

Due to the printers being temporarily closed we are having to print our newsletter in a different format

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Let Your Light Shine

by Charles H. Gabriel

Let your light shine, let your light shine
That others may behold!
Its glowing rays perchance may bring
Some wand'rers to the fold
Let your light shine, let your light shine
And shed its beams abroad;
'Twill show the world you're not ashamed
Of Christ, the Lamb of God
Let your light shine, let your light shine
That all the world may see
Your works of mercy and of love,
That they may follow thee.

EXCITING NEWS!

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Cousin Leroy

Ole Leroy went to the doctor with a swollen foot. After a careful examination, the doctor gave him a pill big enough to choke a horse. "I'll be right back with some water," the doctor told him. The doctor was gone a long while and Leroy was beginning to lose his patience. He finally decided to hobble out to the drinking fountain, he forces the pill down his throat and gobbles down water until the pill clears his throat. As he hobbles back into the examining room he thinks "Boy howdy that was the biggest pill I ever did see!". Just then the doctor comes back with a bucket of warm water, "Okay Leroy, after the tablet dissolves, soak that foot for about 20 minutes."

The New Outfit

Bubba was sitting in one of the chairs provided for men outside the ladies fitting room in the local department store. After 30 minutes and 6 changes of outfits, his wife came out of the changing room one more time. He looked at her and immediately said, "That's it!! That looks great on you! Get that one sugar plum." "Bubba!!" she snapped, "this is what I was wearing when we came in!"

Hello...Hello?

A guy walks into work with both of his ears all bandaged up.

Boss: "What happened to your ears?"

Guy: "I was ironing a shirt when the phone rang and well...I accidentally answered the iron."

Boss: "Oooh - ok, that explains one ear, but what happened to your other ear?"

Guy: "Well, I had to call the doctor didn't I?"

How Do I Look

Mickey's wife bought a new line of expensive cosmetics guaranteed to make her look years younger. After a lengthy sitting before the mirror applying the "miracle" products she asked, "Darling, honestly what age would you say I am?" Looking over her carefully, Mickey replied, "Judging from your skin, twenty; your hair, eighteen; and your figure, twenty five." "Oh, you flatterer!" she gushed. "Hey, wait a minute!" Mickey interrupted. "I haven't added them up yet."

Read All About It!

A newsboy was standing on the corner with a stack of papers, yelling "Read all about it. Fifty people swindled! Fifty people swindled!" Curious, a man walked over, bought a paper and checked the front page. Finding nothing, the man said "There's nothing in here about fifty people being swindled." The newsboy ignored him and went on, calling out "Read all about it. Fifty-one people swindled!"

Signs You're Maybe Getting Too Old To Drive...

- You think an SUV might be too small to be safe.
 - It takes more than four minutes to get out of your car.
- When backing into a parking spot, you just back up until you hear something.
 - It scares you to drive the speed limit.
 - The only thing you pass on the road anymore is the Amish.
- You use cruise control because your leg fell asleep.
 - You use cruise control at 25 mph.
- You inquired if the dealership could install magnifying glass for the windshield.
 - Your turn signal has been on since 2003.
 - Your bumper sticker endorses Eisenhower.

*From the Pastor's Desk***The LORD Showed Him A Tree**

Pastor Billy R Douglas

So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, Exodus 15:22-25

Just three days before this takes place the children of Israel were rejoicing and praising the LORD for His deliverance at the Red Sea. Now we see that they come to a hard place, a trial if you will and the first thing they did was start to complain. Remind you of anyone? So many times we too find ourselves guilty of this even though the LORD has done great and mighty things for us. Had they so quickly forgotten how He brought them up out of Egypt? Had they so quickly forgotten how He had delivered them with a mighty strong hand at the Red Sea as they watched the waves take Pharaoh and his army under? How about us? When we find ourselves in the midst or the storm...in the midst of the trial. Do we so quickly forget how He has brought us up and brought us out? We see here that the people begin to complain and kick against Moses...what they were really doing was complaining against God! The next thing that Moses does gives us a perfect picture of what we should do in times of trouble. The Bible says "AND HE CRIED UNTO THE LORD"! That's exactly what we should do! When the enemy says "What are you going to do now?" "Where is your God now??" We, like Moses should CRY UNTO THE LORD! When they cried out and asked Moses what they were going to do he did not start trying to redeem the situation himself. Sadly that's what we are guilty of so many times. We start trying to figure out how we can fix it! Listen to me folks...until we realize that we can't fix it and that ONLY HE can fix it then it's not going to get fixed! But the minute we turn to Him and cry out...He will show us the answer just like He did Moses. The next thing that the scripture says is "AND THE LORD SHEWED HIM A TREE"! What happens next is such a perfect picture of the Cross of Calvary and what Jesus did there for you and for me. Moses took the tree and threw it into the waters and when he did that the waters were made sweet! When we come to a place of bitter waters in our life, and we cry out unto the LORD He will ALWAYS point us to a tree!!! The tree that stood on Calvary some 2,000 years ago! And when we apply faith in what Jesus did there to whatever the problem may be it is then and only then that our waters will be made sweet! It is then and only then that victory will come! The only thing that brings salvation is faith in the finished work of the cross and the only thing that brings VICTORY to the life of the believer is faith in the finished work of the cross! I could say it this way...the faith that saved you is the faith that is going to keep you! The faith that started you out on this journey is the faith that is going to get you across the finish line! If you are counting on the latest, "greatest" self help book to bring you the victory you are in for a heap of trouble! There is only one means of victory today and that is faith in what Jesus Christ has done! When I stumble and fall and the enemy says stay down! I cry unto the LORD and He shows me a tree!! When I feel like I am not worthy, I cannot make it and the enemy echoes those words in my ears! I cry unto the LORD and He shows me a tree!!! The cross of Calvary where the greatest victory ever known in human history was wrought! Where Jesus defeated every foe by shedding His precious blood for you and for me! Do I strive to live right? I sure do and you better! Do I try to do right? I sure do and you better! But I....WE must ever keep our eyes on Jesus! Knowing that our salvation, our righteousness, our sanctification, OUR VICTORY! Is found only through faith in Him! Faith and hope in anything or anyone else will only bring WOE to our lives. I want to close with a scripture from Isaiah that tells us exactly that...."Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!" Isaiah 31:1 . Until next time keep your faith in JESUS and may the LORD bless and keep you is our prayer!

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

Pastor Billy R Douglas

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

**“This Day Is A Day Of Good Tidings” part 01**

Evangelist Mike Heltsley

2nd Kings 7:3-9 - And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? 4 If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. 5 And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. 6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. 7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. 8 And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. 9 Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

Background of our scripture. a. Ben-Hadad, king of Syria has taken all of his Syrian army besieged Samaria in the Northern Kingdom of Israel during the days of the prophet Elisha. b. A great famine in Samaria just added to the hopelessness of the situation. c. Just how dire had the situation become? Here's three examples . . . 2nd Kings 6:25 – And there was a great famine in Samaria: and, behold, they besieged it, until an ass's head was sold for fourscore pieces of silver, and the fourth part of a cab of dove's dung for five pieces of silver. An example is found in 2 Kings 6:26-30 – And as the king of Israel was passing by upon the wall, there cried a woman unto him, saying, Help, my lord, O king. 27 And he said, If the Lord do not help thee, whence shall I help thee? out of the barnfloor, or out of the winepress? 28 And the king said unto her, What aileth thee? And she answered, This woman said unto me, Give thy son, that we may eat him to day, and we will eat my son to morrow. 29 So we boiled my son, and did eat him: and I said unto her on the next day, Give thy son, that we may eat him: and she hath hid her son. 30 And it came to pass, when the king heard the words of the woman, that he rent his clothes; and he passed by upon the wall, and the people looked, and, behold, he had sackcloth within upon his flesh. Another example is seen in the King wearing sackcloth under his outer garments. Verses 6 & 7 of our text tell of a mighty deed of God. 6 For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. 7 Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. 2. A Lesson in Evangelism from four lepers. The blessings the four lepers were receiving were made possible because of the work God had done on the behalf of Israel. But what about today? How can the principles of this story apply to us in 2020? 1. Is there not a famine among us . . . A famine of not hearing the “words of the Lord”? Amos 8:11 - Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: 2. Is there not a great work already performed by our God? John 3:16-17 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 3. And, haven't we been assigned a responsibility to do something about it? Matthew 28:18-20 – And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Mark 16:15-16 - And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 4. And what if we don't go and tell others? 2nd Corinthians 4:3-4 – But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. SOME PARALLELS BETWEEN 2 KINGS 7:3-9 AND NOW A. There was a famine. 1. THEN: of food 2. NOW: of spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: B. There was an abundance available. 1. THEN: in the Syrian's Camp. 2. NOW: in Christ Jesus, our Lord. C. Some found the blessings. 1. THEN: the Four Lepers. 2. NOW: those in Christ. D. A decision had to be made. 1. THEN: Do we keep this all for ourselves, or do we go tell those who are starving and share? 2. NOW: Do we keep God's truth, salvation, and spiritual blessings to ourselves . . . Or do we share it with those who do not have it? 2nd Corinthians 4:3 – But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

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

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Christianity, Crises, and the Constitution

Pastor Steven Huston

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Micah 6:8

When it comes to dealing with those in authority who have unmoored themselves from the constitution in order to set sail for a new land of tyrannical overreach, agenda pushing, and delusions of communistic grandeur and dictatorship; when fear (sensationalized or real) for one's safety is thrown into the mix; then combine these facets with a Christian's responsibility to love God, his fellowman, and to follow the laws in place; the correct course of action is difficult to discern while we attempt to balance fact and feeling in a Biblical and legal context. Perhaps this is why our all-knowing God gave to us Micah 6:8; "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Michigan's Governor Whitmer, and a large number of other governors, has opted to extend their powers during this Chinese-origin pandemic; in many cases breaking the law which they swore an oath to protect—the Constitution. Of course a large part of their responsibility includes protecting the state's citizens; but not at the expense of our natural freedoms that are protected by the law—our constitution. So, as Christians, when responding to the governor, we must ask at least three questions: 1) Does Governor Whitmer have a constitutional right to do what she is doing? 2) We know we have a constitutional right to redress the government; but in so doing, are we acting Biblically?—many will be quick to point out Romans 13:1. 3) Are we doing what is required of us by God—do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Him?—thereby fulfilling the greatest commands to love God with all that we are and to love others as we love ourselves. In answering the first question, many would say that she has gone far too far. Many crowded the streets of Lansing to peacefully protest her unconstitutional overreach and her mandates that are extremely dangerous to our economy. While certain governors may receive authority to develop emergency measures and to enforce rules and orders to protect the public during a health crisis, state law does not have the power to supersede or suspend the Constitutional rights of American citizens. I thank God that there are some constitutional sheriffs stepping up in Michigan and other states, refusing to enforce questionable executive orders that infringe upon our inalienable, God-given rights. The second question is a bit more difficult; but becomes easier when we have a better understanding of what our governing authority is. In America our governing authority is the Constitution. Unfortunately, a piece of paper needs flesh and blood to enact its governing principles; that's why we elect people to uphold our governing laws. That's why our founders put enumerated powers within our Constitution; it's meant to put reins on those elected, not to shackle the people. If those in authority go outside the bounds of the constitution, we are to remove them or continue to follow the written law of the land under a lesser magistrate, ignoring the illegal or unrighteous law that those in power are attempting to enforce. While it's certainly difficult to parse out all the ins and outs, we aren't to bury our heads in the sand and accept whatever the various branches of our State, Federal, or local governments try to force upon us without the foundational backing of the Constitution. Looking short term is not enough. One needs to look at the whole picture. A destroyed economy won't help anyone. Patrick Henry famously said, "Give me liberty or give me death." If we are going to be so fearful of death that we are willing to forgo our own liberties and insist that our neighbor loses his as well, we are just kicking the can of death down the road. If we don't reopen our economy soon, we will find death. If we give our freedoms to tyrannical dictators, we will eventually find death. This is a moment of decision; will we move back toward the Constitutional Republic God graciously gave to us through our founding fathers or will we move toward the death of this republic, the death of freedom, and eventually our own death and of those who come after us. We must be discerning and wise, recognizing harmful agendas and looking down the road on which we are being led. We must be informed of our rights and we must be willing to stand for them as well. We must recognize a corrupt government that would run roughshod over those whose livelihood depends upon a working economy. Is it compassionate to bring our neighbors to economic ruin? The affects run deep and wide. Is it loving our neighbor to allow those in authority to illegally wrest freedoms from their hands—even if they think it's a good thing? To just sit and watch our religious, civil, and economic liberties be ignored and destroyed by a corrupt act of government is not loving; it's unconstitutional. This brings us to question number 3. To fulfill all that is required of us we must recognize that compassion and constitutionality and Christianity do not have to be (nor should they be) separate domains. We must strive to be Christians (walking humbly with God) who are constitutional (do justly) and compassionate (love mercy). In all that we do we must do it unto the Lord and to the glory of God. It will be worked out before a watching government and a watching world. Therefore, we must earnestly pray for discernment and strength to that end.

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



Peanut Butter Pound Cake

- 1 cup butter
- 1 cup crunchy peanut butter
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 5 large eggs
- 3 1/2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup milk one teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup mini chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a 15 cup tube pan tapping out any excess flour. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter, peanut butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Add the sour cream and the eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl. In a large bowl sift together the flour, baking powder, salt, and baking soda. Put the milk in a small bowl and add the vanilla. Alternating add the flour mixture and the milk in the creamed mixture, beginning and ending with flour. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl. Fold in the mini chocolate chips. Pour the batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 60 to 75 minutes or until a tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven and cool on wire rack for 10 to 15 minutes. Invert onto a wire rack and invert again onto a serving plate.

Salisbury Steak with Onion Gravy

- 1 (10.5oz) can condensed onion soup
- 1 1/2 lbs ground beef
- 1/2 cup fine dry bread crumbs
- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Dash of pepper
- 1 Tablespoon flour
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. mustard

In a bowl combine 1/3 cup of soup with ground beef, bread crumbs, egg, salt and pepper. Shape into 6 oval patties. In Skillet Brown patties poor off fat. Gradually blend remaining soup into flour until smooth. Add to skillet with remaining ingredients stir to loosen browned bits. Cover, cook over low heat 20 minutes or until done. Stir occasionally.

Cornbread Muffins

- 1 cup vegetable shortening
- 2 1/2 cups self-rising cornmeal mix
- 1/4 cup + 1/2 tablespoon all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 3 large eggs
- 1 quart (4 cups) buttermilk

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Heavily greased the inside of a muffin tin with the vegetable shortening. In a large bowl, combine the cornmeal mix flour and sugar. Add the Mayo, eggs, and buttermilk. Whisk to mix welll. Using an ice cream scoop ladle the batter into the muffin cups filling about 3/4 full. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until the muffins are golden in color.



Be Careful For Nothing...

Pastor Mike Vaughn

"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God". Philippians 4:6

Do you ever worry? We have all been guilty of worrying at some time in our life. It may have been about a financial matter or the well being of a loved one, yet the Bible so clearly tells us not to worry about anything but to pray about everything. There are really only two categories of things for which we ought not worry: those that we cannot do anything about and the things we can do something about. The best thing you can say about worry is that it is useless. The worst thing you can say about it is that it dishonors God. "Be careful for nothing" means don't be anxious about anything. How is that possible one may ask? I'll tell you how; By bringing it to God and leaving it there. "Let your requests be made known unto God"; then you can offer thanksgiving and rest in the fact that He is in control. Worry is the opposite of Faith. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please God: for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." When we meditate on the problem it simply grows bigger. But when we meditate on God and His word, Faith increases. So if you are worried about something today, stop meditating on the problem. Give it to God and thank him for the solution. Then the peace of God will guard your heart and mind.

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

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Trophy For Sale

David Padfield

One day last summer I was on my way to lunch when I drove by a house that was having a rummage sale. Even though I did not stop for the sale, I could not help but notice the display closest to the street—what caught my eye was a table filled with old trophies that were now for sale on someone's driveway. I had to wonder why anyone would be interested in purchasing a used trophy. What could they possibly do with it? The trophies for sale probably had the name of the recipient engraved on it, along with a brief description of their meritorious actions. Who would want to put someone else's trophy on their mantle? Later, I began to wonder why the seller wanted to get rid of their old trophies in the first place. I am sure that at one time those trophies held a lot of value, or at least some emotional attachment. Trophies usually signify some accomplishment—they serve to remind us of some success in our business or personal life. Maybe a bowling trophy loses its luster when one stops bowling. That trophy from a winning high school football season might not seem as important thirty years later when your own children are in college. What we value today might wind up in the trash or on a table at a rummage sale tomorrow. The truth of the matter is that there is nothing in this life we can carry with us into the next. The trinkets and knick-knacks we treasure here on earth will be of no value in eternity. This being so, it makes one wonder why we spend so much time acquiring earthly possessions, but so little time preparing for the life which is to come. Suppose you gained all that this world has to offer—what would you really have? A handful of tinsel? Jesus told His disciples: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:24-26

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8

**Be Still!**

George Whitten

Be still, and know that I am God! I will be praised among the nations, I will be praised in the earth.
Psalms 46:10

In one passage in John, we read about how Jesus friend Lazarus was critically ill. Since Lazarus was a good friend of Jesus, I'm sure those around Jesus were expecting that He would come immediately to his aid. The scripture says, however, that Jesus stayed two more days in the place where He was. It was in those two days that Lazarus died. It's so hard to understand why it is that God waits to do the things we ask of Him. It's good for us to remember, though, that He has His purposes for waiting. God was about to teach everyone involved a much deeper lesson here. As Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, He made sure they all understood that He is the resurrection and the life for all who believe. God has His perfect timing for everything under heaven. You may be waiting for God to intervene in some area of your life. You may have been begging and pleading with God for years on that particular thing. But we can relax and know that God's timing is perfect. We never know what God is doing behind the scenes, in order that our joy would be made full. Remember that He knows best what would bless us most and He is working all things for those of us who love Him and are called according to His purposes. Relax. God is in control. He has greater things for you than what you could ask or think!

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Life's Race

In life's race that Christians run,
Sometimes you must be still.
You need to feel God's presence,
And make sure you're in His will.

At times, you feel that you run alone,
But remember God is by your side.
Just get still and feel his presence,
For in your heart, the Lord does abide.

Don't let worrying weigh you down.
Don't let shadows obscure your way.
Be still and see the light of Christ,
And in His will, you should always stay.

Be still and realize God's presence,
And praise the Lord for Who He is.
Learn to lean upon His strength.
Christians, remember you're one of His!

Written by Margaret Cagle



A Word for TODAY!



By Sister Michelle Deuling

Verse for Today: Proverbs 1:10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Additional passages for Today: Psalm 1; Psalm 26:9-12

Thought for Today: No matter how enticing, we are responsible for the choices we make.

Story for Today: The bus pulled up as Roger blew out the puff of smoke and the air filled with the foul odor of marijuana. He quickly put the joint in his pocket hoping Mrs. Gingsby didn't notice. Roger often said the only good thing about school was hanging with his friends. However, they were in trouble so much that they didn't seem to be at school on the same day anymore. Sami cringed as Roger sat down in the seat next to her. She didn't mind having others sit with her, but Roger did NOT smell good and he often acted weird. She tried to ignore him by going back to reading her book. Picking on the girl in front of them, Roger passed his time. Sami was so glad when the bus pulled into the driveway and she knew she was close to being released from the nasty smelling air and the trouble maker that had joined her. As she rose to leave, Roger turned back to her and asked if she wanted to join him for lunch. Sami's stomach churned. She didn't want to upset Roger, but she didn't want to encourage him either. As she hesitated, Roger laughed. He turned away before she could formulate an answer. Bill, Ed and Jill were standing outside the lunch room as Sami came down the hall. The four friends often ate lunch together and today was no exception. Just as the quartet entered the lunch room, Roger appeared. Sami's eyes dropped to the ground as she tried to avoid contact with Roger. Grabbing her hand he pulled her to the front of the line. Sami gave up and went with the flow. She pasted a smile on her face and grabbed the tray that was handed to her. High-fiving his way to the center table, Roger hooted and hollered his way past kids as he guided Sami to her seat. After lunch Roger took Sami outside where he offered her everything from a cigarette to some of the harder drugs. Although she felt uncomfortable, and didn't accept his offers, there was something appealing about the charisma that Roger exuded. The flattery and popularity that came with being in his presence was like a drug all on its own and soon Sami was caught up in the fun times. Her friends kept trying to reach out to her, but, she continued to put them off saying she could handle things. She told them not to worry that she wasn't doing drugs. Smoking and drinking wasn't who she was and she didn't intend to change for Roger. She was just having a little fun. As the days passed and Sami and Roger grew closer, Sami remained firm on the no drugs issue. Roger didn't seem to mind and actually complimented her often on her choice saying that was one of the things he loved about her. It wasn't long before Sami actually found herself defending Roger when her friends would point out something that he had done that was bad. Living life in the fast lane, like Roger, was a new experience for Sami. It wasn't long before she wasn't sure if she was coming or going. As she and Roger sat "studying" she was presented with yet another dilemma. Turning in homework wasn't something Roger had worried about, until now. He explained that he needed to get a bunch of it turned in to his English teacher or else he was going to fail. If he failed, he would fail to meet the requirements for graduation. He didn't want her to do all of his work; Just help him get caught up. Sami started by just encouraging him as he worked through some pages that he was struggling with, but by the end of the evening, she had agreed to take home a few pages to help him just this once.

Questions for Today: What tough choices are you facing today? Do you have friends that tend to put you on the outs with God? Do you succeed in staying away from the "big" sins only to fall little by little as you put a relationship or activity above your love for God? We alone are responsible for our choices. Who is enticing you?

Prayer for Today: Heavenly Father, Please forgive me for putting others in place of my love for you. Please help me to stay faithful and not be deceived or lured into activities that would displease you. In Jesus' Name AMEN



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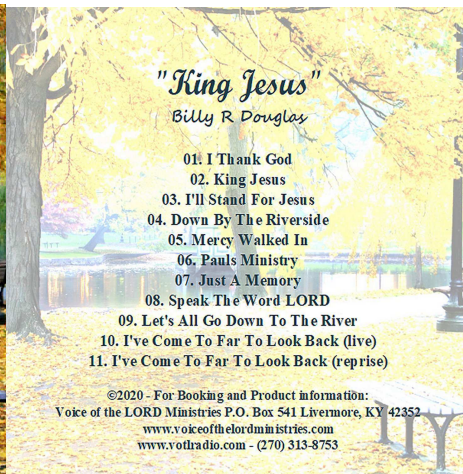
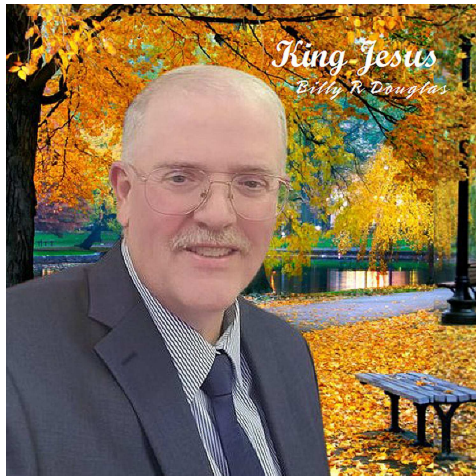
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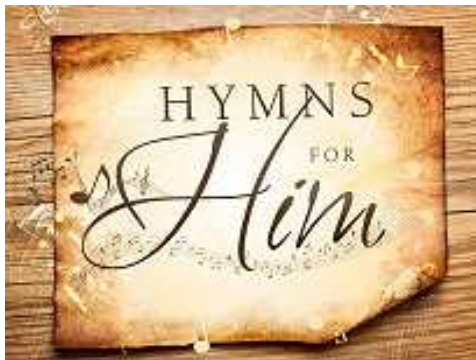
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The hidden boundary between
God's patience and his wrath.

O! where is this mysterious bourne
By which our path is crossed,
Beyond which God himself hath sworn,
Beyond which God himself hath sworn
That he who goes is lost?

How far may we go on in sin?
How long will God forbear?
Where does hope end? And where begin,
Where does hope end? And where begin
The confines of despair?

An answer from the skies is sent:
Ye that from God depart,
While it is called today, repent,
While it is called today, repent,
And harden not your heart.



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