burden every day. “and follow me.”—ACTION—purposely following Jesus wherever He leads; step by step. Look at the hurts listed throughout Mr. Wildmon’s message. Each of those people needs the compassion of truth. They don’t need the inaction of mental judgment—Jesus will judge the living and the dead. They don’t need the inactivity of looks or attitudes of superiority or pity; they need an active introduction to Jesus and His truth. They don’t need the inactivity of Pharisaical prayers, “Thank you Lord that I am not like them.” They need our active prayers of brokenness, not only praying for them but with them, if possible. They don’t need the inactivity of not engaging with them, walking around them like the Levite in the “Good Samaritan.” They need our active engagement with them, showing compassion and paying the cost of truth and engagement. The church is not a building where we hear a sermon and retire to the comfort of our own homes, ignoring the hurting world around us. WE ARE THE CHURCH! We are to BE ACTIVE in showing the love, compassion, and truth of Christ. IF we are the body (of Christ), why aren’t we following the Head? Don Wildmon’s words describe a paralyzed body. Are we raised or are we dead? Are you dead to your will, alive to Christ’s burden placed before you, and following the lead of Jesus? Society is changed one soul at a time—which direction are we turning the tide?



REESIE'S RECIPES

Hummingbird Upside-Down Poke Bundt Cake

Cake

- 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 6 pineapple slices (from 20-oz can), drained,
juice reserved
- 1 box Betty Crocker™ SuperMoist™ yellow cake mix
- 1/2 cup reserved pineapple juice
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup mashed very ripe bananas (2 medium)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

Filling

- 1 cup (from 14-oz can) canned sweetened condensed
milk (not evaporated)
- 1/4 cup reserved pineapple juice

Powdered Sugar Icing

- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons reserved pineapple juice
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans, toasted

Heat oven to 350°F. Generously spray 12-cup bundt cake pan with baking spray with flour. Pour 2 tablespoons melted butter evenly in bottom of pan. Sprinkle brown sugar over butter. Cut pineapple slices in half. Line bottom of pan with pineapple halves, fitting slices close together. Set aside. In large bowl, beat cake mix, 1/2 cup melted butter, 1/2 cup reserved pineapple juice, eggs, bananas, cinnamon and nutmeg with electric mixer on medium speed 2 minutes. Pour into pan over pineapple. Bake 40 to 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Remove from oven; cool 15 minutes. In small bowl, mix Filling ingredients. With handle of wooden spoon (1/4 to 1/2-inch in diameter), poke holes halfway down in cake every inch, wiping spoon handle occasionally to prevent sticking. Carefully pour filling mixture over holes in cake, using spoon to direct mixture into holes. Refrigerate in pan, uncovered, 2 hours. Remove from refrigerator, and run metal spatula around outer and inside edges of pan to loosen cake; turn upside down onto serving platter. In small bowl, mix powdered sugar and 2 teaspoons reserved pineapple juice. Drizzle on top of cake; sprinkle with pecans.

Amish Dinner Rolls

- 3/4 cup warm milk (about 120-130°F)
- 1/2 cup warm water (about 120-130°F)
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 3/4 cup mashed potato flakes
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp Kosher salt
- 1 package (2 1/4 tsp, 1/4oz, 7g) RED STAR Platinum Superior Baking Yeast

In a mixing bowl combine milk, water, butter, mashed potato flakes, egg, sugar, flour, salt, and yeast. Using a stand mixer fitted with dough hook, knead for 6-8 minutes or until smooth and soft without being too sticky. The dough should clear sides of the bowl but slightly stick to the bottom. Add additional flour one tablespoon at a time if too wet. Add additional milk 1 tablespoon at a time if too dry. Remove from bowl and set on clean surface. Using the heel of your hand knead briefly until it forms a nice round ball. (Alternately you can knead by hand on a floured surface until you have a smooth soft dough.) Place dough in a greased bowl, cover and let rise until doubled, about 60-90 minutes. Punch down dough and turn out onto a clean surface. Cut dough into 16-20 equal pieces. Using the heel of your hand, quickly and firmly roll each piece around in circles until it forms a tight little ball. Arrange rolls in a greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Cover with greased plastic wrap. Let rise for about 1-1 1/2 hours. They will have doubled in size and be puffy. Meanwhile, preheat oven to 350°F. After the rolls have risen, uncover and place in oven and bake for 20-25 minutes, until golden brown.

Cranberry Fluff Salad

- 12 ounces fresh cranberries, frozen, then thawed
cranberries (fresh or frozen also work)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 8 ounces crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 cups mini-marshmallows
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans, optional

Chop cranberries in a food processor. Remove to a bowl. Mix in sugar, cover, and refrigerate overnight. Add well drained pineapple and marshmallows. Mix to combine. Whip heavy cream to stiff peaks. With a rubber spatula, gently fold the cream into the cranberry mixture. Refrigerate until ready to serve.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING



Creamy & Cheesy Green Bean Casserole

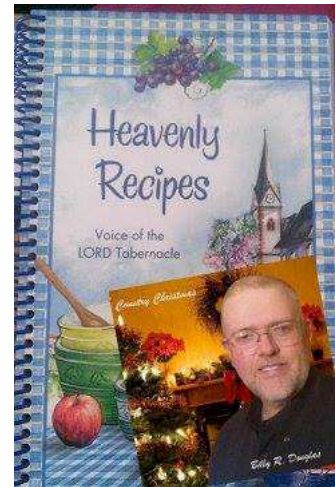
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cans (28 oz each) French style green beans, drained well
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar or Colby Jack cheese
- 1 cup French's fried onions

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9x13 baking dish, or similar casserole dish, with cooking spray. Set aside. Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Once melted, add the flour, salt, sugar, and pepper. Stir with a whisk for 1 minute. Stir constantly so it does not burn. Take off the heat and add sour cream. Stir together until combined. Add green beans, half the cheese, and half the fried onions. Stir together and pour into prepared baking dish. Top with the remaining cheese and sprinkle with the remaining fried onions. Bake for 30 minutes.

Waldorf Salad

- 2 Red Apples, chopped
- 2 Green Apples, chopped
- 1 cup Red Seedless Grapes, halved
- 1/4 cup Raisins
- 3/4 cup Celery, chopped
- 1/2 cup chopped Walnuts
- 2/3 cup Mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp Sugar
- 1 tsp White Vinegar

In large bowl toss the apples in lemon juice. Add celery, grapes, raisins and walnuts. In a separate bowl stir together mayonnaise, sugar and vinegar. Coat apple mixture. Refrigerate until ready to serve.



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Confess Or Don't Confess: What Does The Bible Say?

Pastor Mike Muzzerall

THERE'S AN INCREASE OF preachers proclaiming that Christians need not ask God for forgiveness of sins. They say, "The confession of sin is for unbelievers. Confessing in order to be forgiven is a work of the flesh. Whether you confess to a priest or directly to God makes no difference." This seems to contradict traditional doctrine. Confess or don't confess? What does the Bible say? ONE SACRIFICE One of their go-to verses is Hebrews 10:12: "But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God." They say that the "one sacrifice ... forever" means we no longer have to confess our sins. Does it really? The book of Hebrews boldly proclaims the superiority of Jesus Christ over angels, the Levitical priesthood, and the sacrificial system. Verses 1 through 4 proclaim that the blood of bulls and goats could not permanently remove sin. Verse 12 completes the thought by showing that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ fulfilled the sacrificial requirements once and for all. This is self-evident. Jesus said, "It is finished" meaning paid in full. It is in the perfect tense meaning that Jesus paid the price with the ongoing result that no further payments are required. The issue, therefore, is not the need for further payments. PAYMENT MADE BUT NOT APPLIED Universalism believes that since Jesus Christ died as payment for all sin every person is automatically saved. That's not much different than those in the Do Not Confess camp who say, "After all, the Christian's sins have already been paid for." That's true, but payment was not applied to my account until I came by faith to the old rugged Cross, confessed my sins, and asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and Saviour. Then I received forgiveness from God's treasury of grace. IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS HE IS FAITHFUL "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 Jn. 1:9). This verse should end the argument, but no. They say the lost need to confess their sins and saints need to confess that they are already forgiven. That's not what this verse says. It doesn't say to confess our forgiveness, but to "confess our sins." This is a third class present active subjunctive. If the first part of the conditional clause is met (the confessing of sins) the second part will always come true ("He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"). IS CONFESSION A WORK OF THE FLESH? The Greek word for confession (homologeō) is a compound Greek word. Homo means "of the same" and logeo means "to speak." Confession is therefore "saying the same thing" about your action that God's Word says. Kenneth Weust had this great observation about homologeo. He said, "Confession of sin on the part of the saint means therefore to say the same thing that God does about that sin, to agree with God as to all the implication of that sin as it relates to the Christian who commits it and to a holy God against whom it is committed." WE DARE NOT TRIVIALIZE SIN Brother Swaggart's commentary on 1 John 1:9 sums it up best: "While we dare not minimize the cleansing of the precious blood of Christ and all its effect, at the same time we must not trivialize or minimize sin as well ... Let not the Christian take sin lightly ... God is faithful to forgive us our confessed sins, because of what Jesus did for us at the Cross." Amen.

I Heard The Voice of His Words

'A thing was revealed unto Daniel.... and the thing was true... but the time appointed was long. Daniel 10:1

Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face,
and my face toward the ground. Daniel 10:9

Can you put yourself in Daniel's place? Have you received a promise from God and you know the promise is true, but it is a long time coming? It was 21 days of prayer before Daniel heard from the Lord. The enemy fought to keep the word from Daniel and to convince him God did not hear. Nothing has changed today" He still wants to keep the promise of the Lord from you and me . He wants to make us believe God is not going to answer and he does not us. But his word said ... and it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer, and while they are yet speaking , I will hear. Daniel said ...there remained no strength in me... yet heard I the voice of his words. His strength was renewed when the word of the Lord came to him. Regardless of the battle or storm or problem we are facing, His word brings peace and reassurance that you are not alone and he will bring us through. Your answer will come. It has an appointed time and the enemy cannot stop it . His voice will renew your strength.

Sister Nancy Willis

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A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Additional passages for Today: Deuteronomy 6:7-9 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Thought for Today: What ARE you training?

Story for Today: "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Courtney recited. William scratched his head as he pondered the disgusted look on his wife's face. What she said was right, and she loved God and the Word of God; so why the trouble brewing so deep within that it was overflowing into the scowl on her face. Courtney didn't leave him long to ponder before she informed him that she had heard that verse spouted again as a fix all for wayward children that had little to no upbringing in a godly manner but had been dropped off at church faithfully by nominal Christians. William took a moment to pray silently for wisdom and then he asked Courtney if they could discuss this in an hour after she had time to calm down. William recognized that we are always teaching; and often we are teaching the wrong things. Courtney was right that the verse was being misapplied but, what she was failing to see was that her own frustration was teaching those around... and it probably wasn't what Courtney would want anyone to learn. She was showing a lack of trust in God as she allowed those weaker believers to affect her emotions and she was allowing a root of ungodliness to plant itself in her. William and Courtney did sit down to discuss the issue a little later and they were able to pray and take their trouble to the Lord. They talked about many lessons that they were trying to teach to those they had influence over and set some more goals to help make sure they were staying on task. Then they talked about things they were teaching that they didn't necessarily realize. Some things were good. Some were not. William mentioned how even when we are confronted with sin, we need to control our emotions, words and actions. "How we respond says more about us than about the one that has broken God's law. And remember, those who are sinning, are breaking God's law and He is able to handle them," he concluded. Courtney smiled and silently thanked God for such a godly husband. She was so grateful that God had blessed her with a man that was willing to help her grow in Christ. As they continued their discussion they decided to write down some of their thoughts so that they wouldn't forget the things they needed to work on too. They wrote down things like: remembering to be polite, smiling and saying please and thankyou to close family members that are often taken for granted; showing honor to elders by giving up your seat when an elder or lady enters the room and greeting each person that enters; being careful to speak only the truth not what we think or could imagine to be true; only saying words that would encourage and point others to Christ; Also, they thought about the importance of thinking things through and making sure that the words and things they did would help lead people to Christ, careless, frivolous words would no longer be a part of their speech. They found many other things that they included on their list. Some were things they would need to stop doing, and some were things that they needed to find a way to start doing. They accumulated quite the list by the end of the evening and were feeling quite blessed when Courtney turned to William and said with a giggle, "Who would have thought as angry as I was a few hours ago, that with prayer and the discussion, I would feel so blessed!" William smiled back at her and was so grateful that God had blessed him with this woman. They needed to spend some time praying, not only for their new list, but for the ladies that were feeling so helpless over their wayward children. And that was what they did right then!

Questions for Today: Have you heard anyone use that Bible verse as a way to shift responsibility of their children that have proven to be unbelievers onto God? Have you ever thought about what you are being taught and what you are teaching others? Do you think we would change how we act if we were conscious of what lessons we were always teaching? Are we ever too old to learn? Thank God for the good examples, pray for more and live for Him!



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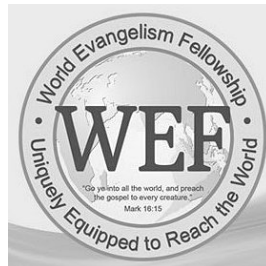
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