

EXALTING CHRIST · EQUIPPING BELIEVERS · EVANGELIZING THE WORLD

CORNERSTONE

JULY - AUG 2019

IN THIS ISSUE:

If Anyone Thirsts

**Joseph: Loved, Hated, Exalted Over All
Stirring Up Our Spiritual Gifts
...and more**

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

*“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid:
For the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; He
also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye
draw water out of the wells of salvation.”*

Isaiah 12:2-3

Years ago in the neighborhood where I grew up, the local municipality needed to repair the road that went by our modest home. On the day appointed, the bulldozers rolled into town along with some other heavy-duty machinery to make the necessary repairs. At a certain point however, the contractors came across an underground aquifer which brought everything to an immediate halt. In order to complete the task, they determined that they had to pump out the water to finish the job. A makeshift well was constructed. A huge drainpipe with a gas powered pump were connected all with the intention of quickly emptying out the underground pool. At first, it seemed like the task would be short-lived. With the force of the water coming out of large pipe, we thought that it would finished in no time at all. Were we ever wrong! Day and night and night and day for over a week, the water came gushing out, cold and crystal clear. Like the rest of the nearby residents, we were delighted that the street was entirely shut down during this time with no traffic coming through our area until this engineering task was completed. I am not sure if they ever resolved the matter the way they intended or if they had to abandon it for another plan but eventually our road was repaired and life went back to normal.

A Well that Never Runs Dry

That experience with the well that never ran dry reminds me of the Lord's encounter with the woman in John 4. When that divine encounter took place, the Lord spoke kindly but pointedly to this needy soul in spiritual terms that at first she did not understand. Not having the life of God, she failed to comprehend the truth He was conveying. He spoke of living water; she understood it as physical water. He spoke of water springing up into everlasting life; she spoke of the well as being deep and not having anything with which to draw (v. 11). He spoke of offering her water and never thirsting again if she simply asked; perplexed but intrigued, she responded “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst nor come here to draw” (v. 15). All this of course is a picture of our spiritual condition before God and His remedy. Men and women come to the wells of their choosing only to find out to their dismay that they are indeed deep and they have nothing to draw with that would bring up what truly refreshes. All that people can wish for is something that they have to continually come back to time and time again with limited satisfaction. But not so with the God of our salvation. He offers to everyone the living water that springs up into everlasting life and quenches the soul thirst of anyone who would simply ask for a drink of this “water” (v. 10). Perhaps if you are reading this and have never asked Him before, ask Him now and He will provide this as a gift, the water that you so desperately need – a gift that comes without money and without price (Isa. 55:1-3).

But it does not stop there, does it? Anyone who has stooped to drink from this well is delighted to come back to it again

for continual refreshment - not for salvation but for the strength and refreshment needed for the journey through this wilderness. We live in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water (Psa. 63:1); and any water that is found is either bitter (Ex. 15:22-23) or bad and the ground barren (2 Kings 2:19). This world offers a lot – much in fact – but the water it provides is either bitter or bad and hardly refreshing to the soul and not like the hidden springs that come from the Lord. We can truly say of Him, “All our springs are in You” (Ps. 87:7). And the more we do this, the more we want to come back. This is certainly what Isaiah must have been referring to when he exhorted God's people with joy in their hearts to draw water from the wells of salvation.

Are You Drawing from the Well?

What do we come up with when we go to the well that never runs dry? The answer is that we come up with so many things that rejuvenate and refresh the soul. Here are just a few: the truth of a loving Savior who continually intercedes for us; the truth of an eternal Home awaiting us in glory; the truth about the ministry of the Spirit of God, leading, and guiding us and glorifying the Son, the Heir of all things; the truth of the knowledge of our sins forgiven and the assurance and security of our salvation in Christ. And on and on we can go – it is a well that will never run dry! Keep these things in mind as you read through this issue and with joy draw from the wells of salvation. Be reminded again how your soul can be refreshed and your joy renewed. •

*Like the woman at the well I was seeking,
for things that could not satisfy.
And then I heard my Savior speaking –
draw from the well that never will run dry.
Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord;
come and quench this burning in my soul
Bread of Heaven feed me till I want no more,
fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.*

- Richard Blanchard



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by Mark Kolchin

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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
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Design and Layout: Anna Grist, Serendipimoose Designs

Website Design: Matt Williams, Louise Street Marketing

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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.

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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.

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

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a stream of water, with a fountain in the background. The water is splashing and creating a misty atmosphere. The background is dark with many small, bright, out-of-focus light spots, giving it a bokeh effect. The overall tone is serene and refreshing.

If Anyone Thirsts

**The Sovereignty of God
and Human Responsibility
in Amazing Harmony**

Our Lord says, “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink” (Jn. 7:39). His invitation goes out to all— “if any man”—and He gives all people the choice and power to come— “Let him come.” Here, we see two choices: God’s choice and man’s choice. God made a choice to invite all people to come, and all people have the choice to come to Christ or to reject Him. In these two choices, we discover the paradox between the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of mankind. This subject has been the source of many heated and unprofitable debates. We can never answer all the questions that have been posed nor solve its many mysteries. Nevertheless, the examination of God’s choices and man’s choices is the key to understanding something of this great subject. The Bible is filled with God’s choices and His choices are always just, holy, good, and best for His people.

God's Perfect Choices

What are some of God's choices? First of all, He chose to create man in His own spiritual image. "God said, 'Let us make man in Our image'" (Gen. 1:26). This choice equipped man with a free will and the ability to choose to obey or disobey God. God also chose to love the world to the point of giving up His own Son, even though man rebelled against Him- "God so loved the world" (Jn. 3:16). When man chose to rebel against its Creator in the garden of Eden, God could have done away with the human race and made a fresh start. Instead, He chose to love and to provide for man's eternal salvation. He is a God without partiality, loving all of humanity equally.

God chose not only to love His creation but to desire the salvation of all. God is described as One "who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4). Peter states that God is "not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). No one can accuse God of being unloving or uncaring.

Further, God made a plan of salvation, choosing to send His Son into the world to suffer and to die for sinners. This was not a limited atonement. The agonizing death of the infinite God-man was sufficient to pay for the sins of all humanity. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins and not for ours only but for the whole world" (1 Jn. 2:2).

God also chose to save humanity by grace through faith in Christ. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast" (Eph. 2:8). There are no special works required for God's salvation. Faith in Christ is a response of the heart, not a work.

Faith & Choices

But individuals also have choices to make, and God sovereignly has provided them with more than enough resources on which to make the right choice. The Holy Spirit has come, as promised by the Lord Jesus. When the Gospel is preached, the Spirit is present to convict the hearer of sin and to exalt Christ as the only Savior. There is also the witness of creation to the Creator (Rom. 1:20) and the witness of conscience (Rom. 2:14-15). So overwhelming are these reasons to believe that Paul states that man is without excuse if he dies in his sins.

In view of God's provision, it is possible for men to believe. In fact, God "now commands all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). God would not command men to do what is impossible for them to do! The Gospel goes out to all. It is a valid offer of salvation. Christ's followers were told that "repentance and the remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations" (Lk. 24:47).

Our Lord told a parable about the owner of a vineyard who needed laborers. He went out early in the morning to hire workers. He called to laborers standing in the marketplace to come and work in his vineyard, and he agreed to pay them one denarius. All were invited to work, but many refused to come. The gospel call goes out to all, but not all respond. The Lord said at the end of the parable, "For many are called but

few are chosen" (Mt. 20:16). All are invited, but only those who respond are called "chosen." Those who believe are the chosen ones in God's sight.

Respected Bible commentator William MacDonald explains how a person becomes chosen:

"Many are called' is that the gospel invitation goes out to many. But few are chosen. The expression 'few are chosen' does not mean that God is arbitrary in selecting only a few for salvation. All who respond to the good news are chosen. The only way a person can tell if he is chosen is by what he does with the Lord Jesus Christ."¹

Amazing Harmony

So, whose choice is it? God's or humanity's? The answer is both! There is a blending of choice and will between the Creator and all humanity. It is God who initiated salvation. He chose to save rather than to destroy rebellious man; He chose to send His Son to die for sinners; He set the terms of salvation; and He sends the Holy Spirit to convict individuals of sin and to draw them to the Savior (Jn. 16:8). People must, by faith, receive Christ as their Savior. Their choice is to respond to or reject God's offer.

In the parable of the prodigal son (Lk. 15), the father chose to have children. Once grown, the prodigal son chose to leave his father and live a rebellious life, wasting what his father had given him. The father then chose to wait for his son with an open and loving heart. The son, on his part, had to repent and return, trusting in his father's love and acceptance. Reconciliation was dependent on the choices of both.

Conclusion

"If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink" (Jn. 7:39). Who does not thirst? Who does not have mind-thirsts, heart-thirsts, soul-thirsts, or body-thirsts? No matter which we have, or whether we have them all, does Scripture say to "come unto Me and" remain thirsty? Never! It says, "Come unto Me and drink." Can it be true? Can the dry and thirsty one be refreshed, the parched soil moistened, the arid places cooled? Yes, and more besides.

The last invitation of the Bible to sinners is, "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let him who hears say, 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). It is a genuine offer to all. So, then, the Lord says to us, "Choose!" •

Endnotes

1. William MacDonald, *Matthew: Behold Your King*, (Kansas City, KS: Waltherick, 1974), p. 249.



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by David Dunlap



Old Testament Portraits of Christ: *Joseph: Loved, Hated, Exalted Over All*

The story of Joseph is a favorite Bible story for many of us with one-fourth of Genesis about him. Perhaps the best reason for this is that he is telling us a bigger story. His life reflects the life of the Lord Jesus in so many ways. In fact, the whole Old Testament is a picture book of Jesus Christ. He said so: *“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”* (Lk. 24:27)

The best summary of Joseph’s life is spoken in Stephen’s passionate preaching before his accusers, *“And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him, and delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house.”* (Acts 7:9-10)

You can picture the crowd getting angrier and angrier as he spoke. Although his words were said in haste, they were deeply convicting. Stephen illustrated that Joseph was a picture of the Lord Jesus. He showed that deliverers sent to Israel were always rejected by the nation. Joseph, Moses, David, and the prophets were all rejected the first time, but then later accepted. His conclusion was that the Lord also was sent as their Deliverer, but they rejected him too. The picture was so obvious that they rejected Stephen and killed him. Let’s consider now three comparisons of Joseph and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Joseph was loved by his father

“Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colors.” (Gen. 37:3)

Joseph was a special son of his father Jacob. He was the father’s favorite.

He was given that unique coat, which made him stand out from the others.

This type of garment was only worn by special people and set him apart from his brothers.

Everything that happened in his life was rooted in the fact that he was his father’s beloved. And that reminds us of the Lord Jesus: *“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* (Mt. 3:17)

Joseph was hated by his brethren

“And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.” (Gen. 37:4)

That hatred is stated three times in Genesis 37: hatred for his father’s love, his special coat, and his dreams. The coat showed that Jacob intended his son to be the leader of the family and his brothers resented that. They were already angry at him because Joseph told his father when he saw them doing wicked things. To top it off, Joseph revealed his dreams to his brethren, which showed he would rule over them. This motivated his brothers to action. Here’s how Stephen says it: *“And the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph into Egypt: but God was with him,”* (Acts 7:9)

Envy wants what someone else has, but it also wants them not to have it. So being moved with envy they sought to get rid of their brother. Their solution was to sell him as a slave down in Egypt. Joseph did what was good and he spoke the truth. But he was hated by his brothers. The same hatred moved the “brethren” of the Lord Jesus, the nation of Israel, to get rid of Him too.

But as a slave in Egypt, Joseph found favor in the eyes of his master Potiphar and then later in the eyes of the prison keeper. And both of these men noticed something about Joseph: *“The Lord was with him.”* Imagine these godless men recognizing the Spirit of the Lord in Joseph. So, Stephen says, *“But God was with him”*. The Lord was with Joseph both in his prosperity and his affliction.

Jesus was hated by his brethren

"They hated me without a cause." (Jn. 15:25)

Remember what Pilate noticed? *"For he knew that for envy they had delivered him."* (Mt. 27:18) He saw that the religious leaders of Israel were motivated by envy in their hatred of the Lord Jesus. Joseph was in the lowest spot of his life, shackled with iron chains in prison, but things changed in an instant.

Joseph is exalted over all

"And delivered him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom in the sight of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and he made him governor over Egypt and all his house." (Acts 7:10)

Joseph was brought out of prison to interpret Pharaoh's troubling dreams. And because of his wise prediction of seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine, Pharaoh exalted Joseph to be ruler over all the land. Notice that Stephen again mentioned Joseph receiving favor. So, we've seen favor from Potiphar, the prison keeper, and now Pharaoh.

Pharaoh proclaimed that all the people had to bow the knee to Joseph. That would later include his brothers who had sold him into slavery. When they made a trip to Egypt to find food during the famine, they were driven to Joseph as their only hope of salvation. When Joseph finally revealed himself to his brothers, they were greatly troubled and fearful of what Joseph would do to them. But instead of revenge he showed forgiveness to them when they admitted their wrongs.

Jesus is exalted over all

So just like Joseph's brethren had to bow before Joseph, likewise, the whole world will someday bow before the Lord Jesus Christ and He will be exalted over all.

"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;" (Phil. 2:9-10)

Joseph knew that all his struggles worked out for good and said this made him "fruitful in affliction". He named his son Ephraim, meaning "fruitful" and said: *"For God hath caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."* (Gen. 41:52)

In that short summary of Joseph in Acts is the bigger story of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us exalt our "Preserver of life" and know that the Lord is with us too, in affliction and prosperity. And may we keep telling the story of "our Joseph," because as Stephen mentioned there came another generation, *"Who knew not Joseph."* (Acts 7:18) •



Bob Upton works as a graphic designer and serves the Lord in assembly and conference ministry in teaching and songleading. He is in fellowship at Maryland Bible Chapel in St. Paul, Minnesota.

by Bob Upton

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GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS *Lamentations 3:23*

What God Has Done For Me: The Testimony of Larry Price

I was not raised in a Christian home but I was sent to Sunday School when I was a young child. That did not last very long once I got old enough to do what I wanted to do. As a teenager I chose to go in a bad direction which led me down a very bad path. I got involved in a lot of bad things with other young people. I always seemed to identify with the more rebellious people that were part of any group, the ones always getting into trouble.

Around age thirteen, I started skipping school and hanging around with others doing the same things. There were certain things I said I would never do. Yet, there seemed to be a progression where when I would break one barrier, the next one became a little bit easier to break. I began to experiment with drugs. By the time that I was fifteen, there were no drugs I had not done.

It all seemed like a big party – a big game. My only reason to live at that point was to party, hang out with friends, and have no restrictions of any kind. This led to conflict in many

areas. I grew to disdain all authority, including the home. My lifestyle created problems in school and I was there less and less. My problems were all drug related, either because I wanted to get money to have drugs, or wanted to get money to have a party, or because I just did not want to work. Many of the crimes we were involved in were drug-related in one form or another. I had many conflicts with the law and spent more and more time in juvenile detention centers. My life was filled with crime, drugs, and all of the things associated with them.

At times I really had a struggle within me. I would get in trouble, perhaps end up in jail, and I would say to myself. “I really wish I could break this lifestyle.” But then, once I got back on the street again, I found myself right back into the same crowd with the same lifestyle.

As a young man, I served my first prison sentence in the Florida State Penitentiary. Then later I was arrested in Georgia and put in prison there. I was released in 1978 to live in a halfway house and to go to college. I was only out for 75 days before I was arrested and, on my way, to prison for the third time. It was then I really hit bottom. I was in jail in a little town in Georgia. I felt as if the rug was pulled out from under me. It seemed all the props were gone. I was in such a state of despair that I came to the brink of considering taking my own life. If life just consisted of going from one problem to the next, or from one high to the next, or one drunken episode to the next, or one jail cell to the next, then life just wasn't worth living. I had always thought before that there had to be a way out.

Then the Lord intervened. I was arrested in a town I only heard of once before. One of my counselors in a drug rehab program was from there. I used my one phone call to call his house, but he wasn't there. His parents who happened to be members of a Bible-believing church were home, and came out to visit me. They had never met me before but brought me a Bible and what they said to me seemed to hit home. Their sincerity spoke to me. They sent a preacher from their church to visit me and it seemed like everything he had to say was directly pointed at me.

I was alone in my cell and everything that had been said began to speak to me. I got hold of some gospel tracts that told how to be saved and I read them and this little New Testament they brought me. As a child in Sunday School I had also heard the gospel many times. The thought came to me that if I wanted to tell somebody else how to get saved, where could I find it in the Bible? I remembered when I had gone to prison in Florida as a young eighteen-year-old, a dear lady had written me a letter with Romans 10:13 at the bottom. Like a flash, all those years later, that verse came to me.

I looked up that verse in the Bible, "Whosoever shall call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved". Not only did I believe that, but I also believed that I could use that to show someone else how they could be saved. It was there in that little jail cell I trusted Christ as my Savior and I noticed that He began to take away from me, even in that place where many things were still accessible, the desires for some of the things I had desired before.

Although for many years not a day would go by when I wouldn't do drugs in one form or another, deliverance came almost immediately. God immediately delivered me from the desire for drugs. He took away my life of drugs, alcohol abuse, and all of the things that went along with it. I realized that though I was in prison, for the first time in my life I was really free. When I was released in September of 1979, I didn't have much: just the clothes on my back, \$75 and a bus ticket.

Oh, how great is God's forgiveness, based on the sacrifice of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ for us. In 1992, I received a complete pardon from the State of Florida. I am thankful to God for what He has done in my life and pray as you have heard my story, God might impress upon you His claims on your life. He is no respecter of persons. What he has done for me he can do for you. Ask Him for help to make a clean break from your old lifestyle and habits. He is able and can deliver you also.

Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Cor. 5:17) •



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by Larry Price



The Loveliness of Christ

Think of three or four people that you really enjoy being with. What are the intriguing qualities of each person's character that you appreciate? Now imagine how delightful it would be to converse with someone that possessed all of these favorable qualities. Furthermore, ponder what it would be like to interact with a person who possessed every good quality and was void of carnality? Such will be the believer's experience in heaven, forever.

John says that the Lord Jesus is not just balanced in character, but that He is like His Father, full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14). Besides the outshining glory of the Lord, His very character will be a magnet to draw all people to Himself. Everyone will be fully satisfied and edified in His presence – always. Like the Shulamite bride long ago, we too will say of our Beloved, “*He is altogether lovely*” (Song. 5:16).

The Bible character that best typifies the Lord's overall loveliness is David. David was not a perfect man, but his heart for God, faithfulness as a shepherd, zeal for righteousness, respect for authority, humble disposition, and resolute bravery caused nearly everyone to love him (or at least to respect him). He pictures the prophesied Greater David that would come to fulfill all God's promises to David, the patriarchs, and the nation of Israel. The Messiah will possess all the lovely characteristics of David and many more without David's sinful passions. As we observe how others appreciated being with David, may we yearn even more to be with our wonderful Savior.

David's Anointing (1 Sam. 16:1-13)

Having fully rejected Saul, the Lord instructed the prophet Samuel to anoint a son of Jesse of Bethlehem as Israel's new king: "For I have provided Myself a king." Hannah had asked for Samuel, and the people had demanded Saul, but David was God's own provision of grace for Israel. The progressive expressions in Scripture of God's joy in exalting David to the throne of Israel are quite exquisite and picture the future day when God's own Son will be exalted and rule over all powers and principalities.

The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart (1 Sam. 13:14)

I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him (Ps. 89:20)

He chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds (Ps. 78:70)

As commanded, Samuel went to Bethlehem to sacrifice and to anoint God's king. After reviewing Jesse's seven oldest sons, a perplexed Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen these." He then asked, "Are all the young men here?" Jesse answered, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." Samuel requested that Jesse's youngest son be brought to him. The situation shows just how insignificant Jesse thought David to be; he was not even called to the banquet hosted by the most distinguished prophet in Israel. Of course, David is a wonderful type of the Lord Jesus Christ, who, though first being rejected by His brethren (Jn. 7:5), would later be anointed king in the midst of them (Isa. 61:1; Lk. 3:21-22; 4:18).

Jesse sent for David and brought him before Samuel. "He was ruddy, with bright eyes, and good-looking. And the Lord said, 'Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!'" So, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed David as the king of Israel in the midst of his brothers and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him from that day forward. But David would not immediately receive his kingdom; he needed physical growth and character maturity before he was ready for the task. Likewise, the Lord Jesus, "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" before He would commence preaching the kingdom message to Israel (Lk. 2:52).

David is first introduced to us as a faithful young shepherd attending his sheep. Scripture refers to him seven times in this way to show us that God chose a proven, selfless shepherd to care for His sheep. Attending sheep was not a glamorous job, but an important one, and the youth that was obscure and unnoticed by others was just the kind of man God was looking for to lead His people! The Lord chose David to be Israel's new king because He appreciated David's zeal for righteousness and his dedication to Him. David desired what God desired (Acts 13:22), and therefore, unlike Saul, would do what God wanted. David was not a perfect man, but he had a heart for God.

David is Loved (1 Sam. 16:16-23; 18:1-30)

The Spirit of God had departed Saul and came upon David after his anointing. This reminds us of the Lord Jesus, who after His baptism was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Lk. 3:21-22). Because of Saul's wretched mental state, his servants asked if

they could search for a skilled harp player to ease his distress. Saul agreed to this proposal and his servants suggested that Jesse from Bethlehem had a son, "who was skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the Lord is with him." Evidently, even as a teenager, David's devotion to the Lord and his reputation as a brave shepherd was already being circulated. Plus, David was a skilled harpist!

Saul requested that Jesse send him David. Jesse did so along with a donkey loaded with bread, a skin of wine, and a young goat. David traveled north to Gibeah and stood before Saul, who immediately "loved him greatly." After David slayed the giant Goliath (1 Sam. 17), he was brought to the palace again where he met Saul's son Jonathan, who instantly loved David also (18:1). Before the chapter concludes we are told that Saul's youngest daughter Michal loved David (18:20).

After Saul learned of his daughter's affections, he betrothed her to David, with the stipulation that her dowry would be the deaths of one hundred Philistines. Saul greatly feared David, because of the wise manner in which He behaved. So, the king was hoping that the Philistines would get rid of David for him, but instead David triumphed over the situation by slaying two hundred Philistines. The battlefield became David's proving ground and, every time the wise victor returned home, his reputation as Israel's champion only increased. Because David was a model of humility and grace (in contrast to Saul's selfish carnal character) his popularity swelled throughout Israel and Judah – everyone loved David (18:16; 22:2).

The Greater David will be Loved Too

From his introduction in Scripture, David is a selfless and faithful servant. It did not matter if he was tasked with protecting his father's sheep from bears and lions or dispelling Saul's contrary spirit, he would do what was required of him and to the best of his ability. There can be little doubt that the qualities Saul admired in David were what he wished he had himself: youthful zeal, the respect of the people, prudent speech, and the presence of the Lord. There was a charm about David, such that even during Absalom's rebellion, those who knew his person were bound to him in life or in death. Saul may have been head and shoulders above the people, but David's inner qualities of grace and loveliness easily captivated the hearts of all those who observed him. Such will be the reality of heaven, for the One whom David pictures, the Lord Jesus Christ, will completely enthrall every saint with His charming character and the radiance of His presence. All will be astonished at Him, will love Him, and gladly proclaim – "He has done all things well" (Mk. 7:37)! •



Warren Henderson is a full-time worker living in northeast Kansas. He is involved in writing, evangelism, and Bible teaching. Currently, he is pioneering a new assembly in Ottawa, Kansas.

by Warren Henderson

Report: Cornerstone Magazine Conference “So Great A Salvation”

Cornerstone Magazine convened their first ever conference on a warm Saturday March 30th day at Woodside Chapel in Fanwood, New Jersey. An estimated 110 attendees from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, and Canada took in the conference whose theme was “So Great Salvation: God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility.” The speakers were David Dunlap from Florida and Mark Kolchin from New Jersey.

David Dunlap, who authored “Limiting Omnipotence,” commenced with an introduction to Calvinism, looking at its roots dating back to Augustine in the early 5th century, tracing its precepts from Calvin to the Westminster Confession. Convened in Holland by the Dutch Reformed Church, the Synod of Dort (1618-19) established the five points of Calvinism to address Arminianism some 50 years after Calvin’s death. Mr. Dunlap addressed the weaknesses of both Arminianism

In the second session Mark Kolchin, editor of Cornerstone Magazine, looked at the similarities and differences between Calvinism (explained through the acronym TULIP) and Arminianism, also proposing a Biblicist view that sufficiently addresses all five points. Mr. Kolchin expounded on many verses that teach God’s sovereignty



CORNERSTONE

and Calvinism, showing how a Biblicist view harmonizes God’s sovereignty and human responsibility. He closed by looking at why Calvinism is growing today as well as looking at key verses that respond to its first tenet, “Total Depravity.”

(ex. Eph. 1:11), others that teach human responsibility (ex. Acts 16:31), as well as explaining verses that teach both (ex. Jn. 6:37; Acts 2:23).

Mr. Dunlap launched the afternoon sessions proposing four attitudes that one should have: God has given all an ability to have faith; God loves all and wants all to

be saved; Christ died on the cross for all; and all believers are eternally secure. He expounded on common verses that Calvinists bring up such as John 6:37, 43-45. He also looked at the biblical meaning of key terms such as “chosen” and “elect,” and spoke on corporate election (ex. Israel, the church). He also demonstrated how election

never refers to salvation but instead relates to service, rank, and privilege. He closed with four exhortations: be familiar with Calvinism; have good reference books to refute Calvinism; have literature to give to young people;

16, 33-39; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 1:12; 1 Pet. 1:4; Jn. 17:12), demonstrating that neither Calvinism nor Arminianism adequately addresses the issues of assurance of salvation and the eternal security of the believer.

The day closed with a panel discussion where George Ferrier asked questions to both speakers that were submitted during the day by the attendees.

We thank Woodside Chapel for hosting the conference and providing a wonderful lunch. We also thank Robbie Youssef of Axios One International for live streaming the event which can now be viewed on Cornerstone Conferences YouTube channel at bit.ly/SoGreatASalvation_CSC2019. Thank you as well to Alan Coburn for hosting a Gospel Folio book table where books on the day's topic such as John Lennox's "Determined to Believe," David Dunlap's "Limiting Omnipotence," Dudley Ward's "Programmed by God," and Bob Wilkin's "Is Calvinism Biblical" among others could be purchased. To God be the glory.

The Cornerstone Magazine Committee •



and develop a local church position paper on Calvinism.

Mr. Kolchin began the fourth meeting addressing in detail the five points of Calvinism. He counteracted "Total Depravity" by looking at men such as Cornelius and Zacchaeus, who though spiritually dead, could still seek God and hear His voice.

He tackled "Unconditional Election" demonstrating that God is longsuffering (2 Pet. 3:9) also looking at verses such as Acts 13:46-48 and John 5:39-40 in the light of the claims of Calvinism. He dealt with "Limited Atonement" explaining verses that showed that Christ died for all (1 Jn. 2:2; 1 Tim. 2:5; 2 Cor. 5:14; 2 Pet. 2:1). "Irresistible Grace" was refuted by key verses such as Matthew 23:37, Mark 10:21-22, Acts 7:51, and 2 Corinthians 3:16. He closed by counteracting with scripture the final Calvinist point, the "Perseverance of the Saints" (Rom. 8:15-



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 Gleanings Calendar. He is on the board of Cornerstone Magazine Inc. and also serves as assistant editor.

by George Ferrier

FOUNDATIONS

of the faith

STIRRING UP OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

It is customary for some couples in North America to bring a gift, such as chocolates, flowers, or dessert when invited to someone's home for dinner. Similarly, when the Holy Spirit comes to indwell us at the time of our new birth (1 Cor. 6:19-20), He comes with a gift. Freely given by God's grace to all believers (Rom 12:6; Eph 4:7; 1 Pet 4:10), the Spirit distributes these gifts on behalf of Christ (1 Cor. 12:7-8). We do nothing to earn them. They are part of the benefits package that comes with our salvation.

There is a fundamental difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12:1 "spiritual gifts" is literally "spirituals" in the original.¹ They are things that pertain to the Spirit. These manifestations of the Spirit belong to the spiritual realm as opposed to our talents which belong to the natural one. Imparted by Him they enable one to effectively do what would be humanly impossible otherwise.

Multi-colored Gifts

There is a richness to God's grace evident in the infinite ways He reveals it. First Peter 4:10 describes His grace as manifold. The word "manifold" means diverse or multi-colored.² So, it's not surprising that His spiritual gifts, a demonstration of His grace, are as well. Diverse, because God has bestowed a variety of gifts with the Holy Spirit personally choosing the

right one(s) for each believer (1 Cor. 12:7-11). He does not give the same gifts to everyone but each one receives at least one gift (1 Cor. 12:7). Multi-colored, in that though two believers may have the same gift, one may have it to a greater capacity and with it a different role than the other (Eph. 4:7). Also, each believer has their own distinct personality, meaning their gift will be uniquely manifested through them. When we use our gifts, we are administering God's grace, and Peter challenges us to be good stewards of that grace. It is by God's grace we utilize our gifts while simultaneously God channels His grace through us to those we are ministering to (Eph. 4:7; 1 Cor. 12:6; 1 Pet 4:11).

A number of Bible teachers have fittingly divided up spiritual gifts into three categories, the temporary sign gifts which were foundational for the early church, and the speaking and serving gifts which we still have with us today. The sign gifts described in the earlier First Corinthians epistle (12:8-10, 28), authenticated the ministry of God's servants. By the time the Romans, Ephesians, and First Peter epistles were composed the sign gifts were becoming less prevalent and are not mentioned (Rom 12:6-8; Eph 4:11; 1 Pet 4:10-11). This further indicates that they were being phased out at that time.

...EACH BELIEVER HAS THEIR OWN DISTINCT PERSONALITY. MEANING THEIR GIFT WILL BE UNIQUELY MANIFESTED THROUGH THEM. WHEN WE USE OUR GIFTS, WE ARE ADMINISTERING GOD'S GRACE. AND PETER CHALLENGES US TO BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THAT GRACE.

Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

First Peter 4:10-11 specifically mentions the speaking and serving categories. The Spirit distributes these gifts with two primary objectives. The first is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and through Him glorify God (1 Pet. 4:11). In the speaking gifts, believers exalt Christ when they speak the very "oracles of God." This means that their message is prepared in submission to and in fellowship with the Spirit. Their words concur with God's Word and are delivered under the unction or anointing of the Holy Spirit. In the serving gifts, believers exalt Christ when they serve "with the ability which God supplies," or in dependence upon His power. In both the speaking and serving gifts, Christ is exalted in the believer when others see the supernatural character of these gifts, His grace, power, and supply being evident in their service.

Second, these gifts are given so that we may serve one another, building up the body of Christ (Eph 4:15-16; 1 Pet 4:8, 10). We are to fervently love one another (1 Pet. 4:8), demonstrating our love by ministering our gifts for their benefit and edification. When one gives somebody a birthday present, it's given with the expectation that the recipient will use the gift for its intended purpose. How sad when believers let their spiritual gifts sit unused on the shelf because we all have a part in exalting Christ and building up

His church. That is why Paul urged Timothy to stir up the gift that was in him (2 Tim. 1:6).

Sign Gifts

There are few periods in Scripture when signs predominated. They are primarily seen during the times of Moses, Elijah and Elisha, and during the apostolic age. They served the purpose of authenticating God's servant and His Word. They manifested grace to the Jews who were prone to looking for signs (1 Cor. 1:22). During the apostolic age they showed them that the church was a new work of God.

The first foundational gift was the apostles and their ministry (Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11). To be an apostle one had to meet four strict qualifications (Lk. 6:12-16; Acts 1:21-22; 1 Cor. 1:1; Gal. 1:1). They had to have been chosen by the Lord Jesus³, followed Him during His entire public ministry, witnessed Him after His resurrection, and continued with Him until His ascension.

They laid the foundation⁴ of the church, receiving and declaring God's revelation (Acts 11:28; 21:10-11; Eph. 2:20; 3:5), and giving confirmation of that Word through signs, wonders, and miracles (2 Cor. 12:12; Acts 8:6-7; Heb. 2:3-4). The apostles laid a completed foundation (1 Cor. 3:10-11). There are no new revelations today, for we have Christ - God's complete and final one (Heb. 1:2). We must be true to the faith that was once for all delivered to us, and take care how we build upon it. His Word is a sacred trust and we guard it by faithfully and accurately proclaiming it. There are no apostles today because no-one qualifies and God's Word is complete.

Second, was healing (1 Cor. 12:9, 28). This was the supernatural power to permanently heal real diseases (Acts 3:6-10; 4:29-31; 8:5-8; 19:12; 28:3-6). Third, was miracles (1 Cor. 12:10, 28). This included casting out demons, raising the dead, and overruling natural laws Acts 8:6-8; 9:39-41; 19:11-12; 20:9-12). God can still heal and work miracles but there is no evidence of believers with these gifts today.

The fourth sign gift was tongues (1 Cor. 12:10, 28). This was the supernatural ability to speak an unlearned foreign language. Tongues were primarily given for a sign to Israel because the gospel went to the Jews first. Later the Gentiles became the prime focus and made up the majority of the church (Acts 13:46-47). The last foundational gift is related to the fourth and was the interpretation of tongues (1 Cor. 12:10). This was the supernatural ability to understand an unlearned spoken foreign language and to orally interpret its message in one's own language. It was ideal when one had both these gifts (1 Cor. 14:5, 13). There is no evidence of believers with the gifts of tongues or their interpretation today. •

Endnotes:

1. *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. Publishers, 1985)
2. *Complete Word Study Dictionary* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2013)
3. *The Lord revealed His will through casting lots in the case of Matthias* (Acts 1:23-26)
4. *Christ: His person, work, and doctrine*

To be continued in our next issue

by George Ferrier

Report: Shadow of the Rock Ministry Abbeville, SC

Tony and Cheryl McDonald had a vision. Not a supernatural one, just a hope and a dream of what they trusted the Lord would do in the lives of the prisoners they met with weekly at the Abbeville, SC jail. They had started having Bible studies in the jail shortly after a member of their family spent time in prison and they realized the needs of the men being held awaiting trial and sentencing.

Once the Bible studies were established, primarily using Emmaus courses, they saw some saved, and others hungry for help and direction in their troubled lives. They saw some men come into the jail, go through trial, sentencing and incarceration, and upon release, soon be back in their pre-arrest environment. Many of the same ex-offenders were back in jail after a few weeks, re-arrested for some of the same types of crimes.

Others, especially those that had been saved, tried hard to get away from the friends and problems that led them to jail in the first place. They struggled with finances, lack of education, little personal or community support. This is where the vision came in. What if there were a place close by where they could live, learn personal skills, acquire education and job training, and most of all, grow spiritually in their newfound faith?

The most vivid picture they remembered was when they went to meet the bus bringing their family member from the jail back to the city where they lived. Getting off the bus were released prisoners who had no one to meet them. They had no clothes except the ones they'd worn when arrested; one man was in shorts, a T-shirt and flip-flops – in February. Most had no money, and no place to go except back to the “friends” they were with previously.

The McDonalds began attending meetings of a faith-based group (Rebuilding Lives Coalition, Upstate SC) led by Kent McGahey, a chaplain in the Anderson County jails and in fellowship in the Anderson assembly. The immense size of the problem became apparent. Authorities in the field noted the legacy of incarceration on the children of convicts, including generational poverty and anger. Ninety-four percent of prisoners eventually will be returned to society, with most in no way ready for that re-entry. They have needs for education, financial know-how, job training, anger management, conflict resolution and parenting skills. In essence they will return to society in the same condition they were before jail.

Many states are now starting to do something about the problems with training programs in the jails. While this is good, these programs are missing the vital spiritual element.

Even though some prisoners have been born again, they still struggle with the effects of addictions, bad habits, and lack of life skills to make a fresh start.

The McDonalds spent weeks and months learning about resources already in place in the community and meeting others in local government, law enforcement, state agencies, group homes, rescue missions and former prisoners who had been saved and had a burden for the re-entry into society of those formerly incarcerated. However, they found there are very few places that can provide safe, structured, spiritually based transitional housing where they could receive Biblical training and grow in the Lord, and where those who are unsaved but seriously desiring help to change, could learn the truth of the Gospel.

Tony and Sheryl also approached the elders of Overbrook Gospel Chapel in Greenville, SC, and shared their vision about setting up a tax-exempt organization with the intent of one day establishing a home that would meet some of the needs they saw so vividly. They received the blessing and encouragement of the brethren and set about forming Shadow of the Rock Ministry.


A great deal of the groundwork has been laid. Tax-exempt status has been granted. With the help of the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board, house rules were established, personal development and spiritual goals were set, budgets were made up for capital expenditures, initial costs, ongoing expenses and operating funds. Fortunately, some of the objectives of the ministry, such as GED, literacy, and job training are already available from other organizations in the area.

Shadow of the Rock Ministry is still in the vision stage. The organization is looking to the Lord for a suitable house, a couple to manage the home, and the necessary funds. Tony and Sheryl, along with members of the board, are praying for this dream to become a reality. •



DeWitt and Kay Jones have been fellowship for over 50 years at the Overbrook Gospel Chapel in Greenville, SC where DeWitt currently serves as an elder. In addition to raising three children, Kay taught high school and later worked in business. DeWitt recently retired from a professorship at Bob Jones University which he had for over 47 years. Both are actively involved in the work of Shadow of the Rock Ministries.

by Kathryn Jones



ISSUES *and* ANSWERS

“Search The Scriptures...” John 5:39

Question: What is propitiation?

The word “propitiation” is not commonly used today but it typically referred to people propitiating or trying to appease their false gods¹. However, in Scripture it means satisfying the penalty of God’s law through the holy Christ, so that now justice having been served, God can be propitious or favorable towards the believing sinner.

Its comparable word in the Old Testament is mercy-seat (*kappôreth*)². The mercy-seat was the gold lid (cover) for the ark of the covenant, which contained the two stone tablets engraved with the Ten Commandments. Two Cherubim, one on each end, testified to God’s holiness with their wings touching each other, stretched upwards to heaven, with their faces looking down towards the mercy-seat. God’s presence between the two cherubim above the mercy-seat was a place of judgment because of the broken law inside the ark (Ex. 25:16-22). Each year on the Day of Atonement, the high priest entered the Most Holy Place and sprinkled the blood of slain bulls and goats on and before the mercy-seat. They were for his sins and the sins of the people (Lev. 16). With its application, the blood testified to a substitutionary death, atoning or temporarily covering the Israelite’s sins.

In the New Testament the Greek nouns (*hilastêrion, hilasmos*)³ are translated mercy-seat in Hebrews 9:5 and elsewhere as propitiation (Rom. 3:25; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10, NKJV). Christ is the fulfillment of the mercy-seat, shedding His blood for all sin, as well as being the place where believing sinners can find mercy. Let us consider four truths.

First, God Himself provided a propitiation. 1 John 4:10 says, God “sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” The Bible always describes propitiation as a work of God, never as a work of mankind. It is a common thought in religion, both ancient and contemporary, that people can propitiate their gods by offering sacrifices. This idea is as false as the gods they worship. Instead, Scripture asserts that we are incapable of offering the true God any gifts to make Him favorable towards us. Therefore, God Himself sent His Son to satisfy His justice. Propitiation originates with God, not to appease Himself, but to justify His righteous character in showing mercy to believing sinners.

Second, Christ is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world (1 Jn. 1:2). He died for all but God, Who is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4), and Who delights in mercy (Mic. 7:18) extends mercy, favor, and forgiveness only to those who choose to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the only propitiation.

Third, Christ is the propitiation for the believing sinner (Rom. 3:25-26). Propitiation speaks of substitution where God provided a way for the sinner to be saved through the death of Another. Through Christ a place of judgment (God’s presence) can now be a place of mercy. God does not have to be asked to be propitious; He already is because of Christ. The sinner does not come to God to ask for mercy, instead by believing in Christ they are heartily welcomed by the merciful God.

Finally, Christ’s propitiatory work endures in His advocacy for the sinning believer (1 Jn 2:1-2). The believer should not habitually sin but they will commit acts of sin. When we sin, we have an advocate with the Father. Our advocate is Jesus Christ, the Righteous Who does not excuse or ignore our sin. Instead, as both the propitiator and propitiation for our sins He pleads Himself as the satisfaction for God’s justice. Kenneth Wuest states, “The Greek has it, ‘He Himself is a satisfaction.’”⁴ Through Christ, our merciful and faithful High Priest (Heb. 2:17; 7:1-28), when we fail, our position with God is secure. God is forever satisfied with Christ’s propitiatory work. •

Endnotes

1. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. Publishers, 1985)
2. *Strong’s Comprehensive Concordance of the Bible* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, Inc., 1986)
3. *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc. Publishers, 1985)
4. *Wuest’s Word Studies from the Greek New Testament* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1995), e-Sword X electronic version

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

by George Ferrier

News & Notices



IBF Family Conference

July 3 - 7, 2019

Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion, Indiana

The theme is 'Elijah: Ordinary Man with an Extraordinary God' - "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours.. - James 5:17 (NASB). The speakers are John Kurian, Keith Keyser, Christian Ramirez, Sajeev Varghese, Don Graham, Abe Chacko and Roshan Samuel. Five plenary sessions based on the theme, six workshops, two youth sessions, Men's Meeting, Sister's Meeting, Youth Classes (KG-3, 4-6, 7-8 and High School), Young Children's VBS, Singspiration (under 21 years old) & Missionary Reports are planned. Nursery during plenary sessions are available. Online registration at www.ibfus.org will be open until a couple of days prior to the start of the conference. Those who desire to be volunteers may complete the survey on the website. If you have any questions regarding the conference, please email info@ibfus.org. They request earnest prayer for the conference.

California Bible Conference

July 14 - 20, 2019

The California Bible Conference takes place in beautiful Yosemite National Park. The scheduled speakers are Nate Bramsen and Warren Henderson. There are limited accommodations available. If interested, contact Rod Chance at vrchance@hotmail.com.

West Virginia Bible Conference

July 21 - 26, 2019

Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton, WV

The West Virginia Bible Conference invites you to their annual family camp from July 21-26 with speakers Andy Hylton (NC) and Dan Gustafson (SC). Children's worker will be Derek Aholt (MO). For more information contact Brent Jones at 304.466.4738 or brentandhope@frontier.com.

Men's Intensive Bible Study

August 25 - 29, 2019

Greenwood Hills Conference Center

Come join us at MIBS 2019 for an intensive study on "Revelation of Jesus Christ (with a touch of Daniel)". The instructor is Randy Amos and the cost is \$150 for 4 days & 4 nights. It begins Sunday 8pm and ends Thursday 10am. See www.greenwoodhills.net for more details.

Mid-South Family Camp

August 30 - September 2, 2019

Horton Haven Christian Camp, Chapel Hill, TN

A weekend for the entire family with a wide variety of activities to spark the interest of all ages. The speakers are Nate Bramsen (teens & adults) and Art Manning (children). Register at www.hortonhaven.org.

Labour Day Conference

Aug 30 - Sept 1, 2019

Horse Lake Christian Fellowship,

5827 Horse Lake Road, 100 Mile House, BC

Christians gathered to the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ welcome you to attend our 23rd annual Labour Day Weekend Conference. It begins Fri evening Aug 30 and continues through Sun evening Sept 1. This year's theme is Christian brokenness ("Lord, Break Me!"). Speakers invited include Steve Price (KS), John Heller (MN), and Rob Brennan (BC). The conference sessions include plenaries, seminars, and a Q & A. A Children's Program is also provided. An e-brochure is available at www.hlcf.org and printed copies are available by regular mail upon request. Contact Don Street by telephone (250-706-2736) or at don.street@shawbiz.ca.

Digging Deeper Men's Conference

September 9 - 13, 2019

Morning Star Bible Camp,

West Kelowna, BC, Canada

Digging Deeper is a week-long conference for men who want to dig deep into the Bible, mining the truths found in it. The speakers are Randy Amos, Mike Attwood, and Harold Summers and the cost is \$100. For more information see the camp website www.morningstarbiblecamp.com or contact Josh Caplan at 250.718.2021.

A Week at Willowbank (Bermuda)

Sept 16 - 22, 2019

Willowbank, a well-known establishment on the island of Bermuda has reopened its doors and is available to guest groups. Bob Neff Tours (Lancaster, PA) is partnering with Know the Word Ministries to arrange a fellowship tour and conference at this popular seaside resort. Flight originates from Philadelphia Int. Airport. Arrangements can also be made from other airport locations, as needed. Speaker: Mark Kolchin. For more info, email knowtheword@gmail.com or contact Neff Tours directly to register at 800.848.1492 (www.bobnefftours.com)

Palos Hills (Chicago Area) Fall Conference

October 19 - 20, 2019

10600 S 88th Ave, Palos Hills, IL 60465

Palos Hills Christian Assembly (Chicago area) plans to host their annual Fall Conference with Nate Bramsen on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20. There will be two messages on Saturday night, beginning at 6:00pm. On Sunday morning, we will have the Lord's Supper beginning at 9:15am with a message and fellowship lunch to follow. For more info contact Bob Stevenson at 708.233.1268 or 1bob1stevenson@gmail.com.

Bible Lands Study Tour to Israel

Nov 4 - 13, 2019

The Bible Lands Study Tour is designed to aid spiritual growth while visiting the most beautiful land on earth. No wonder the Lord calls it His Land! Rex Trogdon is customizing a study guide for all participants to prepare for the tour. The Study Guide will be their personal Travel Journal as they enjoy a ten day "Bible conference on location." Contact Rex Trogdon at 704.516.4825 or rextrogdon@me.com to request your brochure.

Believers Bible Conference 2019

December 27 - 30, 2019

Murfreesboro, TN

Save the date for the biennial Believers Bible Conference. General Session speakers this year will be Mike Atwood (MS), Brady Collier (TX), and Paul Young (Wales, UK). Details and registration information coming soon.

Israel Tour

February 24 - March 9, 2020

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 636.744.5723.

Head Coverings For Sale

An assortment of colors, styles, and patterned lace head coverings are available for purchase from headcoveringsonline.com. Please inquire about custom or bulk orders.

Full Time Camp Workers Needed

Full-time camp workers are needed to serve at Camp Horizon in Central Florida. They are looking for couples or individuals with a heart to serve the Lord in Christian camp work. The positions are paid and housing is provided. Interested candidates for administrative, maintenance, food service, or program positions should contact Steve Slusser at info@camphorizon.org and Billy Skelton at doubleportion2@outlook.com.

Lassen Youth & Family Camp

Please join us at Lassen Pines this Summer where we have daily inspirational messages about the Bible, practical seminars, great music, fun athletic activities, delicious food, a talent show, and awesome opportunities for building life-long friendships! For more info and to register visit www.buenaparkcf.org/events/lassen-pines-2019.

Discipleship Training Program

With a vision to see the upcoming generation equipped in New Testament church principles, Morning Star Bible Camp will be running it's third summer of the DTP Program. Volunteers will be given practical opportunities to serve in the camp ministry while also participating in daily Bible studies. For more information, or to apply, please go to morningstarbiblecamp.com/discipleship-training-program/ or contact the Camp Manager, Josh Caplan (250-718-2021, manager@morningstarbiblecamp.com). MSBC is located in West Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada.

Clermont Bible Fellowship

In March 2019, Clermont Bible Fellowship celebrated their 13 year anniversary. Clermont, Florida is in the center of the state, with lots of lakes and rolling hills. Clermont is a great place to live, work, or retire and is only 30 min from Disney and Universal Studios for those who are vacationing. Camp Horizon, an assembly owned outreach is also a 30 min drive away. Their desire is to grow along with a growing community. Please pray for them as they endeavor to follow the Lord's leading in the many opportunities this year brings. They would welcome any to come and fellowship with them. 355 Citrus Tower Blvd #110, Clermont, FL. For more info contact Lanny Evans at bluedolphin@gmx.us or 321.663.5532, visit clermontbible.com.

Saints Serving

To help saints sing together, 300+ recordings of spiritual songs are available to stream or download for free on SaintsServing.net. There is also a growing number of songs on the Saints Serving YouTube channel. Most of them are a cappella or piano recordings. On the website they are keyed to the Hymns of Truth and Praise and the Hymns of Worship and Remembrance books. Some songs have alto, tenor, and bass separated out to help one learn a harmony part. See www.saintsserving.net/songs.php or subscribe on the YouTube channel to get notified when new songs are added.

Camp Director at North Star Bible Camp, Willow, AK

Interested in serving the Lord? Why not expand your horizons by serving Him on the Last Frontier at North Star Bible Camp in Willow, AK? A full-time on-site Camp Director position has opened and must be filled by October 2019. They are now taking applications and are looking for godly, Spirit-motivated couples to apply. General camp experience, good business sense and communication skills are required. This is a missionary venture and not a paid position. Hence, the applicant will need to seek the Lord for provision. Your local Assembly commendation will also be required. Please send your initial contact or resume to Stu, at stuamitchell@gmail.com or 208.971.8318.

THE SPIRIT AND SALVATION

The work of the Spirit in those who believe
Is found in the freedom and life they receive.
No more condemnation, no bondage to sin,
But life through the Spirit now dwelling within.

The Spirit, unseen, has a critical part
When someone believes on the Lord with his heart.
The law of the Spirit of life sets him free
From sin and from death and their deadly decree.

The lost can do nothing but sin and offend.
Salvation is His from beginning to end.
When they cannot grasp the good news and its terms,
He calls and convicts and converts and confirms.

For sin and its sting there is only one cure,
But those who believe can be saved and be sure.
Be sure through the Spirit that you have received
The freedom He's given to all who believed.

THE SPIRIT AND SANCTIFICATION

In the life of the believer,
It's God's will that we should grow.
He has given us His Spirit,
Teaching us what we should know,
Bringing truth to our remembrance,
Pointing out where we should go,
Making wordless intercession
When our weakness lays us low.

We are focused on a Person,
Not a creed or a device.
Let us walk, then, in the Spirit,
When by flesh we are enticed,
In the Spirit boldly living
(We've been bought with such a price!),
Being led by that same Spirit
Further, deeper into Christ.

POEM BY KRISTA BESSELMAN

Krista Besselman is in fellowship at Wheatland Bible Chapel in Wheatland Texas