



The Ministry of Reconciliation

Matt Wallin

Luke tells us that “Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age” (Luke 3:23). How old were you when you began your ministry? What is your ministry? We often assume that someone must be on staff somewhere to have a ministry. The truth is, every Christian should be a minister with a ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 reminds us that one reason we have official church leaders is “to equip the saints for the work of ministry.” All Christians should see themselves as ministers and missionaries.

Throughout the New Testament, we find examples of normal Christians like you and me letting God use them for amazing things.

One example is a sister named Dorcas (Acts 9). Dorcas was “full of good works and acts of charity” (v.36). She was so important that when she died, the people in her area wouldn’t let her stay dead. They sent for Peter and asked him to heal her. When Peter raised her from the dead, “it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord” (v.36).

Dorcas’ ministry of good works coupled with Peter’s ministry of healing led to spreading the gospel. We might say that because Dorcas made clothes, Peter had the opportunity to preach the gospel of reconciliation. Dorcas had a powerful ministry. “We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us (2 Cor. 4:7).

A Ministry of Reconciliation

Jesus commissioned his followers to “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20). When we become Christians, we fulfill that commission by taking the gospel wherever we go, as Christ commanded.

Each Christian has this privilege and this responsibility. Paul wrote, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God” (2 Cor. 5:17-20).

Inside this Issue

- 1 *The Ministry of Reconciliation*
Matt Wallin
- 2 *The Preacher and God*
Andy Erwin
- 4 *Forgiven and Forgotten*
Cody McCoy
- 5 *The Security of a Bird*
Luke Griffin
- 6 *Broken But Valuable*
Johnny O. Trail
- 8 Worldwide Preacher Training Update
- 10 *The Prophetic Word Confirmed*
John T. Polk, II
- 11 *Some Rules for Right Living*
Mike Kiser
- 14 *As Bright As the Promises of God*
Allen Webster

Continued on page 3

The Preacher and God

Andy Erwin

In the preparation of the minister, we are seeking to answer to the question, “What qualifies a man to preach?” Is it education that qualifies him? Is it his age, marital status, or the size of his family? What of his natural abilities, the power of his voice, and the strength of his mind? Do these qualify him to preach? Do years of experience qualify a man to preach? Does his appearance, looks, and mannerisms disqualify him from being a gospel preacher?

When perusing the classified ads for churches who are looking for ministers, one might get the idea that these are the qualifications for a preacher. Yet, none of these things truly qualify a man to preach or to aspire to become a preacher. There is only one qualification for a man to become a gospel preacher – his personal relationship with God. “Other foundation can no man lay” for a life in ministry than the preacher’s relationship with God. No amount of education or experience can conceal a preacher’s poor relationship with God. Before he can ever begin to help others reconcile their relationship with God, he must first be reconciled. Otherwise, the blind will be leading the blind. Any leader in the Lord’s church, whether he is an elder, a deacon, or a minister, must first take heed to himself and he must continue this path, avoiding all the devil’s pitfalls along the way.

In the ministry of the word, the first soul to be changed and saved is that of the preacher. “*Take heed to yourself*” and “*save yourself*” – this is the beginning of Paul’s exhortation to Timothy. The preacher must exemplify the change he hopes to see in others. His relationship with God must be consecrated if he is to help others know the possibility of such a life. In fact, we can go as far to say, a preacher must be seeking life as it is truly meant to be lived, if he is to inspire others about the possibility of their living that life as well. “The things you have learned and received, heard and saw in me, do,” this must be the

goal in life to the faithful minister of the gospel.

A closeness must exist between the preacher and God. God becomes sanctified in the heart of the preacher. His words flow and his ministry exists because of his relationship with God. He is genuine. He is real. He is truly an ambassador for Christ. He is pleading with souls on Christ’s behalf to be reconciled to God.

But “who is sufficient for these things?” (2 Corinthians 2:16) Preachers are human. They too are earthen vessels, weak, frail, and prone to err. Paul again provides the answer, “our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant” (2 Corinthians 3:5,6). Only God can qualify such men. Only can a man’s love for God qualify him in the eyes first of himself and then of the world. Only with a trusting, faithful relationship with God set as a foundation for ministry, can the preacher rightly be called a “man of God” and only a man of God will fulfill this calling.

Men of God can be found throughout the Bible. Each time one is found, he is characterized most by his relationship with God. Abraham was a “friend of God.” Noah was a preacher of righteousness who found grace in the eyes of God because he walked with God. The Lord spoke to Moses “face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.” David was a man “after God’s own heart.” Jeremiah was known by God before he was born. Daniel was “greatly beloved” of God. Ezekiel was trusted as a watchman over the Jewish people in captivity.

Each of these men knew they were sent by God, worked for God, and answered to God. The supreme example of Jesus is for the preacher to be about his Father’s business, to do the works of Him who sent him, and to preach His word without reservation. “Not my will, but Thy will be done” must be in the heart of every preacher who seeks to be a man of God.

Yet, it is true that some sinners and saints alike will not always understand the

devotion a preacher has to do the will of God and to speak the word of God. Sometimes preaching the truth will cause the preacher to have enemies. Sometimes these enemies “arise from among your own selves.” Sometimes a preacher becomes an enemy for preaching the truth (Galatians 4:16). He must remain a servant of the Lord, rather than men. If he chooses to serve men, he cannot be the servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10).

Only if the preacher’s relationship with God is most valued, will he preach “in season and out of season.” A preacher certainly must love his brethren and the souls of men, but he must love God *more*. Paul, like Ezekiel, was “free from the blood of all men” because he did not hesitate to preach the whole counsel of God.

The great temptation the “professional” preacher faces is that of compromise. If he is content to speak to the brethren those “smooth things” that some want to hear, and to tickle their ears with fables, then their blood will be on his hands. If job security is more important to him than the eternal security of the souls entrusted to his teaching, he will have to answer to God.

Considering the stricter judgment a preacher will face, James admonishes “be not many teachers.” It is unfortunate that some brethren will hold a preacher’s livelihood over his head and dismiss him for preaching the whole counsel of God, but even such heart-wrenching events can be endured through steadfast love of the Lord. Even if everyone in his care forsakes him, the faithful gospel preacher remains in the trusted care and kind providence of the Almighty God.

Preachers must, therefore, guard their relationship with God. The man of God must treasure his relationship with God. “Keep your heart with all diligence!” Even in much fear and trembling, the faithful steward of the word can trust in God and His immeasurable grace to provide strength and comfort in times of need, despair, and distress.

Continued from Page 1: *The Ministry of Reconciliation*

When we were reconciled with God through Christ, we received a ministry of reconciliation, we were entrusted with the message of reconciliation, and we became ambassadors for Christ (2 Cor. 6:3; 9:1-2, 10-15).

Who Do We Reconcile to God?

First, we must reconcile ourselves to God. We do this initially in our conversion, but reconciliation continues in our daily walk (1 John 1:9). As we gently restore our brethren, we must also watch ourselves (Gal. 6:1). When we were lost, we were enemies of God; “now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life” (Rom. 5:10). Our primary goal is to “walk in the light” (1 John 1:7).

We were lost. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. To stay reconciled, we “continue in the grace of God” (Acts 13:43).

We want to share the gospel of reconciliation with other people (Rom. 5:11; Eph. 4:15). Jesus came to “seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). As His people, we want to be “fishers of men” like the early disciples (Mat. 4:19).

While sharing the gospel may look like going across the world, it may also look like going across the street. We want to reconcile former brothers and sisters who have fallen away. James wrote, “My brothers, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and someone brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins” (5:19-20). Consider also, “Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Gal. 6:1-2).

We were lost. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. Now we share a message of reconciliation with those who have never known Jesus and those who have walked away.

We must reconcile with our brethren. In Matthew 5:22-24, Jesus prioritized reconciliation over worship (Matt. 5:22-24). It’s not a competition, but our worship isn’t right without reconciliation among us. Jesus said,

“But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Jesus expounds upon this in Matthew 18:15: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault.” We believe these verses, but do we obey them? Can you name a time when you practiced reconciliation? Scripture is full of examples of reconciliation, providing solutions.

With Jacob and Esau, Jacob was wrong (Gen. 27), but he eventually showed humility (Genesis 32:3-4). With Joseph, his brothers were wrong, but Joseph was still willing to reconcile (Genesis 50:20).

Onesimus seems to have been wrong in Phile. 1:11, and Paul asked Philemon for forgiveness and love (1:8-10, 17).

When Paul tried to join the disciples as a new Christian, they did not believe him and were afraid of him (Acts 9:26). Barnabas served as a minister of reconciliation and Paul gained their acceptance (Acts 9:27-30).

Later, when Paul and John Mark had a disagreement, it was Barnabas who worked with John Mark to keep him involved in the ministry. At the end of his life, in his last biblical letter, Paul wrote, “Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry.” Reconciliation overcame division.

Reconciliation may require going across the world, across the road, or across the auditorium. We were lost. Jesus came to reconcile us to God. We must practice a ministry of reconciliation within the church to maintain fellowship with all who are in fellowship with God.


Your Ministry of Reconciliation

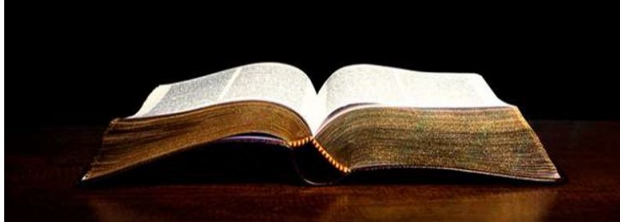
Each of us has a multi-faceted ministry of reconciliation. We are asked to save ourselves (Acts 2:40, Phil. 2:12), the lost (1 Tim. 4:16; Jude 1:21-23), our former brothers and sisters in Christ (James 5:19-20), and our relationships with the saved (Matt. 5:22-24; 18:15).

How old were you when you started your ministry?

Middle Tennessee School of Preaching

Evening Classes ~ Seven Locations





Forgiven and Forgotten

Cody McCoy

Do you find it difficult to forgive others? Do you find it difficult to forgive yourself? We must be willing to forgive ourselves and forgive others because God does . . . willingly. God's greatness lies partially in His ability to forgive and forget. Since we have been forgiven, we forgive others (Matthew 6:14-15). Then we need to put it out of our minds for good. For most of us, this is a difficult challenge. Think about these five aspects of God's ability to be done with transgressions.

He is "The Great Stain Remover." My wife has removed a lot of stains from the family clothing over the years – mud, blood, ketchup, chocolate, ink. But there have also been some stains she could not remove – paint, rust, and many unidentified stains. God is not like that. He can remove all stains from our spiritual garments. "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). There is no stain too stubborn for God to remove. In the New Testament, washing our sins away is a theme associated with the forgiveness of our sins (1 Corinthians 6:11; Hebrews 10:22; Revelation 1:5; 7:14). It is reassuring to know our garments can be pure white again.

God is "The Great Eraser." I can remember being in elementary school and making mistakes on my paper. I erased and erased and erased, but it was still there—my mistake, mostly gone—but still there. Sometimes I tried to erase my mistake so hard, I tore the paper.

With God, no erasing is partial. It is completely erased; there is not a trace of it in His mind. "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25). "Blots out" in the original language is the idea of not only erasing or obliterating but smoothing over. There is not even a faint trace of my mistakes on my soul, unlike the erased paper. My soul is like new.

God is "The Great Forgetter." The second part of that verse in Isaiah highlights God's ability to forget, which you and I do not have. In Jeremiah 31:34, God tells the prophet, "And I will remember their sin no more." We re-visit old sins far too often; we keep them too close in our minds. We allow them to discourage us over and over. Forgiveness of sins should give us comfort and encourage us to move forward.

He is "The Great Separator." Think about this incredible declaration: "As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). If you travel north long enough, you reach the North pole then you begin traveling south. However, if you travel east, then you are always traveling east. If you are traveling west, you are always traveling west. The known universe is 13.3 billion light years wide. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second. Doing simple math, one light year is 5.88 trillion miles x 13.3 billion years

The number you get is astounding! Seventy-six sextillion, two hundred and fifty-four quintillion, forty-eight quadrillion, and some odd miles away. God

is separating you from your sin in such a dramatic fashion so you can understand the true meaning of forgiveness. It is gone.

Finally, God is "The Great Hider." My mom was a great Easter egg hider, but we always found them. My children were great at hide-and-seek, but we always found them. God said He will cast our sins into the depths of the sea. Did you know Marianas Trench is the deepest place on earth? Only a couple of men have ever been to the place called the Challenger Deep at over 35,000 feet. That is almost seven miles into the ocean. The Titanic was found at 12,500 feet; it would have to fall two more times to reach that depth. When James Cameron attempted a submarine dive, there was so much pressure on his vessel that his batteries started to fade, his sonar failed, and some of his thrusters quit working. God cast our sins so far down because they are not to be explored anymore. He does not want us to find them.

How are you doing with sins that have been forgiven? Are you letting go of your sins that God has forgiven? Have you forgotten the sins you have forgiven in others? When you take care of them the right way, with repentance and confession, God takes those sins to places you should not go. So let them go. When you hang onto your sins or the sins of others against you, you are denying the power of God to forgive them. Do not be haunted by sins God has cleansed, erased, forgotten, separated, and hidden. This freedom will allow you to serve Him better and love Him more.



Have you ever wondered why a bird sleeping on its perch never falls off? The secret is the tendons of the bird's legs. They are so constructed that when the leg is bent at the knee, the claws contract and grip like a steel trap. The claws refuse to let go until the knees are unbent again. The bended knee gives the bird the ability to hold on to his perch. It gives it stability in its life.

Just like a bird's bent knee helps that bird stay balanced and safe through the long hours of darkness, a knee bent in prayer enables a Christian to get a firmer grip on life as well as the wisdom needed for decision making.

A man working in an ice factory lost a valuable watch. His fellow workmen searched with him for more than two hours through the sawdust on which the ice was stored, but they were unable to find it. They left the plant for lunch and returned to find a little boy with the watch in his hand. "How ever did you find it?" they inquired. He replied, "I just lay down in the sawdust and heard it ticking."

Sometimes we try to find God in our business, our activity, and our noise, but we cannot find God that way. We must be still and quiet; then we can know that He is God.

How often do you pray about the decisions of life? What did Jesus do when he was faced with a big decision? He prayed. Simply that. He prayed. We want to be like Jesus, so we should look to him for ways to deal with all of life's struggles. He felt the same temptations and

pain that we feel, but because He was locked into a relationship with God, He was able to overcome everything and do the will of the Father.

People often think they are too busy to pray, but that is a matter of priorities. We are too busy not to pray. We are so busy now that without prayer, we could not make it through the day.

"The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases Him" (Proverbs 15:8).

"He will respond to the prayer of the destitute; He will not despise their plea" (Psalm 102:17).

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray" (James 5:13).



West Virginia School of Preaching

2 Willard Avenue
Moundsville, WV 20641
304-845-8001
Email: recwvsop@aol.com

Why Choose Us ...

- Biblical Foundation*
- Accelerated 2-Year Program*
- Excellent Preaching Opportunities*
- Qualified Instructors*
- Transferrable Credits*



The real question is...WHY NOT?

Start your life's journey by contacting us today!



**Let IGH be a part of your
congregation's evangelism plan!**

Contact us for information and graphics to use in your:

- PowerPoint announcements
- House to House Heart to Heart mailings
- Church bulletins
- Bulletin boards
- All your congregation's informational materials



Contact Jeff Archey
jeff@internationalgospelhour.com



Broken But Valuable

Johnny O. Trail

C.B. Arnett was the first person in the Southeastern United States to import antiques and other items from Europe. I met Mr. Arnett when I worked for him to earn some extra money as a student at MTSU. As we interacted over a ten-year period of time, he shared some very interesting stories regarding his quest for antiques at various European destinations.

As he searched for antiques, he found some in the most unusual of places. One source he sometimes considered was the sale of unclaimed items of various airlines that served European hubs. He found some unique items such as a miniature horse drawn carriage that he maintained in his home. He also purchased a piece of Russian artwork that he bought from an abandoned items bend. At the time of purchase, the artwork had been broken into two pieces but was otherwise very pretty.

After arriving back in the states, he took the two pieces of broken art and carefully glued them back together. To look at the art, one might not think much of it. It was part of an old trunk in the shape of an arch that had a religious image painted on it. Upon appraisal at his estate sale, the Russian iconographic art appraised for ten thousand dollars. Who could have imagined

that an old broken piece of artwork would be so valuable.

Just like the painting in the preceding paragraphs, many people feel broken and unworthy of God's love. God can take things that are broken, mend them, and make them better than they were before. Invariably there are people who will respond to the preceding sentence by saying, "You have no idea about the terrible things I have done."

As human beings, we tend to rank the severity of various sins. Most reason that murder is the worst possible thing that a person can be guilty of in this life. Other sins tend to fall beneath this one regarding human rationales. The sentencing in human judicial systems follows this same reasoning and the punishments are tailored to suit the crime depending upon the severity of the crime committed.

Even so, God can forgive any sin that a person is willing to repent of in their life. When one considers the long list of transgressions that Paul gives regarding the former sins of the Corinthian brethren, it becomes evident that they had been guilty of every possible transgression. 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 says, "Do you not know that the

unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God." These sins typically make the top of the list of wrongs that we sometimes think of from a human standpoint.

Even so, they were able to obtain the forgiveness that is found for those in Christ. Notice the later part of the passage. 1 Corinthians 6:11 says, "And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." Simply stated, they repented and were baptized (Cf. Acts 2:38).

Not listed among the sins that Paul enumerates in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 is the sin of murder. While it is not mentioned, we know that it is a sin for which one can receive forgiveness. After all the same Paul who penned these words was guilty of conspiring to murder a good man named Stephen in the book of Acts. Acts 8:1a says, "Now Saul was consenting to his death..."

At the point of baptism, all of Paul's sins—even the sin of murder—were washed away. Acts 22:16 says, "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." If God can forgive one who murdered innocent Christians, He can potentially forgive humankind of the most egregious sins through obedience to the gospel.

Obedience to the gospel saved Paul, and it saved the brethren at Corinth. 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 says, "Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel

which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.”

The most despicable act of sin does not stop with the murder of innocent Christians. It was committed at Calvary with the murder of Jesus Christ. Several of the ten commandments were broken so that the Sanhedrin could murder the Messiah.

Even so, God was willing to forgive those who murdered His Son in the most cruel manner imaginable. Luke 23:34 says, “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.’ And they divided His garments and cast lots.” While we sometimes think about those who physically lied, convicted, and nailed Jesus

to the tree as being most accountable for His death, the reality of things is all our sins nailed Jesus to that tree.

Inasmuch as we have all sinned, we all have a part in murdering the Son of God. Our sins—the “big” ones and the “little” ones—nailed Jesus to the cross. 1 Peter 2:24 says, “Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”

We are broken from our sins. This brokenness can only be fixed by Jesus’ sacrifice. Furthermore, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 says, “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”

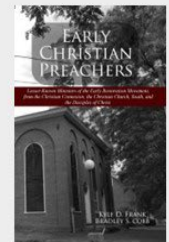
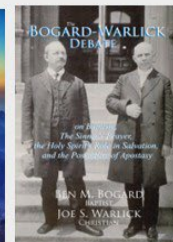
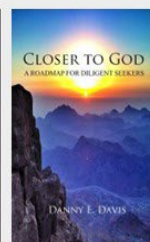
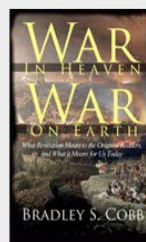
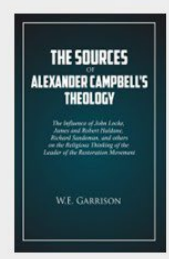
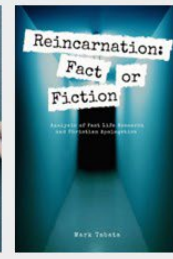
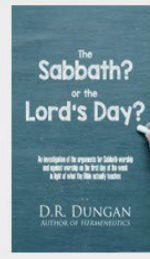
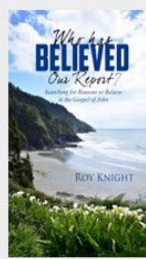
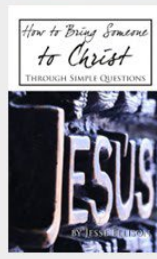
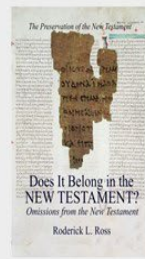
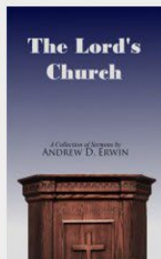
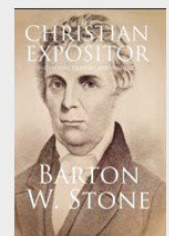
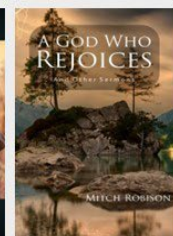
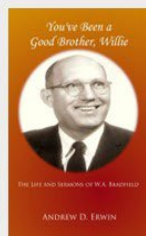
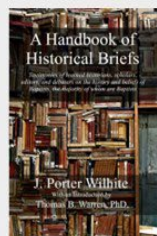
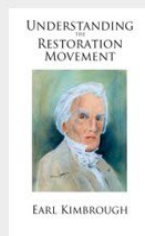
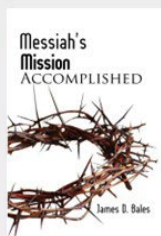
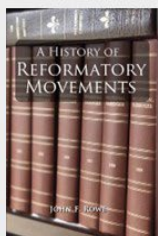
Sadly, there are some so broken that they do not know what to do to be made “whole” again from their transgressions. God offers salvation to all those humble enough to acknowledge their wrongs and seek the proper remedy for their sins (James 4:6-10).

You might be broken from your sin, but you have great value in the eyes of God. Consider Romans 5:5-8 which says, “Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

COBB PUBLISHING

MAKING BOOKS WORTH READING

www.cobbpublishing.com



Worldwide Preacher Training

Books Shipped

We recently shipped 49 boxes of books (numbering between 800-1000 books) as well as tracts and periodicals to Mission Printing in Arlington, Texas. Mission Printing will help us ship the books to the West Coast School of Preaching in Ghana and Asian Christian University in the Philippines.

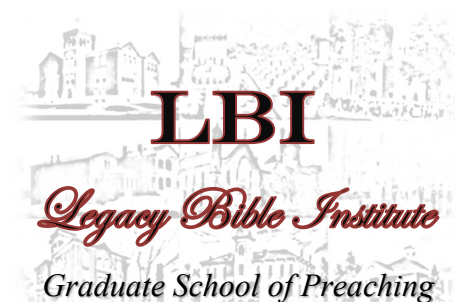
I hope to continue supplying schools with books and make this a regular facet of our work. If you have or know of someone – possibly a retired preacher – who is looking to donate a portion of his library to a worthy cause, please contact us.

Possible Travel Plans

Nothing has been set for certain yet, but I have an opportunity to take part in an evangelistic campaign in the Philippines this summer and have been invited to return to South Africa this fall. Please pray for these plans to be fulfilled.

Laying the Foundation

Much of my work in the first quarter of 2024 has focused on laying the foundation for the Legacy Bible Institute. We have plenty of prospective students – too many actually – which is great. But before we begin teaching courses, we must lay the foundation.



We are currently looking into establishing the school as a non-profit organization. We are also seeking to ascertain if state licensing will be required. Each of these will require assembling a board of directors, formulating a school catalog, faculty handbook,

etc. It's not glamorous work, but it is necessary.

Thankfully, God has providentially blessed us with people who are experts in this field. We cannot complete a strong foundation without surrounding ourselves with quality people to assist us in the work. As the work develops, I hope to have more good news and updates to share.

The curriculum for the courses to be offered is also near completion. The degree we intend to offer will focus on doctrinal studies. Many of the students will have completed studies in the books of the Bible but will need more attention given to the doctrines of the Bible.

Our courses will seek to educate them on doctrinal matters, while endeavoring to answer their questions, and equip them with the knowledge to instruct others in their respective ministries.

The capabilities for online courses will cut down on the costs of travel, but many of these students will still need to purchase laptops and secure wi-fi connections. We will also be supplying each student with a digital library consisting of 22,000 volumes.

Marketing is also something I have been looking into more seriously. We are looking into website construction and a YouTube channel for the school. As I said, it's not glamorous work, but it's necessary. We hope to have as many wrinkles ironed out as possible before classes begin.

I covet your prayers and thank God for you!

Andy Erwin

andyerwin@gospelgleaner.com



Summerdale Church of Christ
c/o Worldwide Preacher Training
PO Box 314
Summerdale, AL 36580
Office: (251) 989-7748

Andy Erwin
(256) 627-3215
andyerwin@gospelgleaner.com



What Must I Do to Be Saved?



House to House
Heart to Heart

House to House Heart to Heart

One HUGE mailing. Three million homes.

We are inviting every church of Christ in the country to participate in the July issue of *House to House/Heart to Heart*. This year's big issue will address, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" A Study of Acts 2:38.

Your congregation can reach a home in your community with a customized magazine for just 40¢ (which pays for customizing, printing, and mailing it for you). You pray and plan the follow up, and we will take care of everything else. This is perhaps the most important issue we have ever sent. Let's tell the people in your community what to do to be saved.

Please respond by May 25. Simply call Matt Wallin toll-free at 1-877-338-3397 or email Matt@housetohouse.com.



House to House Heart to Heart VOLUME 29 NUMBER 7

Your Congregation
CHURCH of CHRIST
100 Address line 1
City name, State, 12345
123.456.7890
email address
www.website.com
www.housetohouse.com

SUNDAY
Bible Classes (all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY
College-Age Devs 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY
Bible Class 8:00 a.m.

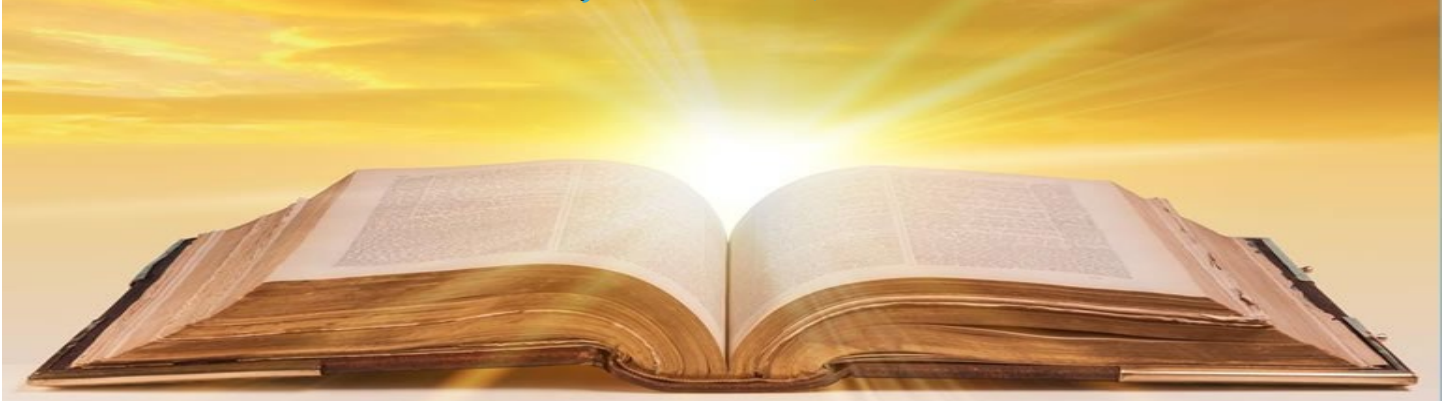
WEDNESDAY
Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

FREE COMMUNITY SERVICES
• Jacksonville Christian Student Center for BDU Students (M-F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.)
• Bible Study Courses by Mail
• In-Home DVD Series
• Free Transportation to Our Services
• Headphones for the Hearing Impaired
• Bible Literature on a Variety of Subjects

You are encouraged to watch
Getting to know how Bible with Bible Landmark
The Bible Landmark series can be seen on 1 public Channel
24/7 and on 1 TV Channel 24/7 (Dish 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 1158, 1159, 1160, 1161, 1162, 1163, 1164, 1165, 1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 1238, 1239, 1240, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1247, 1248, 1249, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1254, 1255, 1256, 1257, 1258, 1259, 1260, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264, 1265, 1266, 1267, 1268, 1269, 1270, 1271, 1272, 1273, 1274, 1275, 1276, 1277, 1278, 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283, 1284, 1285, 1286, 1287, 1288, 1289, 1290, 1291, 1292, 1293, 1294, 1295, 1296, 1297, 1298, 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 1463, 1464, 1465, 1466, 1467, 1468, 1469, 1470, 1471, 1472, 1473, 1474, 1475, 1476, 1477, 1478, 1479, 1480, 1481, 1482, 1483, 1484, 1485, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493, 1494, 1495, 1496, 1497, 1498, 1499, 1500, 1501, 1502, 1503, 1504, 1505, 1506, 1507, 1508, 1509, 1510, 1511, 1512, 1513, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519, 1520, 1521, 1522, 1523, 1524, 1525, 1526, 1527, 1528, 1529, 1530, 1531, 1532, 1533, 1534, 1535, 1536, 1537, 1538, 1539, 1540, 1541, 1542, 1543, 1544, 1545, 1546, 1547, 1548, 1549, 1550, 1551, 1552, 1553, 1554, 1555, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1559, 1560, 1561, 1562, 1563, 1564, 1565, 1566, 1567, 1568, 1569, 1570, 1571, 1572, 1573, 1574, 1575, 1576, 1577, 1578, 1579, 1580, 1581, 1582, 1583, 1584, 1585, 1586, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1591, 1592, 1593, 1594, 1595, 1596, 1597, 1598, 1599, 1600, 1601, 1602, 1603, 1604, 1605, 1606, 1607, 1608, 1609, 1610, 1611, 1612, 1613, 1614, 1615, 1616, 1617, 1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624, 1625, 1626, 1627, 1628, 1629, 1630, 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634, 1635, 1636, 1637, 1638, 1639, 1640, 1641, 1642, 1643, 1644, 1645, 1646, 1647, 1648, 1649, 1650, 1651, 1652, 1653, 1654, 1655, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1664, 1665, 1666, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1673, 1674, 1675, 1676, 1677, 1678, 1679, 1680, 1681, 1682, 1683, 1684, 1685, 1686, 1687, 1688, 1689, 1690, 1691, 1692, 1693, 1694, 1695, 1696, 1697, 1698, 1699, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1703, 1704, 1705, 1706, 1707, 1708, 1709, 1710, 1711, 1712, 1713, 1714, 1715, 1716, 1717, 1718, 1719, 1720, 1721, 1722, 1723, 1724, 1725, 1726, 1727, 1728, 1729, 1730, 1731, 1732, 1733, 1734, 1735, 1736, 1737, 1738, 1739, 1740, 1741, 1742, 1743, 1744, 1745, 1746, 1747, 1748, 1749, 1750, 1751, 1752, 1753, 1754, 1755, 1756, 1757, 1758, 1759, 1760, 1761, 1762, 1763, 1764, 1765, 1766, 1767, 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, 1773, 1774, 1775, 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, 1780, 1781, 1782, 1783, 1784, 1785, 1786, 1787, 1788, 1789, 1790, 1791, 1792, 1793, 1794, 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, 1810, 1811, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823, 1824, 1825, 1826, 1827, 1828, 1829, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842, 1843, 1844, 1845, 1846, 1847, 1848, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147,

The Prophetic Word Confirmed

John T. Polk, II



“For [1] we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. [2] For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. [3] And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; [4] knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.” (2 Peter 1:16-21) *(the numbers in brackets were added for clarity in this article)*

1. Neither the Old Testament prophecies nor their fulfillment were made-up “myths” (“fables” is the word “myths”=tales, stories, lore, etc.). People who make allegorical

applications of miracles or fulfilled prophecies disqualify themselves as “disciples” of God’s Word. Jesus’ question to the Sadducees: “have you not read in the book of Moses” (Mark 12:26) must be answered with “Absolutely Not!” Only those ignorant of the New Testament can be easily misled. “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness” (2 Timothy 2:15-16).

2. Peter repeats his eyewitness account of Jesus’ Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-9; Luke 9:28-36). He saw Jesus receive “the honor and glory” from “God the Father” to become “His Majesty.” He heard “the Excellent Glory” say, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Both sight and sound were accurately recorded in Scripture, and Peter is leaving “a reminder of these things after my decease” (2 Peter 1:15). Peter, James and John witnessed this transfiguration, so John later could

write: “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life-- the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us-- that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ” (1 John 1:1-3). These are God-inspired, Holy Spirit-controlled, written records of this event in the life of Christ. If this is an accurately recorded event, then there is no reason, whatsoever, to doubt that every other fact of Jesus’ life has also been precisely written and preserved by the Holy Spirit.

3. This is God’s Pattern for showing fulfillment(s) of Bible prophecies. “And so” is saying, “after this manner,” or “following this procedure.” The New Testament documents give facts which confirm Old Testament prophecies. With the “prophetic word confirmed,”

it is as clear as light shining through darkness, or of the day star of dawn. We would use the expression “a light of understanding has turned on in our minds.” It is distressing to see millions misled from prophetic accuracy by ignoring the clear fulfillment in the New Testament! God knew what His prophecies meant and what, exactly, is their fulfillment, therefore, only the fulfillment interprets the prophecy! Here is a few of the hundreds of prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ:

1) God promised Abraham: “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice” (**Genesis 22:18**). The New Testament interpretation is: “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ” (Galatians 3:16). *“And so” we have another “prophetic word confirmed.”*

2) God said through David: “For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption” (Psalm 16:10). In the New Testament, Peter preached: “For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption... Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on

his throne, he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses” (Acts 2:27, 30-32). Peter and the Apostles personally witnessed the fulfillment of God’s prophecy through David in the Old Testament, *“and so” we have another “prophetic word confirmed.”* The New Testament begins with the Book of Matthew which freely quotes Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment(s), and the church of Christ began on Pentecost preaching prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

3) God said through Isaiah: “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). The New Testament records: “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us’” (Matthew 1:22-23). God promised through Isaiah and noted its fulfillment through Matthew. Never were the conditions given in Isaiah fully met nor identified by God as applying to any other persons before this virgin, Mary, and her baby, Jesus. Therefore

“Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us’” has never applied to anyone other than this Jesus (**Matthew 1:23**). *“And so” we have another “prophetic word confirmed.”*

4. Therefore, “No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation.” Actually, “interpretation” refers to “opening the meaning,” and since “prophecy never came by the will of man,” *i.e.*, humans were not left to their own imagination or literary devices, then the only other source of Bible information is from “holy men of God [who] spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.” Since God knew ahead of time what would happen and He moved prophets to accurately record it (Old Testament), then He inspired men who accurately revealed the events which fulfilled, or completely met, the details in those prophecies (New Testament). *“And so” we have all “prophetic word[s] confirmed.”*

Since Bible “faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), it is essential that we “may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior” (2 Peter 3:2). Don’t ever listen to those who preach “unfulfilled prophecies,” because they do not have God’s knowledge to make the proper application(s).

Some Rules for Right Living

James 1:19-21

Introduction:

1. I heard someone suggest that there are three things every young preacher needs to learn: (1) How to stand up; (2) How to speak up; (3) How to shut up! Possibly that advice came after over exposure to some old preacher.

2. I read where a young man was sent to Socrates to learn oratory. On being introduced to the philosopher he talked so incessantly that Socrates asked for double fees. “Why charge me double?” asked the young fellow. “Because”, replied the orator, “I must teach you two sciences, the one how to hold your tongue, the other how to speak.”
3. Brother James wrote of Christian Living and his epistle is full of practical instruction. These three verses place before us four practical rules to follow.

Discussion:

I. A Rule For The Ear.

- A. “Be swift to hear.” Eager, ready to hear. Matt. 13:23
- B. Some folks are very eager to hear the wrong things.
 1. Eve heard Satan, and what she wanted to hear.
 2. Some are ready to hear gossip, slander, lies, etc.
- C. Ready to hear the word of God (see verses 18, 21, 22).

II. A Rule For The Tongue.

- A. Be “slow to speak”. Cautious about words.
- B. Hear what Solomon said: Prov. 29:20; Eccl. 5:2.
- C. “The talking man makes himself artificially deaf, being like a man in the steeple when the bells ring.”

III. A Rule For The Temper.

- A. Be “slow to wrath”. Display of temper.
- B. Carnal anger, like other sins, can keep one out of the kingdom of God. Gal. 5:19-21
- C. Wrath is a failure to work the righteousness of God. Prov. 14:17; 16:32; Ecc. 7:9. “It is impossible that the bitter root of wrath can produce the sweet fruit of righteousness.”

IV. A Rule For The Conduct.

- A. “Wherefore lay apart” (Put off: Col. 3:8)
 1. “All filthiness” – Sin is a defiling thing!
 2. “Superfluity of naughtiness” – the overflowing of badness and vice.
- B. We cannot expect some “miracle” to expel these things.
- C. We must receive the word of God.
 1. It is the seed of the kingdom.
 2. “With meekness” – In humility, not in the spirit of resentment.
 3. It can save the soul. Rom. 1:16; Acts 20:32

Conclusion:

1. There are three classes of men: (1) Those who neither hear or do the word; (2) Those who hear it but do it not; (3) Those who both hear and do it.
2. Herod listened to John the Baptist gladly and did many things, but not one thing needful. Mark 6:20

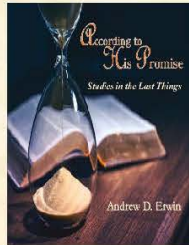
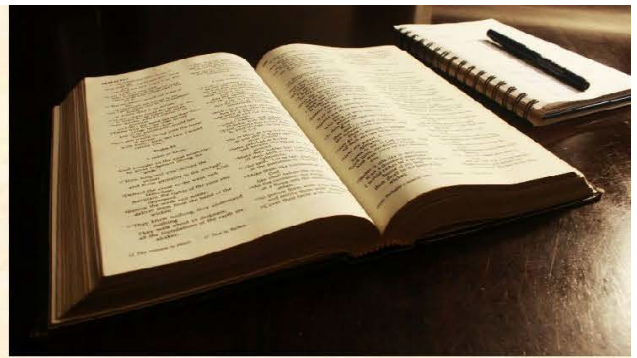
-Mike Kiser

Trusted Biblical Studies for Adult Classes and Individuals

by Andrew D. Erwin, Ph.D.

Editor, *Gospel Gleaner*

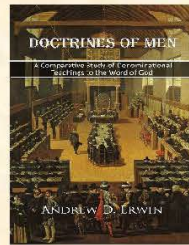
Director, Worldwide Preacher Training



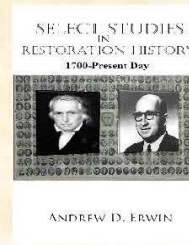
According to His Promise: Studies in the Last Things
\$14.99



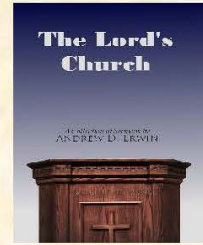
Each One Reach One: Studies in Church Growth and Personal Evangelism
\$15.95



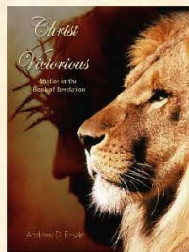
Doctrines of Men: Studies in Prominent Denominational Teachings
\$14.99



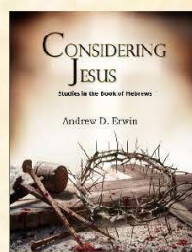
Select Studies in Restoration History
\$12.95



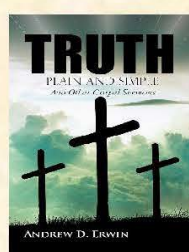
The Lord's Church Outlines on the New Testament Church
\$12.99



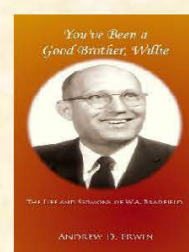
Christ Victorious: Studies in the Book of Revelation
\$14.99



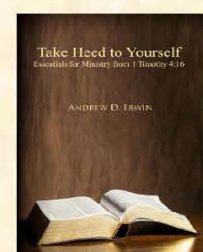
Considering Jesus: Studies in the Book of Hebrews
\$14.99



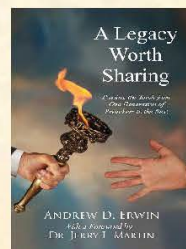
Truth Plain and Simple and Other Gospel Sermons
\$15.95



You've Been a Good Brother, Willie: The Life and Sermons of W.A. Bradfield
\$14.99



Take Heed to Yourself: Essentials in Ministry from 1 Timothy 4:16
\$9.99



A Legacy Worth Sharing: Passing the Torch from One Generation of Preachers to the Next
\$9.99

Order from andyerwin@gospelgleaner.com

Ask about discounts and free shipping for orders of 20 or more.

We accept PayPal, Venmo, and Checks

AS BRIGHT AS THE PROMISES OF GOD

Allen Webster

When Adoniah Judson went as a missionary to Burma, he was soon put into prison. An enemy ridiculed him, saying, “How bright are your prospects now?” Judson replied, “Only as bright as the promises of God.” While Judson did not understand the New Testament church, he understood that much.

God is a promise-keeping God (Joshua 22:4, “as he promised”). “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son” (1 Corinthians 1:9). God made no promise or threat that He did not keep. His promises rest on four pillars:

- Omnipotence (He can do what He promised, Genesis 18:14).
- Omniscience (He will not forget what He promised, Proverbs 15:3).
- Omnibenevolence (He will not tease us with promises He does not intend to keep, 1 John 4:8).
- Integrity (He cannot lie, Titus 1:2).

God gave exceeding great and precious promises (2 Peter 3:9). Consider three:

GOD PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS.

He taught us to pray: “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). He will provide our meals as surely as He set a table of manna for His people in the wilderness for forty years (Exodus 16-Joshua 5:12). Jesus said, “Seek

ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33; cf. Psalm 37:25). Harry Ironside had D.L. Moody’s Bible for what he called a “never-to-be-forgotten” night, and noticed in the margin by Philippians 4:19 these notes:

The Christian’s Bank Note:

President of the Bank: “My God”

Promise to Pay: “Shall Supply”

The Amount: “All you need”

The Capital of the Bank: “According to his riches in glory”

The Cashier’s Name: “Christ Jesus”

GOD PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR EMOTIONAL NEEDS.

We can cast our cares upon Him (1 Peter 5:7). He will never leave nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

A minister was traveling on a train with a young man. The youth was religious, but weak in faith, and had many temptations. He told the preacher he did not think he would be able to stand life a week longer. The minister reached into his pocket and took out a Bible and a pocketknife, and said, “I will make this pocketknife stand on this Bible, in spite of the rocking of the train.” The young man, thinking it was a trick, said, “That will not be easy to do, sir.” “But

I am doing it.” The youth said, “But you are holding it.” The minister said, “Why, of course; did you ever hear of a pocketknife standing up without being held?” The young man said, “I see. You mean to teach me that I cannot stand unless Christ holds me.”

God has promised to comfort those in sorrow (Isaiah 66:13; Psalm 147:3). He is so good at it, He is called “the God of all comfort” (2 Corinthians 1:3). What methods does God use to comfort us?

- His Word (Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:18);
- His People (2 Corinthians 1:4; Romans 12:15); examples: Mary and Martha (John 11:35); the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-18); the friends of Dorcas (Acts 9:36-43);
- Answers to Prayer (James 5:13; cf. 2 Kings 19:14; Job 34:28; Psalm 43:1; 73; Acts 16);
- Knowledge of the resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

As the songwriter put it:

Does Jesus care when I’ve said ‘good-bye’

To the dearest on earth to me,

And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks—

Is it aught to Him? Does He see?

*O yes, He cares; I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long
nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.*

He gives us hope. We will one day get to go to a better place (2 Cor. 4:17-5:1; Jn. 14:1-3).

GOD PROMISED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR SPIRITUAL NEEDS.

God is the only one who can heal all the soul's diseases. God made provisions in Christ for a common salvation (Jude 1:3). Christ made it possible through His blood (Ephesians 1:6-7).

God promised He will not allow us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). He knows how to deliver from temptation (2 Peter 2:9; Jude 1:24; cf. Matthew 4:1-11). We play in the process, of course, but Peter said that God will deliver the godly out of temptation (cf. John 8:31; 14:15).

The Lord will take care of us in the hour of death (Psalm 23). A little girl was brought to a doctor with an eyelid cut. He thought it best not to give her any anesthetic, so he asked her if she could keep from jumping when he used the needle. She answered, "I can, if Daddy will hold my hand." And she never flinched.

We can go the chilly waters of death without flinching if we hold Jesus' hand. Consider the example of Moses (Deuteronomy 34:1-7), Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31), and the thief on the cross (Luke 23:43). If we can live without regrets, we can live without fear. One man said, "No man ever regretted being a Christian on his deathbed" (Psalm 116:15). Death is only the passing into

the new world where we can live with God.

The next time your prospects begin to look dim, turn on the light of God's promises.

(Material for this article was adapted from a sermon and unpublished class notes by Wendell Winkler.)

GTKYB
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

FREE BIBLE STUDY HELPS BY BILLY LAMBERT

20 GOSPEL SERMONS
SIMPLE SERMONS ABOUT GRACE, TRUTH, THE CROSS, SALVATION, AND A HOME IN HEAVEN.
BY BILLY LAMBERT
PREPARE FOR THE AFTERLIFE AND TO ETERNITY PROGRAM
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

THE HARVEST OF AN EVANGELISTIC CHURCH
A SOUL STIRRING BOOK ABOUT PERSONAL EVANGELISM AND FULFILLING THE GREAT COMMISSION.
BY BILLY LAMBERT
PREPARE FOR THE AFTERLIFE AND TO ETERNITY PROGRAM
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

SEEKING GOD AFTER THE DUE ORDER
LEARNING TO NAVIGATE TOUGH TOPICS, ESTABLISH BIBLICAL AUTHORITY & STAY GROUNDED IN TRUTH.
BY BILLY LAMBERT
PREPARE FOR THE AFTERLIFE AND TO ETERNITY PROGRAM
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE

[f](#) [i](#) [G](#) [t](#) [S](#)

www.gettingtoknowyourbible.com

**NASHVILLE SCHOOL OF PREACHING
AND BIBLICAL STUDIES**

A MINISTRY OF THE CRIEVE HALL CHURCH OF CHRIST

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Gospel Gleaner



For the Lord, His Word, and His Church

www.gospelgleaner.com

Thanks for Reading!