

EXALTING CHRIST · EQUIPPING BELIEVERS · EVANGELIZING THE WORLD

CORNERSTONE

NOV - DEC 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

Knowing the Will of God

**Walking with God
Pitfalls in Parenting
...and more**



TO YOU WHO BELIEVE, THIS STONE IS PRECIOUS · 1 PETER 2:7

Thanksgiving - Thanks Living

Editorial

“In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thess. 5:18

There is no question in my thinking that our pilgrim forefathers had Deut. 26 in mind when they established the first Thanksgiving in our country centuries ago. The law of the offering of the first fruits was God's instruction to Israel to acknowledge His abundant provision once they entered Canaan, the Land of Promise. It was also designed to highlight His grace and mercy in delivering them from their bondage in Egypt and leading them to that place that flowed with milk and honey. It was the chronicle of God's mighty power toward them as a nation and His continual goodness and grace upon them afterwards. Similarly, despite the initial hardship the pilgrims experienced in coming to the New World and their arduous first year here, they also declared that same goodness of God on their behalf in more ways than one – just as Israel did in the past and as we should do today.

The details of this law were simple. Upon entering the land, the grateful offerer was to take the first fruits of their produce and place them in a basket, setting it before the priest as an act of worship, v. 2. What followed was a firm declaration that God had indeed kept His word and brought the nation into their inheritance, v. 3. The priest would then take the basket from his hand and offer it to the LORD, v. 4. The testimony was that as a nation they were ready to perish (v. 5), describing the way they were mistreated in the world and afflicted and how in the midst of this horrible misery, the cry went up to the Lord who heard their plea. With a mighty hand and outstretched arm, He greatly delivered them from their bondage in Egypt, as recorded in Exodus 2.

As believers, we too were on the brink of perishing, but were delivered from *“so great a death”* (2 Cor. 1:10). But God in mercy, raised us up and made us to sit together in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). We too, have obtained an inheritance (Eph. 1:11) as they did. Like Mephibosheth, we have been made to sit at the king's table, despite our weakness and past infirmities (2 Sam. 9). Indeed, God has kept His Word and as a certain songwriter has penned it: *“My Redeemer is faithful and true, everything that He said, He will do; every morning His mercies are new; my Redeemer is faithful and true”*. Like that one leper who came back to the Lord, falling on his face and giving Him thanks, Luke 17:16, we too need to come back to the Lord regularly and give Him thanks for what He has done when we were helpless and hopeless. We declare with the same conviction as David in Psalm 40:1-3: *“He heard my cry and brought me out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set my feet upon a Rock and established my goings. He put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God”*. It is our privilege

to express with grateful hearts, the work of redemption in our hearts each Lord's Day as we thus remember Him. We are to bring our “baskets” full – whatever size they be – to our Great High Priest, the Lord Jesus, who offers it up and adds “His sweet perfume” before our Father in Heaven. As this is done, we are to give thanks to the Father who has *“made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light because He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son”* (Col. 1:12-13). Praise His name.

But it does not stop there. As with Israel long ago, our thankfulness for our spiritual and temporal provision should not be confined to ourselves, but shared with others in practical ways. Rejoicing in every good thing that the Lord, the grateful offerer was to share what he possessed with others, the *“stranger, the fatherless, the widow... they they may eat within your gates and be filled”* (v. 12). The essence of true thankfulness is sharing with others what we have received and enjoy. The four lepers in 2 Kings 7 were smitten in their hearts when they realized that what they possessed, they were actually keeping to themselves. They acknowledged their wrong and determined among themselves that they needed to go and tell the king's household and share with others what they had. We should do this with the Gospel, telling others of the Gospel of God's free grace in Christ, whenever we have the opportunity to share the hope that lies within us, (1 Peter 3:15). We should also share of our material possessions as a tangible means to back up our words and give them weight.

At this time of year, let's look for opportunities to share with others, both in word and deed how the Lord has blessed us and provided for our all our needs in Christ.

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” (Heb. 13:15-16)



Mark Kolchin is Cornerstone Magazine's current editor. Mark was commended to full-time ministry in 1993 from Bethany Bible Chapel in Toms River, NJ. He is involved in a writing, Bible teaching, and conference ministry. He and his wife Cindy have four children.

by Mark Kolchin

Editor: Mark Kolchin, mkolchin@cornerstonemagazine.org
Assistant Editor: George Ferrier, gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org

Editorial Committee:

Mark Kolchin, New Jersey, USA
David Dunlap, Florida, USA
George Ferrier, Ontario, Canada
Brian Gunning, Ontario, Canada
P. T. Tan, Maryland, USA

Please mail correspondence to:

CORNERSTONE Magazine, PO Box 305 Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734

For address changes or new subscriptions:
gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org

Design and Layout: Anna Grist, Serendipimoose Designs

Website Design: Matt Williams, Louise Street Marketing

Treasurer: Eileen Lee (USA) · George Ferrier (Canada)

Donations may be made online:

www.cornerstonemagazine.org

Donations sent by mail:

For U.S. and International donors:

Cornerstone Magazine Inc.
PO Box 690096, Charlotte, NC 28227 USA

For Canadian donors:

Cornerstone Magazine Trust
30 Maricona Way, Ottawa, Ontario, K2T 1H2, Canada

Purpose: CORNERSTONE magazine seeks to build up and encourage the Lord's people by publishing Bible teaching articles and reports of the Lord's work. Its aim is to present truth in words that are easy to understand in regard to the person of Christ, His church, and evangelism. Cornerstone does not intend to be the official voice of any group of churches. The editor takes responsibility for the content that is published. For any spiritual blessing, to God be all the glory.

Copyright: CORNERSTONE magazine is copyrighted only to preserve the integrity of the material. All rights reserved. Articles may be translated into other languages and used in English periodicals, provided no changes are made to the sense of the article, while showing a credit line "— CORNERSTONE MAGAZINE". Sorry, unsolicited manuscripts cannot be acknowledged or returned. Printed in USA.

Donations: CORNERSTONE magazine is jointly published by Cornerstone Magazine, Inc., an United States Internal Revenue Service 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit corporation, and Cornerstone Magazine Trust, a charitable trust registered with Canada Revenue Agency. Cornerstone magazine is dependent upon the Lord to provide for its needs. It is freely sent upon request, as the Lord enables. No subscription fees are charged. Cornerstone is supported by those who appreciate the aims and the work of this ministry. All donations are tax deductible in accordance to law. All funds received are used entirely to produce, mail or deliver the magazine. We are thankful to all who practically support the work of Cornerstone magazine.

Table of Contents

- 2 Knowing the Will of God
Bob Billings
- 4 Walking With God
James G. McCarthy
- 6 Pitfalls in Parenting
Gary McBride
- 7 Dressed for the Occasion
Bill Fiess
- 8 Priorities in Preaching
Brian Gunning
- 10 According to Thy Will:
The Birth of Christ
Gordon Franz
- 11 Book Review: Determined
to Believe?
David Dunlap
- 14 Report: Story Book Lodge
Christian Camp
Larry Rogers
- 15 Issues & Answers
George Ferrier
- 16 News & Notices

www.cornerstonemagazine.org

TO YOU WHO BELIEVE, THIS STONE IS PRECIOUS • 1 PETER 2:7

A hand holding a vintage compass in a sunlit forest with autumn foliage. The compass is the central focus, with its needle pointing towards the top. The background is a soft-focus forest with trees and ground covered in fallen leaves in shades of yellow, orange, and red. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a warm, golden glow.

Knowing THE WILL OF GOD

The late J. Christy Wilson was raised on the mission field in Persia, present day Iran. In the mid-1950's, he and his wife became the first missionaries to Afghanistan. They had a valuable ministry with Mrs. Wilson developing braille for the Afghan language. She taught blind Afghan children and in a class of 17 students, 13 confessed Christ. Although this was in the pre-Taliban period, the government was nevertheless still repressive towards Christianity. Therefore in 1972 the government deported the Wilsons. After they returned to the U.S., I heard Mr. Wilson speak on the subject of God's guidance. Below is an enlargement of Mr. Wilson's teaching on decision making.

Follow Biblical Commandments

The most important commandment is to accept "*You must be born-again.*" This is foundational to all decision making in life. Once a person has become a Christian, they should attempt to follow two commands the Lord Jesus gave which cover all areas of morality. First, they should love the Lord

their God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. Second, they should love their neighbor as them self. (Mk. 12:29-31).

Follow Biblical Principles

The difference between a biblical command and a biblical principle is that commands are explicit and principles are inferred from commands. For example, there is no command in scripture to refrain from spending long hours (unrelated to work) looking at electronic screens. But there are commands to redeem the time, to be careful about what we look at and to be separated from the world. Being obedient to biblical principles is essential to making right decisions.

Knowing the law does not empower us to follow these principles and commandments but to honor the Lord we must walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). The indwelling Spirit gives us the power to obey God's laws from the heart (Acts 1:8; Titus 3:5).

Prayer, Scriptural Meditation and Fellowship

We speak to God in prayer and he teaches us through Scripture. In order to follow biblical commandments and principles, regular devotional time with the Lord is essential. For spiritual growth there is no substitute for one-to-one fellowship with the Lord. Fellowship with other believers is also extremely important. The Christian who does these things from the heart will better be able to discern the Lord's guidance.

Listen to the Advice of Parents and Mature Christians

Christian parents love their children and usually give good advice. Further, unsaved parents may also have a lot of wisdom to offer that is in accord with biblical teaching.

Seeking the advice of mature Christians helps to avoid making bad decisions. In Proverbs 24:6 we read, *"For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety."* We have decisions to make every day, many of which are minor, others which are more important. Then there are the decisions which have a huge impact on our lives. What career should I pursue? Should I go to college, and if so, what college? How should I (we) spend money? Where should I (we) live? Where and how should I be involved in Christian ministry? Should I marry and if so, whom should I marry?

In the major decisions of life listening to the counsel of godly people helps to give spiritual and emotional protection.

Feelings

It is fine to ask God to open the right door and close the wrong doors. However, sometimes two or more doors are quite open! Following the aforementioned principles is very important to be able to discern how the Lord is leading in our circumstances.

The Lord can give peace regarding decisions. But feelings are last on the list in terms of importance because they, like circumstances, can change rapidly and be difficult to analyze. The key to having peace is to be practicing the above principles.

Jim Elliot was a man who had right priorities in decision making which had life and death implications. He and four other young men were killed in Ecuador by the Auca Indians in 1956. Elizabeth Elliot's biography of him, *"In the Shadow of the Almighty,"* gives insight into how he decided to go to the Aucas. In his journals, he showed an intense desire to be spiritually obedient. He was a man of prayer, was regularly in the Word, and he was continually fellowshiping with other Christians. He had a close relationship with his godly parents and at the close of his last letter to them he wrote, *"The gospel to every creature."*

After arriving in Ecuador, he had a decision to make as to where he should minister. Should he stay in the rain forest town of Shandia and work with the Quichua Indians, who numbered in the thousands or should he risk his life and

work with the Auca who numbered in the hundreds. He came to believe that the Lord was leading him to the Auca, and he had a feeling of peace regarding that decision. In the years following his death, the majority of the Auca, including the killers of the five men became Christians. The testimony of the five martyrs resulted in a large increase of young people becoming overseas missionaries. Jim Elliot practiced good principles of decision making and the Lord was with him and guided him.

Knowing THE LAW DOES NOT EMPOWER US TO FOLLOW THESE PRINCIPLES AND COMMANDMENTS BUT TO HONOR THE LORD WE MUST WALK IN THE SPIRIT... THE INDWELLING SPIRIT GIVES US THE POWER TO OBEY GOD'S LAWS FROM THE HEART.

God's Will and His Guidance

As we seek God's guidance for many everyday decisions, there are other things that God plainly states to be His will. For example, it is God's will that we pray. In fact, we should pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:18). We should also meditate on God's Word (Josh. 1:8) and fellowship together (Heb. 10:24-25).

Even one following God's basic will stated in the Bible can sometimes make a wrong decision. In those cases, God is still able to work it out for good (Rom. 8:28). This teaching is a comfort, given that no Christian always makes correct decisions. We are eternally grateful to the Lord for his grace and mercy towards us! Let our goal be, *"to commit our way unto to the Lord; to trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass."* (Psa. 37:5). Doing so, He will continue to guide us in decision making as we look forward to being in heaven with Him forever.



Bob and his wife Ruth and son Edward reside in Red Bank, NJ and attend Bethel Bible Chapel. Bob was commended to the Lord's work in 1981 and is involved in evangelism, discipling, and pastoral work in both English and Spanish speaking assemblies. Bob and Ruth also minister in her native country of Honduras.

by Bob Billings

WALKING WITH GOD



In biblical and modern history, a few brave souls have chosen to walk with the Almighty. Meeting people like this can make a lasting impact upon us.

Enoch was one. The Bible says, “*Enoch walked with God three hundred years.*”¹ He did not take a few steps and then turn back. He was in it for the long haul. He stayed the course no matter how tough it got. He kept on walking with His Lord.

Noah was another.² He did so in a world much like our own. “*The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the*

earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.”³ He walked with God when no one else did.

As we choose to walk with God we become more like Christ.⁴ That’s makes us different from other people, living separated, holy lives, following the God who said, “*Be holy, because I am holy.*”⁵

Those who desire to walk with the Lord still sometimes stumble and may even fall. King David was such a man.

Reading the Psalms reveals that David walked with God. God said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will."⁶ Not long after, David fell flat on his face. He took another man's wife and had him killed. God sent a prophet to rebuke David, saying, "Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes?"⁷ David repented, confessed his sin, got up, and started walking again.

Elijah, walking with God most of his life, also temporarily stumbled. After one of his greatest victories, Elijah fell apart. "I have had enough," he told God. "Take my life."⁸ God encouraged Elijah in "a gentle whisper."⁹ Like David, Elijah got up and started walking again.

One day, a chariot swooped down from heaven, scooped him up, and he was gone. The same thing happened to Enoch. The Bible says, "Enoch walked with God, and then he disappeared because God took him away."¹⁰ The Bible says Enoch "obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God."¹¹ Someday, Christ is going to come in the clouds and whisk all believers up into heaven. These are men and women of whom "the world was not worthy."¹²

WHAT ABOUT TODAY? ARE THERE ANY WHO STILL WALK WITH GOD? LOOK FOR SOMEONE LIKE JESUS, SOMEONE WHO WALKS "IN THE SAME MANNER AS HE WALKED," AND WHO TOUCHES OTHERS THE WAY HE DID. JESUS PROMISES THE PERSON WHO BELIEVES IN HIM THAT "RIVERS OF LIVING WATER SHALL FLOW FROM HIS INNERMOST BEING."

Of course, the only one who perfectly walked with God was the Lord Jesus. God declared Him such, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I have found my delight."¹³ His walk with the Father was like none other, such that He could say, "I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me."¹⁴ At the end of His life, His final steps on earth completed, God took Him up. "He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight."¹⁵

What about today? Are there any who still walk with God? Look for someone like Jesus, someone who walks "in the same manner as he walked,"¹⁷ and who touches others the way He did. Jesus promises the person who believes in Him that "rivers of living water shall flow from his innermost being."¹⁸

Amy Carmichael (1867-1951) was such a person. For 55 years, she served in India, helping girls and young women escape sexual slavery. Read Carmichael's poetry, and you will know that she walked with God.

Jim Elliot (1927-1956) was another. He was martyred at the age of twenty-eight while trying to tell primitive tribal people in Ecuador about the Lord. I had a friend who met him briefly and said there was nothing special about him. After Elliot's death, my friend read his published diary. Then he knew that he had walked with God.

Has not Jesus invited all of us to walk with Him, saying, "Follow me?"¹⁹ Is this not what God desires most from us? The prophet Micah writes: "He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?"²⁰

Endnotes:

1. Genesis 5:22 NASB
2. Genesis 6:9 NASB
3. Genesis 6:5 NIV
4. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NASB
5. 1 Peter 1:16 NIV
6. Acts 13:22 NASB
7. 2 Samuel 12:9 NIV
8. 1 Kings 18:4 NASB
9. 1 Kings 19:12 NIV
10. Genesis 5:24 NET
11. Hebrews 11:5 NASB
12. Hebrews 11:37 NASB
13. Matthew 3:17 NWT (J. N. Darby)
14. John 14:11 NASB
15. Acts 1:9 NASB
16. Matthew 23:12 NASB
17. 1 John 2:6 NASB
18. John 7:38 NASB
19. John 1:43 NASB
20. Micah 6:8 NKJ



Jim McCarthy is a Bible teacher and the author of several books including "The Gospel According to Rome". He is an instructor in the Galilee Program, a three-week, summer training course for Christian men and women, ages 20 to 35. Jim also helps direct The Discipleship Intern Training Program, a nine-month program that prepares men to serve in their home churches.

by James G. McCarthy

Parenting is no easy task and the Bible gives no guarantees of the outcome. Prov. 22:6 is a proverb, not a promise. Experientially, all of us know many that have not gone on for the Lord. There is no easy answer to this reality, most of us know of families where one or more children have gone on well and others have walked away with no evidence of faith. Children make moral choices and each individual is personally responsible before the Lord. Some children from the best of homes have abandoned faith while some from the worst of homes are sound in their profession of faith.

A growing reality is that some who go on in the Lord choose a different style of local church. It is not always easy to surmise why this is so; there are likely many reasons depending on the individuals involved. None of us is perfect but some parents make the following mistakes that may contribute to these two situations.

I have been in homes and in other situations where parents openly criticize other believers. Sometimes the elders are the object of their critical words. Children constantly exposed to this are unlikely to be attracted to your assembly or perhaps to any assembly. It is not likely to leave a good impression on young minds. This type of conversation undermines what parents want for their children in terms of faith and fellowship.

Some believers are contentious by nature, they just seem to find something to fight or complain about. It may not be every month, but over time any numbers of issues raise their ire. I know of meetings where the atmosphere is toxic and all joy is gone. In these situations, others may be drawn into the conflicts and the youth may be so affected that these events are imprinted in their minds forever. Undoubtedly, issues will arise with differences of opinion, but in these situations, we need to individually apply Ephesians 4:2-3. A humble attitude and the desire to maintain the unity of the Spirit will go a long way. I know of a number of young people, who exposed to such contention have abandoned their own fellowship, gravitating instead to other local churches. Although not always the reason in such cases, it can be a contributing factor.

A lack of commitment is plaguing many NT assemblies. Of all the institutions on earth, the Lord places the greatest value on the local church. It would seem obvious, that if

PITFALLS IN PARENTING



it is precious to Him, then it should be precious to us. Sadly, many believers in North America do not share this view. In our culture, many choose other activities at the expense of the local church. It may be leisure, the pursuit of things, or just that the assembly is not the highest priority. Their children may participate in sports, dance, or other activities that interfere with meeting times. If these situations persist, it becomes difficult to convince children that their fellowship is to be a priority in their lives.

Closely related to the lack of commitment is a lack of consistency. All of us have lapses in our lives when we are not all that we should be. Some believers have large gaps or serious periods of inconsistency. Our children will see through the facade, when we say one thing but our behavior says something

else. The Lord calls for perseverance and faithfulness in our lives and this type of consistency will speak to our children. Certainly, this should apply to our "church life" so that our children see that the local assembly is important to us. As well, consistency in our own devotional lives, and the priority of the Word and prayer in our homes shows what we value.

This is not an exhaustive list but from my experience, the above can take their toll. Even in homes where none of these happens, we know of children who have abandoned the faith and/or their local fellowship for a number of reasons. In parenting, some things are outside of our control but this list has activities we can control. It comes down to priorities, passion, and perseverance on our part.



Gary McBride lives in Northern Ontario and fellowships at Kirkland Lake Bible Chapel. He is involved in his local Assembly but also preaches at camps and conferences. He is married to Gloria and they have two children and six grandchildren.

by Gary McBride

In the book of Revelation there is an impressive number of references to clothing which encompasses a variety of Greek words. Often in Scripture, the believer's garment represents righteous works done in faithful obedience to God (e.g., Rev 16:15; 19:8).

For the sake of brevity, we will examine a few of the verses in Revelation which mention the himation, an outer garment or cloak that was typically woven from wool or linen. The himation was put on over the chiton, the inner tunic, and was worn by Jews and Greeks alike. The Hebrew style and the Greek style were virtually indistinguishable. When himation occurs in the plural, it can refer to both the outer and the inner garment.

Three occurrences of himation are found in Revelation 3, the second half of Jesus' seven letters to the churches in Asia Minor.

Sardis

Jesus told the church at Sardis, "You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments [himatia]; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy" (Rev 3:4).

Some believers in Sardis had remained faithful to Christ, even in the midst of a church which He had called "dead." Jesus promised that those who overcome "shall be clothed in white garments [himatiois], and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels" (Rev 3:5).

It quickly becomes evident that the himatia mentioned here are much more than physical garments; they also refer to lifestyle choices and deeds. Each believer must take care to guard his own "garments," and for those who do, there is the promise of great reward.

Laodicea

We find the third occurrence in Jesus' letter to Laodicea: "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments [himatia], that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed..." (v 18a).

Jesus gave them a list of items they needed to purchase from Him in order to change their status. The white garments Jesus mentioned in v 18 represent the "righteous acts of the saints" (see Rev 19:8). At the time of this letter, the Laodicean church had no righteous acts to their account.

Apart from Christ, our lives will not produce righteous acts worthy of God's approval. In encouraging the believers in Rome to "put on Christ" (see Rom 13:14), the Apostle Paul used a word regularly employed to describe putting on a garment. We must "put on Christ" if we want to live lives that produce works pleasing to God. Jesus and His Word are the only sources from which God-approved works flow; they do not flow from self, a lesson the Laodiceans badly needed to learn.

The Greek word translated "nakedness" in Rev 3:18 can mean the state of being completely stripped of all clothing, or it can simply refer to the lack of a himation. Whether the word here refers to complete nakedness or merely to the lack of an outer garment (and thus, a lack of righteous acts), it is clear that shame is a real possibility when a believer is assessed by the Lord.

He Who Watches

A significant use of himation is found in Rev 16:15b: "Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments [himatia], lest he walk naked and they see his shame."

The Greek word translated watches refers to spiritual alertness and vigilance, while keeps denotes both observing and preserving.

In other words, it is the believer's responsibility to take care that his works are pleasing to the Lord. Good and godly works do not occur automatically in the believer. If they did, the Bible would skip everything between Acts and Revelation.

continued on page 9

Dressed for the Occasion





PRIORITIES IN PREACHING

That God has ordained and blessed the world through preaching should be obvious. Scripture records the spiritual advances that have been made through the preaching of God's Word¹. In addition we are specifically exhorted to "Preach the Word"². It follows therefore that we should encourage preaching to be done in the finest way possible.

There are many helpful books giving instruction on the preparation and delivery of messages. These are useful and teach something to preachers of any age. However, preaching should not be thought of as merely an exercise in public speaking. While it may share some characteristics of the orator or public speaker, true preaching of the Word of God has a high spiritual content and is dependent not on natural ability but on spiritual gift bestowed through the Holy Spirit.

In light of that we can identify characteristics of the working of the Holy Spirit in public preaching. Here are some that should mark every message.

Exaltation of Christ

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is to communicate Christ. When a man preaches he should always give Christ His rightful place – the highest. This has many immediate benefits in the message.

Firstly, He should always be spoken of with honor and respect and held high in our language. "God has highly exalted Him"³ and so should we.

Secondly, truth about Christ should resonate with every believer. Being "in Christ" means we respond to things about Him. This will truly feed believers. Consider for example the account in Luke 24:13-35. Luke records, "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."⁴ They said "Did not our hearts burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?"⁵ We want a "heart burning" ministry in preaching.

Thirdly, exalting Christ means we do not exalt ourselves. Many a message is ruined when a preacher includes too

much of himself and makes himself the hero of every story. A true preacher is not interested in what people are thinking about him; a true preacher is interested in what people are thinking about *Him*.

Edify Believers

The object of the exercise of gift is to build up believers. Not everything is edifying. It is possible for preachers to stir up controversy over issues that have little if any, practical spiritual benefit. Paul warned against "endless genealogies, which minister questions rather than godly edifying."⁶ We are not guaranteed an answer to every question we put forth, and when there is no clear answer from scripture, we should remain silent on the subject. Even when the apostles wrote to correct believers on their spiritual deficiencies, there was always a heavy dose of building up in the process. There is a way to correct without tearing down.

Evangelize the Lost

In almost every gathering of the assembly, it is likely that unbelievers will be present. Children or others who are showing interest may not know the Lord. In the process of expounding scripture, elements of the gospel should be present. It is always wise, if even for a few minutes, to pause and bring up some issue of the gospel for people to think about. You never know who is listening. Preaching the gospel is also a help to believers. It too, is part of the "apostles' doctrine" that the early church steadfastly continued in⁷. Make every effort to evangelize the lost.

Expound Scripture

The scripture has its own supernatural power to change both believer and unbeliever alike. It should be a great relief to a young preacher to realize he does not have to be clever or knowledgeable in himself, but simply preach the Word. Let the Bible speak for itself in its own way of explaining things. We cannot improve on God's Word. It has its own ability to interact with the mind and heart quite apart from what we say. Paul exhorted Timothy to "... give attendance to reading"⁸ that is, the public reading of scripture. Poor preaching is usually the result of insufficient time spent

thinking and meditating on scripture. Again, Paul tells us, "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."⁹ If you think about the preachers you like and have found them to be helpful, you will notice that they preach messages that are heavily immersed in scripture.

Energized by the Holy Spirit

The preacher relies on the work of the Holy Spirit to bring power to the message. While there is a human side in study, prayer and preparation, there is also the divine side of the power of the Holy Spirit. Peter writes, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles [mouthpiece] of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be gloried through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."¹⁰

The Spirit's chief ministry is the communication of God's Word and He will take that Word and use it in people's lives. Praying preachers and prayed-for preachers will know much of the Spirit's power.

Spiritual gift shows itself in different ways with different preachers. There is not a uniform way to preach. Each has his own gift. However, there are some common elements. We would know more power and effect in preaching if these priorities for preaching were found in every message. May the Lord help us to "Preach the Word."

Endnotes

1. Nehemiah 8:7-12
2. 2 Timothy 4:2
3. Philippians 2:9
4. Luke 24:27
5. Luke 24:32
6. 1 Timothy 1:4
7. Acts 2:42
8. 1 Timothy 4:13
9. 1 Timothy 4:15, 16
10. 1 Peter 4:10, 11



Brian Gunning is married to Marlene and they have four children and eight grandchildren. They make their home in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. Brian is a self employed accountant. He came to know the Lord at the age of seven and has been in fellowship at Brockview Bible Chapel since his early teens. He currently is an elder in that assembly. In addition to itinerant preaching he is on the boards of Counsel Magazine, the Ontario Workers and Elders Conference, Gospel Folio Press, Bible Conference Corporation and Cornerstone Magazine Inc.

by Brian Gunning

continued from page 7

Note that vigilance leads to blessing, but a lack of vigilance leads to shame (see also 1 John 2:28). A believer who is not watchful is in danger of not producing works pleasing to God (hence, the nakedness referred to here), and therefore not reigning with Christ in the Kingdom. This is more evidence that there are various degrees of rewards and experience for believers in the life to come.

Jesus' Garments

Just as our himatia will reflect our righteous deeds, so, too, does the Lord Jesus' himation reflect His.

When Jesus returns to earth at the end of the Tribulation, His clothing is noteworthy: "He was clothed with a robe [himation] dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God" (Rev 19:13).

Jesus' himation is dipped in blood, not His own, but that of His enemies (see, e.g., Isa 34:1-8; 63:1-6; Mic 2:12-13; Hab 3:12-16). Jesus' himation commemorates His righteous works. He has acted righteously as Avenger of Israel and Conqueror of God's enemies. His himation will be inscribed with the title "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" (Rev 19:16). Operation Footstool will be accomplished at last!

Getting Dressed for the Occasion

A cursory survey of clothing mentioned in Revelation demonstrates the importance of the topic, especially as it relates to the himation representing righteous acts approved by God. Each believer is responsible for the condition of his himation, and no believer can accomplish anything without Christ: "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

It is beneficial to remember that "we must all appear before the Judgment Seat [Bema] of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad" (2 Cor 5:10).

Are you planning now what you will wear at the Bema? Do you need to update your spiritual wardrobe?

*First published in Grace in Focus, May 2018,
used with permission.*



Bill teaches math in Virginia and meets with the assembly that gathers in his home in Richlands VA.

by Bill Fiess

According to Thy Word: The Birth of Christ

I love Christmas! I especially like reconnecting with family and friends via their Christmas letters to find out how their year has been. I also enjoy reading the biblical account of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ and the events surrounding it: first, as prophesied in Genesis (3:15; 49:10); second, as foretold by the Hebrew prophets (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Dan. 7:13; Mic. 5:2; Ps. 40:6-8; cf. Heb. 10:5-9; Mal. 4:2); third, as recorded in the gospels (Mt. 1-2; Lk. 1-2; Jn. 1:1-14); and finally, the exposition of His incarnation in the epistles (Rom. 1:1-4; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-11; 1 Jn. 4:9).

A number of years ago in Israel, I was teaching the physical settings of the Bible. We visited a shepherd's field, a threshing floor, Herod the Great's weekend retreat at the Herodium, and finally the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. At each stop, we discussed the biblical accounts connected with the birth of the Lord Jesus and how the history, geography, and culture impacted the biblical text.

Here are some important facts surrounding the birth of our Lord that need to be remembered at this time of year when so many are celebrating His birth:

First, the Bible does not give a specific date as to when the Lord Jesus was born. It is known that He was born during the reign of Herod the Great who died in the spring of 4 B.C. (Mt. 2:1). Herod had an indication from the wise men when Christ was born because he had all the male children of Bethlehem, two years old and under, killed (Mt. 2:16).

At His birth the shepherds were with their flocks in the fields (Lk. 2:8). In the winter months, the shepherds stay out in the Judean desert, but in the late spring the farmers want the shepherds to bring their sheep into their harvested barley fields around Bethlehem to eat the stubble off the ground and leave their excrement on the field for fertilizer. The earliest recorded date for the birth of the Lord Jesus in church history is by Clement of Alexandria (2nd century AD) who gives the date as May 14, 6 B.C. On the Hebrew calendar that date was *Shavuot* (Pentecost), the beginning of the wheat harvest, late spring.

Second, Mary and Joseph probably arrived in Bethlehem a few weeks prior to the birth of the Lord Jesus. Luke 2:4 assumes their arrival, because verse 6 says, "*While they were there ...*"

Third, the word translated "*inn*" was part of a private house (Lk. 2:7). It is used only one other time in the New Testament (Lk. 22:11-12) and there it is translated "*guest chamber*." It is used to describe a large, furnished upper room. A different word like a caravan station, is used in the parable of the

Good Samaritan (Lk. 10:44). Apparently, the guest chamber was occupied so Joseph decided to go to the stable.

Fourth, the stable was in the house. Typical houses, like in Bethlehem, would be one room houses with a guest chamber (Mt. 5:15). The one room would be used for domestic affairs, cooking and eating during the day and sleeping at night. Underneath the room was the stable where the animals were kept at night (Lk. 13:15). In the winter months they provided warmth for the house and they were also the burglar alarm if somebody tried to sneak into the house.

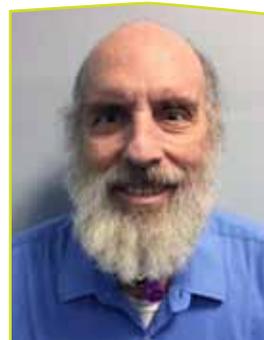
Fifth, when Mary laid the baby Jesus in a manger, it was most likely made of stone and not wood. In the 1960's a stone manger from the Early Roman period (first-century) was excavated at Gibeah of Saul, nine miles north of Bethlehem.

Sixth, the Bible does not say how many wise men there were. We assume there were three because there were three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh, but no number is given.

Seventh, it was probably at least two months to a year after His birth. Matthew 2:1 says the wise men came "*after the birth*" but does not say how long. In Matthew's gospel Jesus is called a "*young child*" six times (2:8-15), but not a babe like in Luke's gospel. When Mary goes to the Temple for the ritual of purification after the birth of her firstborn, she offers two turtle doves (Lk. 2:22-24), the offering of the poor (Lev. 12:8). If the wise men had arrived at the birth of the Lord Jesus, Mary would have been obligated to offer a lamb and a turtledove (Lev. 12:6) because she would have been well-to-do with the gold from the wise men.

Life Lessons to be Learned

The most important Christmas message is this: a Savior was born in Bethlehem (Lk. 2:11). Later He died on Calvary's Cross and rose from the dead. He was called Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins (Mt. 1:21). Have you trusted Him as your Savior?



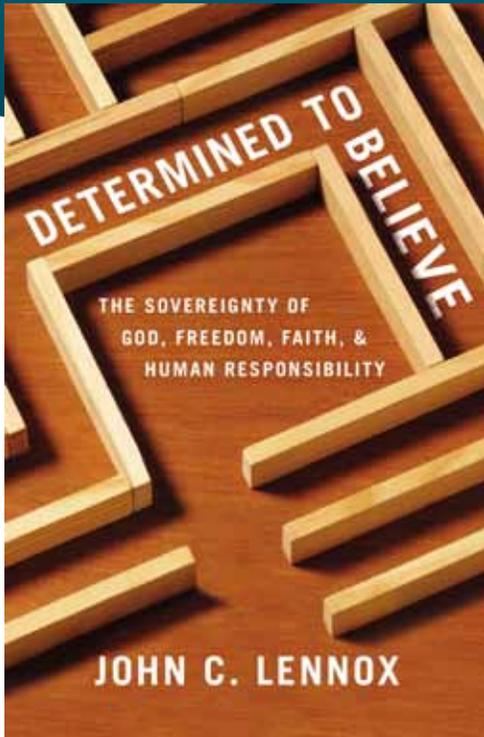
Gordon Franz is a Bible teacher specializing in Biblical archaeology and geography. He has worked on numerous archaeological excavations in Israel and is in fellowship at Valley Bible Chapel in New Jersey

by **Gordon Franz**

Book Review: **Determined to Believe?** **The Sovereignty of God, Freedom, Faith, & Human Responsibility**

by Dr. John C. Lennox,

Zondervan Publishers, Grand Rapids, MI, 2007, 368 pages



In recent years, there has been a need for a balanced, scholarly, and well-reasoned book to answer some of the more strident Calvinist apologists' charges.

In some

assemblies, aggressive Calvinist authors and teachers have created baseless division and unrest. The book *Determined to Believe?*, written by Professor John Lennox, is exactly the kind of book that will answer this need.

Determined to Believe? is written for those who are interested in or even troubled by questions about God's sovereignty and human freedom and responsibility. John Lennox writes with a desire of helping people to come to grips with this issue for themselves. The author with humility, grace, and boldness tackles this important subject.

Author

Dr. John Lennox is a professor of mathematics at the University of Oxford and a fellow in mathematics and the philosophy of science, and a pastoral advisor at the Green Templeton College, in Oxford, England. He has authored *God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God?* He is known internationally for his lectures on the intellectual defense of Christianity and debating New Atheists such as Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.

John Lennox for many years was associated with Dr. David Gooding in ministering the Word of God at assembly-based conferences around the globe. He has spoken at the Believers' Bible Conference (Charlotte, NC, 2013) and in

many pulpits in North America, where he is well known and respected.

Following the Tradition

Dr. Lennox has now turned his attention to exposing the weaknesses in Reformed Theology generally and the Five Points of Calvinism more specifically in his new book *Determined to Believe?* (2017). John Lennox joins the long tradition of British assembly writers who have turned their backs on the rigid and extreme Calvinism of early brethren leaders such as John N. Darby for a balanced non-Calvinist position. For nearly 100 years British assembly authors such as Sir Robert Anderson, W. E. Vine, C. F. Hogg, G. H. Lang, Harold St. John, Stephen F. Olford, John Phillips, and Dr. David Gooding have argued for a Biblicist, non-Calvinist position. Now Dr. John Lennox with his new book follows in this tradition.

The Scope of the Book

In this comprehensive examination of the topic of theological determinism, Lennox seeks firstly to define the problem, looking at the concepts of freedom, the different kinds of determinism, and the moral problems these pose. He then equips the reader with biblical teaching on the topic and explores the spectrum of theological opinion on it. Following this, Lennox delves deeper into the Gospels and then investigates what we can learn regarding determinism and responsibility from Paul's discussion in Romans on God's dealings with Israel. Finally, Lennox tackles the issue of Christian assurance. This nuanced and detailed study challenges some of the widely held assumptions in the area of theological determinism and brings a fresh perspective to the debate.

The Division of the Book

Lennox's discussion in *Determined to Believe?* is divided into five parts: 1. The Problem Defined; 2. The Theology of Determinism; 3. The Gospel and Determinism; 4. Israel and Determinism, and finally, 5. Assurance and Determinism. His approach to the subject will win readers from both the

Calvinist and non-Calvinist positions. Lennox shuns using typical terminology and the labels usually associated with the Calvinist debate, thereby helping his readers to think in a fresh new way. He frequently uses the word “Determinism” in place of “Calvinism” with great effectiveness. Rarely will you find the word “Arminian” or “Calvinist” in his discussion. Dr. Lennox’s style, graciousness, and knowledge of the subject will cause his readers to think more deeply about the issues at stake.

The Discussion of the Topic

Lennox is irenic in his discussion and is fair to both Calvinists and non-Calvinists throughout the book. But he is also passionate when important truths are in question. On page 123, Lennox quotes Reformed author Dr. R. C. Sproul:

Theological concepts such as determinism, synergism, human freedom, election, foreknowledge, and monergism are carefully examined.

*The only answer to this question is that I don't know. I have no idea why God saves some and not all. I don't doubt for a moment that God has the power to save all, but I know that he does not choose to save all. I don't know why... If it pleases God to save some and not to save all, there is nothing wrong with that.*¹

Lennox questions Sproul’s callous statement: “There is nothing wrong with that.”

In response, Lennox passionately writes:

*“There is everything wrong with it if that selection is mysterious or even arbitrary. There is everything wrong with it if God is the God who so loved the world that he gave his Son that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. There is everything wrong with it if God is the God who inspired the apostle Paul to write, encouraging all believers to pray: ‘This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth’ (1 Timothy 2:3-4 ESV). There is everything wrong with it because it points to a God who hates rather than one who loves.”*²

Comprehensive Treatment

In this work, Dr. Lennox is painstaking in his desire to treat this topic in a thorough and complete manner. He discusses and quotes from some of the great theological books on this subject. He examines works such as Martin Luther’s *Bondage of the Will*, Calvin’s *Institutes of Christian Religion*, the *Synod of Dort*, and the *Westminster Confession of Faith*. He discusses the writings of Augustine, John MacArthur, R. C. Sproul, Gerald Bray, Wayne Grudem, Tim Keller, B.B. Warfield, and D. Martin Lloyd-Jones, as well as many others. Theological concepts such as determinism, synergism, human freedom, election, foreknowledge, and monergism are carefully examined. He tackles key passages such as Ephesians 1:4, Acts 13:48, and John 6:37 in a fresh and scholarly fashion. The reader will find that the topic is presented in a clear, well-written, and comprehensive manner.

Conclusion

It is the opinion of this reviewer that every serious Christian should purchase a copy of Dr. John Lennox’s book *Determined to Believe?* The author avoids the usual proof-texting approach, but rather examines carefully the issues within the scope of the whole counsel of God. The reader will find *Determined to Believe?* to be a very readable, biblically-based guide that tackles the important questions about election, human freedom, faith, and the sovereignty of God. If one desires to delve into this subject further, he will find great profit in reading *Determined to Believe?* The book is available in ebook and audio book format for those who prefer these forms of media. This book is available for purchase online at Gospel Folio Press – www.gospelfolio.com.

Endnotes

1. R. C. Sproul, *Chosen to Believe*, (Tyndale House: Carol Stream, IL, 1986), p. 37
2. John C. Lennox, *Determined to Believe?*, (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, 2017), p. 123



David Dunlap is president of Cornerstone Magazine. He has been a full-time worker for over thirty years. He is in fellowship at Land O’ Lakes Bible Chapel, in Lutz, FL. He and his wife Faith live in Land O’ Lakes, FL.

**Reviewed by
David Dunlap**

Report: Story Book Lodge Christian Camp Minnesota, USA

“The Lord’s work, done in the Lord’s way, in the Lord’s time will have the Lord’s supply.” This was the guiding light of Story Book Lodge Christian Camp’s founding director. Ben Tuininga, a recent graduate of Wheaton College was like so many other graduates of Bible colleges. Idealistic and a little discouraged, Ben was unsure of his life’s direction but told the Lord that whatever direction He led, as long as the Lord supplied his needs, he would be occupied with sharing the gospel.

With a friend, he traveled from place to place preaching. Neither he nor his friend were eloquent speakers, but one by one, souls were saved. At the Oak Hills Fellowship camp ground near Bemidji, MN, he met a young woman with a passion to serve the Lord. He asked her to marry him. She was taken aback. Marriage had not been on her

on Cedar Island Lake for \$1,700. The land came with one 10’ by 12’ hunting shack on it. Year by year, with the help of many unemployed men, cabins were built with story book themes; the Three Bears, the Pumpkin, the Bird House, the Farm House, the Shoe, Green Gables, Noah’s Ark, and the Dream House. She transformed the hunting shack into a lodge, put in a stone fireplace, and rented the cabins out to vacationers.

In 1941, she attended a tent meeting where a Scotsman named Neil Fraser was preaching. Elizabeth learned that all her good works were of no use before a righteous God. At age 44, she took the Lord Jesus as her personal Saviour and immediately her good works took a new direction. She now had a vision to turn her little resort into a Bible camp for boys and girls.



agenda. After some soul-searching prayer, Margaret “Peggy” McPhee agreed. After their marriage, she was known by her middle name “Jean.” In 1948 Ben and Jean agreed to host a new Bible camp at Story Book Lodge, a small resort on the Iron Range of Minnesota. Then both their names were permanently changed. He became Uncle Ben and she was now Aunt Jean.

Story Book Lodge was started by Elizabeth Spriestersbach, a high school Home-Ec teacher who had endless energy, and a heart for the needy. In 1929, she purchased a 45-acre plot

The first camp was for one week in the summer of 1948, with eleven campers. Elizabeth (Aunt Elizabeth), was the cook, Aunt Jean was the life guard, counselor, hand crafter, and story teller. Uncle Ben was the camp director, counselor and Bible teacher. No fees were charged and several came to Christ. Elizabeth paid the total cost of \$137. During the 1950’s, the camps eventually expanded to the whole summer, with each camp for two weeks. In 1954, a brand-new ranch style house became Elizabeth’s home and her basement had enough tables for the camp’s capacity of 45 people. The Ranch House had running water. What a luxury! Prior to this, all the dishes were washed outside, rain or shine.

Today at Story Book Lodge there are nine one-week camps and one two-week camp, each with around 110 campers and over fifty staff. Besides a large kitchen, dining hall, and story book themed cabins, there’s a gymnasium, chapel, playground, and two volleyball courts. The camp has three resident staff families and one bachelor caretaker.

It takes lots of volunteers, all with a spirit of humility and love to make Story Book work: the camp board, resident staff, volunteer summer staff, and passionate speakers with a gift to communicate the gospel to rambunctious kids of every

background. And one more rather mundane thing - money. We had a man several years back who was so impressed with how Story Book operated; that he felt it necessary that we put in the camp's official bylaws that we would never charge

to death to get on that plane, I know I'm not yet ready to die." Later, while at a party he knew he had to get away. He wandered about thinking and considering, before praying for salvation. He told his mom, his mom who he had heard praying for him in the wee hours; his mom who had felt led to send him to a camp that was over a thousand miles away from their home.

The daily camp schedule has remained the same from the beginning: two chapel meetings; a devotional after every meal; and an evening campfire with a story, sports report, and an enthusiastic time of singing when kids shout and



a fee for any of our camps, and that we would never make any solicitation for funds. "Story Book should always be an example to all of the Lord's provision," he said. But though it is the Lord who supplies, many of the Lord's servants sacrificially give to make this principle work out.

We've had more kids sign up for camp this past summer than we have ever had before. We are thankful that year after year kids have not lost their enthusiasm for coming to Story Book, having been told stories by their parents, grandparents and great grandparents who also attended the camp. But every year we have a few campers who haven't the slightest inkling of the gospel. This past summer a girl asked her counselor, "Why are they always saying 'Jesus Christ?' Isn't that a bad word?"

During our teen camp this past summer we had a couple of foreign exchange students from Italy and Austria. When the Italian student with long dreadlocks but a soft heart heard the gospel message, his heart was immediately touched. After asking lots of questions, he made his decision for Christ. His gentleness was very charismatic and he was soon encouraging others to also respond to the message of salvation.

A young man came from Texas, whose Christian mother had flown him up in a last-ditch effort to save him from a life spiraling into violence and despair. Soon a cabin mate challenged him to a fight. He was ready to go home. He called his brother who persuaded him to stick it out. Over the two weeks, the gospel message got through to him. When he left Story Book, he was thinking, "I'm scared

listen so they can hear their echo across the lake. The day concludes with an earnest plea for campers to respond to the gospel.

So, every year we have teenagers who come to Story Book and can't believe it - "this is like some place from an outer planet." But every year many of those same kids respond to the message they hear at Story Book, a message much older than Story Book.

www.storybooklodge.org



Larry and his wife Roxanne have served the Lord at Story Book Lodge Christian Camp for nearly forty years. Roxanne is a commended worker from the Lake Road Chapel in Baudette, MN. She is the camp cook, nurse, among other duties. They have four married children and eight grandchildren.

by Larry Rogers

ISSUES *and* ANSWERS

"Search The Scriptures..." John 5:39

Question: Why do some Christians stop "going to church"?

Some quit because they were never saved (1 Jn. 2:19). However, when genuine believers depart, relational problems are often the root cause. Yet leaving one's assembly should be the last option. If we must leave, it's important to find another local church as soon as possible. Going it alone is not a viable option. In the early church, the believers were continually gathering together in His Name (Acts 2:42-44; 4:31; 12:12; 14:27; 20:7), and the epistles clearly exhort us to meet together with Him (Rom. 12:3-8; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 11:18; 14:1-40; 16:1-2; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; Heb. 10:23-25). Every believer is a member of Christ's body (Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 12:12-27; Eph. 1:23) and we express our unity (Eph. 4:4) by gathering together in local churches.

Recently, a US survey omitted "to serve" as one of the reasons to attend church.¹ This was very revealing. If we attend a local fellowship only to receive, it becomes easy to leave when things don't go our way. Though we don't want to minimize legitimate hurts, we must all take heed that we do not become too self-focused. Instead, we need a Christ-focused mindset with a sacrificial desire to build up His body. Remember, when we gather together with other believers we are also gathering together unto Him (Mt. 18:20). He is in our midst and must have the pre-eminence. Hebrews 10:25 exhorts us to not "forsake the assembling of ourselves together." To desert shows disloyalty to Christ, shirks our responsibility to other believers, and stunts our spiritual growth. If one loses an arm, they will learn to function without it. Yet, the detached arm will stop growing and begin to decay. Similarly, the local church will still function without the detached believer but would be much better with them and their unique gifts. However, the ones who remove themselves cannot thrive spiritually.

Ephesians 4 reveals the link between the local church and spiritual growth – both personal and corporate. First, everyone is unique and by God's grace can make a distinct contribution to the body's growth (vv. 7, 16). Second, it is in the local church that we are equipped or prepared for ministry (v. 12). It is where one discovers and develops their spiritual gifts for fruitful service. Third, it is here where we fulfill ministry's purpose – to promote the spiritual growth of our brothers and sisters (v. 12). Fourth, as we are built up, we continue to mature in doctrine

and Christlikeness (v. 13). As the apostle's doctrine is taught, it nourishes, encourages, and unifies us. This stimulates us to be doers of the word, exemplifying Christ's loving concern for each believer. Fifth, the truth is proclaimed in an atmosphere of love (vv. 15-16). When one is hurting, there is opportunity to provide comfort. When one needs material help there is opportunity to share. When one requires guidance, there is opportunity to provide wisdom from God's Word. Finally, there is protection in the local assembly from unscrupulous false teachers (v. 14). Those who say they watch church on TV or online open themselves up to deception. Since the devil is a master deceiver, fellowshipping in a sound bible believing church provides protection from false teaching.

Getting along in God's family takes love, submission, and hard work. Christ has brought together wide-ranging believers from many nations: Jew and Gentile, rich and poor, married and single, young and old, and republican and democrat. We may have differing interests and opinions but what unifies us is Christ. Since the elders are accountable to God for the flock, if one suggests an idea to them and they say no, let's respect their decision and pray for them. If someone irritates us, pray for them. Publicly commend others, but when someone wrongs us, talk to them privately. As an artisan once told me, "if you're not satisfied, tell me, if you are, tell others." Let's not criticize other believers but instead be an example to them "in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (1 Tim. 4:12). If you are presently sitting at home, it's time to start growing again in a local church.

Endnotes:

1. www.christianitytoday.com/news/2018/july/church-attendance-top-reasons-go-or-stay-home-pew.html

If you have a question for this column please submit it to gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org



George Ferrier is a commended full-time worker who fellowships at Bridlewood Bible Chapel in Ottawa, ON. In addition to itinerant preaching and teaching in North America and overseas, he is a regular contributor to Choice Cleanings Calendar. He is on the board of Cornerstone Magazine Inc. and also serves as assistant editor.

by George Ferrier

News & Notices



Bay Area CMS-CMML Joint Conference

November 2, 2018

Community Bible Chapel, Haywood, CA

The speakers are Ian Burness and Craig Fritchey with Jim Fleming & Steve Craig. Theme: Global Vision for the Local Church; More info at CMML.us/cmsbayarea2018 or CMSBayArea.org

Museum of the Bible / Washington, DC Tour

November 6 - 7, 2018

Washington, DC / Toms River, NJ

Join Know the Word Ministry in exploring the Museum of the Bible and other Washington, DC sites. Departure and return at Tom's River, NJ. For more information contact knowtheword@gmail.com or visit their web site at knowtheword.com.

NJ Youth Night

November 9, 2018

Terrill Road Bible Chapel

Speaker is David Reeve More information at CMML.us/youthnight2018

Central NC Bible Conference Are You "Interruptible"?

November 9 - 10, 2018

Western Wake Bible Chapel

3468 Apex Peakway, Apex, NC, 27502

Speaker will be Doug Torok from Grace Gospel Chapel in Erie, PA. Jesus was joyfully interruptible when it came to drawing people to Himself. Can your life be interrupted to be drawn closer to Jesus? Sessions begin Friday at 7pm with two subsequent sessions at 10:30am and 1pm Saturday. Lunch and childcare is provided. Come join us for this challenging series that is a must for youth, college aged, and adults. For more info contact Roy Arrowsmith at 919-215-7241 or westernwakebiblechapel@gmail.com

If you or your assembly has a news item or event to contribute, please email George Ferrier at gferrier@cornerstonemagazine.org

48th Annual Fall Conference

November 10, 2018

Lincroft Bible Church, Lincroft, NJ

Speakers are Ian Burness and David Reeve. Theme is Global Vision for the Local Church. Register at CMML.us/fallconference2018

Greater Toronto Area Assembly Mission (GTAAM)

November 9 - 10, 2018

Bridlegrove Bible Chapel,

2575 Pharmacy Ave., Scarborough, ON

& Rossland Ridge Bible Chapel,

1 Stevensgate Dr., Ajax, ON

The members of the Greater Toronto Area Assembly Mission, a sub committee of MSC Canada, is inviting you to their missionary event on November 9-10. It includes a youth rally on Nov 9 (7 - 9 pm) at Bridlegrove Bible Chapel, and foreign missionary field reports on Nov 10 (9:30 am - 12:00) at Rossland Ridge Bible Chapel. There will be a freewill offering and luncheon will be served at 12:30 pm. The invited speaker is Steven Price. For more information see www.gtaam.org

Tavistock Area Conference on Biblical Church Principles

November 17, 2018 • 9:30am - 4:30pm

Tavistock Mennonite Church,

131 Wettlaufer St., Tavistock, ON

Invited speakers are Mark Anderson (Sudbury, Ontario) on the topic of The Doctrine and Practice of the Holy Spirit and Warren Henderson (Ottawa, Kansas) on the topic of Equipping Ministry and Practical Helps. For more information contact Paul Booker at pwbooker1@gmail.com or (905) 684-3748.

Southeast Weekend of Prayer

November 30 - December 1, 2018

Camp Hope, 7011 Pony Lake Rd.,

Dahlonega, GA, 30533

Believers in the Southeast are planning to seek the Lord in concentrated and earnest prayer in an attitude of humility and dependence upon Him. These events have been done in other places in North American with the Lord overflowing the hearts of His people. If this resonates with your burdens, then plan to attend the prayer conference scheduled for 8:00 pm, Friday Nov. 30 to 4:00 pm, Saturday Dec. 1 at Camp Hope. Register at: camphopega.org/se-weekend-prayer-registration. For more info contact Steve Roys at 678.316.7309 or camphopega@gmail.com.

Special Meetings INDIA

December 14 - 16, 2018

Shebah Prayer Hall, Christian Assembly,
Gandhinagar, 4trh, lane, GUNTUR, Andhra
Pradesh, INDIA, 522003

Speakers are Adv. Raju M Choshy, GS, S A I, Bangalore,
INDIA, EVG. Shalau T. Nianan, Member, S A I, Bhilai,
INDIA, EVG. John Moses, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

There will be three sessions per day. They request prayer that
it will help the believers and that many unbelievers may come
forward to accept the Lord Jesus as their personal Saviour.

Jersey Shore Inter-Assembly Bible Conference

Saturday, January 26, 2019 • 2 - 5pm

Bethany Bible Chapel, Toms River, NJ

Sam Thorpe (GA) will be the speaker. This annual conference is
sponsored by Bethany Bible Chapel (Toms River), Bethel Bible

Chapel (Red Bank) Fifth Ave. Chapel (Belmar). Go to www.bethanybiblechapelnj.org for more info and directions.

Israel Tour

February 24 - March

We have tentatively set aside dates for our next Israel trip which
is a teaching tour of the Biblical sites that we come across in our
travels. We will also visit the Assembly in Nazareth and share
the Breaking of Bread together. Final pricing is being determined
as well as the port of departure. Look for more information in
the months ahead. For more information contact Steve Allan at
turkeysteve@yahoo.com or (573) 744-5723.

Church Truth Lessons

Robert Saunders (Ocala Bible Chapel, FL) has put together a
comprehensive lesson set (Word documents and mp3) on New
Testament Church principles. Each lesson contains Scripture
references in support of the topics being studied. If you wish
to receive the set by email contact Robert at b2saun63@yahoo.com. They are also available at the chapel website:
ocalabiblechapel.net under the link Assembly Truth.

Wanted: Administrator

Light Haven is a small Christian retirement home in Northern
Ontario. We are looking for a full-time Administrative person
or couple who are willing to operate on the same principle of
faith as the Home, which has existed for almost 40 years, as
a testimony to our Lord's provision and His grace. For more
information please contact Alan Miller at evandal@sympatico.ca or (705) 785-3335.

Washington Bible Chapel, Washington, GA

Lakeside Bible Chapel, formerly located in Lincolnton, GA has
recently relocated to establish Washington Bible Chapel, a new
work in Washington, GA. There is great enthusiasm and unity
in the planting of this new assembly for the Lord's glory. Those
who would like to visit the work may contact Ernie Rogers
(706) 678-2825, Tommy Bunch (706) 678-1412, or Sam
Thorpe (706) 359-6297. They covet your prayers for the Lord's
continued blessing.

Special Announcement from Cornerstone Magazine

Cornerstone Magazine is pleased to announce that Canada
Revenue Agency (CRA) have notified us that they have
approved our charitable status request. We are now authorized
to issue receipts for tax purposes to Canadian donors.

It is the goal of Cornerstone Magazine to offer doctrinally sound articles that are practical in their application and faithful to the Word of God. Our desire is to strengthen Christians in their faith, encourage the local church, build each other up, and reach the lost. We hope Cornerstone has been a blessing to you this year.

This ministry is sustained through the prayers and gifts of God's people. We would ask you to consider sharing financially with Cornerstone Magazine. If you would like to share financially, please use the envelope insert included this month in the magazine, or visit www.cornerstonemagazine.org to give online. Please pray with us that the Lord will provide for the ongoing needs of this work for the Lord.

We Need
Your Financial
Support!



- The Cornerstone Magazine Committee

For the Beauty of the Earth

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony,
linking sense to sound and sight;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thy church, that evermore
lifteth holy hands above,
offering up on every shore
her pure sacrifice of love;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

by F. S. Pierpoint