

## **Gospel Gleaner**

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## **Inside this Issue**

Andy Erwin

The first issue of 2021 finds us doing something none of us expected as we are paying tribute to the founding editor of the *Gospel Gleaner*, Bill Dillon. Bill passed away suddenly on Christmas day of 2020.

He leaves behind a legacy of loving husband and father, preacher, and mentor. Bill was a tremendous encourager. He truly had the heart of an evangelist and a missionary. Without him, there would be no *Gospel Gleaner*. Our admiration for Bill will be reflected in this issue of the *Gleaner* as we dedicate it to him and offer tribute to his memory.

Our condolences are extended to his wife of 51 years, Kaye, and son Mark (Maria) Dillon. He is preceded in death by sons Thomas Joseph and Jeffery Scott Dillon and by one sister Rita Dillon.

Helping us pay tribute to Bill in this issue are his longtime friends Mike Kiser, John T. Polk II, Grady Miller, and Ronnie Whittemore. I believe you will also benefit from reading and studying a collection of Bill's articles through the years.



# Bill Dillon: A Missionary's Heart

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Mike Kiser

The March 2016 issue of the *Gospel Gleaner* carried an article by brother Bill Dillon entitled, “Never Lose Hope.” It was a short article, but very motivating. Among his words were these: “Humanity is so designed that it takes trouble for our best to come out. If there is no hardship, there is no hardihood. If there is no fight, there is no fortitude. If there is no pain, there is no patience. We may not prefer or like that kind of world, but that is the kind of world we live in.”

Then in May 2016 he wrote: “If you are going through an emotional earthquake, with much of your joy and stability threatened; if all around you is grief and loss; if you are in the dark valley of disappointment - then God’s word to you is a word of hope.” Bill Dillon was indeed a man of hardihood, fortitude, patience, and hope. He was in word and deed a man with a missionary’s heart.

I made my first trip to Ghana, West Africa, in January 1974. I have lost count of how many trips I have made there over the last 47 years. It was in 1984 that brother Dillon went with us for the first time. Over the last 37 years we made many, many trips together. He was one of finest co-workers that it was my pleasure and privilege to work with. Whether he was street preaching; or conducting a seminar for the preachers; or teaching at the West Coast

School of Biblical Studies, he excelled when it came to getting the work done. I do not know of any man who has worked in Ghana that made the lingering impression on those he worked with like he did. In looking back over the years and the many trips we were able to make together, I think I understand why he was so effective. I would sum it up with the following considerations.

1. He had a deep-seated conviction regarding the Great Commission of our Lord. He believed from the depths of his heart that the Gospel was for everybody, regardless of race or gender, rich or poor, young or old. He never saw himself as a tourist, but as a man on a mission. He was always more interested in the upcoming preaching appointment than he was in whether he would get to see a monkey or a crocodile. He was ever at the ready to take an assignment to go off to a village or area of the city to preach. He would then come back enthused about the opportunity, anticipating the next time.

2. He was a man who had a deep-seated conviction regarding the message he preached. His preaching was consistently true to The Book. We knew that when he went out, people would hear about the New Testament church, with no apology or compromise in what he would say; further, the

Lord's plan of salvation would be clearly presented.

3. He was a man who clearly practiced the Golden Rule regarding his fellow Ghanaian preachers. He never expected them to wait on him as if they were his servants. He thought they should be compensated correctly for the work they did. He in no way tried to dominate them or treat them as if he were superior in some way over them. It grieved him to see them deprived of those things they needed to provide for their wives and children. He habitually put forth an effort to enable them to be financially supported.

4. He was a man who sacrificed himself to do the work. Often, he would spend hours just getting ready for the trip. Over and above what brethren and churches would give him for the work, he routinely contributed what he could from his own funds. He was never one to complain because the food was not what he liked; or the bed had lumps; or the room was too hot; or the car was not air conditioned; or the road had too many potholes. He was truly a man who was content in whatever state he found himself.

5. He was a man of gratitude. He was deeply thankful to everyone who contributed to his work. It might be the lady who washed and ironed his clothes or cooked the

meal; or the driver who carried him to his preaching appointments; or the family that shared their home with him. Further, he did not allow anyone to do anything for him that was going to be a financial loss on their part. He knew and understood the hardships the brethren were experiencing. His attitude was one that would help them bear their burden not contribute more to it.

As I look back over those 37 years of working with Bill Dillon, it is with the fondest of memories. He was a blessing to the work in Ghana and to all of us, whether American or Ghanaian, who had the pleasure of working with him.

Bill Dillon was a faithful preacher of the Gospel of Christ. He was a great co-worker. He was one of my absolute best friends. My life was blessed by him in so many ways. He had the intellect, emotion, will, and conscience to be an effective man on the mission field. He had the heart of a missionary.

### *Condolences*

It is with deep sorrow to hear about the death of beloved brother. May his soul rest in peace. On behalf of my family, we extend our condolences and sympathy to the wife, children, and the entire family of Christ.

Paul Addo  
Ghana

# Bill Dillon: A Barnabas

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John T. Polk II

Bill Dillon faithfully preached the gospel of Jesus Christ while overcoming stumbling blocks. From his troubled childhood he rose to make it through college. He made a life with Kaye and got a job at the juice factory in Humboldt, Tennessee. With determination, Bill decided to preach.

After some years, he and Kaye tragically lost their oldest son, Joey, to an automobile accident. That was when I came to understand Genesis 37:35, as Jacob was led to believe his son was dead, “he refused to be comforted, and he said, ‘For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning.’ Thus his father wept for him.” Within some months, they lost their youngest son, Jeff, to a long, lingering battle with cancer. Bill kept preaching.

Amidst his despair, Bill was proud of Mark. Bill and Kaye moved back to Mountain Home to be close to Mark and his wife, Maria. With Kaye’s quiet dedication, after many years of their fully providing for his challenged sister, Rita, she also passed away. Bill kept preaching.

Bill Dillon passed from this life on December 25, 2020, at age 71. In my personal friendship with him of nearly 50 years, he was truly a friend. “A man who has friends must himself be friendly, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24). Bill was my “brother from

another mother.” Family wise, Kaye, lost her husband. Mark, lost his father. I have lost my brother.

Since Solomon said, “The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, And a man is valued by what others say of him” (Proverbs 27:21) and also, “Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips” (Proverbs 27:2), then I’ll say what Bill would not say about himself.

He was a Barnabas. The apostles gave Joseph of Cyprus the name “Barnabas” which means “Son of Encouragement” (Acts 4:36) or “one who comforts.” It was Barnabas who sold his land to support the immediate needs of the first followers of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:32-37). It was Barnabas who told the apostles in Jerusalem why Saul’s conversion had made him a disciple (Acts 9:26-27). It was Barnabas who preached to Jews and Gentiles in Antioch (Acts 11:19-24). It was Barnabas who brought Saul to Antioch where “the disciples were first called Christians” (Acts 11:25-26). Barnabas helped Paul make it through his first “missionary” journey, preaching to Jews first and also to Gentiles (Acts 13-14). Barnabas helped make Paul “a teacher of the Gentiles” (2 Timothy 1:11).

Like Barnabas, Bill Dillon went “all in” with personal sacrifice to preach

the gospel to the ignored, brought people alongside him, and encouraged them to use their talents for the Lord. Everywhere he went, people were encouraged to do their best to serve the Lord Christ.

While he served as a deacon for the Trenton, Tennessee, church of Christ, Bill was mentored by Max Miller who was the preacher. Max's example gave Bill a blueprint to follow in his preaching life. Never was that more clearly seen than in Mountain Home, Arkansas. While Bill preached there, it was one of the largest churches of Christ in Arkansas, and it was "hitting on all cylinders." I commented to Bill that I had never seen so many talented deacons whose talents so capably worked together and accomplished so much.

During those years, the Gospel Gleaner Lectureships were first class all the way, from the speakers' accommodations (and the welcome baskets!), to the wonderful meals, to the the interest and attendance given the lectures. They were wonderful experiences for all brethren who were involved.

In 1985, when Bill was preaching in Lafayette, Georgia, he began the paper, *Gospel Gleaner*. He involved Ronnie Whittemore as his co-editor and pulled together good preachers of the gospel to write articles. Except for four years, this paper has been published over a span of thirty-five years into 2021, during which time Dennis Gulledege, and now Andy Erwin, have proved to be capable editors, each broadening the base of writers from the brotherhood.

Thousands of readers, both brethren and outsiders, both in the United States and overseas, have welcomed this publication for encouraging and extending their knowledge of God's Word. Each issue of the *Gleaner* has always seemed to have both the milk and meat of the "word of righteousness" (Hebrews 5:12-14).

Bill also wrote the books *Gospel Gems*, Volumes 1 & 2; *Bible Basics*; *Studies in Christian Growth*. It is through them all that "he being dead, still speaks" (Hebrews 11:4).

Bill was also an avid reader of books, ranging from commentaries to novels. His preaching reflected a depth of knowledge that could be mentioned in the same breath with Charles Haddon Spurgeon, probably the prince of Baptist preachers. Bill could use quotes and historical events to bring his audiences closer to the truth in scripture than they ever knew before. His phrasing, timing, and information exceeded most. Because of his mastery of the Bible and English, Bill convinced me of the effectiveness of the 1-minute sermon on radio, which I have also used. His sermons were rich with Bible, history, and wisdom.

"There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy. Who are you to judge another?" (James 4:12). No one but God can judge a man's life, but from my viewpoint, I thank God for the blessing in my life of Billy Dale Dillon.



# Bill Dillon: A Man of Faith

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Grady Miller

Following the shock of hearing the news that Bill Dillon died in his sleep last Christmas morning, a flood of memories soon began to assuage the grief and loss. Chief among these, of course, is the conviction that “precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints” (Psalm 116:15; Revelation 14:13). But there were also recollections and reminiscences, more personal and specific to the faith and character of Billy Dale Dillon.

## Good Memories

I first came to know Bill through my father, Max R. Miller. Dad preached in Trenton, TN, in the 1970s, where Bill and his family were living. Dad loved Bill like a son. When I moved to Greenfield, TN, a few years later, I soon discovered the splendid qualities in that young man who was only a few years older than myself.

Others can and will share much more about Bill than I can. They knew him longer, they knew him better, they worked more closely with him. But here are three important things everyone knew and loved about Bill Dillon.

The description of men qualified to serve as elders in the Lord’s church was given by Paul to his co-workers in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Several of those traits and attributes should define every Christian. There is one phrase

found in Titus 1:8 that is especially fitting when remembering Bill Dillon.

“A lover of good...” The King James Version has “a lover of good men” while most other translations have “a lover of what is good” (NKJV) or “one who loves what is good” (NASB). We are told by the Greek professors that *philagathos* “can include things as well as persons” (Donald Guthrie, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries).

## Good Men

Bill was a lover of good men. He was open and helpful, warm and engaging with everyone, of course. A preacher doesn’t enjoy the tenure of many years devoted to “local work” if he doesn’t fit in with God’s family. But he also had his “inner circle” of close friends, confidants, kindred spirits, and fellow laborers. There IS something to the old saying that one is known by the company he or she keeps. And one can tell much about Bill Dillon by taking note of the people he counted among his best friends and brethren.

Some of those good men and women have gone on to be with the Lord. Many of them are subscribers and supporters of this gospel journal. And several of them are sharing their memories and tributes in this issue of the *Gospel Gleaner*.

## Good Books

Bill was a lover of good books. He delighted in hours spent in used bookstores, treasured the rare finds he picked up at (sometimes) bargain prices. He collected books, traded books, bought and sold and often gave away books.

He was a serious student of the Word, history, and anything and everything relating to Kingdom matters. He also manifested a healthy interest and commanding knowledge of many other subjects as well.

There IS something to the old saying that one is known by the books he or she reads. Bill's library was dominated by THE BOOK, as was his life.

Bill was a lover of the Truth. His heart was set on learning it, living it, and sharing it (Ezra 7:10). His life's work was in proclaiming the gospel, sowing the Seed both at home and abroad. He stood ready to defend the gospel, proving himself an able debater and upholding the truth of God's Word. *A Debate With Mormons* (1981) is yet a valuable reference in my library today.

## Good Works

Many brethren can bear witness that Bill delighted in the good work

and labors of others. He encouraged young men in their preaching. He helped and even pushed some brethren to write and publish, exhorting them to broaden their reach and influence. He was ever ready and zealous for good works (Titus 2:14).

There IS something to the old saying that one is known by not only what he stands against but also what he supports. God's people are to be "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15). Bill was in the vanguard of those who loved the Truth.

## Good Times

This writer holds no illusion that in the hereafter good friends will meet and eat BBQ, talk for hours, and then find the nearest bookstore together. But I know our eternal fellowship will be sweeter when we rejoice with Bill Dillon in the heavenly home our Lord has prepared for us.

### *Condolences*

Bill was a dear friend and a friend to the work in Ghana. He served the Lord faithfully for many years. He was always a great source of encouragement to me. Despite all of life's difficulties, he pressed on. He has now gone on to his reward. Please remember Kaye and the family in your prayers.

Ted Wheeler  
Venice, Florida

# Bill Dillon: A Preacher's Friend

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Ronnie Whittemore

In the early 1980s, a young preacher moved to Western Kentucky to begin his first local work. The transition from Hoosier to preaching student to pulpit minister was made smoother when he was befriended by a much older preacher, Bill Dillon. Actually, Bill was only ten years older but wise beyond his years and seasoned.

A lover of books and sage sayings, Bill often quoted pioneer preachers and shared pertinent stories. He took his responsibilities as an evangelist and missionary seriously, but he also exhibited a great sense of humor. Although Bill's work with the Sunny Slope church in Paducah and this writer's work with the Heath church just west of Paducah overlapped only a year or two, the experiences shared made our tenures in Western Kentucky seem much longer.

## **Books, Radio and Television**

Indeed, Bill loved books. One could tell when speaking to him that he was well-read. He possessed good books and often shared them with others. He gave this writer his book entitled *Gospel Gems* compiled from his one-minute radio program. He remarked that a one-minute radio program would help a preacher write concisely and succinctly. It was amazing how much truth Bill could put into a one-minute program or a few written paragraphs. When Bill participated in the Bible Q

& A television program *Searching the Scriptures*, he always provided the same solid and precise Bible answers.

## **Missionary Trips**

Over the years, Bill made several trips to Ghana. Others are better informed to tell of those evangelistic efforts, but this writer was impressed with how a "local" preacher could also be a participant in foreign mission works. One hymn reads, "Ready to go or ready to stay" and Bill was ready to do both. His love for the souls of others crossed ethnic lines and foreign boundaries (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-15).

## **Gospel Gleaner**

In the mid-1980s, a new publication was discussed among Bill, Mike Kiser, and this writer while traveling to Jackson, TN, for one of the *Searching the Scriptures* television programs. The logistics were worked out regarding a sponsoring church (Heath), regular writers, publication frequency (quarterly) and volume (12 pages), editor (Bill), name (*Gospel Gleaner*), purpose (balance of faith fundamentals and issues confronting the church), and cost estimates from the local printer (West Kentucky Printing). But now funds were needed for the first issue until other support could be raised. As providence would have it, when Bill moved from Paducah, he cleaned out his library and various materials. He



came across a couple of plastic card printers as used in hospitals and doctors' offices. He offered them to this writer who, being a hoarder of unnecessary things, took them. Upon visiting one of the local hospitals in Paducah, it was noticed that the hospital used the same machines, and they were expanding one of their wings and needed additional machines for the new nurse stations. After approaching the hospital purchaser, they agreed to pay \$999 for the machines. The *Gospel Gleaner* had its initial funding and publishing began!

### **Exhorter**

The book of Acts portrays Barnabas as a great evangelist and leader. His name means "son of consolation" (Acts 4:36). Indeed, Barnabas and Paul made a dynamic duo on the first

recorded missionary journey (Acts 13-15). Barnabas vouched for Paul (Acts 9:27). He and Paul were described as Greek gods because of their courage and oratory skills (Acts 14:12). Barnabas would take John Mark and make him a profitable servant for Christ (Acts 15:39; 2 Timothy 4:11).

Brother Bill had abilities similar to Barnabas—exhorter, team player, evangelist, molder and maker of preachers, friend, and a good man. This writer still recalls a brief sermon outline that Bill wrote and encouraged others to keep in mind. It was an old-fashioned sermon with three points: Sin Is Black; Hell is Hot; Heaven is Beautiful.

Thank you, Kaye, for sharing Bill and allowing him to be the preacher and friend that he was to so many!

## **Bill Dillon: A Mentor to Young Preachers**

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Andy Erwin

I have been personally blessed by the mentoring capabilities of Bill Dillon. To be a great mentor, one must be willing to invest time and energy in the mentee. On many occasions I was able to be in Bill's company and enjoy his friendship. I always gained from these experiences as they provided practical wisdom and insight to aid my growth and development as a preacher.

### **What Books to Buy?**

Some of the best memories I have with Bill involve bookstores. He especially loved to go to Clyde Wood's

basement during the week of the FHU Bible Lectureship. But, truthfully, he loved just about any bookstore. He made sure to point out books I should have and often saw to it that I had them. It was important to him to know that I was studying good books written by faithful men. Bill knew which debate books to buy, which sermon books were best, and which authors could be trusted.

In one of the last conversations I had with Bill, he discussed his mentoring of a couple of men in the Mountain

Home area. He was looking for some good books to share with them. He also sent me a rare copy of Adam Clarke's *Theology*. To share books with other preachers was a simple gesture of love and kindness, but it spoke volumes about who Bill was as a man.

### **How to Break-In a New Bible?**

One year during the FHU lectures, Bill bought a new Bible. We were in his hotel room and Bill was wiping the sweat from his forehead with his Bible. I asked him what he was doing. He was almost alarmed at my question when he answered, "Oh, man, sweat is the best way to break in a new Bible." Bill was right! Sweat is the thing most needed when breaking in a Bible. Not only does it work for breaking-in the cover, but it is also essential for grasping the content!

### **A Little Humor Can Help**

Bill understood that preaching was a form of communication. It is a method for communicating the most important message. On one occasion, he advised me that a little well-timed humor could help in the delivery of a sermon. However, he was careful to suggest that humor should not be over-used or abused and that one's humor should never detract from the message being communicated.

### **Not Every Fight Has to be Your Fight**

Bill was a veteran preacher who had witnessed the ugly side of preacher politics and conflicts. He once provided sage counsel when he said, "Andy, not every fight has to be your

fight." As I write this tribute to Bill, I cannot help but appreciate even more the depth and wisdom in this advice.

### **Editing the *Gospel Gleaner***

Bill edited or co-edited twenty-three volumes of the *Gospel Gleaner*. He continued to edit the paper even after his eyesight began failing him. He had a great love and dedication for this work.

Bill asked me to join the *Gleaner* as a staff writer nearly twenty years ago. A few years later he asked me to "take the *Gleaner* and run with it." He never said anything negative about my work. He never said he would do something differently. Bill was always complimentary and encouraging. He was reassuring and enthusiastic.

Bill was a mentor to me. He entrusted me with this work and then let me do it. He was always ready to listen, encourage, and advise if necessary. He never sought to interfere or intrude in the work. Bill was happy to pass the torch but remained happy to help. Bill Dillon was simply this kind of man.

Bill was a loyal and true friend. He was a faithful preacher of the word. He was a dedicated husband and father. Bill cared about others. He cared about me. He sought to impart wisdom that would encourage each of these qualities in me. For that, I am and shall remain blessed and thankful. Go on to your reward, my brother. May you hear your Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

# Articles by Bill Dillon

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## The Bible: God's Supreme Book

Have you read any good books lately? Have you read *The Good Book* lately? A popular health slogan says, "You are what you eat." A man just can't expect to grow in knowledge (without feeding his mind) any more than he can expect to grow physically without feeding his body. Unfortunately, there's an ample supply of "junk-food literature" available in our world. Junk-reading leads to junk-thinking; and junk-thinking leads to junk-living.

The book I have in mind right now though is far from junk; it's a treasure book. It has been recognized for years as the surpassing book of all time. If people would take the time to learn more of the Bible, they would love it more and without doubt it would have a tremendous effect on their lives for the better. Those who have acquainted themselves with it have happily discovered that it is a storehouse of riches, excelling in wisdom and imparting strength.

Down through the years, the greatest of thinkers, speakers, and writers have utilized and adapted the stories,

terms, and phrases of the Bible to their own works. The names of Shakespeare, Milton, Coleridge, Bunyan, Wordsworth, Pope, Dryden, and a host of others fall into this category. This is not to say that the lives of these writers conformed to the teachings of the Bible; but it is to say that their lasting works, as significant contributions to the world's great masterpieces of literature, were saturated in Bible terminology, images, and thoughts.

Abraham Lincoln is a good example of one who let the Bible influence his speechmaking. Most have heard, at one time or another, of the Gettysburg Address. Such words and phrases as "our fathers," "created," "dedicated," "conceived," "Hallow," "consecrate," "died in vain," and such like are recognized as words with a definite Bible flavor to them. Mr. Lincoln is also attributed as saying, "I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all this book upon reason that you can, and the balance upon faith, and you will live and die a better man." Of course, in years gone by, such remarks were addressed to a nation of people whose

religious devotion was deeper than the current age.

Another example worthy of notice is Daniel Webster who adorned his speeches with Bible allusions and quotations. Webster said of Alexander Hamilton, “He smote the rock of natural resources, and abundant streams of revenue burst forth; he touched the dead corpse of public credit and it sprang upon its feet.” Webster said this in reference to Hamilton’s providing funds for the U.S. treasury while it was still in its infancy. Webster’s words helped Hamilton become a noted historical figure, but, as well, revealed Webster’s own knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. More than one famous figure from the past has demonstrated the rich storehouse of thought found in the Bible.

How many children through the years received their early impressions for good from Bible lessons and stories that dealt with the noble themes of courage, truthfulness, honesty and many other wonderful virtues?

The book of Ruth is among the most charming love stories of all time; the book of Esther will always remind us of how important a woman was in saving God’s people in the days of ancient Persia; Joseph’s story, as related in Genesis, tells how a young man can go far in life, even though several bad breaks befell him in his young manhood; David’s encounter with the giant of Gath has instilled bravery into many young persons who were up against

some modern-day Goliath; the story of Job has likewise encouraged numbers of souls in trying times of extreme distress and trouble to not quit trying. How many more lessons can you think of? Do your children know of these ageless truths?

The Bible is the book for all seasons. It is not a man-made book; it is the book that has made men! It is the Good Book. Read it! To read it is to know it; to know it is to love it; to love it is to live it! Isaiah 34:16 says, “seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read.” You will never receive better or more timely advice than that.

The Bible towers above all other books as surely as Mt. Everest towers above all other mountains. The supremacy of God’s great book is seen in its information and in the estimation that great men have had for it.

### **The Bible Is Supreme in its Formation**

The Bible is a God-formed book. It is reasonable that if God created man and the world, God would teach man how to live in that world.

John Wesley said the Bible must have been written by good men or bad, or angels or devils. Bad men or devils would not have written it because it condemns sin and pronounces judgment upon sinners. Good men or angels wouldn’t have written it because they would not deceive men by saying God was the author. Thus, the Bible must have been written as it claims to have been, by God, who used the Holy

Spirit to inspire men to transcribe it (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16).

### **The Bible Is Supreme in its Information**

The twentieth century was the “Information Age.” Computerized technology has touched all levels of society, bringing unbelievable amounts of data to our eyes at the touch of a button. Sadly, the most valuable and needed information (the knowledge of spiritual things) is escaping the notice of modern man.

Only the Bible brings accurate information of spiritual matters. The Bible is a treasure chest of eternal truths that can free man’s soul from sin and fill his heart with gladness. The Bible gives help for the soul, holiness for the life, happiness for the heart, and hope for the future.

Man needs light; the Bible throws a bright beam of truth through the darkness of tribulation and heavy clouds of discouragement. In his death-defying speech before the Continental Congress, Patrick Henry said, “There is but one lamp to guide my feet. It is the lamp of experience.” Years later, as the shadows of death hovered over him, he pressed a Bible to his bosom and admitted, “Blessed Book! The greatest of all books which I have had no time to read, and now it is too late.”

If Mr. Henry had taken time to read that “Blessed Book,” he would have found another lamp by which to live his life by. In Psalm 119:105 we read, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and

a light unto my pathway.” How many other men have lived and died in ignorance of the blessed information the Bible brings?

Man’s earthly journey is a crooked and treacherous path extending from the cradle to the grave. He needs a light to shine along the way. Man shall never have a brighter nor better light to guide him than the Bible light!

### **The Bible Is Supreme in the Estimation Great Men Have Given to it.**

The Holy Scriptures are second to none in the high confidence great men have had in them. Although some men have rejected and ridiculed the scriptures, yet a multitude of others have affirmed that not one shadow of doubt can be cast over God’s supreme book.

Dr. Robert Dick Wilson, professor at Princeton Theological Seminary who mastered more than 30 ancient and modern languages, applied his genius to the study of the Bible’s origins, primarily the Old Testament. He set down his conclusions defending the total veracity of the Old Testament in the monumental work *A Scientific Investigation of the Old Testament*, which destroyed and buried the critical liberal views of scholars who had attacked the Bible’s trustworthiness. Dr. Wilson’s conclusion was, after 45 years of study and writing, that no man knows enough to question the accuracy and veracity of the Bible!

Over a century ago, William Ramsay believed the history given by Luke

in his gospel and Acts of the Apostles was inaccurate. After thorough research, Ramsay found Luke's accounts were "first rank" history, accurate to the tiniest detail. Ramsay became one of the ripest Biblical scholars ever known. His books today are valued as classics in the history of the New Testament.

### Conclusion

May men everywhere have in their thinking and living a greater appreciation for the Bible. May we all see it as God's supreme book for all mankind.

We count everyone who listens in to this broadcast, a friend. As one friend to another, from my heart to yours, I wish you and yours well and pray God's blessings to rest upon you. We "commend you to God and to the

word of His grace which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among the sanctified." (Acts 20:32).

In the Word of Grace, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself gives the commandment to: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15,16).

"Fear God and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b).

Adapted from *Bible Basics*, 2001. Bill Dillon.

### Bill Dillon – Preacher, Friend, Christian

I don't remember exactly when I met brother Bill Dillon, but when I did, I learned that he was each of these descriptive terms. I went with him to Africa a couple of times, with others, to preach and teach the gospel to the natives and to preacher students. He had a keen interest in that particular work, as well as other mission projects. He and I had in common the fact that we both had lost two of our precious children in death. This fact seemed to draw closer together. He and I at one time in our different works edited a local religious publication in the area where we lived. Because of this, he suggested that we exchange articles that we were publishing. I heartily agreed, especially since he was far better than I with the pen. Yes, he was a great and true preacher of the gospel, a true friend, and a faithful Christian. I look forward to the time when we will again be together on the "other" side.

Ernest S. Underwood

## Keep Right

The world's shortest sermon is seen on thousands of traffic signs – "KEEP RIGHT." Are you keeping right? The word of God commands us to:

1. Live the right life. This includes a life separated from unclean things (2 Corinthians 6: 17). It means living "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2: 12). We begin a new life by being born again (John 3:1-5; Mark 16:15,16).

2. Speak the right words. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth." Filthy words mean a filthy soul and bankrupt vocabulary.

3. Think the right thoughts. Proverbs 23:7 says, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." Philippians 4:8 tells us that "whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

4. Believe the right doctrine. The Lord "hates every false way" (Psalm 119:104). Perverted doctrines are to be forsaken, not embraced (Ephesians 5:11; 2 John 9-11; Galatians 1:6-9).

The right way is not always shortest nor smoothest, but it is always safest and best.

Adapted from *Gospel Gems*, vol. 1, 1999. Bill Dillon

## Be an Encourager!

One writer has stated: "One of the highest of human duties is the duty of encouragement...It is easy to laugh at men's ideals; it is easy to pour cold water on their enthusiasm; it is easy to discourage others. The world is full of discouragers. We have a Christian duty to encourage one another. Many a time a word of praise or thanks or appreciation or cheer has kept a man on his feet. Blessed is the man who speaks such a word."

A brother was struggling with a serious physical malady. An elderly sister encouraged him by saying, "My brother, you'll get over it." In time he did. That sister in Christ will never know how much good those few words did.

A youthful preacher was discouraged over his lack of accomplishment in his labors. The young man had hoped to preach to hundreds, but only a handful came. An elder lifted his hopes by saying, "Son, don't feel badly. I know a man who had only twelve followers and He did all right!" Proverbs 15:23 says, "A word spoken in due season, how good it is."

It is human nature to get discouraged. It is divine nature to give encouragement. Be an encourager!

Adapted from *Gospel Gems*, vol. 2. Bill Dillon.

# Looking unto Jesus

Hebrews 12:2 teaches we are to be “looking unto Jesus **the author and finisher of our faith.**” Jesus was of like passions with us. He came to earth, not in a celestial form, but in a flesh and blood form (Hebrews 2:14).

Though the Lord lived a life of trial and tribulation, His existence was a series of victories. When tempted of the Devil, He was victorious; when betrayed by a friend, He was victorious; when denied by an apostle, He was victorious; when tried before Pilate, He was victorious; when crucified at Calvary, He was victorious!

Christians are to follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21). Since the Lord is ahead of us and leads the way, He is able to direct us in perplexity; support us in distress; and deliver us in danger.

The difficulties of Christ were far greater than ours, yet He endured all. He overcame all. He now sits at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 1:3).

To all who faithfully follow God’s Son, He will say at last, “Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” As we look unto Jesus, we also can be victorious over every tribulation of life.



# What to Do?

Souls are everywhere; in your neighborhood and mine; across the ocean and across the street. But these are lost souls. What can we do?

## Wake Up

We can wake up. “That now it is high time to awake out of sleep” (Romans 13:11). Effectual doors of opportunity are everywhere to be found. Paul found doors opened to him at Ephesus (1 Corinthians 16:8,9).

Do we understand that “He died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again...we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God!” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Are we alert to occasions to pass out a tract, send cards or letters, make visits and telephone calls, conduct Bible studies and encourage others to obey the gospel?

When was the last time you brought a family member or friend to the worship assembly? The task of every Christian is the winning of souls to Christ (John 15:8; Proverbs 11:30). Will you wake up and put your hand to the plow of soul winning? Of course, we prefer to approach our prospects with compassion and concern rather than with condemnation and criticism.

How much good can one individual accomplish? In John 1 a beautiful example is given of Andrew leading another to the Messiah. From the very minute Andrew began following



Christ, he had a desire to introduce others to the Savior. Andrew's first convert was a man who eventually became one of the most influential men in the history of Christianity—his own brother Simon Peter! (John 1:40-42; Acts 2).

We should make it a point of personal duty to reach out to others with the gospel. One writer stated it this way: "The possession of the good news of the gospel involves the obligation to share it."

### **Build Up**

The ultimate purpose of being a child of God is to glorify the Lord and build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13). But there can be no building up of the body of Christ without the individual members growing up! Petty trifles like bruised egos, personal differences, and malice must be cast aside as unworthy of the Christian.

In Ephesians 4:15, Paul tells us that we should be "speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things." It is not a sin to be spiritually immature, but staying that way is! Paul stated, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things" (1 Corinthians 13:11). Let Christians "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 3:18).

### **Preach Up**

Only one instrument can produce faith and strengthen souls—the Word of God. "The word is nigh thee, even in

thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith which we preach." (Romans 10:8).

We are absolutely assured that the seed (word) sown will bear fruit in God's time. "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and prosper in the thing where to I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11).

We can pride ourselves in our modern improvements in communication and transportation, but such things as radios, TVs, jets, and automobiles only serve to remind us of how meager our efforts at evangelism have been.

A.T. Pierson eloquently analyzed the situation: "Upon the primitive evangelism of the early church, God set His seal confirming it with signs following and adding to the church daily so that the most rapid and far-reaching results ever known to history were achieved within one generation. With none of our modern facilities of transit and publication...the gospel flew from lip to lip until it touched the bounds of the Roman Empire."

Within one century, such one-by-one evangelism shook paganism to its center, and the priests of false faith saw with dismay their idol shrines forsaken. Beloved, let us give our all in sowing the seed of the kingdom that no man can ever say, "'You never mentioned Him to me!'"

## Pray Up

All efforts without the precaution of prayer are doomed to disappointment and disaster. However, it may be that prayer ranks high on the “endangered species” list in religion. Sadly, many have lost the practice of frequent communion with the Heavenly Father.

Does anyone ask today, “Lord, teach us to pray?” How can any Christian be too busy not to use one of the mightiest weapons God has given to man? If we need a renewed concern over the lost; a holy boldness in preaching and practicing the gospel; fresh courage and a more accurate perception of the world around us—then above all things we must be a people given to regular, daily, unhurried secret prayer.

Consider these passages: 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18; Luke 18:1. In one of the Lord’s mightiest parables, the nobleman said to his ten

servants “occupy till I come” (Luke 19:13). The word occupy carries the idea of “keep busy.” What greater activities could the Lord’s people engage in than seeking the lost? Let no one say, “I have nothing to do!” Everyone has more than what they can do.

Adapted from *Gospel Gleaner*, vol. 8, no. 1. (1992)

## Who Can Evangelize?

Jesus knew the growth of His church was dependent upon every member of His body being mobilized to teach, preach, and reach the lost. As far as is known, not a single priest or Levite was among the originally selected apostles. Jesus used ordinary disciples as couriers of the message of saving grace.

One of the most astonishing statements uttered by the Lord was, “the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37). The priests in Jerusalem were so numerous that they took turns performing temple ceremonies, yet Jesus said, “the laborers are so few.” The entire tribe of Levi was dedicated to religious services, yet Jesus said, “the laborers are few.”

If ever the world is going to be won to Christ, it will be done by the devout disciples in the pews. Much of the church today has become too “professional.” We have promoted the “let-the-preacher-do-it-all” syndrome to the point of discouraging ordinary Christians from using their diverse talents to the glory of God. The attitude

### *Condolences*

I am sorry to hear that the Lord has called my friend Bill Dillon home. I am sad but let us continually pray for the family now.

Edward Quansah  
Ghana

of every Christian must be, “My business is winning souls and I work at my job to pay expenses.”

Satan’s subtle strategy has always been to convince common believers that mission work is so complicated and winning souls so complex that only university-trained experts (preachers) could do it. Are wars so complex that only generals can fight?

May God give us grace to see the fields are still white unto harvest and laborers are indeed few. Let us pray that every Christian be involved in “the Kingdom’s sure increase,” both on foreign mission fields as well as in evangelistic efforts at home, so

that “the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2: 14). Every Christian, every day, evangelizing in every way is the spirit we are to have if the gospel is to be shared with the lost world.

Adapted from *Gospel Gleaner*, vol. 19, no. 1 (2003)

### *Condolences*

Bill was a good man and a faithful gospel preacher. His influence for good left a deep imprint on the church. He was greatly loved and much appreciated.

Ronald Bryant

Huntsville, Alabama

### *Condolences*

We extend our heart-felt sympathy to sister Kaye Dillion, son Mark, and family in the death of brother Bill Dillion. Bill Dillion was a multi-talented man. He was the founder of the *Gospel Gleaner*, a publication dedicated to the restoration and preservation of New Testament Christianity. He made numerous missionary trips to Ghana, was a very effective radio speaker, author of *Gospel Gems* (3 Vols.), and a great local preacher. Yet, with all of these and many other accomplishments, brother Dillion was a very humble man, a great encourager and friend. When King David learned of Abner’s death he said, “Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?” (2 Sam. 3:38) Spiritual Israel, the church, has truly lost a great servant of Christ who will be greatly missed!

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"For the Lord, His Word, and His Church."