

"And the dragon...went to make war with the remnant...which keep the commandments of God, and have...

THE TESTIMONY

...of Jesus Christ." Revelation 12:17

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Acts 10:38

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THE HEALER

So stood of old the Holy Christ
Amidst the suffering throng;
With whom His slightest touch sufficed
To make the weakest strong.

That healing gift He lends to them
Who use it in His Name;
The power that filled His garment's hem
Is evermore the same.

The paths of pain are thine. Go forth
With patience, trust, and hope;
The sufferings of a sin-sick earth
Shall give thee ample scope.

So shalt thou be with power endued
From Him who went about
The Syrian hillsides doing good,
And casting demons out.

That Good Physician liveth yet
Thy friend and guide to be;
The Healer by Gennesaret
Shall walk the rounds with thee.

John Greenleaf Whittier

THE TESTIMONY

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“Herein is my
Father glorified,
that ye bear
much fruit; so
shall ye be my
disciples.”
John 15:8

EDITORIAL

REMAIN AND CONTINUE

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15:4).

The setting here is in the upper room with Jesus and His disciples. These are some of the last teachings of Jesus before the Garden of Gethsemane. We have read there would have been grapevines and clusters of grapes carved on the Temple doors and the Eastern Gate into Jerusalem. When Jesus said, “I am the true Vine,” there is the comparison between false vines, carved replicas, and the true living Vine. Often times in wooded areas there are what we call wild vines or wild grapevine. There is no fruit, just fast growth that robs the nutrients from the good soil, and when vining upward, to rob the light from fruitful trees. Hosea 10:1 states that “Israel is an empty vine.” Wild vines and empty vines aren’t producers of fruit for the Kingdom; only when attached to Jesus is there any fruit.

In John 15:1–11, there are three words that we emphasize, in verse 4, “abide in me,” in verse 9, “continue ye in my love,” and in verse 11, “that my joy might remain in you.” Part of the definition of “abide” is to continue and remain. Psalm 91:1, encourages us with this: “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High

shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.” As we abide in Him and He in us there is a relationship that must be from our heart to Him, a very personal relationship. In verse 5, “He that abideth in me, and I in him,” indicates the personal relationship. With this relationship comes blessing and responsibility. Fruit bearing comes only by our attachment to the vine (Jesus), along with the Gardner (the Father), often by lifting up and purging or pruning that we may bear much fruit. As we remain and abide in Him we are called to become more like Him in our behavior, our goals, and concerns for others. That would be some of the fruit of sanctification in our lives.

Paul, in writing to Timothy says, “The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits” (II Tim. 2:6). As we abide and partake, we experience direction by His Word and Spirit, and protection “under the shadow of the Almighty” (Ps. 91:1). We have our feet set upon a Rock and personal assurance as we dwell and abide in Christ, the solid Rock.

The born again believer is a fruit bearer and blesses others with the fruit of the Spirit. The Apostle Paul once said, “I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.” Paul was purged and refined by trials, stripes, and imprisonment as He was empowered through the Holy Spirit power to

present the fruitful Gospel. One definition of “abide” is endure. If we are called to enduring and suffering in our Christian walk, give thanks, for that could be the call to bearing more fruit, remembering that fruit is for others, but we

must first partake of it.

Blessings as we are daily quickened by the resurrection power of Jesus Christ and abide in the True Vine under the Shadow of the Almighty.

Dean Kinsley

SEASONAL

NONE OF THE RANSOMED EVER KNEW

Among the many analogies offered to illustrate the extreme desire of our Lord for the lost souls of men is that picture of the shepherd who had a hundred sheep. He owned one hundred sheep, but he noticed that one was missing from the flock, and evidently had gone astray. As he led them into the sheep fold in the early evening, and counted as they crossed the portal, he became aware... 97...98...99...!!

Most of our readers will remember some time in their past as they have mingled among churches and families, when they have lifted up their voices with others and sang the old familiar hymn, “The Ninety and Nine.” When I was very small, the main things I remembered about this song was that it had so many, many verses. It just seemed too long. Did the whole story need to be told in one song? And did we not already know the story?

As the years have gone by, those early thoughts have *melted* away,

and I have become more aware that this song tells a story that is very, very real. And not only so, but that this is my very own story! While it may be a story about each of the lost ones who have been found, it is also a story about my own deliverance from sin!

Little by little my interest has increased, and all of the details in each verse have become more important to me. The song begins to increase in detail as more questions are asked regarding the Shepherd’s journey in search of the lost sheep.

And in more recent years then, there is a phrase that has given me pause. ***“But none of the ransomed every knew How deep were the waters crossed; Nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed thru Ere He found His sheep that was lost.”***

The ransomed. The saved ones. Those sheep that were delivered from death on the side of the mountain cliff. They have heard the story. They have felt the deliverance. They have experienced the rejoicing. **But there are many things they do not know.**

“Lord, whence are those blood-drops all the way that mark out the mountain’s track?” These are the questions that come from the tender lambs. They have a desire to know the suffering of their Saviour. They hear the story of the cross, and *weep* as they try to meditate on what it all may mean. They discuss between themselves as they share in the reading of the Scriptures. Just what was the nature of His heaviest suffering? How far did He come from Heaven? What did He endure just to live here among men? Was His greatest suffering that which was physical, that the Bible speaks of on the day of His crucifixion? Or were there greater burdens that He endured? Was there something else...and something more? More pain that this that was seen by men?

Did He want to tell us? What restraint.

“Lord, whence are Thy hands so rent and torn? They’re pierced tonight by many a thorn.” Along the path the Shepherd went as He came and suffered here...how far did He come? What humiliation did He experience in all of this?

The Lord of all! The Almighty One who dwells in heaven, and is righteous and true! *“Who is like unto the LORD our God, who dwelleth on high, Who humbleth himself to behold the things that*

are in heaven, and in the earth (Ps. 113:5–6)! If it was humbling to the Lord to look our way, what was it then to descend clear down among us and walk these dusty roads! And to be questioned in a mocking way almost daily! And suffer hunger and thirst! And deal with all of the sanitation needs of the body. And try to be patient with selfish men.

He knew the thoughts of men, but very seldom did He let anyone know.

What love...and care...and restraint.

While the common people heard Him gladly, the path of His ministry toward the cross was strewn with rejection, questioning, and doubt concerning His deity. Even His own disciples were often slow to understand His teachings and His prophecies concerning Himself.

In all of this, how much did He yearn for them? How much was He suffering? How much did He endure for their sake in it all?

None of the ransomed ever knew.

As He approached the time of His passion, and entered into the garden of Gethsemane, the Scripture says He began to be amazed and very heavy. There seemed to be things that were being revealed to Him there that had not been revealed before. The word “amazed” carries within its meaning an element of *surprise*.

As the whole was revealed to Him by the Father, the effect upon His thoughts and even His physical body were enough to bring His whole person to the ground in overwhelming sorrow and unrelenting strain, with blood seeping out of the pores of His skin.

How much did He suffer for our sakes in that hour?

We cannot tell. No one knows.

*"The Son of God in tears,
The wondering angels see.
Be thou astonished, O, my soul!
He shed those tears for thee!"*

It is enough for us to know that He willingly gave Himself up for the eternal salvation of our never-dying souls. His love was so great! His desire for our welfare was so rich and full, that He gave up His place at the Father's right hand for a time, and His place on the throne of glory, and became as one of us; so that He could taste something for us that we will never taste, if we abide in Him. We are secure there within His fold.

The sheep can inquire, but they cannot receive full answer in this time world.

The saints can conjecture, but they cannot see within the veil.

"What he endured, O, who can tell? To save our souls from death and hell."

Though the redeemed will enjoy endless bliss and eternal joy in the presence of the Father and the Son, and though they be filled

with pure delights in the Paradise of God; If one should ask them, "Say, what did this cost, this redemption, and this blessed state of joy and bliss?"

There may then follow, in the halls of Heaven, a hush, and a holy silence. No one can answer.

None of the ransomed ever knew.

But just as we are not able to comprehend the depths to which He descended, neither can we comprehend yet at this time the great heights to which He has arisen!

Glory! Glory! What shall we say? How can we know how the brightness and power of His resurrection that has eclipsed the darkness, and brought victory to all the scenes of woe?

Behold, there is a way that we can know! It has been given to the saints to know the power of His resurrection, and to be risen with Him.

Paul expressed his great desire to give his all for this purpose. "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings...If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead" (Phil. 3:10-11).

In glorious experience, both in this life, and in that which is to come, the ransomed will know.

Hallelujah!

Lowell Miller

"COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE THE LORD LAY."

Matthew 28:6

"The place where he lay." Notice that "...where he lay" is past tense. "Where he had once been lying." Past tense indicates that He once lay there but that He no longer was laying there. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has been considered by some to be the hub of the universe. The one incident upon which eternity revolves—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Apostle Paul wrote in I Corinthians 15:12–14, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." If Christ was not resurrected, then we must conclude that there is no resurrection. All the preaching of the resurrection is of no benefit. Furthermore, our faith in the plan of God's salvation has no meaning. Upon the resurrection of Jesus the man, Jesus the Christ, Jesus the Son of God, hangs all hope of salvation and all of God's plan for eternity past and future. All of God's plan revolves on this one event, the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Jesus a Man

We can understand the man Jesus. He was born, though into unusual circumstances. He grew to manhood, though we have little record of that. He was hungry and

thirsty. He felt joy and sorrow. He grew physically, increased in wisdom, learned obedience by experience, and was sought by the common folk. He experienced the acclamation and the rejection of men—with all the emotions that go with those features. He loved, despised, expressed anger, expressed sorrow, and wept. With all of that we can identify and empathize since we are also flesh. When He died, as we shall, they laid Him in a tomb—just as we shall be. In Matthew 27:59–60 we read, "And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed." That was the burial of the body of the man Jesus, not too unlike the burial of deceased men today. Jesus was the man who they laid in a tomb.

Jesus The Messiah

The ancient Scriptures—the history, the poetry, and the prophets—all spoke of the coming of a Savior, a Redeemer, a Deliverer. This was understood by the ancient Jews to be a Deliverer of the nation of Israel. God had promised them that if they were obedient and faithful to Him, He would prosper them as a people. But if they were unfaithful, indulging in idol worship, He would not only abandon them but punish their nation as well. At first, they said, "All the words which the LORD hath said will we do." But future generations fell into idolatry and, true to His word, the Lord sent

them away into Egypt, into Assyria, into Babylon, and into punishment by the Canaanites and the Philistines, and finally the Roman Empire. By this time, there was no longer a national government. Their spiritual leaders were corrupt. Their Temple worship was hypocritical. And once again, they were in bondage under a foreign government with nothing to blame but their own unfaithfulness. God said through the prophets that it would be that way. But in the fullness of time God sent the long-promised Messiah, not as they anticipated, not a mighty military ruler wreaking havoc on their enemies. But as prophesied all along, one whose visage was so marred more than any man, and whose form more than the sons of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. They anticipated a warrior who would destroy Rome, set up a kingdom, and rule the earth from Jerusalem. Peter was fully ready to advance that earthly kingdom. As a starter he was ready to bring his sword down onto head of the nearest Roman soldier and cleave his skull in twain. But, unlike their expectations, this "Messiah" said, "Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" Much to the consternation of His disciples, Jesus the Messiah was crucified according to the Scriptures, taking away all hopes of the New Kingdom of Israel. His followers, later called "Christians," hailed Him as Christ the Deliverer, the Redeemer, the Savior. What kind of a Messiah was this, that was crucified and was laid in a tomb?

Jesus The Mediator, The Son of God

The Pharisees, the Sadducees, the Scribes, the High Priest, and most of the Sanhedrin—the Council of Jewish leadership—despised Jesus. Their charges against Him were that He, contrary to the Mosaic Law and the traditions of the fathers, had performed miracles on the Sabbath Day and that He "made himself" the Son of God. He said, "I and my Father are one." He said, "I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me..." He said, "Whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." He said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." He said, "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise." He said, "The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God." He addressed God on a regular basis as "Holy Father..." And many other Scriptures testify to the fact that Jesus the Man was Jesus the Messiah and was indeed Jesus the Mediator between God and man. Under His own admission, Jesus was guilty of both charges. Under their law—or their interpretation of the Law—He must be put to death. What kind of God can be Man, Messiah, and Mediator, all at the same time? All that and compassionate, too?

What Kind of God Would Allow Himself to be Laid in a Tomb?

That is a valid question. The Jews themselves and the people stood beholding and the rulers also with them derided Him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God." Only a few like old faithful Simeon and the widow Anna, departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day, giving thanks unto the Lord, and spoke of Him to all of them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Other religions have their god—or their gods. Some men's gods are quiet, peaceful, and gentle. Some men's gods are vengeful and vindictive. What kind of a God would permit His Son to be cruelly beaten, to be nailed to a cross, to be left to die before the face of all men and all eternity? And then raise Him to an other-worldly life—and finally receive Him up into Glory?

I'll tell you what kind of God would do that. It is the God who made mankind after His own image—sinless, guiltless, innocent, spotless, accountable, and responsible. It is a God who had a plan for eternity—a reward for those who proved themselves obedient, and a recompense for those who showed themselves untrue to Him. It is a God of infinite mercy—a mercy which even included a way of escape from a life of sin and the consequences of bad choices. It is a God of immeasurable patience. "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth..." "But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gra-

cious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth." A "...Lord 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." A God who would make all men to "...account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation"

This God is our defense, our strength, our refuge, our rock, our fortress, our shepherd, our light, our salvation, our keeper, our shade upon the right hand, our righteousness, our grace, our fountain of life, our strong tower, etc., etc.

Out of compassion for His fallen creation, **God** manifested Himself **in human form** (being conceived of the Holy Spirit), fulfilled the promise of **Messiah, the Christ**, presented Himself as the **Son of God** incarnate. How could there be a more compassionate God, who would take upon Himself our sin-nature, die the death of the depraved, and then laid in a tomb cut out of the rock?

So, the women went to the tomb, even as many of us go to the grave from time to time. But, wonder of wonders, an angel met them there and said, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." No other god can display an empty tomb. The man Jesus, Deliverer and Redeemer, the very person of God Himself! That is the kind of God we serve.

Marcus Miller

GENERAL

THE VALUE OF A SHEEP

I performed surgery on a sheep with an amputated leg today for the first time in my life. (Now, before I get further into this, I must confess that the sheep was plastic and contained no life.) This sheep had been the victim of a toddler bite once upon a time, and the first time, lacking experience with such limb traumas, the trauma team (Mama and Daddy) reattached it with glue. But it subsequently fell off today, I would suppose due to rather rough treatment. This provoked a child to tears and heartbreak.

Thus, in emergency mode with a child, distraught and inconsolable over the loss of the leg a second time, and without any other professionals to collaborate with, Nurse Nikki attempted to insert a rod and reattach the leg. Using a very fine bit, she carefully drilled miniscule holes in the severed ends of the offending appendage, seated a rod into place to stabilize the leg, and once again secured it with glue. It will likely never heal properly, but the poor sheep escaped a trip to the “rendering plant” or a life of “hobbling along” on three legs.

Just a toy. This cheap, plastic, lifeless sheep was just a toy. Really insignificant in light of the more important work that needs to be done. This mama might have rolled her eyes. Quiet consignment to the trash can would certainly have been much easier.

But this sheep is valued. Of all the animals in the toy box, for some reason this sheep is a favorite. Maybe because it is less fortunate? I’m not sure. But one thing I do know is that in the heart of a child, this sheep is significant and for that reason, she begged for me to try to fix it. To her, it has value and purpose. So I decided to try and to care with her and for what mattered to her.

There was much rejoicing over the restored sheep when it returned to its place among the other animals in the toy box.

You know what? Jesus sees us, His people and the sheep of His pasture, much the same way. So many souls out there. So many sheep out there to be tended and cared for. Better looking sheep. Whole sheep. Sheep with pedigrees. Quiet sheep. Satisfied sheep.

But, instead, our Shepherd goes after the wounded sheep. The injured sheep. The sheep that cannot keep up. The sick sheep. The weary sheep. The curious sheep. The straying sheep. The adventurous sheep. The stuck sheep. And He CARES TENDERLY for that sheep. The broken one. The lost one. The one that is ready to give up.

Does He roll His eyes and let out an exasperated sigh? Maybe. But I doubt it.

Why not?

Because that sheep has value. Because that sheep matters. Be-

cause that sheep is significant to Him. Because that sheep is worth more than the whole world. Because He redeemed that sheep when He sacrificed Himself in its place on that old rugged cross, and He did it willingly because He wanted to do the will of His Father.

That sheep is you.



He chooses to come after you and pick you up and gently tend to your bruises and broken places. Carefully. With love. Where it's safe and you can rest. There may be pain as He tends to your injuries and shattered places, but it is so that you can heal and be whole again.

Will there be scars? More than likely. Will you walk a little slower and more carefully? Maybe with a limp? Very possibly.

You see, every sheep matters to Him. Even the smallest, least sheep of the flock. He loves you because you are created in His own image and because you are worthy because He says you are. Not because of your pedigree. Or your looks. Or even your ability to

be a perfect, willing obedient sheep. He loves that too, but His heart is inclined toward those in need of saving. Even the seeming unblemished sheep aren't truly perfect.

Learn to know your Shepherd. Get familiar with His voice. When He calls, seeking you out, answer Him, even if your cry is weak and pitiful and you can do nothing more than to struggle feebly toward His voice. If you draw near, if your heart is turned toward Him, and you desire Him, He will come and find you and bring you to safety and walk with you.

Because He loves you. He wants you. He values you. And He wants the very best for you.

Because you are worth it. Worth so much that He shed His blood for you at Calvary and suffered unimaginable agony and took your place so that you could live free of bondage and death.

Believe it. Remember it. Embrace it. And let the Great Physician begin to work His healing in your heart.

The Word says that there is more rejoicing in Heaven over you, that restored sheep, than over the rest of the flock that never strayed or lost their way.

If you are safe in the sheepfold, sit with Jesus and stay close to Him. And if you are not, step out in faith, take courage, and reach for the hem of His garment.

Nicole Jamison

MY SPEECH—THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Fear of the Lord—Part 5

The key to open God's storehouse of treasures is the Fear of the Lord. Isaiah 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.”*

One of the many perspectives concerning the “Fear of the Lord” is knowledge and continual awareness that God hears my words and takes note of them all. Nothing is hidden from the Lord. At some point in the future, we all will have to give an account for each one of our words. The loud, judgmental, harsh, unkind, angry, unholy, ungodly words will be remembered on the day of judgement. This awareness makes me tremble even now, knowing how many times I have failed to speak edifying, God-honoring words. This knowledge makes me cry out to the Lord and plead for mercy and forgiveness for my past sins, and desire to go forward speaking words that are filled with truth, honesty, justice, purity, love, good report, virtue, and praise.

Imagine with me...

You live in a world where every word that entered your ears was believable, honorable, and true. A

world where everything you read in publications or on social media was real, and factual and totally true. A world where every word that came forth from your mouth were words of edification, and encouragement, and blessing. What an amazing, wonderful place that would be, what a joy to experience this kind of a world. As Christians, we do have this amazing place to look forward to in Eternal Glory with Jesus. However, we are not yet there, and it is needful to remind each other to be careful with our words. Our communication is very important.

Communication Methods

- Our spoken words are one of the primary ways we communicate with each other.
- We also communicate in various non-verbal ways of our facial expressions, our tone of voice, writing articles and books, sending emails, text messages, and social media posts.
- We can also communicate with our body language. Our eyes, our faces, our looks, our touch, our hand motions, and other ways all communicate a certain message.
- All our various forms of communication need to be upright and a blessing to others.

Our hearts do speak

We normally think that words and speech come only from our mouth, however, as we will see in following verses, our hearts are really

the fountainhead of our words. Therefore, we need to create a clean, pure heart, so that we can speak edifying words.

- Jesus said in Luke 6:45 “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.”
- Think of this natural illustration: take two sponges, place one in in a bucket of soapy warm water and place the other sponge in a bucket of black paint. Imagine what happens when pressure is applied to each of these two sponges and what will come out of each sponge is just exactly what the sponge has been soaking in. This sponge is just like us. If our hearts are soaking in good and godly things, then whenever pressure from life and others are applied to us, good things will come forth from our mouths.
- Your thoughts become words, which become actions, which become habits, which create your character, and character sets your destiny

Our Speech is important to God

- All the words that come out of our mouth are very important. We need to be extremely careful what and how we speak.
- We have two powerful forces within our mouth as described in

Proverbs 18:21, “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*” We can develop a profound love and taste for the sweetness of breathing life into other souls. It is so incredible to realize that our tongue, being such a little member of our body, carries within it such a powerful opportunity for good or evil. There is an old saying that goes like this is, “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” This old quote is so false, it is very untrue because we know that words can deeply hurt us.

- Our words are powerful enough that they can make a bomb look like a toy in comparison.
- Our words can inflict scars that last a lifetime and do great damage.
- Every person has this same powerful tool, the tongue, whether rich or poor, young or old, famous or the ordinary common person.
- Think of how much power has been conveyed over the years from some famous speeches in history, like the Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg address, “Fourscore and seven years ago...”; from Martin Luther King’s speech, “I have a Dream....”; from President John Kennedy’s speech, “ask not what this country can do for me...” Remember our words can carry on and on for many years and even generations.

We will face our own words someday in judgment

- Matthew 12:36, “But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.”
- “Idle word”—this means careless words
- Notice that Jesus said, “every idle word,” What a sobering, gripping verse this is.

The Desire of my Heart

What a blessing it would be if each word leaving my lips would first run thru an approval filter before being released. Like David, let’s pray for a “watch” to be set before my mouth.

- Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”
- Psalm 141:3, “Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.”

Our Tongue is Small but Mighty

James 3 gives us many lessons and warnings concerning our tongue and speech. This whole chapter would be good to read it often, pray over it, and take heed to it.

Our tongue is small, but it is mighty, just like the rudder on a large ship. Just like a small rudder can control a large, powerful ship, so our tongues have tremendous control over us.

- Our tongue can start a large raging fire that is hard to put out.
- Our tongue cannot be tamed solely by human strength; however, God can do all things.
- We should not use our tongue to bless God and use the same tongue to curse others. God wants us to edify others with our tongues on a consistent basis.
- Our tongue is not to give out both fresh water and bitter water. God wants a clear, steady, godly message from us.

We are to lay aside certain types of speech

Ephesians 4:31, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and **evil speaking**, be put away from you, with all malice.”

I Peter 2:1, “Wherefore laying aside all...

1. Malice—a vicious intent to hurt others.

2. Guile—craftiness, cunning, deceit, deception

3. Hypocrisy—pretending to be what you are not. Like wearing a mask and hiding who you really are and what you really are like.

4. Envy—feelings of resentment and jealousy towards others because of their possessions, qualities, or circumstances.

5. All evil speaking—saying things that are wrong, hurtful and wicked. This could also include gossip, lying, rumors, contention, and backbiting.

What a blessing it would be if we would commit to lay aside all 5 of these points.

- Proverbs 18:8, and Proverbs 26:22, “The **words** of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.”

We are to Commit to Use our Speech to Edify and Build Up

We have the opportunity daily, to speak kind, encouraging words to bless many people. We can be a source of sunshine, edify and build others up, and show the power and love of Jesus. What a joy to have others around us who speak life into our souls. Let’s be that person who brings life, light, and blessing to those we encounter each day.

- Proverbs 25:11, “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”
- Ephesians 4:29, “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.”
- Colossians 4:6, “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
- Ecclesiastes 10:12, “The words of a wise man’s mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.”
- Colossians 3:9, “Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds...”
- Proverbs 15:1, “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous **words** stir up anger.”
- Proverbs 16:24, “Pleasant **words** are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.”
- Ecclesiastes 5:2, “Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy **words** be few.”
- Ecclesiastes 5:3, “For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool’s voice is known by multitude of **words**.”
- Ephesians 4:32, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
- Psalm 19:14, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.” Let this verse be a prayer of each one that is prayed in sincerity continually.

Commitment

The Bible teaches us that our life on earth is possible to be full of moments of loving life and seeing good days, however there is a direct connection between loving life, and experiencing good days and our speech.

I Peter 3:10, “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.”

My Life Calling

Meditate on these verses:

- Proverbs 21:23, “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” Many troubles can be avoided if we will keep our words upright, and edifying.

Our faith in the Lord can cause us to believe we are in right standing with God. However, if we do not control our tongues and guard our speech, we can be deceived when believing that.

James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

May we meditate on this following verse and make the same commitment to the Lord that King David did concerning his mouth:

Psalm 17:3, "Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; **I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.**"

Remember the powerful truth that Jesus has told us in Matthew 12:37, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

A Pebble

James W. Foley

*Drop a pebble in the water:
Just a splash, and it is gone;
But there's half-a-hundred ripples
Circling on and on and on,
Spreading, spreading from the center,
Flowing on out to the sea.
And there is no way of telling
Where the end is going to be.*

*Drop a pebble in the water:
In a minute you forget,
But there's little waves a-flowing,
And there's ripples circling yet,*

*And those little waves a-flowing
To a great big wave have grown;
You've disturbed a mighty river
Just by dropping in a stone.*

*Drop an unkind word, or careless:
In a minute it is gone;
But there's half-a-hundred ripples
Circling on and on and on.
They keep spreading, spreading, spreading
From the center as they go,
And there is no way to stop them,
Once you've started them to flow.*

*Drop an unkind word, or careless:
In a minute you forget;
But there's little waves a-flowing,
And there's ripples circling yet,
And perhaps in some sad heart
A mighty wave of tears you've stirred,
And disturbed a life was happy
Ere you dropped that unkind word.*

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness:
Just a flash and it is gone;
But there's half-a-hundred ripples
Circling on and on and on,
Bearing hope and joy and comfort
On each splashing, dashing wave
Till you wouldn't believe the volume
Of the one kind word you gave.*

*Drop a word of cheer and kindness:
In a minute you forget;
But there's gladness still a-swelling,
And there's joy circling yet,
And you've rolled a wave of comfort
Whose sweet music can be heard
Over miles and miles of water
Just by dropping one kind word.*

Randy Jenkins

THY WILL BE DONE

Dear Children,

I am sure you have all faced a disappointment or two, and have asked WHY?

Perhaps you couldn't go somewhere you wanted to go or do something you wanted to do. Maybe someone couldn't come to your house that you were wanting to come. It may be that there was a friend that did not come to church and you had hoped to see them. Perhaps you did not get the grade at school that you were hoping to get. Something did not go the way you wanted it to go.

Why?

In Heaven and on earth, things are done according to the will of God.

The Bible says many wonderful things about God.

We have a "gracious and merciful God" (Neh. 9:31).

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation" (Isa. 12:2).

Though we cannot see Him, He is a living God, and Jesus is His Son (Matt. 16:16).

"The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms..." (Deut. 33:27).

He is "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:6).

He is a Spirit. I will liken this to a breath or a whisper (John 4:24).

God is not to be mocked (Gal. 6:7).

God is faithful and He loves us!

Why are we tempted? God allows us to be tempted, but not

more than we can bear. God is greater than our heart, and knows all things (I John 3:20).

We are made in the image of God. He stretches out His "right hand."

May we ever love God! He always sees us! He has prepared a place for us (John 14:2). And He has taught us the way.

We know He hears us! So let us be careful what we say and do! May we be loving, kind, and obedient, for God is with us always!

Let us love Him in word, deed, and thought. For yes, God always knows how we are living!

Vicki Witmer

DEAR GOD

Dear God,

Please help me overcome the impatience I sometimes feel. With myself and others. Replace it with tolerance, self-control, and understanding.

Empower me with the command over my emotions.

Let me remain calm and tranquil in stressful situations.

Help me recognize when my self-control is slipping so that I don't react negatively, but rather positively.

Thank you for your strength and guidance.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

Author Unknown

Selected by

Leland and Donna Davison

EMMAUS

His eyes had altered since He'd looked on death
 And the mysterious secret death disclosed.
 His voice had changed after that last hard breath;
 Its tones were in a different key transposed.
 Nothing He spoke of made the two suspect
 They walked with One they loved along the way,
 But it was late, the supper table decked,
 And they must urge the stranger now to stay.
 Something about the way He held the bread
 Made them remember someone's outstretched palm
 That once poured healing on the nearly dead,
 And on the raging sea spilled a great calm.
 Sudden, amazed that such a joy could be,
 They knew His hands, and saw that it was *He*.

— Edith Lovejoy Pierce

MEDITATIONS

We look for similarities in those we love, for differences in the others.
 Every time we break bread together, remember the Body of Christ.
 You can be “down to earth” and still keep an eye on heaven.
 It is easy to follow Christ if you leave out the Cross.
 Sad to say, pride is usually the last thing to go.
 One's greatest ability is depend-ability.
 Adam was a gardener.

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.

Jesus said there would be wars and rumours of wars (Matt. 24:6).

Many have been the major conflicts which have shook the earth and aroused fears in the hearts of men.

When wars are far from our shore, we hardly feel the effects, except in the prices of needed goods.

But in some parts of the world right now, non-resistant Christians like ourselves are fleeing, and churches are being disbanded because of fear and severe conflict.

Questions:

1. Do I think evil thoughts about evil men, or do I pray for them and desire their salvation?
2. Am I fearful of conflict coming to this country?
3. Am I rooted in the promises of God for His People?
4. Do I have Scriptures that help me in times of fear and uncertainty?
5. Do I have Scriptures that can offer hope to my neighbor?
6. Am I learning to pray more?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Jan. 16, 2022; Columbia River, WA
 Lily Rotz, Evi Rotz
 Jan. 30, 2022; Fair Haven, KS
 Brooke Lavy
 Feb. 20, 2022; Columbia River, WA
 Megan Wolf
 Feb. 20, 2022; Olive Branch, OH
 Clancy Peters
 Feb. 21, 2022; Bear Creek, OH
 Everard Young

NEW MEMBERS

Feb. 12, 2022; West Manchester, IN
 Ben Swingle

COMMUNION NOTICES

Mar. 5, 2022.....Morning Star, OH
 Mar. 26, 2022.....Dallas, OR
 Mar. 26, 2022.....Fair Haven, KS
 Apr. 2, 2022Mt. Zion, PA
 Apr. 2, 2022Fall Creek, IN
 Apr. 16, 2022Salem, OH
 Apr. 16, 2022Modesto, CA
 Apr. 23, 2022Cascade Valley, WA
 Apr. 23, 2022Cutler Ridge, IN
 Apr. 23, 2022Sugar Grove, OH
 Apr. 30, 2022Bear Creek, OH
 May 7, 2022Shenandoah, VA
 May 14, 2022Shiloh, OH
 Sept. 24, 2022Pleasant View, OH
 Oct. 1, 2022.....Covenant Valley, VA
 Oct. 15, 2022.....Maple Grove, OH

Oct. 15, 2022.....Western Kansas, KS
 Oct. 22, 2022.....Stillwater, OH
 Oct. 29, 2022.....Caldwell, ID
 Nov. 5, 2022.....Columbia River, WA
 Nov. 12, 2022.....Covington, OH

HARVEST MEETINGS

July 3, 2022Lower Twin, OH
 July 24, 2022Shiloh, OH
 Aug. 7, 2022.....Maple Grove, OH
 Aug. 14, 2022..Covington/Sugar Grove, OH
 Aug. 21, 2022Salem, OH
 Aug. 28, 2022Stillwater, OH
 Sept. 25, 2022Bear Creek, OH
 Nov. 24, 2022.....Pleasant View, OH

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE NOTICE

The Kansas and New Mexico districts are working together to hold the conference at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, on June 2–6, 2023, Lord willing. We desire your prayers as we continue in the labors of this meeting.

Your 2023 Committee Of Arrangements,

Foreman: Merlin Kessler
 Secretary: Trenton Wray
 Treasurer: Merle Edgecomb
 Mathan Wolf
 Silas Clark

FOR OUR READERS

You Can Be A Writer Too!

Ministers: Do I have a sermon, or thoughts that could inspire the church?
 Brethren: Do I have thoughts that might encourage others?
 Wives: Have I had experiences in the home that could help other wives?
 Mothers: Are there lessons I have learned that might be a blessing to all?
 Young People: Could I write a few thoughts that would help another?

What would God say? Is it possible that He would say, Yes! It is true!
I have given you gifts! I have given you thoughts! I have given you experiences. Freely you have received! Freely give!

POEMS

TRUE AND FALSE ZEAL

John Newton

Zeal is that pure and heav’nly flame
The fire of love supplies;
While that which often bears the name,
Is self in a disguise.

True zeal is merciful and mild,
Can pity and forbear;
The false is headstrong, fierce, and wild,
And breathes revenge and war.

While zeal for truth the Christian warms,
He knows the worth of peace;
But self contends for names and forms,
Its party to increase.

Zeal has attain’d its highest aim,
Its end is satisfy’d,
If sinners love the Saviour’s name,
Nor seeks it ought beside.

But self, however well employ’d,
Has its own ends in view;
And says, as boasting Jehu cry’d,
“Come, see what I can do.”

Self may its poor reward obtain,
And be applauded here;
But zeal the best applause will gain,
When Jesus shall appear.

Dear Lord, the idol self dethrone,
And from our hearts remove,
And let no zeal by us be shewn,
But that which springs from love.

Selected by

Maribeth Filbrun

BE STILL

Breathe
Exist

Silent
Tranquil
Immersed
Listening
Longing

and know that I AM

Gracious
Omniscient
Dependable

Nicole Jamison

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the
God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.
Come, behold the works of the
LORD, what desolations he hath
made in the earth.*

*He maketh wars to cease unto the
end of the earth; he breaketh the
bow, and cutteth the spear in sun-
der; he burneth the chariot in the
fire.*

**Be still, and know that I am
God:** *I will be exalted among the
heathen, I will be exalted in the
earth.*

*The LORD of hosts is with us; the
God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*

Ps. 46:7–11

ONCE IT WAS THE BLESSING

Once it was the blessing,
 Now it is the Lord;
 Once it was the feeling,
 Now it is His Word;
 Once His gift I wanted,
 Now, the Giver own;
 Once I sought for healing,
 Now Himself alone.
 All in all forever,
 Only Christ I'll sing;
 Everything is in Christ,
 And Christ is everything.

Once 'twas painful trying,
 Now 'tis perfect trust;
 Once a half salvation,
 Now the uttermost;
 Once 'twas ceaseless holding,
 Now He holds me fast;
 Once 'twas constant drifting,
 Now my anchor's cast.

Once 'twas busy planning,
 Now 'tis trustful prayer;
 Once 'twas anxious caring,
 Now He has the care;
 Once 'twas what I wanted,
 Now what Jesus says;
 Once 'twas constant asking,
 Now 'tis ceaseless praise.

Once it was my working,
 His it hence shall be;
 Once I tried to use Him,
 Now He uses me;
 Once the pow'r I wanted,
 Now the Mighty One;
 Once for self I labored,
 Now for Him alone.

Once I hoped in Jesus,
 Now I know He's mine;
 Once my lamps were dying,
 Now they brightly shine;
 Once for death I waited,
 Now His coming hail;
 And my hopes are anchored
 Safe within the veil.

AND GOD SAID NO

Claudia Minden Weisz

I asked God to take away my pride,
 And God said, "No."
 He said it was not for Him to take
 away,
 But for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handi-
 capped child whole,
 And God said, "No."
 He said her spirit is whole,
 Her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience,
 And God said, "No."
 He said that patience is a by-
 product of tribulation,
 It isn't granted, it's earned.

I asked God to give me happiness,
 And God said, "No."
 He said He gives blessings,
 Happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain,
 And God said, "No."
 He said Suffering draws you apart
 from worldly
 Cares and brings you closer to Me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow,
 And God said, "No."
 He said I must grow on my own,
 But He will prune me to make me
 fruitful.

I asked God to help me love others,
 As much as He loves me.
 And God said, "Ah,
 Finally, you have the idea."

Selected by

Martha Rumble

OBITUARIES

EIKENBERRY — Dale L, son of Max and Helen (Oyler) Eikenberry, was born January 12, 1962, in Logansport, Indiana. He passed away, November 3, 2021, at the Soin Medical Center, Beavercreek, Ohio, after three weeks in the hospital due to COVID complications, at the age of 59.

Dale waited many years for the right girl to steal his heart. He married Wanda Hege on April 6, 1996. They enjoyed 25 years together. They were blessed with two boys, Clay Emerson in October 2003 and Lane Warner in February 2006. Dale spent lots of time playing with his boys.

Dale accepted Jesus Christ into his life and was baptized in February 1991. He was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference.

Dale was a man of many talents. His younger days were spent helping his dad with hogs and farming. In his teenage years he spent nine months in California helping during the harvest. Many memories and stories have been shared about his time there. He also did construction and electrical work. He was a licensed plumber for twenty years. He was also a Registered Nurse. The last five years he worked as an account manager for LA-LYN Farms. He really enjoyed working for the Yost family.

Dale especially loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking and anything water related.

Dale was very friendly and always felt a great desire to become acquainted with those he hadn't met before. Many lifelong friendships were established that way.

He is survived by his wife Wanda; his boys, Clay and Lane; his parents, Max and Helen (Oyler) Eikenberry; sisters, Linda (Duane) Wolf and Leah Eikenberry; his father-in-law and step mother-in-law, Marlin and Marlene Hege; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-

law, Charity (Brian) Mohler, Wilma (Wayne) Brown, Miriam (Tom) Martin, Joyce Brumbaugh, Blaine Brumbaugh, David (Emma Lou) Hege, Jonathan (Joanna) Hege and Ben (Kara) Hege; numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Monroe and Chloe Eikenberry and John and Elizabeth Oyler; his mother-in-law Martha Hege; and brother-in-law Ethan Hege.

Funeral services were held at the Pleasant View meeting house on Monday, November 8, at 10 A.M., by Lowell Miller, Gary Peters, and Arlan Wolf. Graveside service by Marlin Hege at the Pleasant View cemetery.

Dale will be greatly missed by his family and friends. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31).

The Family

BRUBAKER — Carol Lois was born on August 27, 1931, to Raymond and Clara (Via) Coning in Lewisburg, Ohio. She peacefully passed from this life to her heavenly home on the afternoon of December 30, 2021, at Reid Hospital, Richmond, Indiana, at the age of 90 years, 4 months, and 3 days.

Mother accepted Jesus Christ as her Saviour and was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren fellowship on September 12, 1948, and lived faithful until death. She was united in marriage with Robert Dale Brubaker on October 31, 1950—a union blessed with three children, and enjoyed for nearly sixty-nine years until Dad's passing in 2019. Mother received comfort from the scriptural anointing with oil less than two days before God called her home.

Preceding her in death are her parents; sister and brother-in-law, Areda and Ezra Denlinger; in-laws, Clyde Boone, Harry and Naomi Brubaker, Emmet and Florence Brubaker, Margaret and John Huffman, Jacob and Alma Brubaker, Paul and Myrtle Brubaker, Earl and Frances Bowman and Ernest Wolf, Cephas and Edith Brubaker, Charlie and Eloise Brubaker, and Harold Reed.

Mother is survived by two daughters, Christine Dickey (and husband Jim) of Arcanum Ohio, Pamela Flory (and husband David) of West Manchester, Ohio; and one son, Michael (and wife Renee) of Eldorado, Ohio; two sisters, Hazel Boone of Greenville, Ohio, Linda (and husband Richard) Flora of Englewood, Ohio; and sister-in-law Lucy Reed of Roanoke, Virginia; twelve grandchildren, Matt (and Jill) Dickey, Jordan Dickey, Beth Denlinger, Luke (and Amy) Flory, Seth (and Heather) Flory, Simon (and Sarah) Flory, Zachary (and Melina) Flory, Micah (and Julie) Flory, Laura Brubaker, Leon (and Kendra) Brubaker, Annette (and Dared) Benedict, Amberlyn (and Larson) Beckner, thirty-four great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Mother and Dad started their home in the Maple Grove District near New Carlisle, Ohio, where Dad worked at Bowman and Landes Turkey Farm. Mother greatly enjoyed tending their home, supporting her husband, and caring for us children. She nurtured a lovely home atmosphere where cleanliness, tidiness, and delicious food were as standard as her love and care for family. Mother and Dad moved their family to the Prices Creek District near Eldorado in 1966 where Dad continued to farm, and Mother supported his egg route with homemade noodles, hardtack candy, and angel food cakes.

Mother will be remembered for her childlike innocence and the sweet love and kindness shown to everyone she met and knew. Her family, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and many other children were her "little sweet-

ies." Her many friendships speak of her affection for children, love for the underprivileged, compassion to all, and generous hospitality. The influence of her sweet and Christ-like ways will be long-remembered—blessing our souls and warming our hearts.

The visitation and funeral were both held at the Prices Creek meetinghouse near Eldorado, Ohio. The visitation was Tuesday, January 4, and the funeral service was on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. The Home Brethren gave encouragement from the 23rd Psalm and other Scriptures. Burial followed at the Prices Creek Church Cemetery.

The Family

FLORA — Robert Roy, age 85, of Clayton, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 10, 2022. Robert was born in Dark County, Ohio, on March 23, 1936, to Aaron and Ruth Flora, along with his twin brother, Richard. Robert and Richard also had three other siblings, Eugene, Naomi, and Betty, and they grew up helping their dad on their 90-acre farm. Robert played basketball at Monroe High School, where he then graduated in 1954. He was baptized into the Prices Creek Old German Baptist Church in 1956 when he was twenty years old. Not long after, Robert met Sharon Sue Balsbaugh, and on December 21, 1957, they vowed their lives to each other in Modesto, California, where they lived for a short time. They later relocated to Findlay, Ohio, where Robert was a volunteer firefighter and learned to make his famous barbecue chicken that his family would enjoy for many years to come.

Robert and Sue had three beloved children, Michael Robert, Sharon Marie, and Carol Irene, with whom they resided in the Stillwater district. After serving one year as a deacon, he was put into the ministry on January 3, 1976, advancing to elder on April 5, 1986. The young family loved camping trips with different church friends every summer.

After holding jobs in construction at Best Welding and Process Equipment, Robert worked at the Post Office for thirty-six years before retiring in 2003. After his retirement, Robert and Sue continued working together, driving for a car shuttle agency for eighteen faithful years. Robert enjoyed planting and tending to a large garden each spring and summer, and loved to grow roses for his beloved wife. Together they enjoyed traveling, taking trips to Oregon to visit family, the Holy Land, Alaska, the Caribbean, and more. Robert loved to play horseshoes, Rook, and was always ready for a friendly yet competitive game of Scrabble with Sue.

Each month Robert and Sue would host family nights at their home where their adoring family would gather to enjoy a meal and fellowship together. Robert and his wife have donated countless pints of blood at the Community Blood Center—a testament to their generous hearts.

He is survived by his wife of sixty-four years, Sharon “Sue” (Balsbaugh) Flora; children, Michael (Kay) Flora of Lewisburg, Sharon (Adam) Egger of Englewood, Carol (Jim) Marker of Dayton; grandchildren, Jesse (Leah), Kassie (Eric), Jensen (Sarah), Lance, Tina (Derrick), Zach (Alie), Katie, Courtney, Kelsie; great-grandchildren: Easton, Elli, Trey, Wyatt, Isla; twin brother, Richard (Linda) Flora of Dayton; sister, Betty Avery of New Lebanon; nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, Aaron and Ruth (Leedy) Flora; a brother, Eugene Flora; and sister, Naomi Bowman.

A faithful husband, loving father, grandpa, great-grandpa, minister, and friend, Robert was always in God’s Word and never stopped sharing Jesus with his family and strangers alike. Though we rejoice for the gain of his heavenly home, he will be sorely missed by those who loved him.

The Family

BALSBAUGH — Douglas Paul, son of Hubert and Janet (Bowser) Balsbaugh was born January 18, 1958, in Dayton, Ohio. He peacefully passed from this life at Miami Valley Hospital on January 20, 2022, at the age of 64.

On September 3, 1977, he was united in marriage with Bonnie Miller of Lima, Ohio, enjoying forty-four years together. Feeling the need of a savior he with his companion was baptized on October 6, 1978, and were members of the Salem Old German Baptist Brethren—New Conference. Three weeks before his passing he was anointed which gave him much comfort.

He is survived by his loving companion; one son, Dustin (Megan) one daughter, Jessica (Jonathan) Stull; four grandchildren, Brooke and Luke Balsbaugh, Kate and Claire Stull; his mother, Janet Balsbaugh; sister, Bonnie (Gerald) Deaton; sister-in-law, Barbara Montgomery; brother-in-law, Eugene (Sue) Miller; and many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Hubert Balsbaugh; and father- and mother-in-law, Charles and Lucille Miller.

Doug loved life and those he enjoyed it with. He said many times, “I have no regrets.” Taking time to spend with his grandchildren was very important to him. He had a love for the ocean from a young age and was able to spend many winters in Florida. Doug had an opportunity to employ many young men that needed a second chance over the years and see the potential they had. All those that were close to him knew that Doug loved them. He had a deep interest and love for the Church and remained faithful until the end.

Funeral services were held in the Salem meeting house on January 26 by the home brethren. The text taken was from Joshua 1:9, “Be strong and of a good courage.” Burial was at the Bethel Cemetery.

We look forward in hope with the promise of the Resurrection and meeting again in heaven where we shall part no more.

The Family

MILLER — Robert Douglas, 78, of Hughson, California, was born September 8, 1943 in Whittier, California, the second of seven children born to Hubert E. and Mildred L. (Root) Miller. He attended and graduated from Downey High School in Modesto, California, in 1961, where he was an active FFA member. Dad was peacefully called home on January 21, 2022.

Dad met and fell in love with our mother, Karen Louise Filbrun, and they were married on November 20, 1965, in Troy, Ohio. They lived in Ohio for a short time before moving to the Modesto area. Soon after their first child, Nathan, was born, Dad accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord, and was baptized on Christmas Day, 1967. He became a lifelong member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, later affiliating with the New Conference. Dad and Mom spent over forty-two years together until Mom's passing in April 2008. Their marriage was blessed with four children and fourteen grandchildren. This past Christmas, Dad was excited to announce to our family that he was going to become a great-grandfather this coming summer.

After Mother's passing, Dad married Shirley (Flory) Bowman of Pleasant Hill, Ohio, on March 3, 2010. They lived in Pleasant Hill for one year before making their home in California. They enjoyed almost twelve years of marriage together.

Dad loved farming, and anyone who knew him recognized that he was passionate about it. In his early years, he custom harvested walnuts, cling peaches, and apricots for local growers. During these years, he hired many young men from the east to help him with this work. Eventually he was able to purchase his own farm land and began growing cling peaches. He also grew almonds, walnuts, plums, nectarines, white peaches, black-eye beans, winter forage, oat

hay, corn silage, and sunflowers. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, he was also involved in the fast-food restaurant business.

Dad was far from perfect, but he blessed us children in so many ways. To name a few, he gave us the best mother anyone could ever ask for, he taught us the value of hard work, he taught us to rely on God and trust His Word as our guide for life, and he always made us laugh when he talked like "Donald Duck."

Dad endured many trials over the years that God ultimately used for his good. Although many things in life did not turn out the way he hoped, these trials ultimately drove him into God's Word for strength and comfort in his later years. As God comforted him through His Word, we began to see many positive changes in him the last couple years. He began a ministry of encouragement by writing letters to others facing trials of their own. He prayed daily for his family and his church family, and more fully enjoyed spending time with those he loved—especially his children and grandchildren. Our last Thanksgiving and Christmas get-togethers with him were some of the most enjoyable times we have ever experienced with Dad. He stayed with our family until 11 P.M. on Christmas Day! Dad's love for the Lord grew significantly these last few years as God slowly transformed his heart into His image. His marked-up Bible with recent dates written next to underlined verses is evidence of this.

On Sunday morning, January 16, 2022, Dad suffered a heart attack and was taken to the hospital in critical condition. His condition slowly declined over the next four days. The night before he died, we children were able to spend four hours together with him before his passing the morning of January 21, 2022, when he exchanged this world for his heavenly crown. Dad has now graduated from the tri-

als of this earth and is experiencing perfect peace.

Dad was preceded in death by our mother, Karen; his father, Hubert E. Miller; his parents-in-law, Carl and Mildred Filbrun; step-father-in-law, Walter Bayer; and a niece, Corrie (Miller) Bauman.

Dad is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Nathan Miller and wife Becky of Waterford, California; Natalie Bowman and husband Les of Littleton, Colorado; Patrick Miller and wife Kristi of Modesto, California; Tracy Miller and wife Carolyn of Modesto, California; and fourteen grandchildren: Michael and Kiana Miller, Andrew Miller, Nellie and Brayden Kamstra, Josh Miller, and Hannah Miller; Raquelle and Cullon Hecox, Ross Bowman and fiancé Shayla Bertke; Rocklin, Averil, and Finn Miller; Joel, Dale, Allison and Liana Miller. He is also survived by his mother, Mildred E. Miller; brothers and sisters, Esther Huffman and husband Alfred, John and wife Mary, Paul and wife Leah, Marilyn Boone and husband Garey, Sue Jamison and husband Leland, and Richard and wife Dawn; brothers and sisters-in-law, Darryl Filbrun and wife Janet, and Carla Miller and husband Roland; step-children, Kim Lavy and husband Sheldon, Kevin Bowman and wife Tamara, and Kenton Bowman; eleven step-grandchildren and twelve step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, in the Modesto District meetinghouse, with Bro. Chris Miller and Elders Dean Crawmer and Mike Flora officiating. Burial followed at the Wood Colony Cemetery with a message from Elder Ben Huffman.

"The LORD is my strength and song, and is become my salvation. O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever" (Ps. 118:14, 29).

The Family

GISH — Joyce Jean, the eldest daughter of Harold and Jeanette (Shoup) Chapman, was born on July 21, 1934, in Springfield, Ohio. She entered that heavenly realm on January 27, 2022, at 8:03 P.M. after patiently enduring the past couple of weeks in the apartment she shared with Dad at the Luther Park Care Facility in Sandpoint, Idaho. Her sojourn here on earth was 87 years, 6 months, and 6 days.

Mother lived in Ohio throughout her life until recently relocating in July of 2018 with Dad to Sandpoint to be near her daughter Nanette and her family.

Mother learned early about living on the farm when her parents bought the property on Route 40 just west of Vandalia, Ohio. There she flourished growing up along with her two younger sisters; Janice and Jacquelyn. Mother was especially blessed with a loving Father and Mother who were wonderful examples of how to love and care for others. The farm was a wonderful environment to learn how to care for animals, show hospitality to others and live the Christian life.

She especially enjoyed working with the animals but her love was the first pony she got for her 9th birthday, "Jeanie." From that time forward until 2018, she surrounded herself with horses; both great and small. When the time came that the Arabians were too much for her, she found fulfillment in raising miniature horses, which she did for over twenty-five years. A special part of this miniature stable was that each of the offspring was named after her grandchildren. This made them all very special to her since her grandchildren lived out of state.

Mother and Dad first met when he came back from California to pick up his dad's new Dodge car at the factory in Detroit, as it came off the line. Mother's cousins, Ted Orndoff and Don Shoup were friends of Dad's and introduced him to Mother. Dad asked her to come with him and the others to

pick up the new car. As it turned out, sixteen-year-old Mother drove the new car home with Dad and Don and Ted drove back by themselves! This was the beginning of a cross country courtship that lasted for five years with Dad making numerous road trips and one time making a complete nonstop trip after work on a Friday.

As Dad was already a committed believer; Mother felt the call of the Lord to be baptized, which she was on May 19, 1955, into the Salem District of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. Soon after her conversion they were married at Mother's home place by Elder Will Thomas on July 23, 1955. They spent the rest of their honeymoon that year in California until Dad finished working the Harvest for Floyd Overholtzer. This loving marriage lasted for over sixty-six years.

Mother and Dad soon settled on a farm on Dog Leg Road near Tipp City, Ohio. To this union was born Nanette Jean and Harold James Gish. Mother was a loving and kind homemaker, always supporting us and her husband. Our home was also open to many a soul that found their way up our driveway. She was a mother to many!

Left to mourn her passing is her beloved husband Marvin; her daughter, Nanette Miller and her son, Harold James; six grandchildren, Kate Haney and husband Ryan, Melissa Wray and husband Jamin, Heidi Root and husband Weston, Joshua Gish and wife Ursula, Cayla Villanueva and husband Jonathan, Ciara, Andres, and James Gish; and eighteen great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death are her parents; her in-laws, John and Dorothy Gish; a son-in-law, Rodney Miller; and a brother-in-law, Keith Koble.

Mother will be remembered as an elegant lady that was given to hospitality with a gracious smile and a listening ear to many that came through her door.

A funeral service was held on January 30 at the Mountain View Brethren District in Sandpoint, Idaho. The service was conducted by brother Phil Gish and Gary Koble. Burial followed at the nearby Pack River Cemetery, with remarks by Sam Wray.

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" (Prov. 31:28).

The Family

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Authors of essays, devotionals, poems, etc. are asked to review the Statement of Purpose on the back page of this periodical. Articles should

be based on Scripture. References are appreciated. Shorter focused articles are more desirable than articles that move from one topic to another. Selected material will be considered. Original writings are preferred. It is recommended that writers submit themselves to the Spirit, which reveals the will of God to the Church in every age, according to the varied needs and circumstances.

Written articles should be legible. Typed material is preferred and should be double-spaced. Electronic transmission or CD will be accepted. The author's name and address must be included on all material. An attempt will be made to contact the author of articles that are not accepted.

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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