

finding

TRUTH & Hope

Summer 2017

No. 10

Serving God's True Children Everywhere - God's Church

Getting Along — 11 Simple Rules

Bro Michael Smith at Springfield, MO

#4337 2017-04-23

Go to: www.churchofgodpreaching.com

In the corporate world, H P used these rules many years ago (1958).

- 1.) Think first of the other fellow. (Philippians 4:2); (Romans 12:10).
- 2.) Build up the other person's sense of importance. The scriptures teach that we are all equal. "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well:" (James 2:8).
- 3.) Learn to respect the differences of the other man's personalities and right to be different. (Philippians 2:3).
- 4.) Give true, sincere appreciation.
- 5.) Eliminate the negative. How often does criticism ever promote anything? It causes resentment and drives wedges. Find something positive to focus on. (Philippians 4:8).
- 6.) Set the positive example for them. Avoid openly trying to fix everybody.
- 7.) Try to understand the other person!
The prophet sat where they sat. (Ezekiel 3:15).
- 8.) Be careful about our first impressions.
"I do not like that man, therefore I will get to know him better,"
Abe Lincoln. Jesus said, "Judge not according to the appearance..."
(John 7:24). (II Corinthians 10:7).
- 9.) Take care of the little details. Watch your smile and tone of voice.
When texting, be careful how you read something sometimes. This will help us to get along better in our homes, congregations, etc.
- 10.) Develop genuine interest in people; have a sincere desire to like and respect them. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as thyself."
- 11.) Keep it up! "Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." "As we have therefore opportunity let us do good to all men."

GOD'S 5 Minutes

Sample Broadcasts Enclosed

Getting Along - Seeking Peace in Conflict

Bro Michael Smith at Springfield, MO

#4338 2017-04-30

Go to: www.churchofgodpreaching.com

The greatest thing a person can do in preserving the peace is don't be a problem.

"If you please God, you can please everybody that deserves to be pleased," Bro Ostis Wilson. Denying conflict and acting as if there isn't a problem when there really is doesn't resolve. Folks, serving the Lord doesn't mean ignoring differences. Things can be pressed down and shoved aside until it builds in us and causes deep seated resentment or bitterness.

We can be peace breakers-- more interested in winning an argument. Some seem to thrive-- if there's not a problem, they will make one.

Remember, just because there's conflict doesn't mean it's the end of the world. Be a peacemaker, speaking peace in the middle of conflict!

"...That ye be likeminded...of one mind. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2: 2-3).

In conflict, if you humble your heart, you're not going to lose. Realize there's something more important than me standing up for my rights.

Another translation of Romans 12:18 says: "if it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live peacefully."

"If thine enemy hunger, feed him" (Roman 12: 20). When really under a burden of prayer for my enemies, it changes **my** attitude. Jesus said to "pray for them which despitefully use you" (Luke 6:28).

Purpose for restoration: Matthew 18:15-16.

Fall in Love Again

taken from a talk by Zig Zigler

No Options! We must be faithful to our companion to be happy. Our walk with the Lord is the key to the whole thing. The old man is replaced by the new and sees things in a different light. If the old man could not love their husband/wife, the new creature can. You learn a different kind of love.

If you have fallen out of love with your mate, if you'll go back and do the things you did back then, you'll fall in love again.

At Press Time:

God has provided means for you to be inspired and refreshed amidst life's battles. God wants your load to be lifted, your sins forgiven, and His people to live clean, transparent lives—nothing to hide.

Let us open our weary hearts to Him. He is waiting for us to call upon Him and to quiet our minds and hearts enough to find audience with Him!

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Many thanks to all who have labored to create websites (churchofgodpreaching.com, churchofgodeveninglight.com, etc.) and make available all the messages, songs, books, etc. (Also thanks to the ones who preach and sing....) I am personally blessed by having these options for spiritual food and encouragement, and wanted to THANK all who are working behind the scenes. God bless and reward each one!

C. Robertson

"Create in me a clean heart, O Lord..."

By Sis. Charlotte Huskey

Every child comes into this world with a clean, empty heart. His tiny mind is like a video camera recording and storing what he or she feels, hears and sees. We cannot be too careful about protecting our child's heart. (We condemn using the video and television for a baby sitter because the child would be learning things he should not learn.) If you are a stay-at-home mom, almost all of what fills your child's heart in those first four years is what you have taught either by intent or by neglect.

A scientific study shows that 50 percent of a child's intelligence (his ability to understand and reason) is acquired by age four. What an awesome opportunity! We can help our children to understand God's ways and to reason like God by filling his or her heart with good biblical principles! As you work and play together keep introducing them to God's love and commandments. This is done through the normal activities of the day. (While washing dishes say how thankful you are for water, or for the food without which there would be no dirty dishes and for such a good helper.) Teaching is a part of all child-parent activities for training is not only done when we sit down and have special Bible studies or family worship. Deuteronomy 6:7 says, "And thou shalt teach them (God's laws) 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." That covers the entire day.

Jesus said our words and behavior originate in the heart. "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." Matthew 15:19. Proverbs 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life." Now consider, if we have filled our child's heart with godly morals that is what will come out of their life. On the other hand, if we neglect this awesome opportunity, the heart will fill itself with other things. The intelligence (the ability to understand and reason) will be greatly frustrated by the actions of a neglectful, inconsistent parent. Such actions are often the cause of parents not being able to reason with their children when the child is a teenager.

Reasoning with another person takes self-control. One must sit, listen, think, sift through his or her feelings and then express thoughts.

Sitting still and listening should be mastered the first few years of a child's life. It will be a great benefit in school and on the job and is a safeguard throughout life.

The same study showed that 80 percent of a child's intelligence is acquired by age eight. So, his ability to reason is almost completely developed during the years he or she is under our care. He or she can then reason about salvation. God said, "Come now, and let us reason together,...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." Isaiah 1:18. If the child has been taught through those first eight years the eternal love and the eternal commandments of God, he will likely submit his life to Christ. If his training has been neglected, frustrated by inconsistency or by poor parental example, he may not be able to make that good decision.

God grant us wisdom to fill our children's minds with good, positive memories of their childhood. May we stay under the shadow of the Almighty and receive from Him the wisdom and graces that are necessary.

Clay

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day.
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded at my will.
I came again when days were passed,
The bit of clay was hard at last.
The form I gave it still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay
And gently fashioned it day by day.
And molded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart
I came again when years were gone,
It was a man I looked upon.
The form I gave him still he bore,
But I could change that form no more.

—Author unknown

Let us pray, "God grant me wisdom that I may wisely fashion my child each day, from early morn till late at night. Help me to guide each in Thy light, to stamp God's love upon each heart that they will never from it part. And then when I am old and gray, I will thank God for them each day."

FAITH AND VICTORY

Radio 1252 – Summer is Past Revisited

- Wally Fowler wrote these words: Have you wandered along on life's pathway, have you lived without love a life of tears; have you searched for the great hidden meaning, or is your life filled with long wasted years. Search for wisdom and seek understanding, there is someone who knows and always cares; give it up, give it up, the load you're bearing. You can't go on with a life of wasted years. Wasted years, wasted years, o how foolish – as you walk on in darkness and fears. Turn around, turn around, God is calling – He's calling you from a life of wasted years.
- Saddest words in the Bible – fittingly, they were written by Jeremiah, whom we call the weeping prophet. They were spoken at a time when Israel by slow degrees had drifted far from the times of the giving of the law by the 10 commandments and their adjuncts, and when she stood on the very brink of passing into captivity to a heathen king because of their intransigence. I rehearse them to you today because they again seem to fit the condition of our nation and of many souls in it:
- Jeremiah 8:19-22 (KJV) *Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities? The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt; I am black; astonishment hath taken hold on me. Is there no balm in Gilead; is there no physician there? why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?*
- The cry of the daughter is a reference to the civilians among a nation; to the delicate ones, the persons whose true deepest desire is only to fulfill a destiny of having freedom, a home, enough of this world's goods for comfortable living; who have the dreams of home and happiness.
- But what is this? Because of spirits and practices that are very far from the path that can lead to peace and prosperity of soul and body there is a cry, and it is heard today on all sides: Where is God?
- And God has an answer: it is one which we ought all to dread hearing. Why have they provoked me to anger by worshipping their own thoughts more than me? How dare they presume to change the morality of My law into their own unenlightened philosophies and suppositions? How dare they disregard the purity of the Bible doctrines of holiness by filling their lives and thoughts with lustful and selfish behavior? Have they forgotten Noah? Have they forgotten Sodom?
- The great burden and cry of God's church today is surely "For the hurt of the daughter of my people am I hurt". Against the terrible, relentless, onrushing tide of wickedness and perversion of right understanding besetting our nation today we are urgent to make fullest possible use of the weapons afforded us as God's dear children; which weapons are love, steadfastness, fervent prayer. As we hope for mercy to our souls we are obliged to be deeply burdened for our homes, our families and communities, and for our nation.
- For this passage contains that heartbreaking, sorrowful verse – the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. What a hopeless place, to see the light fading, the opportunity afforded by the years we and our loved ones have been allotted dwindling from months and weeks to days and finally hours and minutes, until there is no planting time left, no cultivating time left, no more chance to avert the awful fate awaiting those who have rejected and neglected heaven's offered mercy.
- At last there comes a time far removed from hearing mother and father call one's name in prayer, or from hearing the old-fashioned altar call songs. All that remains is to look over the stark fields of harvested stubble, where the grain should have been, but which instead have contained only tares and thistles. Won't you talk to Him today?

GOD'S 5 Minutes

(Log on to listen to 'God's 5-minute Daily Inspirational Message')

<http://kneo.org/local/5Minutes2.html>

GOD'S 5 Minutes - God Is Light

(Log on to listen to 'God's 5-minute Daily Inspirational Message')
<http://kneo.org/local/5Minutes2.html>

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in today.
- 1 John 1:5 reads, *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.* James spoke of the same topic this way in the 1st chapter and 17th verse of his book: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*
- Because God, whom we cannot see, made *the lights* which we can see it can be a temptation to forget God and reverence the creation instead of the Creator. Through the centuries people have often paid homage to the handiwork of God in the heavens rather than to him. The truth is the truly permanent things are not those material matters of the earth which may be seen with the natural eye. They all perish with the using. Those old gospel writers used the example of natural and spiritual light to show us the difference. James tells us that all natural light produces shadows. But there are no shadows in spiritual light. The word translated 'variableness' parallax, refers to the hourly change in the relationship of the sun to the earth, so that every day has morning, noon, night, which is the ultimate shadow. There are no such variations in God's dealing with us. He is always the same, both in love and mercy, and in judgment and justice.
- Nor is there "shadow that is cast by turning" with him. The word translated "turning" is elsewhere used in the Bible for the changes which appear in the relative positions of the heavenly bodies. It is as if James were saying: *The phenomena of nature are, of necessity, changeable; the phenomena of God are unchangeable. All material things are mutable; God is immutable. Though the lights of the heavens change with the hours and the seasons, he who created them changes not. It must therefore follow that only that which is good can originate with him, and he can never be the occasion of placing temptation and sin in the path of his creatures.* So we see two wonderful truths about Him in these verses: first, there is no mixing of evil in the goodness which He bestows. Many a theory has been concocted of Satan's origin, of God's role in the Pandora's box of evil sin brought upon the human race, the cause for human suffering. Although there are profound and complex theological questions associated with all of this, these scriptures stoutly assert that all reasoning about these issues must begin with the understanding that every bit of evil from any source did not originate with God.
- The second wonderful truth is that no shadow ever falls over God that can hide His goodness. He never has to look at something taking place in His world and ask in dismay 'what are we going to do now?' His being as God shines through every circumstance humans can possibly face, from Jonah in his fish ride to Elijah sweeping in fiery chariots into the heavens. Although His ways are past understanding we may confidently trust that it is impossible He will ever betray any of His trusting children.
- These important truths are especially meaningful to Christians of today. All about us is change on a scale that would have been unimaginable to our ancestors. Think how Columbus would have marveled had someone put a GPS receiver in his hand and taught him to use Google Earth to track the *Santa Maria's* progress across the ocean, or that today 3 women in 4 have had a live-in relationship before marriage. It is challenging to keep our moral footing in the cultural, scientific and philosophical atmosphere of western civilization in which we currently live. So while so many things seem turned upside down, in reality the role of the church is as important to the world as it has ever been, and the moral compass the Bible alone can provide must still be great beacon light of our lives. As Philip Bliss wrote in the old gospel song, 'the whole world was lost in the darkness of sin, the light of the world is Jesus! Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in! The light of the world is Jesus! Come to the light; 'tis shining for thee!' May God be your light. And have you talked to Him today?

GOD'S 5 Minutes - Let Them Slip

(Log on to listen to 'God's 5-minute Daily Inspirational Message')

<http://kneo.org/local/5Minutes2.html>

- Hello friends, and thanks for tuning in today.
- Hebrews 2:1 reads *Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.*
- The Revised Version of the Bible correctly renders the last clause of this sentence, 'we drift away from them.' When we remember that 400 years lay between Malachi, the last prophet to write a book of the Old Testament, and John the Baptist with his ministry introducing the New Testament, and that God expected His people to keep the same laws given so long ago by Moses during all that interval, we see what He expects of us and of the opportunity for us to drift. 400 years takes us back to the early 1600's. That's when Jamestown was being established, Galileo was peering through his telescope discovering Jupiter's moons, and Manhattan Island was being sold to the Dutch for \$24 worth of trinkets and goods. Do you think the world has changed since then? But the principles of Godliness never do.
- How could anyone in that far-off time have even suspected the societal pressures against Christianity that are the daily fare of believers today? At that time the mighty gospel, with its emphasis on kindness and the value of each human being, had transformed much of the world from the old licentious, hedonistic practices of Rome and Greece. By and large the Europeans who brought their religion to the American continent believed, for instance, marriage was sacrosanct. Modest clothing and behavior was the order of the day. Mothers wore long hair and distinctly different dress from men. Fathers taught their sons to cherish their 'sacred honor'.
- While the moral codes of western culture have always gone through cycles, those cycles have been accelerated and accentuated by the avalanche of scientific and technical advances of the last century. The forces against the principles of Christianity threaten to overwhelm those who have not got a firm anchor against the tidal wave of change that tugs at our moorings and threatens to sweep us with the mad swirling torrent away from the only values that can truly nourish the deepest and most valuable part of human existence.
- Christians do well, in the face of all the scientific marvels from smart phones to news drones, to remember our towering legacy. While camera-bearing robots may be devised that can investigate and record the insides of our bodies, while science may solve the mysteries of cloning and galactic travel there is no scientific invention that has ever been made or shall be made that can purge sin's blackness from the soul. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can do that. Solid-glass skyscrapers may rise on every street corner, but lying is as wicked as it ever was. Cultural leaders may declare that truth is relative, moral values are only a stew of what leaders of the past have taught about things that made them feel good, but stealing is still wrong, murder is still appalling, sin is still sinful.
- Our Lord wants us to live to the same principles He taught to the crowd gathered on the green mountainside looking out over the sea of Galilee when He taught them 'blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' For every word that is in our King James version of the Bible there could be substituted a martyr's name who has preferred death to surrendering a clear conscience. As Christians we seek to pick up the mantle of valor and integrity. As Steve Green so aptly rhymed, *We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road, and those who've gone before us line the way cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary, their lives a stirring testament to god's sustaining grace. Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us run the race not only for the prize, but as those who've gone before us. let us leave to those behind us, the heritage of faithfulness passed on thru godly lives. o may all who come behind us find us faithful, may the fire of our devotion light their way. may the footprints that we leave, lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey. o may all who come behind us find us faithful.* Our families, our communities, our loved ones, our enemies and, should the world stand so long, generations yet unborn are all depending on us to be true to the old time gospel. Have you talked to God today?

Elisha And Syrian King

- 2 Kings 6 contains the story of how the king of Assyria warred against Israel during the days of king Joram. His technique was to make dashes across the border on undefended places, but time after time he found troops enough to beat him off stationed where he meant to attack. At last in frustration he asked his officers *'Will ye not show me which of us if for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber.* The prompt answer he got shows his officers well knew of Elisha the prophet, who by the inspiration of God's Spirit would warn Joram of each impending foray. Elisha wrote no books, had no great revelations of the deep things of God to give to his generation or to posterity, but he gave directions as to practical life; and that is God's work as well. God wants His servants to fearlessly make their voices heard in the governance of a nation, and it is security for that nation which will heed their counsels. The quiet prophet was more to Israel than an army.
- The Syrian king's answer was to send a mighty host to Dothan, where Elisha was known to be, in order to capture and overwhelm him. The 'great host' shows the terror which he had inspired. It is also an example of the inconsistency of godless men; it never occurs to the Syrian king that Elisha, who knew all his schemes, might know this one too, or that horses and chariots were much use against a man who had Heaven to back him. Dothan lay on an isolated hill in a wide plain, and could easily be surrounded. A night-march offered the chance of a surprise, so that *when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.*
- The boy's terror was very understandable, just as fear darkening into bewildered helplessness reasonable to men who only see the material and visible dangers and enemies that beset every life. The wonder is, not that people should sometimes be afraid, but that they should ever be free from fear, if we look only at visible facts. Worse foes ring us round than those whose armor glittered in the morning sunshine at Dothan, and we are as helpless to cope with them as that frightened youth was. Anyone who spends time thinking about the possibilities and certainties of his life will find plenty of reason for a sinking heart. So much that is dreadful and sad may come, and so much must come. It is not courage, it is blindness which enables people without God in their lives to face life without so little concern.
- Elisha's calm is a powerful contrast to the terror of the lad. Apparently, Elisha had gone out to meet the enemy, and that must have heightened the boy's apprehension. The prophet's quiet 'Fear not!' was didn't mean much without the assurance of the next clause; for it is absolutely useless to tell someone not to be afraid unless something happens to give reason not to fear. And yet that is so often all the world can do to comfort or hearten. 'Fear not?' the youth might well have said. 'That's all right for you to say, but look at that army! How can I help being afraid?' There is only one way he can help it, and that is to believe that 'they that be with us are more than they that be with them.' *And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.* The true and only conqueror of reasonable fear is still more reasonable trust. The two parts played by the servant and the prophet are united in the soul that takes Jesus Christ as its defense. He who says in his heart, 'What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee,' will soon graduate to saying, 'I will trust, and not be afraid.' Elisha did not pray that the heavenly guards might come; for they were there already. Nor does it appear that he saw them. But what a sight the trembling boy saw! Where before he saw only rocks and brush, all was filled with guardian angels. Have you talked to God today?

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Crossing the Jordan
Joshua 3:1 – 5:12

After the two spies had returned from Jericho to the Israelite camp, Joshua commanded everyone to make ready to leave the camp. The people took down their tents and while they were rolling their tents and gathering their flocks, the priests had taken apart the Tabernacle. They covered all the furniture in the Holy Place and placed rods through the rings so they could transport the alter and ark of the Covenant and covered these as well.

It was early morning in the Israelites' camp. The people were ready and waiting to start on their last march to the Promised Land. God had spoken to Joshua and told him how to proceed and promised him, "As I was with Moses so I will be with you. Tell the priests to carry the ark to the Jordan. When they come to the brink of the water, have them stand still." And Joshua bravely followed the Lord's instructions.

He told the people, "Let the priests, carrying the ark of the covenant, lead the way. And let there be a space between it and the rest of the people of three thousand feet. Do not come nearer than that to the ark." Behind the priests, who carried the ark, came the Levites carrying the pieces of the tabernacle. Then all the people followed. When they came to the Jordan, it was flooded over its banks, and they stood still. On the other side they could see the green hills and beautiful fields of Canaan, but the river was too deep and swift for them to cross. No doubt the people of Jericho looked at the flooded river and thought, "We are safe from the Israelites for a while. They will never be able to cross the river while it is flooded."

Then Joshua commanded the priests, "Now march into the water!" As soon as the priests' feet touched the water by the shore, the river above stopped flowing, and far away, up the river, they could see the waters rising and piling up like a great heap. Below the riverbed was dry and the stones that lay at the bottom were exposed. At Joshua's command, the priests carried the ark to the middle of the dry bed of the river and stood there with it on their shoulder. When the priests bearing the ark stood in the middle; Joshua, beginning with the soldiers, had all the tribes cross the river until they had all passed over.

God wanted the Israelites always to remember how he had helped them cross the Jordan. He had told Joshua, "Command one man from each tribe to take a stone from the middle of the river where the priests stand with the ark. When your children see these twelve large stones, they will ask their fathers, 'Where did these stones come from?' Then the fathers will tell their children how I brought them across the Jordan. These stones will be a memorial to the children of Israel for ever and ever."

So Joshua had one man from each tribe enter the dry riverbed and pick up a large stone. After the men had hoisted their stones, as large as they could carry, they took them back to Canaan's shore. And Joshua made a heap of the stones. Then he had the same twelve men gather another twelve stones from the riverbed and pile them where the priests stood so these stones might stand to remind all who saw them of God's wonderful help to his people.

When this had been done and two heaps of stones had been piled up, one on the bank, the other in the bed of the river, Joshua said to the priests, "Come up from the river, and bring the ark to the shore." So the priests carried the ark to the Canaan side of the river where the people waited. As soon as the priests' feet touched the shore, the waters began flowing and flooded the riverbed as before. And the children of Israel stood safely on the Canaan land that God had promised to Abraham and his seed so many years before.

The Israelite's set up camp with the Tabernacle in the middle and all the tribes around it as God had instructed. They called the place Gilgal and they used this place as their main camp all the time that they were carrying on the war to win the land of Canaan. Soon news reached Jericho and all their neighbors that the Israelites had crossed the river. They heard that God had dried up the flooded Jordan River to let the Israelites cross over. All the people of Canaan were afraid because the Israelites served such a mighty God.

And the time of year was early harvest; and the Israelite's gathered grain in abundance from the fields around Jericho. Those who had been born in the wilderness had never eaten grain before. They found an abundance of fruit too. How much they enjoyed the good food of Canaan. For forty years God had sent the Israelites fresh manna from heaven each day except the Sabbath. Now they did not need manna any more, for they had come to a good land of grain, fruit and vegetables. Never again did manna fall.

Upcoming Meetings

www.churchofgodmeetings.com

Adapted

28 Jun 2017	-	02 Jul 2017	Fresno	CA	Campmeeting	Fresno Chapel
02 Jul 2017	-	09 Jul 2017	Loranger	LA	Campmeeting	Loranger Campground
21 Jul 2017	-	30 Jul 2017	Monark Springs	MO	Campmeeting	Monark Campground
16 Aug 2017	-	20 Aug 2017	Spooner	WI	Tent Meeting	Spooner Zacharias Property
01 Sep 2017	-	04 Sep 2017	Myrtle	MO	Campmeeting	Myrtle Campground
10 Sep 2017	-	17 Sep 2017	Wichita	KS	Revival	Wichita Chapel
24 Sep 2017	-	01 Oct 2017	Roatan	Honduras	International Meeting	Politilly
25 Oct 2017	-	29 Oct 2017	Fresno	CA	Fall Meeting	Fresno Chapel
20 Jul 2018	-	29 Jul 2018	Monark Springs	MO	Campmeeting	Monark Campground

The Walls of Jericho
Joshua 5:13 – 6:27

In full view of the Israelite camp stood the towering walls of Jericho. While the Israelites camped at Gilgal, Joshua went out to get a closer look at the city of Jericho. As he looked at the great stone wall that surrounded the city, he noticed that since the people of Jericho were expecting the Israelites to attack, they had locked the gate and made the city secure. No one even wanted to leave the city while the Israelites were outside.

As Joshua walked about and studied Jericho, he saw an armed man dressed like a soldier and carrying a bright sword. Joshua boldly went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for the people of Jericho?" The stranger answered, "I am the captain of the army of the Lord of hosts." And Joshua fell on his face and worshiped. Then he asked, "What does the Lord want me to do?"

"Take off your shoes from your feet," the captain said, "for the place where you stand is holy ground." And Joshua did so, for the one speaking to him was not merely an angel, but the Lord himself appearing as a man. And the Lord said to Joshua, "I have given to you Jericho, and its king, and its mighty men of war; and I will destroy the city of Jericho before you." The great city would be theirs if they obeyed the Lord's commands.

The Lord told Joshua the way in which the city should be taken and when Joshua returned to camp, he told the people what the Lord wanted them to do. And Joshua made ready to march as God commanded. And all the people were ready to obey. During the next seven days, all that was done was according to the word spoken by the Lord of hosts to Joshua. And as the people of Jericho looked out their windows, they saw a great army marching around their city.

In front came the soldiers from the tribes on the east of the river. Then came a company of priests with trumpets made of ram's horns which they blew long and loud. Then came the ark of the covenant, borne on the shoulders of the priests. And last of all came the host of Israel, marching in order. No one shouted, nor was any noise heard. The only sound was the tread of their feet and the noise of the trumpets.

When Rahab saw the Israelites marching around the wall, she knew they were going to capture Jericho. She brought her father, mother, sisters and brothers into her house. Together they looked out the window where the red cord hung. Together they watched the people who worshiped the one true God. The Israelites marched once around the great city of Jericho the first day, and then all marched back to the camp.

The next morning they all formed in the same order and again they marched around the walls of the city. As they went by, no doubt they saw at one window on the wall was a scarlet cord hanging down; and they knew that this was the house of Rahab, who had saved the lives of the two spies. And so they did, marching once each day for six days, for God had commanded them to.

Then on the seventh day, by God's command, they rose very early in the morning and did not stop when they had marched around the walls once; but kept on marching until they had gone around the city walls seven times. And when the seventh march was ended, they all stood still. Even the trumpets ceased, and there was a great silence for a moment, until the voice of Joshua rang out, "**Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!**"

At that signal all the people shouted, for they knew the Lord had given them the city. And, the stone wall began to tremble and shake and fall. It fell flat at every place but one. The part of the wall was left standing where a scarlet cord was hanging from a window. And Joshua told the two men who had spied on Jericho, "Go to Rahab's house. Bring her and her family to safety as you promised."

While the spies were helping Rahab, Joshua told the rest of the people, "Take all the gold, silver and brass from the city for the tabernacle of the Lord. But take nothing for yourselves, this belongs to the Lord and to be an offering to the Lord. All that is left must be destroyed. If you disobey, you and all the camp of Israel will be in great trouble."

So they brought to the tabernacle all the gold, silver, and precious things and all that was in the houses and they took nothing for themselves. And the people of the city of Jericho were so filled with fear that they did not try to defend it. Thus the city was taken. All the rest was burned and destroyed leaving the city of Jericho nothing but a waste and desolation. Only Rahab and her family were saved.

And Joshua said, "Let the Lord's curse rest on any man who shall ever build again the city of Jericho. With the loss of his oldest born shall he lay its foundations, and with the loss of his youngest shall he set up the gates of it." So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame was spread all through the country.

As for Rahab, who saved the spies, she was accepted among the people as though she had been an Israelite born. And they cared for Rahab and her family and kept them safe in the camp of the Israelites until all the war against the Canaan land was over. And one of the nobles of the tribe of Judah, whose name was Salmon, took her for his wife. And from her line of descendants, many years later, was born David the king. She was saved and blessed, because she had faith in the God of Israel.

Adapted

No Sin, No Forgiveness Either “The Strange Persistence of Guilt”

So, traditional morality is out, and freedom of everything is in. Then why does everybody feel so guilty?

In 1966, Time Magazine infamously posed the question “Is God Dead?” on its cover. Recently, it ran the same cover, only with the word “Truth” instead of God.

Ironically, while we’ve reached the point where we’ve effectively cut the legs out from beneath the idea of sin, we are still very much in the thrall of guilt.

And here’s what makes the persistence of guilt “strange”: The dominant worldviews of our age have turned beliefs about right and wrong, good and evil, into little more than expressions of feelings. They should have freed us from feelings of guilt.

And yet we still feel guilty.

This “strange persistence” of guilt leaves contemporary Westerners living in the worst of all possible worlds. Secularism and relativism have not liberated them from the need to “feel morally justified,” nor has it freed them from feelings of guilt.

What it has done is to deprive people of the means to do anything meaningful about their sense of guilt. As Brook says “we have no clear framework or set of rituals to guide us in our quest for goodness. Worse, people have a sense of guilt and sin, but no longer a sense that they live in a loving universe marked by divine mercy, grace and forgiveness. There is sin but no formula for redemption.” That’s because if there were true forgiveness and redemption, there would have to be an acknowledgement that there was something that needed to be forgiven and something about us that needs to be redeemed.

At this point, I’m left thinking about the passage from Matthew, where we’re told that when Jesus “saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

And they need a personal introduction—or re-introduction—to the Good Shepherd who has already shown how far He will go to love and forgive them.

“Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.” Hebrews 10:22

BreakPoint

WHY DOES GOD ASK QUESTIONS?

Ezekiel 33:11

Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Why does God ask questions? He has been asking questions, since the beginning of time.

For example, in Genesis 3, God called to Adam "Where are you?" Did God not know? Of course He knew. So why did He ask? Again, in the same chapter, once Adam had told Him that they had hidden, because they were naked, He asked "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Once again, God knew what the serpent had said, and what Adam and Eve had done. There are many other examples in Scripture. If God knew the answers to the questions already – and, after all, He is omniscient – then the questions were not for His benefit. They were for the benefit of those who He asked. In this case, His questions were for the benefit of Adam and Eve. They were designed, so that they could confess their sins, and repent. Sin is disobedience to God's Law. God's Law, at that time, was not to eat of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Scripture does not tell us if Adam and Eve had repented – though, for other reasons, I suspect they did. Notice that God did not ask any questions of the serpent, who is Satan, because there was no opportunity for such a spirit being to repent. But for us, there is that opportunity for complete salvation, if we will repent and trust in Christ.

Job 12:7-8

GOD'S HAZARDOUS WASTE EXPERTS

"But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you."

The environment naturally produces hazardous waste without human help. Ashes from a wood fire can contain enough naturally occurring radioactivity to merit a hazardous waste classification. Uranium and other radioactive elements occur naturally in the environment and can be dissolved in ground water. Chloro fluorocarbons, manufactured for refrigeration, are also spewed from volcanoes. Also called CFCs, these chemicals are thought by some scientists to degrade the Earth's ozone layer. The fact is, nature produces more hazardous waste than man does.



Since hazardous waste is a natural part of the creation, one might expect a well designed creation to have the ability to process hazardous materials into harmless substances. Science is beginning to discover how the Creator has designed the creation to deal with this problem.

Scientists have learned how several bacteria decontaminate water that carries dissolved uranium. One species of bacterium combines the phosphate in the water with the uranium to make uranium phosphate crystals. These crystals are stored harmlessly in the bacterium. Another species uses enzymes to make uranium ore that then settles harmlessly out of the water. Another species has been discovered that breaks down CFCs.

The creation is indeed well designed. In fact, the Creator's solutions to hazardous waste will help us learn how to clean up the messes we make.

God's Hazardous Waste Experts | Creation Moments

HE FORMED IT TO BE INHABITED

Isaiah 45:18

For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

God says "I am the Lord, and there is no other". To prove this to us, if proof were needed, He reminds us not only that He created everything, but that "He formed it to be inhabited". It is through humanity, and therefore, ultimately, through the person of Jesus Christ, that the creation of the Earth has its fulfillment and meaning.

In the beginning God created...

The first event to happen was Creation. And Creation was a direct act of God.

God created the universe for a purpose. While we cannot plumb the depths of every aspect of that purpose, we do receive hints. God's purposes were designed collectively, by the three persons of the Trinity. The Creation was designed to give glory to Him. And our part in the Creation order is only significant, in that God has chosen to glorify Himself through making humanity, and placing us on this planet, to do His will.

Creation was not a random chance act. Nor was it a mindless act, of an open, hands-off God. The Bible shows us that God is in complete control, and His ultimate purposes for this Creation will not be thwarted, because these things were decided before the beginning.

Before the Beginning | Creation Moments

Don't you wish every school still taught these?

Selling a million copies a year for over 100 years, McGuffey's Readers were the mainstay of public education in America. Generations of school children read them, making them some of the most influential books of all time.

In the foreword of McGuffey's Reader, 1836, he wrote: "The Christian religion is the religion of our country. From it are derived our prevalent notions of the character of God, the great moral governor of the universe. On its doctrines are founded the peculiarities of our free institutions."

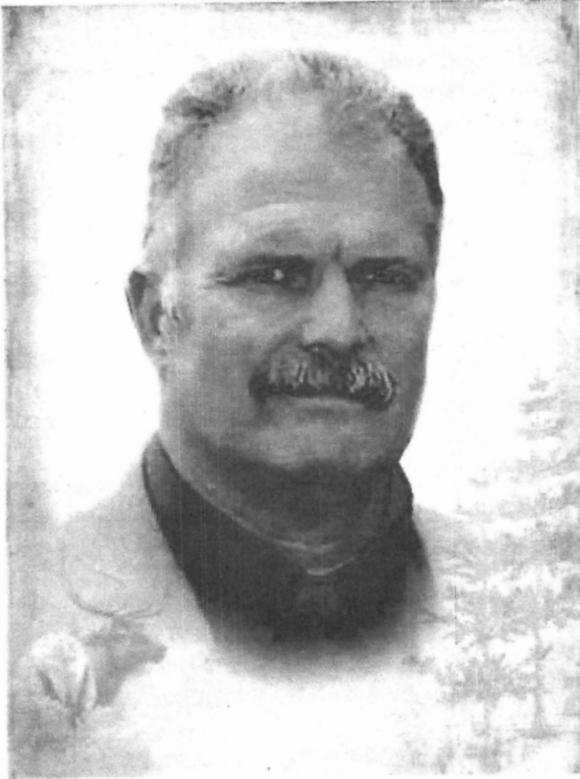
McGuffey's Eclectic First Reader included a lesson "Evening Prayer": "At the close of the day, before you go to sleep, you should not fail to pray to God to keep you from sin and from harm. ... You should thank him for all his good gifts; and learn, while young, to put your trust in Him; and the kind care of God will be with you."

In McGuffey's 5th Eclectic Reader, 1879, is a lesson by William Ellery Channing, titled "Religion – The Only Basis of Society": "How powerless conscience would become without the belief of a God. ... Erase all thought and fear of God from a community, and selfishness and sensuality would absorb the whole man. Appetite, knowing no restraint ... would trample in scorn on the restraints of human laws. ... Man would become ... what the theory of atheism declares him to be – a companion for brutes."

William Holmes McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader, 1879, included Lesson CXIII, "A Picture of Human Life" by Samuel Johnson: "Temptation succeeds temptation, and one compliance prepares us for another; we, in time, lose the happiness of innocence, and solace our disquiet with sensual gratifications. By degrees we let fall the remembrance of our original intention, and quit the only adequate object of rational desire. We entangle ourselves in business, immerse ourselves in luxury, and rove through the labyrinths of inconstancy till darkness of old age begins to invade us, and disease and anxiety obstruct our way. We then look back upon our lives with horror, with sorrow, and with repentance; and wish, but too often vainly wish, that we had not forsaken the paths of virtue."

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Obituary for **Brian D. Rich**



Brian Douglas Rich was born to Keith and Lucille Rich on February 7, 1951, in Los Angeles, California. Brian was the 5th child in a family of 5 children.

At the age of 10, his family moved to Corning California. He graduated from Corning Union High School in 1969. Two weeks after graduation, Brian married his high school sweetheart, Sheri Liebig, on June 27, 1969. To their union was born nine children: Shellie, Heath, Shavon, Seth, Caleb, Brent, Nathan, Shayna and Jairus.

Brian started out in the lumber industry and quickly advanced to a millwright position. In 1985, Brian move his family to southern California and began working for General Motors. He was transferred nine years later to Janesville, Wisconsin and retired in 2006.

Brian was a jack-of-all trades. There wasn't anything he could not fix. It was very important to him to pass along his knowledge to all nine of his children. He insisted the boys learn domestic duties and the girls learn basic mechanics.

Brian enjoyed hunting, fishing, camping, boating, motorsports and

many other outdoor activities, but nothing made him happier than sharing those activities with his children and grandchildren. Of course, that was after he had given them all special nicknames... like Leebee, Amazon, Choodus, Whitetail, Dusty, Scooter, Squirt, Pickpocket, Little Kenny, and of course, Sally and Alice, and those were boys!

Brian first came to know the Lord when he was 14. In 1975, at the age of 24, Brian was saved and gave his life to the Lord. From that point on, he committed himself to live a life, faithful and steady, that glorified God. As a faithful servant of Christ, he worshipped at the Church of God, Evening Light Saints, at Orland, California, Pacoima, California, and eventually at Fresno, California.

He felt the call to preach God's Word while he was attending the Pacoima congregation. He loved teaching the Word of God and leading people to Christ. He could and did bring God into every conversation.

Through Brian's steadfast and unwavering faith, many lives were changed. He never met anyone unworthy of sharing God's love for them. He would even share God's love with telemarketers on the phone.

Brian was known by many different names: son, brother, husband, father, uncle, grandpa, friend and most importantly, a child of God. God called him home on May 21, 2017, after trusting the Lord to choose the time for him to enter his eternal reward.

Brian leaves behind, with an eternal hope of being reunited in glory, his wife, Sheri, his nine children, Shellie, Heath, Shavon, Seth, Caleb, Brent, Nathan, Shayna and Jairus, 21 grandchildren, his siblings, Lone, Luana, Keith and Kathleen, numerous brothers and sisters in the Lord, and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones.

My family and I would like to express our sincerest appreciation for all the prayers, love, support, calls, texts, cards and gifts offered during this difficult time.

We covet your continued prayer as we mourn the loss of our husband and father, Brother Brian Rich.

*Sincerely,
Sister Sheri Rich*



Marilyn J. Eck of rural Bartlett, Kansas Obituary

January 25, 1933 - May 20, 2017

Funeral Service Thursday, May 25, 2017 10:00 AM

Marilyn (Beisly) Eck, 84, loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend was transported by God's loving angels to her eternal home early Saturday, May 20, 2017. Her death resulted from injuries received in a house fire.

Mama was born in Coffeyville, KS on January 25, 1933 to Ralph Minter Beisly and Martha Delima (Booth) Beisly.

In 1951, Mama married Donald Irvin Eck. They had four children - Cynthia Lavonne, Martha Jeannette, Ivan Gene, and Herschel Leon.

Mama loved the Lord. She never tired of telling how, early in her childhood, she was drawn to the Lord and gave Him her heart. The remainder of her life was spent in earnest devotion to Him. She was faithful in prayer, reading and studying God's Word, and in doing, with her whole being, whatever she understood God was asking of her; whether it was singing, making her version of grapenuts, cooking at the Church of God campmeeting, sending cards, or raising her four children.

Mama also loved her family. She was a kind and loving mother faithfully teaching us how to live this life with the eternal life in mind. She also made sure we had the skills we needed to live in this world. She was deeply interested in each of us, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren alike, and thoroughly enjoyed hearing about and sharing in our lives.

Mama was a true "Mother in Israel" and was an honorary grandmother to many children and young people in the Church of God.

Mama was a hard worker and, in her earlier years, enjoyed gardening and preserving her produce. In her later years she could still work circles around us.

Mama loved, and treated as her own, everyone who married into her family. There was no such thing as an in-law.

She loved on us with the delicious food that she cooked...breads, cookies, candies, granola bars, cakes...anything she cooked was delicious. If you left her house hungry it was your own fault.

Mama loved chocolate and would sneak a piece, then, with a little guilty smile, she would bring us some to "make it legal."

Our sweet mama was preceded in death by her parents Ralph and Martha, her husband Donald in July of 1996, and one brother Ralph Eugene Beisly. Those left behind to miss her include: her children Cynthia Meek of Peculiar, MO, Jeannette Ross (Larry) of Helena, MT, Ivan Eck (Eileen) of Edna, KS, Herschel Eck (Jeanne) of Bartlett, KS, son-in-law Jerry Meek of Tickfaw, LA, her brother David Beisly (Leora) of Bartlesville, OK, her sister Janice Williamson (Wesley) of Loranger, LA, one sister-in-law DeLoris Bradley (Randel) of Bartlett, KS, 19 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, a special "son" Ronnie Zacharias of Spooner, WI, one daughter she drew to her heart Betty Elam of Ocean Springs, MS, and a multitude of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

While we mourn her passing, we do not sorrow as those who have no hope for we know that Mama is in heaven and have the wonderful expectation of some day worshiping with her in the very presence of our Lord and Savior.

If Mama were still on this earth, she would say to each person reading this, "Make sure your heart is right with God. Follow Him. It's the only way to true happiness and fulfillment."

They're rehearsing for that grand reunion

Friends of family members gathered in the yard where Marilyn Eck spent so much of her lifetime — a farm home near Bartlett.

They had learned, in the early hours of Saturday morning, that Mrs. Eck had died in the fire that heavily damaged her home. And, they came, in rather unusual fashion, to sit under the familiar trees that gave shade to her yard.

They spent a good part of the day there, smiling through their tears as stories were told about her wonderful life.

This is quite a family with children, cousins and in-laws spread around the immediate section where Marilyn and her late husband, Donald, had lived for so many years.

It is never easy or pleasant to give up such a

friend as Marilyn. But seeing that gathering of friends and family in her yard, sharing stories and greeting well-wishers, was typical of the gentle way this family lives and reacts to life's adversities.

They are known for their quiet ways, but always bold in helping others and standing up for their faith in God.

She probably never knew it, but Marilyn Eck made an indelible mark on the lives she touched so beautifully.

Heaven's gain is our loss, but ever so temporarily. The reunion in her front yard was nothing compared to the one planned in the heavens someday soon.

— Rudy Taylor, publisher

Printed in the Labette Avenue newspaper
Wednesday, May 24, 2017

THE GIFT OF WORK

BY JORDAN CHAMBLEE

In the Bible, people's lives were filled with physical labor: Ruth, Esther, Nehemiah, Paul, Priscilla and Aquila, and so on. Whether laboring in a stranger's field, navigating the politics of a pagan kingdom, or persevering in prisons to reach lost souls with the gospel, men and women of faith were no strangers to work — because the work of the Christian is directly connected to the work of God.

"The creation of man and woman

is accompanied by a blessing and a task, a charge and commission. Man was not created for passive observation of the world but for an epic task, a worldwide venture. Work is therefore built into the created order, right from the start. God gave man stewardship of the land and all life on it. All tasks man undertakes in God's world can be seen in relationship to that original commission."

Most of God's workers are quietly laboring in the periphery of history, quietly tending to the business God called them to. Whether it is by building homes for the homeless, raising a child in the knowledge of God, or repairing sandals, a Christian's work is holy work, because it is directly related to the great work of God.

Mankind was created for work.

God built us to do something.

I am a follower of Jesus. I am going to follow Him no matter where I am, either in the workplace or on the mission field."

afaJournal

THE GLORY OF GOD

When
seen from
a biblical
perspective,
a Christian's
work can be
a blessing
rather than
drudgery.

The Arrows of God's Love



By Sis. Marilyn Eck

The arrows of God's love—how strange that we would think of arrows as an instrument of love. Arrows are considered an instrument to inflict wounds, or cause death.

Let us read thoughtfully the passage in Lamentations 3:12-13. "He hath bent his bow, and set me as a mark for the arrow. He hath caused the arrows of his quiver to enter into my reins."

Let us imagine an archer with his bow and arrow as he is hunting for his prey. After a while he sees what he has been looking for. He takes an arrow from the quiver, inserts it in the bow and draws the string back in the typical archer's stance. He has a mark where he wants the arrow to go. His intention is to take the life of the animal for his sustaining food.

God is the Divine Archer with a right, pure purpose in mind for those who name His name. He seeks to fulfill that purpose. Isaiah tells us God's thoughts are not our thoughts, neither are our ways His ways. Jeremiah records, "The thoughts I think toward you, saith the Lord, are thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Not one of us wants to be wounded. A wound causes pain. Yet because God loves us so dearly and wants to get us to heaven, He sometimes needs to set His sight on us and let the arrow loose to find its mark in our hearts. Unlike the hunter who wants to hit a vital spot to make a clean, quick kill, the Master Archer never seeks to take the life away. He wants to enhance life.

In an effort to quicken our realization of ourselves and with God, but with others as well. Patience and understanding go hand and hand. To fully understand another, we must be longsuffering with that individual. Without this quality, we will overlook important information or grow to ignore what is vital. Having patience with one another forms a bond that grows stronger in the Lord.

"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Galatians 6:8-9.

Yes, there will be times in our lives when we get tired and discouraged. But we must not let go or backslide. We must live our lives to fit the ways of the Bible, for how we live is what we will reap. We have the Lord to lean on. If we wait patiently on Him, we will surely receive our reward.

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