

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul...

THE TESTIMONY

...of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Psalm 19:7

— VERSE OF THE MONTH —

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God..." Isa. 9:6

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BRIGHTEST AND BEST

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness and lend us thine aid,
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Say, shall we yield Him, in costly devotion,
Odors of Edom and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
Vainly with gifts would His favor secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration,
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

Cold on His cradle the dew drops are shining,
Low lies His head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore Him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

Reginald Heber

THE TESTIMONY

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To Eve He gave promise
and hope that through her
seed (posterity) the head of
Satan would be bruised
(Hebrews 2:14).

EDITORIAL

MADE OF A WOMAN

From the Bible we can see that man has been a special part of God's focus in creation and redemption. When man disobeyed God and fell from a close relationship with Him, it did not take God by surprise. Rather, He had a marvelous plan of salvation in mind with many intricate details. The role of the woman is a very interesting part of this whole picture.

First of all, the first man Adam and his wife were both "special made." It seems all the rest of creation God spoke into existence, but for Adam the Lord God formed him of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. The creation of Eve was perhaps even more unique. When there was not found a help meet for Adam, God took a rib from Adam and made a woman and brought her unto him. I think she was beautiful and glorious, just the right help-meet for Adam. God created them male and female and blessed them and said, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." From this union and many since then, the earth was populated.

The next thing we would like to consider is the role of the woman in the fall. God had told man he could eat the fruit of all the trees of the garden of Eden but the tree

of the knowledge of good and evil. The serpent, Satan, deceived Eve to believe God did not mean everything like she understood it, and she would be better by partaking. She took of the fruit and did eat and gave to her husband with her, and he did eat. We read in I Timothy 2:14 that Adam was not deceived. He was with her and did eat, and they fell together. I'm thankful God arranged it to be that way so we can be heirs together of the grace of life (I Peter 3:7).

Next, let's look at God's plan of restoration. He did not destroy Adam and Eve, but made them part of the plan. He did not curse Adam. He cursed Satan and the ground for our sake, and He later cursed Cain, but not Adam. To Eve He gave promise and hope that through her seed (posterity) the head of Satan would be bruised (Hebrews 2:14) and through the posterity of Satan he would only be able to bruise the heel of Christ. This brings us to our title "Made of a Woman" and the season of the year. In Galatians 4:4-5 Paul writes, "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." God established the law and the Jewish culture Christ grew up under. God taught us many things through Adam's part: the seed of David (Romans 1:3)

and the seed of Abraham (Galatians 3:16). But God chose to make it clear through Eve's part that Christ our Savior would be born of a woman and of God, not a natural man. Mary was a virgin found with child of the Holy Ghost, not Joseph.

Even though the woman was instrumental in the fall, she is also an important part of the provisions of God to get us from time to eternity with a blessing and not a curse. I Timothy 2:15 says "she (and we all) shall be saved in childbearing." In the fulness of time Jesus was born of Mary. We have learned a lot more about God through the fall. I think the re-

deemed man is better than the created man.

One last thing. I like to think it was Christ who built the woman of the rib of Adam. "All things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3). He made her beautiful and glorious, a help meet for Adam. He is now building a bride for Himself, a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but it shall be holy and without blemish (Eph. 5:27). May we yield ourselves to the work of Christ in our lives to be a part of that "special made" glorious bride.

Roger Rapp

SEASONAL

JESUS' BIRTH—A TIME OF CONTRAST

When God came to earth in the person of Jesus, a babe to Bethlehem, it was like no other time before or since. It was a time both of contrasts and of similarities. It was a time of conflict and of peace. It was a time of good news and a time of judgement. It was a time of great joy as well as sorrow. Let us look at only a few of the contrasts.

From Near and From Far

It had long been prophesied, even from the time of the prophet Micah, that Jesus would come to the town of Beth-lehem Ephratah in the land of Judah. Many of the people involved were from the immediate area of Bethlehem and nearby Jerusalem. However, the young lady who was to be His

earthly mother, lived in far-off Nazareth in the land of Galilee some ninety miles distant by the most direct route—or more if one is to take the route by the Jordon River. In addition, there were wise men who came to this visitation "from the East." In Hebrew times "the East" was far away at an unspecified site. It could have been Babylon or Mesopotamia but those would usually have been mentioned by name. These men may have been from as far as the land of Sinim (Is. 49:12) from which we get the prefix Sino- which means China. At any rate, they came from far, far to the East.

Earth-bound Humans and Heaven's Angels

Many of the persons involved in the record of His birth were human. But, in addition to the earth-

bound, there were also those who came from even farther than the Sino-Asian land now called China. There were heavenly beings that came from light years away, from the other realm—from the heavens where God dwells. While it may have taken days for Joseph and Mary to plod and ride the dusty roads of Galilee and Judea, these were bound by neither time nor distance. Luke said that “suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God...” Instantly. From another realm—far away. Or maybe not so far away, if we only knew.

Poor Shepherds and Wealthy Kings

People were present from various walks of life. Shepherds were among the lowest of the working class in those days. They were outdoors men, their already dark skin tanned by years in the sun. They may not have had homes as we do, or others in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. They may have slept in Bedouin tents—or maybe not. Perhaps they slept out of doors on the ground beneath the stars. Often those who kept the sheep for the shepherds were only lads earning a little on which they and their siblings might exist.

On the other hand, there were those wise men “from the East.” Isaiah speaks of the coming of our Lord in chapter 60: “...the forces of the Gentiles shall come unto thee. The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring gold and incense; and they shall shew

forth the praises of the LORD.” Midian, Ephah, and Sheba were on the trade routes from the far, far East. Further Isaiah said, “And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.” “...to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee.” Or perhaps these kings were from the nearer East, descendants of Judeans who had been taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar beginning ca. 596 b. c. These would have known the Holy Scriptures and prophecies and may have been looking for the coming of Messiah.

To Worship and to Slay

When Jesus came as a child to Bethlehem many came to worship. The angels worshipped. The shepherds worshipped. The Magi worshipped. Since that day, over the millennia, over the whole earth, myriads have worshipped. And in the ceaseless ages of the Other World “ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” will worship. But Satan was there from the birth to try to block the worship of God. Harod decreed that all the children (both boys and girls) from two years and under be slain. But this only fulfilled the prophecy of God through Jeremiah (31:15), “Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.”

God's Chosen People and All Nations

The coming of Jesus was to all nations. While God worked through Israel, salvation was to all creation as affirmed by saintly Simeon when he quoted from Isaiah, "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

With Many Words and With None

The gospels of Matthew and Luke quote at length the sayings of Angels, Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, Anna ("...who spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem..."), and others. But of Joseph, the husband of Mary and the supposed father figure to Jesus in His youth, we read not a word. It seems that Joseph went about his life and duties in a quiet manner obediently doing the will of the Lord.

Salvation to a Lost World

"Lost" and "salvation." Is that not a contrast! The human race was lost. Hopelessly adrift in sin. Totally without hope. In II Chronicles 15:3 we read of one who said of Israel, "Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law." Centuries later Paul wrote to the gentiles at Ephesus, "...at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world..." After some four thousand years of

dealing with the sin of Adam, one would think that God would consider bringing an end to the whole human race.

But no, in spite of the fact that His coming was accompanied by many contrasts, God is steadfast, secure, dependable, and above all else, ever merciful. Away back in the book of Exodus (34:6) we read, "And the LORD passed by before him [Moses], and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth..." In II Chronicles 30:9 we read, "For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive...for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him." God could have been justified in destroying disobedient mankind but as the prophet Joel wrote, "Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil."

This season, the greatest gift of all is that God reached down to mankind, offered His Son as a sacrifice of salvation, and is ever ready to receive those who willingly come to Him in repentance. What a Gift!

Marcus Miller

THE WAY OF PEACE

“...the dayspring from on high hath visited us, To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” Luke 1:78–79

The dayspring mentioned is Jesus—The Prince of Peace. He is also The Light, to give light into our lives that we need not sit in darkness, and not sit in the shadow of fear waiting for the appointment of dreaded death. The Bible says we can “walk in darkness.” Walking in darkness is treacherous, not peaceful. The Bible says twice in Proverbs that, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” So, without Jesus there is fear, unsettled feeling, obscurity, darkness and dimness. One of the saddest statements regarding humanity as the Apostle Paul follows the downward spiral of mankind is this: “...And *the way of peace* have they not known” (Rom. 3:17).

The good news is, the angels proclaimed to the shepherds that God sent, in Jesus, the opportunity for *peace on earth and good will toward men*. These are tidings of great joy to all people! God created the earth, and before the fall of mankind into sin by succumbing to temptation and disobedience, there was peace and good will. In the result of that sin, only God could offer peace and good will to fallen mankind sitting in darkness, disobedience and death. We, as weak humans, don’t know how

to walk in peace. Only Jesus can “*guide our feet into the way of peace.*”

So, what is real peace? How is it obtained? How do we walk in peace? What hinders peace and good will?

The Bible says ***Jesus is our peace***. He is the Prince of Peace. He is the essence of peace. His Spirit is peace. He brought light and truth. He died for our peace, and He is calling us to peace; to walk in *the way of peace*.

The Bible says Jesus gives us peace. Jesus gives us His peace and not as the world gives it. How does the world give peace? If there is conflict in the world, the world fights and resists the conflict to take the troubles away so there can be peace. *Real peace—Jesus’ peace—isn’t the absence of conflict and trouble, but it’s the presence of God!* There may be conflict and troubles around us, but in Jesus, we can have perfect peace!

We get real peace when we surrender to Jesus. “Not my will, but thine [O God], be done”! Real peace comes when we yield to the Holy Spirit. When we trust Jesus in all things. *The way of peace is the way of the Holy Spirit!* Read again, in Galatians 5, the list of the fruits of the Spirit.

Walking in peace is simply walking with Jesus! In all our encounters, if we’re walking in the presence of Jesus, if we’re walking in the light of Jesus, if we’re walking in prayer and communion with Jesus, if we’re walking in the power and influence of the Holy Spirit, we can encounter anything

and be in peace and respond in peace!

The Bible says, “Thou [God] wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed [sustained by] on thee!” The Bible says, “Great peace have they which love thy law and nothing shall offend them [or cause us to stumble].” God’s Word leads us and guides us *into the way of peace*. It is light for our pathway.

What hinders peace and good will? Self-seeking! It’s self that is trying to be on the throne, trying to control the way, the outcome. It’s when we let down our cross and cease to deny ourselves. It’s when we take our eyes off Jesus. It’s when we step off *the way of peace* and walk in our own way. It’s when we cease to endeavor to be kept in God’s unity and bonds of peace.

The Bible says “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep [garrison or guard] your hearts and minds through [as we fellowship in] Christ Jesus”! Meaning, the experience of peace is far beyond the explaining or the describing of peace!

Let’s commit to *the way of peace*. It will bring Glory to God in the highest! It will bring much blessing to our own life, the life of our loved ones, our marriages, our children, our neighbors, and our churches! This writer needs this reminder and this encouragement. Let’s pray for each other! Let’s seek peace and pursue it.

Aaron Garber

THE INCARNATION

I have always been amazed at the birth of Jesus which is sometimes called the incarnation. I have to wonder what Mary thought about this child. Maybe mothers today can wonder or understand better than I, what a child is really like—its hurts and joys. Was Jesus different or just like any other child? How can He be both man and God? I think Mary’s temperament and acceptance of unusual occurrences throughout her son’s life was a great example of good motherhood. It’s so good that she and His brothers got to see the climax and the great value of her son’s life, when the Holy Spirit came down in Acts 2. (See Acts 1:14.)

According to the dictionary, incarnate means, clothed in flesh, a renewing or healing of the flesh, like when we have an injury and it heals. Incarnation means that the angel of the Lord became flesh like us. He became both God and Man. Therefore we can better relate to Him. He is our example.

We think of the account of Jesus in the New Testament, but Isaiah gives us a more complete picture of Jesus the Messiah; His life and future destiny. (Isa. 9:6–7)

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of

his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

In America the twenty-fifth of December is celebrated as the birthday of Jesus. Many believe that the birth came in a different time of year than that, but nothing else can be authenticated either. The Scriptures don't mention celebrating His birthday, but I believe we ought to celebrate His death, because it portrays His resurrection which is one of the most important subjects of the New Testament. At least those who accept His birth can reach forward to accepting His salvation. I grew up in a different culture and believe we should be more cautious about how we celebrate the day/season. It's not very biblical any more.

Let's celebrate the season with some biblical comments, thoughts and quotations. The scribes, who studied the prophets, knew that His time of coming was near. Even Harold asks, what does the Scriptures say about His coming when the wise men came; where would it be?

The first proclamation of His arrival was to the shepherds out on the hills. What a grand announcement! The angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be

to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." How many is a heavenly host? I think many thousands of the good angels were proclaiming with joy at such a great announcement.

Even time ended and started again at that time; from B.C. to A.D. How can the atheists not believe? I think they believe but don't want to admit the Word. Someday they will admit it. But Mary (what a mother) pondered everything in her heart (Luke 2:19).

Are birthdays important? For twelve years Mary taught and took care of Jesus, and one day He was found in the temple discussing the Scriptures with the doctors, asking and answering questions. And they were astonished at His wisdom and understanding.

And so on this Christmas incarnation season, let's be challenged to have children who can be about the Father's business, discussing the Scriptures with the doctors at twelve years of age. What a heritage that would be. Have A Blessed Season.

Ralph E. Garber
(Deceased)

THE ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS

Dr. Richard Donavan

Christmas seems to become more and more secularized and commercialized and less and less of what it ought to be. The very essence of Christmas can be summed up in certain words and deeds as recorded in the New Testament.

LOVE is one of the great words of the New Testament and it tells us of the motivating factor for God sending His Son into the world. We are told that “God so loved the world...”

SHARING is another word that helps us to understand the essence of Christmas. “God so loved... that he gave his only begotten Son.”

HUMILIATION also helps us to see Christmas in a clearer way. We are told by Paul, in Philippians 2:7, that Christ “...made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant...” He laid aside His royal robes and came to earth to die for our sins.

Christmas is also related to DIVINE INTERVENTION. We read in Matthew 1:23, “...they shall call

his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.” God came down in the person of Jesus to intervene in our behalf.

DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY is also seen at Christmas time. We are told in Galatians 4:4 that, “...when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son.” That means that it was God’s appointed time, determined by God’s sovereign will.

Christmas also reminds us of HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY. God sent Jesus to die in our place. Now, we must decide whether we will receive Him or reject Him. What we do with Him now will determine what He will do with us in eternity.

WORSHIP is also closely connected with Christmas. The wise men came to worship; the shepherds came also, and the heavenly hosts praised God at the birth of our Lord. Let us make this Christmas a truly Bible-based Christmas. Let us celebrate it as God would have us to.

Selected by

Sam and Eva Boone

LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine;
Love was born at Christmas, Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine;
Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token, Love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

Christina Rosetti (1830–1894)

GENERAL

DELAYED JUDGMENT

The Fear of the Lord – Part 4

The key to open God's storehouse of treasures is the Fear of the Lord (Isa. 33:5–6). "The LORD is exalted; for he dwelleth on high: he hath filled Zion with judgment and righteousness. And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure."

Living continually in the Fear of the Lord is a great blessing, and a real treasure. One aspect of the Fear of the Lord is the constant reminder that there is a soon-coming Day of Judgment, and that we all will be called to give account of how we lived our lives while we were on earth. II Corinthians 5:10 reads, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

As we consider all the times when God has issued His laws and His commandments, we might sometimes wonder about a delay or time gap between the moment of man's disobedience and the moment of judgment. Some may even be tempted to wrongly conclude that because of a delay in God's judgment, that judgment might not even happen at all.

Let's look at some of the instances where God's judgment was given immediately, and where God's judgment was delayed for some time.

Examples Of God's "Instant" Judgment:

- **Uzziah** – He disobeyed the command of God on how to properly transport the ark of the covenant. When he wrongfully reached out to steady the tottering ark, he touched the ark, and God judged him guilty. He died instantly. (See II Samuel 6:1–7.)
- **Nadab and Abihu** – They decided to offer forbidden "strange fire" before the Lord. This was a type of fire that God did not authorize; and accordingly, it was a corrupted offering. God judged them, and they both died instantly. (See Leviticus 10:1–2.)
- **Korah, Dathan, and Abiram** – They did not respect Moses, and thought he was acting in his own power, so they challenged Moses' authority. God judged them instantly, the earth opened, and swallowed them so they died right away. (See Numbers 16.)
- **Herod** – He was the powerful King of Judea. Once after a great public speech that he had given, the people said it was the voice of God. Herod gave not the glory to God. God judged him instantly; he died immediately and was eaten of worms. (See Acts 12:21–23.)
- **Ananias and Sapphira** – In the early church days, they had sold a

piece of property. They acted like they gave all the proceeds from the sale. However, they kept back part of the sale price for themselves. They had tried to deceive others and lied about the whole transaction. God judged them right away, and they both died within three hours of each other. (See Acts 5:1–11.)

Examples Of God's "Delayed" Judgment:

- **Adam and Eve** – They were told if they ate the forbidden fruit they would die; although they died a spiritual death, yet Adam lived 930 years before he died physically. (See Genesis 2:17 and Genesis 5:5.)
- **Noah's culture** – Due to the wickedness of mankind and the general culture, God said He would destroy them; yet He instructed Noah to build an ark that took many years to complete. All the time Noah was building, he continued to warn about the coming judgment. (See Genesis 6:13.)
- **Eli's Sons** – Over several years they became vile, committed adultery, and took bribes. Eli did not restrain them. (See I Samuel 3:12–14.) They were killed later on in battle. (See I Samuel 4:11.)
- **Tribulation Martyrs** – These precious souls will be killed because they believe in the Word of God, they testify for God, but they will not compromise. While they cry out for judgment and vengeance for their blood, God will tell them to rest a while, since there are more yet to be killed like they are. (See Revelation 6:9–11.)

Possible Reasons Why All Sin Is Not Immediately Judged:

- God is very merciful and sometimes delays His judgment to give an opportunity for repentance. God is longsuffering and He is not willing that any might perish. (See II Peter 3:9.)
- God will avenge all sin; He will not forget. However, He does all things well in His time, not our time. Our timing is not perfect. God's timing is beautiful and completely perfect.

Make No Mistake – Judgment Is Still Coming:

- Don't be deceived. Just because judgment is many times delayed for a while to give an opportunity for repentance, judgment is still coming. Judgment will not forever be delayed.
- We don't know when the timing of our judgment will happen, so we need to always be ready for that monumental day. We need to live in a state of continual repentance and be ready each day, each moment, to meet our Maker.
- Judgment means a time of decision, discernment, or separation between good and evil. God judges people and all their actions according to His standards.

Let's consider the following verses as we think about God's coming judgment:

God Does Not Lie:

- Numbers 23:19, "God is not a man, that he should lie..."
- Hebrews 6:18, "That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:"
- Titus 1:2, "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began."
- When God has spoken, we can absolutely rest assured that God means every word, and it will come to pass just as He said.

God Does Not Change:

- Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever."
- Malachi 3:6, "For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
- James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."
- We change from time to time; however, God remains the same forever!

God Is Longsuffering And Patient:

- II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."
- II Peter 3:15, "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you."
- Romans 2:4, "Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?"

God Hates Sin:

- Psalm 5:4, "For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee."
- Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."
- Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."
- Romans 12:19, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."

We Must Give An Account To God:

- God has given us the amazing thing called choice. We are given the power of choosing to either do good or do evil. It is our own choice.
- Our actions will be examined by our Creator; He knows everything.
- We must give an account to God for every idle word we have ever spoken. (See Matthew 12:36.)
- Everyone must give an account. (See Romans 14:12.)
- God is ready now to judge. (See I Peter 4:5.)

Greatest Examination Of All Time:

- As a student, many times at school, we had to take tests. Sometimes we had a surprise or “pop” test, given without warning. If I was unprepared, they could strike fear, especially if I had not studied the lesson and completed my homework that was assigned. Most children have their daily actions examined by parents, and correction comes as needed. As adults we are examined by employers and customers regularly. The soon coming Day of Judgment will be infinitely superior to any possible earthly test.

A Far Greater Judgment:

- Matthew 10:14–15, “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrhah in the day of judgment, than for that city.”
- Those who reject the Gospel are in great danger of eternal judgment and separation from God.
- Matthew 21:44, “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”

Judgment Is A Divine Appointment:

- Judgment is a certain coming day. Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”
- Death and judgment are appointed for everyone. Hebrews 9:27, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

God’s Judgment Is Final:

- Many times, in this life we have an opportunity to appeal an adverse or unfavorable result to a higher court in hopes of receiving a better result. However, there will be no appealing available of God’s judgment. His judgment is completely final.

The Throne Of God:

- Solomon's throne was very impressive. However, God's throne will be far greater than Solomon's throne. I Kings 10:18 and 19 "Moreover, the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold. The throne had six steps, and the top of the throne was round behind: and there were stays on either side on the place of the seat, and two lions stood beside the stays."
- God's Throne is large; it is very high.
- God's Throne radiates power, strength, and authority.
- God's Throne is very, very big. In Isaiah 66:1 we read, "Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool."
- God's Throne is pure; it is completely holy.
- God's Throne is supremely majestic. *Isaiah 6:1-5, "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."*

Judgment Seat:

Also called the "Bema." This a raised place, an elevated platform. A position of power and authority.

Several Different Judgments Mentioned In The Bible:

1. Past Judgments:

Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:14-24), Noah's time (Genesis 7:17-24), mankind at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:5-9), Egyptians (Exodus 7-12), sin was judged at the Cross of Jesus (John 19:30, Isaiah 53:4-8, Hebrews 2:9, Romans 8:1, John 12:31).

2. During the Church age: Self-examination (I Corinthians 11:28), church discipline (Matthew 18:15-17), chastisement by God on His believing children (Hebrews 12:5-11, Revelation 3:19).

3. Future Judgments: Time of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 6:16), Judgment of the Nations (Matthew 25:31-46), Judgment of Angels (I Corinthians 6:2-3), Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11-15), Judgment Seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5:10).

Consider These Two Coming Judgments:

1. Great White Throne Judgment—For Unbelievers

Revelation 20:11, “And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”

Notice the details:

- It is great, it is white.
- It is final without any future appeals.
- Heaven and earth fled away.
- This judgment will be terrifying.
- At this time Jesus will be the Judge, not an advocate.
- No place will be found for these people at the judgment.
- These people will be judged completely by their own actions and deeds. Their life record will be examined completely.
- This is for those whose names are not in the Lamb’s book of life.
- All your sins will be revealed and uncovered.
- Numbers 32:23, “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.”
- Jude 15, “To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”
- Hebrews 10:30–31, “For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

A Proper Response To This Judgment:

- We can avoid this “great white throne judgment for unbelievers” by repenting, believing, obeying, fearing the Lord, and being baptized.
- We are called to live a holy life. II Peter 3:11, “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness...”
- Be prepare to meet God at any moment. Amos 4:12, “Therefore, thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.”
- Teach and persuade others to prepare. II Corinthians 5:11, “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”
- Watchfulness is a continual state. I Peter 4:7, “But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”
- Judge ourselves. (See I Corinthians 11:28.)

Revelation 16:15. “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.”

2. Judgment Seat Of Christ—For Believers:

- II Corinthians 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
- Romans 14:10, “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”
- Notice the details of this judgment seat of Christ:
- All believers must be judged, and their works will be examined.
- The wood, hay, and stubble (worthless works) will be burned up.
- The precious jewels (good works) will be honored.
- All will be revealed, nothing can be hidden.
- There will be terror at this judgment. (See II Cor. 5:11.)
- God will examine our life and give out eternal rewards and positions of eternal responsibility.
- God will give us new names.
- God will wipe away all tears.

Jesus Christ Himself will be the Judge:

Romans 2:16, “In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.”

II Timothy 4:1, “I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom...”

John 12:48, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.”

We Will Worship God For His Perfect Judgment:

Revelation 14:7, “Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”

CONCLUSION:

Be wise! Judgment day is coming! Use this time of delayed judgment to repent, obey, love, tremble at the Word of God, live daily for the honor and glory of God, and point others to Jesus. Remember to live moment by moment in the “Fear of the Lord,” for we serve an awesome all-present, all-knowing, all-powerful God to whom we must give an account!

Read and think about this Hymn written by John Newton in 1774:

Day of judgment! day of wonders! Hark! the trumpet’s awful sound,
Louder than a thousand thunders, Shakes the vast creation round.
How the summons Will the sinner’s heart confound!

See the Judge, our nature wearing, Clothed in majesty divine;
You who long for his appearing, Then shall say, This God is mine!
Gracious Savior, Own me in that day as thine.

At his call the dead awaken, Rise to life from earth and sea;
 All the pow'r of nature, shaken, By his looks, prepare to flee.
 Careless sinner, What will then become of thee?

But to those who have confessed, Loved and served the Lord below,
 He will say, Come near, ye blessed, See the kingdom I bestow;
 You forever Shall my love and glory know.

Randy Jenkins

CONTROLLING OUR TONGUES

Richard D. Emmons

James, Jesus' half-brother and leader of the church in Jerusalem, offered counsel to persecuted believers with two apparent objectives when he wrote about the tongue: to squelch the tendencies to say hurtful things and to give advice to people going through tough times. James called the tongue "a fire, a world of iniquity," (Jas. 3:6) that must be controlled.

Use Your Tongue Wisely

James compared the tongue to a bit and a rudder. Both are extremely small. Yet a rider controls a horse by pulling the bit's leather straps, and an entire ship is controlled by turning the rudder. Both objects influence future direction.

Like bits and rudders, our tongues control our lives. "The tongue is a little member and boasteth great things" (v. 5). James said to recognize the tongue's influence and impulsiveness—and to control it.

One way to exercise control is by not rushing to give advice: "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation. For in many things we offend all." (vv. 1–2). We

all stumble in our speech at times. We may say something that doesn't come out as intended. Or perhaps it does come out as intended and creates trouble, and we wish we could take it back. Bridled speech manifests maturity. Impulsive speech manifests immaturity.

James said "teachers" will "receive the greater condemnation" (v. 1). He was not speaking of false teachers who misinterpret Scripture (though that's true). He was referring to people who are quick to give advice. We must be careful about counseling others because we make ourselves "teachers" and will be judged accordingly. If someone shares a problem, trial, or difficulty and we offer a solution the individual follows, we become partially responsible for that person's actions.

Abraham and Sarah: In Genesis 16, for example. Sarah went to her husband, Abraham, and told him, "The LORD has restrained me from bearing; I pray thee, go in unto my maid; I may be that I may obtain children by her" (v. 2). So Abraham took Hagar as a second wife and fathered a son with her. That was not God's plan, and later Sarah was angry with Abraham because of Hagar. Bad advice yields bad decisions.

Jacob and Rebekah: Jacob stole the birthright from his twin brother, Esau, based on bad advice from their mother, Rebekah (Gen. 27). She insisted Jacob pretend he was Esau to trick their father, Isaac, into giving him the blessing of the firstborn. Rather than trust God to keep His promise that Esau would serve Jacob, she concocted a scheme that extracted the blessing but forced Jacob to flee from his own brother; and there is no evidence Rebekah ever saw the son she loved again.

Job's wife: Job went through so many trials his wife finally told him, "Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9). She basically said, "It's not right you have to suffer like this. There's no solution to what you're going through. You need to acknowledge that God is not with you; curse Him and die."

But, unlike Abraham who heeded his wife's bad advice, Job told the woman, "Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips" (v. 10). Job exercised leadership and refused to follow bad counsel. How many times have we taken or given advice, only to find we unsuccessfully tried to circumvent a hardship God wanted us to go through?

We don't like pain and suffering—for ourselves or our loved ones. So, we seek a way out. Yet we must remember advice is cheap, and we must carefully choose what advice we give and what advice we follow. Bad advice

could be the rudder controlling someone's life.

Use Your Tongue Carefully

We also must remember the tongue can set our worlds on fire: "Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and seteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (Jas. 3:5–6).

Although James would have denounced filthy language, such speech is not what he was talking about here. He was referring to advice that contradicts God's Word, thereby worsening the situations of those who follow such counsel. When Jesus spoke to the religious leaders, He called them a "generation of vipers" because their speech caused trouble (Mt. 12:34a).

"...how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (vv. 34b–37).

Jesus did not subscribe to the philosophy "Just share what's on your heart. As long as you say what you really believe, it's fine." Scripture calls the heart "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jer. 17:9). He said it's possible for us to speak out of the

evilness of our hearts. Even after we become Christians, we have old natures and a desire to avoid the hardships God allows into our lives.

James said, "For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (Jas. 3:7-8). If only we trained our tongues as diligently as we train our pets.

In the 1880s, James Wide trained a baboon, he named Jack, to work for the railroad. Jack never made a single mistake and worked for the railroad in South Africa nine years. All sorts of animals can be trained. Yet the tongue eludes us.

When we don't want people to suffer, we sometimes offer advice contrary to God's Word. Proverbs says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and they that love it will eat the fruit thereof" (18:21). In other words, our speech either brings blessing or cursing from both God and men in both time and eternity. "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things" (15:28). We must use our tongues carefully.

Use Your Tongue Positively

Unfortunately, the same tongue that blesses God also curses and contradicts God's Word. Native Americans called this phenomenon a "forked tongue." James said such behavior is unacceptable.

The tongue can contradict God's design: "Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my breth-

ren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh" (Jas. 3:11-12).

There is unification in nature, but not with the tongue. The apostle Paul said, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers" (Eph. 4:29).

Bestselling Christian author and counselor Larry Crabb told a story worth retelling in his book entitled "Encouragement." As a high school student, he stuttered terribly. One Sunday, a church elder approached him after Larry had stuttered through a Sunday morning prayer. "Larry," he said, "there's one thing I want you to know. Whatever you do for the Lord, I'm behind you one thousand percent." Then he walked away.

"Even as I write these words," Crabb said, "my eyes fill with tears. Those words were life words. They had power. They reached deep into my being. My resolve never again to speak publicly weakened instantly.

"Since the day those words were spoken, God has led me into a ministry in which I regularly address and pray before crowds of all sizes. I do it without stuttering. I love it. Not only death, but also life lies in the power of the tongue. God intends for us to be people who use words to encourage one another." Amen.

Selected by,

Joan Cover

word, Word

“O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD” (Jer. 22:29). The word “earth” caught my attention, which means me, and all mankind, even today! It is a warning! (Ezek. 33:4–5)

Consider the word “word.”

For, Jeremiah 22:30, says, “Thus saith the LORD...” to whom the **word** of the LORD came (Jer. 1:2)—then, and until He comes again! (John 14:3)

“For I will hasten my **word** to perform it” (Jer. 1:12)—in His own time! (Heb. 10:37)

“O generation, see ye the **word** of the LORD...” (Jer. 2:31)—observe, show forth then, and today! (I Pet. 2:9)

“Go and proclaim these **words...**” (Jer. 3:12)—“teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you”! (Matt. 28:20)

“Trust ye not in lying **words,**” (Jer. 7:4)—Deception! (Eph. 5:6), “lo, they have rejected the **word** of the LORD, and what wisdom is in them?” (Jer. 8:9b). Rejection! (II Tim. 4:2–4)

“Yet hear the **word** of the LORD, O ye women, and let your ear receive the **word** of his mouth, and teach your daughters...” (Jer. 9:20)—This is Sound Doctrine! (Titus 2:3–5)

“Yet they obeyed not, nor inclined their ear, but walked everyone in the imagination of their evil heart: therefore I will bring upon them all the **words** of this cove-

nant... (Jer. 11:8)—This is God’s judgment! (Jude 1:15–16)

The above is just a minute sampling of the **word** that Jeremiah received from the Lord in his day concerning Judah and the house of Israel. What about our day, concerning His **word** and the reading and obedience thereof? (Gal. 6:9)

Now, I want to consider the **Word**, found only in John 1:1 and 14, I John 1:1 and 5:7, and Revelation 19:13, if I have searched correctly! I want to consider HIM and His Name! He is God, (John 1:1) and in Exodus 9:16b, He says, “and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.” And, “Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven” (Ps. 148:13). “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life” (I John 5:20). So, what about taking His name, **Word**, in vain?

Both Exodus 20:7 and Deuteronomy 5:11 says, “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” So what does vain mean? The best definition I could find was “emptiness,” “for nothing,” even “lying.” In my mind it means using His Name carelessly and without reverence.

I heard a minister say, kindly, that we should not use Word in an exclamation, as it could be taking His Name in vain. I will here admit, I had a terrible time remembering not to say, Oh my **word**! You notice I used a little “w” which I’ve come to think that that’s what Satan wants us to think, as we could also say, “I’m only using a little ‘g’ in, Oh my god!” But when we understand and give thought to this, we can no longer think or say either.

I have here tried to do a word study of His word and of the Word and there might be better and more applicable Scripture references. But let us continue to hear

the **word** of the LORD and be subject unto the **Word**, who came that we might have life and have it more abundantly, remembering that as Jeremiah was warning the people in his day, so should we, too, be warning the people in our day that He is coming again to receive His own unto Himself. “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works” (Tit. 2:14).

AliceMae Haney

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

This section offers some questions to think about, or for Sunday afternoon discussions, or to prompt future articles from our readers, etc. Readers are encouraged to offer questions.

When Jesus ascended back to the Father, He told His disciples, “...ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost parts of the earth.” How shall this be?

Questions:

1. Does this mean that His followers are “witnesses” wherever they go in this life?
2. What do you think it means to

be a “witness” unto Him?

3. Is being a “witness” something we “are,” something we “do,” or both?
4. Does this mean we have seen things, experienced things that we have a great desire to share?
5. Are the people of God observing that others are affected by their “witness”?
6. Are you a “witness”?

MEDITATIONS

“Special People” lack what others have, but often have what others don’t.
 It was a long way from Heaven’s glory to Bethlehem’s manger.
 God, remove anything from my life that You can’t use.
 Angels seem to have congregated around Christmas.
 Men don’t seem to gather around a cold stove.
 Peace on earth and joy from Heaven.
 Jesus, our Savior, has appeared!

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Oct. 14, 2021; Sugar Grove, OH
Eli Fisher
Oct. 22, 2021; Pleasant View, OH
Tristen Denlinger
Oct. 31, 2021; Salem, OH
Brooke Balsbaugh

NEW MEMBERS

Oct. 24, 2021; Shenandoah, VA
Wesley Johnson

COMMISSIONS

Nov. 1, 2021; Sugar Grove, OH
Stephen Sink (with wife, Heidi)
Called to the Ministry
Chip Fisher (with wife, Heidi)
Called to the office of Deacon

COMMUNION NOTICES

Jan. 2, 2022..... Olive Branch, OH
Feb. 5, 2022..... Living Epistle, NM
Feb. 5, 2022..... Pine Grove, FL
Feb. 26, 2022..... West Manchester, IN
Feb. 26, 2022..... West Modesto, CA
Mar. 26, 2022..... Dallas, OR
Mar. 26, 2022..... Fair Haven, KS
Apr. 2, 2022..... Mt. Zion, PA
Apr. 16, 2022..... Modesto, CA
Apr. 23, 2022..... Cascade Valley, WA
Apr. 23, 2022..... Sugar Grove, OH

LIVING EPISTLE BUILDING UPDATE

We praise the Lord for His faithful provisions. We want to thank you for your support in prayer and financial assistance as we purchased the building where we are currently meeting for worship. As of October 2021, the private loan has been paid in full. Any funds received that were not needed for the payoff of the building will be put toward current building projects like insulation, lighting, etc.

If you feel to share or support in the building projects, please send contributions to:

Josh Bowman, Treasurer

May the Lord bless you as you seek first the Kingdom of God.

Come worship with us!

On behalf of the
Building Projects Committee,

Kenton Kuntz, Secretary

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL NOTICE

We are making our call for subscriptions for the year 2022 at this time. The rate continues at \$20 per year. The subscription price for each subscriber should be received by December 1, 2021, from the District Agents. Each District Agent should include an updated list of subscribers, with their current addresses. Individual subscribers' subscription payments should be received by December 1, 2021, as well, if possible, for the 2022 subscription year.

OBITUARIES

HANEY — Carl D. was born June 21, 1938, in Whittier California to Rowland and Marie (Fall) Haney. Carl grew up in the idyllic San Joaquin Valley situated among the almond, peach, and apricot orchards, and where he was taught faith and to value honesty and a strong work ethic by his parents.

Carl attended grammar school at Stanislaus Union. In 1956 he graduated from Thomas Downey High School where he played football and was a FFA member. Carl was a gracious host and served many of his former classmates and guests in his home!

In the fall of 1954, Carl, Wayne Jarboe, Tom Balsbaugh, Glen Bauman and Neal Basore were baptized in the Stanislaus River at the end of Sisk Road by Elder Joe Oyler. In his last ten years, Carl recalled his baptism vows and faithfully attended services at Big Valley Grace Community Church, often inviting others to attend services with him.

On December 30, 1956, Carl married AliceMae Brubaker in her parents' home in North Manchester, Indiana by Elder John Flora. Two daughters were born, Arlene and Corinne.

Carl was an entrepreneur. In 1975 he started Haney Egg Ranch on Roeding Road in Ceres. On September 4, 1976, Carl married Nancy Knutson from Washington, Io-

wa. In 1980 Carl and Nancy purchased Modesto Color Center and worked side by side for many years. In 2001 they sold the paint store, planning to retire, but Carl soon realized he needed to stay busy and was a temporary salesman selling diesel fuel for Boyett Petroleum. Carl worked up to the very day, on September 27, 2021, when he suffered his third stroke, and then passed away on October 10, 2021.

Carl's interests were wide and varied; he enjoyed hunting and took multiple trips traveling the world. He was a collector of guns and knives and the last couple years handed them out freely to the grandchildren! Carl was a connoisseur of grilling and the family always enjoyed hearty meals around their table. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with people and being a part of the Modesto community.

Preceding him in death were his parents; a sister-in-law, Marleta Haney; along with Nancy's parents; a brother; a sister, Linda; and a brother-in-law, Chris.

Carl is survived by his wife of forty-five years, Nancy, his daughters and companions Arlene and Dan Machado, Corinne and Lonnie Bowman, his six grandchildren and companions Jan and Roy Huffman, Joel and Carrie Bowman, Laurel and Jesse Garber, Bradley Machado, David and Alyssa Ma-

chado, and Dianna Machado; thirteen great-grandchildren; his brother, Roger; his daughters' mother, AliceMae Haney; and sister-in-law, Carol Wilson; along with Fall, Haney, and Bradshaw cousins.

The Family

HOLLINGER — Coleen Sue, daughter of Paul and Mildred (Metzger) Garber, was born February 14, 1957, in Greenville, Ohio. She departed this life on July 25, 2021, in her home near New Castle, Indiana, at the age of sixty-four years.

She was united in marriage to Kenneth Lee Hollinger on April 5, 1975. This union was blessed with six sons. She was baptized with her husband on November 23, 1978, into the Old German Baptist Church. Coleen unselfishly gave of herself to her husband, children, grandchildren, to the church, and to folks from various walks of life, making many feel welcome in her home.

She is survived by her husband of forty-six years; sons, Russ (Stefany), Rudy (Molly), Andrew (Malaina), Adam (Mandie), Peter (Arnie), and Simon (Emily); twenty-two grandchildren; her mother, Mildred Garber; mother-in-law, Evelyn Hollinger; brothers and sisters, Charlene Finley, Christine Farmer, Dale (Teresa), Jane (Dan Long), and Carl; brothers- and sisters-in-law, Laura Cook, Philip (Bethany) Hollinger, Thomas (Deanne) Hollinger, Elizabeth (Terry) Filbrun, and Ruth (Bill) Riffey.

Preceding her in death were a granddaughter, Janessa Hollinger; a grandson, Adrian Hollinger; her father, Paul Garber; father-in-law, Charles Hollinger; and brother-in-law, Harry Cook.

A funeral service was held July 29, 2021, at the Beech Grove meeting house. She was laid to rest in Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Farewell faithful pilgrim.

The Family

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Old German Baptist Brethren
Church—New Conference

THE TESTIMONY

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The Testimony is a Christian publication intended for those who desire nourishment in their spiritual walk, and for writers who wish to express witness to the Truth of the Gospel as experienced in their own lives. It holds the Holy Scriptures to be its only Creed. Its purpose is to bear witness to the Truth of God's Word as it is applied in the daily life of committed Christians. It supports the anabaptist and pietist foundations of the Brethren of Schwarzenau, Germany (1708) including the biblical principle of the community of believers bound by a confession of faith in the Lord Jesus confirmed by adult immersion baptism (Mark 16:16). It strives to promote a life of true living piety among all who confess Jesus as their Lord. It seeks to restore and

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