

"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 —

"He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" Micah 6:8

Vol. XII

July 2021

No. 7

A HUMBLE HEART

I would not ask Thee that my days
Should flow quite smoothly on and on,
Lest I should learn to love this world
Too well, ere all my time is done.

I would not ask Thee that my work
Should never bring me pain nor fear,
Lest I should learn to work alone,
And never wish Thy Presence near.

I would not ask Thee that my friends
Should always kind and constant be,
Lest I should learn to lay my faith
In them alone, and not in Thee.

But I would ask a humble heart,
A changeless will to work and wake,
A firm faith in Thy providence,
The rest—'tis Thine to give or take.

Alfred Norris

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

'TIL THE STORM PASSES BY

O, Father, we come to Thee in Jesus' Name. The world is being flooded with new depths of sin and unbelief. We know this was foretold. Things would get worse and worse. The love of many would wax cold. Natural affection would wane. There would be treachery and betrayal and unfaithfulness.

But as it presses in upon us, we feel our weakness, and desire special spiritual aid. The storm, wind, and thunder sometimes leave our minds reeling, and our place upon the Rock can feel slippery. Help us to stand.

We are met with untruth, uncertainty, the illogical and surprising departure from You and all that is good. In the place of wisdom, we see self-centeredness. We see a preoccupation with selfish desires that seems to overrule every solid principle of right and truth and common sense.

We are exposed more and more to sin and uncleanness. Temptations and fears are in the way. While it may be that these things have always been, there seems to be an intensity and vicious increase that gives us pause.

The winds are strong, O Father. The storm threatens the weak, the strong, the simple, the wise, and pulls at the fabric of families and churches as they try to stand strong for Thee. Guard our hearts. Let nothing cause a weakening of our faith, or a lessening of our zeal. Help us to retain a hatred for sin, and for all that is not good

and pure. Help us to be humble.

Strengthen parents with resolve and wisdom as they guide the little feet. May they not fear or panic, but stand strong in the faith of Thee, and cling to the promises You have given them in the Scriptures. May they know that the winds of the centuries have never moved the Rock, and never can.

Be with us in every trial, that the testimony of our lives may also cause others to see the Way and be delivered from the torrent of sin and self. Help us to have an undying interest in the souls of men, even as You have had an undying interest in us and have given Your lifeblood to redeem us, and to purify unto Yourself a People, zealous of good works.

Help us, O Father, to keep the prospect of the soon coming of the Lord Jesus before our eyes, and may it brighten our countenance and lift our (sometimes lower) gaze heavenward.

Help us to stand as a light in this dark world. Your Light can dispel the darkness. May our way be brightened by Thy Word and by Thy Presence.

Keep us safe 'til the storm passes by.

*'Til the Storm passes over,
'Til the thunder sounds no more,
'Til the clouds roll forever from the sky,
Hold me fast, let me stand in the
hollow of Thy hand,
Keep me safe 'til the storm passes by.*

In Jesus' Name, Amen

Lowell Miller

GENERAL

UNDERSTANDING THE FEAR OF THE LORD

The key to God's Storehouse of Treasures is the "Fear of the Lord"

The Fear of the Lord is truly a real treasure only when properly understood and applied in our life. The Fear of the Lord has the potential to change your life both now and for eternity. The proper Fear of the Lord can give you an abundance of treasure, including godly wisdom and knowledge, victory over sin, and even salvation. The Fear of the Lord can give you insights for a close and intimate friendship and walk with God.

There are three basic types of Fear

- **Fear of Injury and Death** — includes fear of heights, physical danger, weather and storms, raging waters, wild animals, sickness, etc.
- **Fear of Man** — being highly concerned, even controlled by other's opinions.
- **Fear of God** — has two aspects: being afraid of God, dread, terror (for those in sin) and a deep respect, reverence, with awe and wonder (for believers).

Our primary focus will be on the third one, the **Fear of the Lord**.

You will be greatly blessed if you study this topic on your own and meditate and pray over this subject so that the Holy Spirit by the Word of God can illuminate the Fear of

God and make it real in your life.

A key verse is in 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.*"

This treasure is like a storehouse full of precious, priceless jewels, and the key to open this storehouse of treasure is the Fear of the Lord.

Notice this treasure in Isaiah 33:5–6 contains:

- Fear of the Lord is **wisdom and knowledge**.
- Fear of the Lord God is **our stability, a sure foundation**.
- Fear of the Lord is **the strength of salvation**.

The Holy fear of the Lord will be clearly revealed to us by the Holy Spirit as we diligently seek Him with all our hearts, read His Word, engage in prayer, and as we give God a special place of honor and reverence in our hearts. The Fear of the Lord is not to be grasped in our minds alone. Rather, to be effective it will need to be spiritually understood and stamped deeply in our heart and soul.

Some Bible verses to teach us about the Fear of the Lord

Proverbs 1:7, "The Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wis-

dom and instruction.”

Psalms 111:10, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.”

Proverbs 8:13, “The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”

Job 28:28, “And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.”

Luke 12:4-5, “And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.”

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.”

Two Mighty Pillars of truth that are foundational in the Word of God

The Love of God

The Fear of God

Many people only want to hear about the wonderful and marvelous love of God. The love of God certainly is a vital and mighty pillar, and a central teaching in the Bible. Without God's love, we have no hope, no future, and no eternal life. However, the Bible also teach-

es us of a coming judgment and calls us to a proper Fear of the Lord. The teaching on the Fear of the Lord is sadly missing from much of the teaching in our day. We need to embrace and teach both the magnificent love of God, and the powerful Holy Fear of the Lord. One of these pillars taught without the other is incomplete and will lead us astray. Both truths are essential.

Two aspects of the “Fear of the Lord”

First is a dread, terror, scared, fright, panic. (This is for those who are living in sin, and not following Jesus and His Word.)

This is the kind of fear that has terror and torment, causing people to be afraid of God. This is not the kind of fear the Bible teaches for the born-again Christian to have.

The second aspect is to have an awe, reverence, respect, obedience, worship of the Lord. (This is the proper Fear of the Lord, for believers living in God's will.)

Let's look deeper at the meaning of the Fear of the Lord

The Old Testament Hebrew noun *yirah* contains both aspects of the meaning including dreadful, terror, reverence, obedience and worship.

This fear acknowledges God's good intentions as in Exodus 20:20, “And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.”

The New Testament Greek noun *phobos* means terror, dread, respect, flee, reverence, and not just a mere “fear” of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him.

**For the Believer, the
Fear of the Lord is positive,
not negative.**

This is the type of positive, productive fear Luke describes in the early New Testament Church, “Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied” (Acts 9:31).

Scripture is full of examples of how fearing God is a positive attribute, rather than a negative one. In Genesis 42:18, Joseph wins his brothers’ trust when he declares he is a God-fearing man.

It was because the midwives feared God that they obeyed Him instead of the authorities by sparing the Hebrew babies (Ex. 1:17).

Pharaoh brought disaster on Egypt because he did not fear God (Ex. 9:29–31).

Moses chose leaders to help him on the basis that they feared God and wouldn’t take bribes (Ex. 18:21)

The Mosaic Law cites fear of God as a reason to treat the disabled and elderly well (Lev. 19:14, 32).

This is strongly taught by Jesus when He said, “Don’t be afraid of

those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell” (Matt. 10:28 NLT).

It is clear from these passages, that fearing God is good because it saves us from yielding to our own fleshly, sinful nature. When people are God-fearing, it will make us trust them more. If they fear God, they are more likely to keep their word and treat others with kindness.

In a foundational Scripture for those living in sin, Romans 3:18 teaches us that their chief sin is that they “have no fear of God.”

The ultimate example of fear and love working together is Jesus Christ. He warned us at every turn to fear God, not men—and He confirmed that by His life and death. He spoke lovingly, but frankly, to all and did not mince words when people needed to face their sin and repent. But He also demonstrated love beyond human understanding when He lived out His words, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

Meditate on the Fear of God

For the unbeliever, the fear of God is the fear of the judgment of God and eternal death, which is eternal separation from God (Luke 12:5; Hebrews 10:31). For the believer, the fear of God is something much different. The believer’s fear is reverence of God.

Hebrews 12:28–29 (NIV) is a good description of this: “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” This reverence and awe are exactly what the fear of God means for Christians. This is the motivating factor for us to surrender to the Creator of the Universe. Let us not limit the Fear of the Lord to just only “respecting” Him. While respect is certainly included in the concept of fearing God, there is more to it than that. A biblical fear of God, for the believer, includes understanding how much God hates sin and fearing His judgment on sin—even in the life of a believer. Hebrews 12:5–11 describes God’s discipline of the believer. While it is done in love (Hebrews 12:6), it is still a fearful thing.

As children, the fear of discipline from our parents no doubt prevented some evil actions. The same should be true in our relationship with God. We should fear His discipline, and therefore seek to live our lives in such a way that pleases Him.

Believers are not to be terrified and scared of God. We have His promise that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38–39). We have His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Fearing God means having such a rever-

ence for Him that it has a great impact on the way we live our lives. The fear of God is to obey Him, submit to His discipline, and worship Him in awe. We are taught in I John 4:18, “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” The children of God are not called to be scared of Him; rather, a deep love for God will lead us into a deep reverence of Him.

Building on the Solid Rock

The theme verse for this message is Isaiah 33:6:

“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times and strength of salvation; the fear of the LORD is his treasure.”

Lasting “Stability” is like having a good foundation; it is to be solid and firm, and it will stand during the storms. We want our buildings, our homes to be on a good solid foundation. Likewise, a good foundation is very important to build our life upon. A foundation supports all that is built on it. We know that Jesus is the solid foundation stone.

Choose your building materials: shifting sand, or solid rock?

Remember the account in Matthew 7:25–27 concerning building our house, our lives on the solid rock to be able to stand when the storms come.

Remember the Fear of the Lord is our stability: Don’t build on the sand:

I John 2:15–17 is a warning to not build on the shifting sands of the world, which says, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

Building on the Lasting Foundation

•Have a High Respect for God’s Word

Having a high regard for the Bible, the Word of God, is an essential part of growing in the fear of the Lord. When we take time to read Scripture and commit to applying its universal, non-optional truths, we learn more about the nature of God, His ways, and our role as His creatures.

All the people of Israel were to gather to hear the Word of God so that they would learn to fear Him. “Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it” (Deut. 31:12–13).

The kings of Israel were re-

quired to write out a copy of God’s Law and to spend time each day reading it so they would learn to fear God. “Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the LORD thy God shall choose...And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them” (Deut. 17:15–19).

The Bible is a book by God, about God, teaching us how to live according to His design and plan, and to have a proper relationship with Him.

Since the Bible is the Word of God, this demands our highest reverence, respect, and honor. This Bible is not given to us for just information, but it is for our transformation and redemption. The Word of God is alive, it is to be read, meditated upon, and to be obeyed.

We will be judged by the Word of God on the last day. (John 12:48)

Many men in the past have gone to great effort, even to the point of giving their life to preserve and make available the Bible for future generations that they did not know, even for us today. Do not treat the Bible casually. Be careful with it. The Word of God is priceless.

Have a high respect for the Bible, both the actual physical Bible and all the teachings contained in the Bible. The Word of God is Eternal!

• **Learn to Tremble at the Word of God!**

Ezra 9:4, “Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice.”

Isaiah 66:5, “Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his

Fearing God means having such a reverence for Him that it has a great impact on the way we live our lives.

word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed.”

Jeremiah 5:22, “Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it?”

Isaiah 66:2, “For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith

the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”

Humility is a great place to start in our journey in learning to tremble at the Word of God.

It should make us tremble to remember God knows all our words, thoughts and deeds and has a perfect memory. That He will ask us to give account someday, should cause us to tremble in His presence.

Trembling before the Word of God demonstrates how weak we are and how great and majestic God really is. When we are in the presence of God, by drawing near to Him by His Word, a deep reverence should be upon us, as we get just a small glimpse of His power. A Holy trembling before God and the Word of God is a great blessing to have. Blessed are those all over the world who tremble before the Word of God.

• **Welcome God's Chastening**

When we sin, we will surely face consequences. God's chastening of sin is painful, yet it is the expression of a loving Father's care for His children.

Scripture instructs us to embrace God's discipline and learn from the reproofs of life: “My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth” (Prov. 3:11–12).

We are challenged to receive God's chastening and become more holy: "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? ...We have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (Heb. 12:7, 9–11).

The Fear of the Lord includes

- A continual deep profound respect and reverence for God and all things He says and declares to be right and Holy.
- Assigning the highest place of honor in my heart to God, the only Lord of Lords and King of Kings.
- Deeply appreciating the wonder of His Word, the Bible, and being able to come into His awesome presence with a Holy trembling.
- Worship God alone with a heart full of passion, adoration, praise, and continual thanksgiving.
- Learning to honor what God honors, love what He loves, hate what He hates.

- Having an inward desire to please God and not disappoint or offend Him.
- Submission of my will, my desires, my plans, to God's will, God's desires, and to fully embrace God's plans.
- The Fear of the Lord will call me to a life of Holiness.
- The Fear of the Lord will call me to an active life of Prayer.
- The Fear of the Lord will produce a cleansing and purifying effect in my life.
- The Fear of the Lord teaches me that I shall give an account to God for my actions while here on earth.

A practical definition of the "Fear of the Lord"

- The Fear of the Lord is an awareness that I am always in the presence of the Holy, Just, Pure and Almighty God, and that He will hold me accountable for my motives, thoughts, words, and actions. The proper Fear of God is to desire to live in harmony with His righteous standards with a heart to honor Him in all that I do, to worship Him, and be obedient to Him!

Results of the proper Fear of the Lord

- Inward Holiness—changing our inward desires, thoughts, meditations.
- Outward Holiness—changing our actions, appearances, behaviors.

It will continually refine our motives and intentions, how you use your time, your money, your

possessions, your goals, your free time, your friends, your styles of dress and the clothes you chose to wear, your attitudes towards authority, and all areas of your life.

Let us commit to make and keep the Fear of the Lord as a precious treasure in our lives. If we will do this, then the Holy Fear of God will make a deep impact on every aspect of our lives.

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.”

Will you make the “Fear of the Lord” your treasure?

Randy Jenkins

THE SIMPLICITY OF AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE SALVATION

Some say salvation is received through grace and grace only and cite Scriptures to support their viewpoint.

Some say salvation is received through faith and faith alone and cite Scriptures to support their position.

Some say that salvation (by grace and/or faith) must be accom-

panied by obedient works and cite Scripture to support their thinking.

Nearly seventy years ago, at a night meeting in the Stillwater meeting house, we heard an inspiring (to a teenager) sermon on the “Simplicity of the Gospel.” It centered about the Good News of Salvation. A brother that followed in testimony rose to his feet and the first words he said were, “It’s not all that simple,” and went on to elaborate on the complexity of God’s plan of salvation. Some are confused by these differing thoughts on salvation. The discussion will never be settled to the satisfaction of everyone on this side of heaven.

We have concluded that salvation is so simple that it is available to each and to all. On the other hand, salvation is so complex that it challenges human understanding. Let us look at what the Apostle Peter had to say in the first chapter of I Peter. He was writing to “strangers,” Christian pilgrims residing in foreign lands, “elect” dispersed throughout the area of Asia Minor and beyond. I think that could include us, far away and centuries since Peter wrote. While showing the complexity of God’s plan we wish also to show that the individual parts of God’s plan, if we take them separately, are not difficult for a seeking mind to understand. Let us examine I Peter 1:2–9:

“1) Elect according to 2) the foreknowledge of God the Father, through 3) sanctification of the Spirit, unto 4) obedience [to the teachings of Jesus] and sprinkling of 5) the blood of Jesus Christ: 6) Grace unto you, and 7) peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to 8) his abundant mercy 9) hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by 10) the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are 11) kept 12) by the power of God through 13) faith unto salvation 14) ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the 15) trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be 16) found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye 17) rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even **THE SALVATION OF YOUR SOULS.**”

“Salvation for our souls” is the end-result. That is what we are looking for. We have started by looking for seven key points because three or seven points are

often the framework for an epistolary writing or a sermon. But we have ended with not seven but with seventeen points in these eight verses. And we doubt not that there are many more in Scripture. Let us examine these seventeen points one by one.

Elect. A chosen people, selected, favored, a favorite people, peculiar or particular, separated unto God.

The foreknowledge of God. We have no doubt that God, who knows all things, knows our individual lives and salvation—or lack thereof. That is an important part of the Big Picture as it applies to us individually. He had a plan for His people and for each person—every soul. He knows your life and He has known it from the beginning, before you were conceived in your mother’s womb. Isn’t that important?

Sanctification of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit had an essential part in salvation from the beginning. It moved on the Deep at creation and it moves in the depths of your soul even now—moves in each of us and works for our sanctification, our consecration, our purification, our holiness.

Unto obedience. We do not believe that “elect” implies that our salvation is so absolute that it cannot be forfeited. There are too many examples of good men of all ages who have fallen back into their former lusts and sins, some to repentance and some to perdition. Our first obedience is to the

call of salvation, but obedience implies continued action in compliance to the will of God as taught by Jesus Christ.

The Blood of Jesus Christ. It is said that “The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the hub of the universe.” And we would say the shed blood of Jesus Christ is the hub upon which Eternity revolves. There would be no salvation for mankind without the sacrificial death of Jesus.

Grace. There is no doubt to the statement that “We are saved by grace.” The best simple definition of Grace is, “The Divine influence upon the heart,” in addition to which must be added, “and its reflection upon the life of the seeker.” Thus salvation consists not only of grace but faith and obedience as well.

Peace. Peace does not mean simply a nice feeling of comfort and security, a lack of disturbance. Peace, here in this sense, is “to be set at one.” Reconciliation. The removal of the enmity between God and fallen mankind. Without peace and reconciliation there would be no salvation.

His abundant mercy. Not His mercy but His *abundant* mercy—plentiful, profuse, lavish mercy, that He would stoop to extend salvation of fallen race. Selah.

Hath begotten us. Children of God, by creation and by redemption. He made us. He lost us. He brought us back. That is salvation.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. There would be no salvation without the resurrection. It was foretold by prophets of old. It was anticipated by the faithful. It had never happened before, nor since. A one-time intervention by God into the affairs of fallen man. With the sole purpose of saving their souls. Think of it, the Lamb-sacrifice came back to life! Unheard of in all history.

Kept. Preserved. This is evidence of the assurance of our salvation. The promise that He can and will keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day of the Lord.

By the power of God. All powerful. What else could save a soul?

Through Faith unto Salvation. Not by a misdirected faith. Not by faith in grace only. Not by faith in faith alone. Not by faith simply to man’s obedience to the will of God concerning us. Not through faith in the power of God without a response from man. This is a faith in the being of God as a Savior, that Jesus is the resurrected sacrifice, and that the Holy Spirit does continue to work in those who will seek Him.

Ready to be revealed. This is preparation for the Great Day of Salvation as in I Corinthians 15:20–28 when Christ shall deliver up to God the Father the saved of all ages. The day of victory over spiritual death and Satan’s kingdom.

The Trial of your faith. Testing and trials are a part of the salvation of souls. I think this trial of our faith is a part of the struggles that are occurring in the spirit world, a realm unseen by us—as in the life of Job for instance. I don't understand it but a faith which has come through the fire is an enduring and an undying faith.

Found unto praise and honor and glory. This is the purpose of God's reaching down to fallen man, even to the point of offering His own Son upon the altar of sacrifice, that all creation might ultimately praise Him saying, *"Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are his judgments...And again they said, Alleluia...And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready."* This is Salvation not only for each person but for the Holy Assembly, the

church-bride of the Lamb. Alleluia, Amen.

Rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Joy and rejoicing in the Spirit is tangible evidence of salvation, both now and in the eternity to come—that we might "...be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him..."

It is possible that some Christians' understanding of God's plan of salvation is far too simplistic. Beware of the qualifications "only" or "alone" or "merely" or "simply" or "just." Yet there is a simplicity to the gospel of salvation—lessons simple enough to be understood by any humble, repentant sinner. But, in the end we must conclude that the plan of God is too complex for man to fully comprehend.

And so, we return to the sermon on "The Simplicity of the Gospel." We cannot make it any more understandable than the words of the Apostle John when 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 that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Marcus Miller

DOES WORSHIP SEEM FLAT?

Have you ever come to the hour of worship or prayer and felt like you were doing it out of duty? It felt flat—like it was an obligatory habit. It just didn't feel genuine, it felt like there was a suppression on it all, not the kind of inspired and vibrant feeling you were hoping for.

There could be several reasons for this feeling. Maybe devotions and prayer life hasn't been what it could be. Maybe the daily pursuit has been all consumed in the worldly. Maybe the Bible has laid there without inquiry or simply read.

There could be another reason... a relationship that is not what it could or should be. Is there a person that is bothering you? Have you been "on the outs" with anyone? Is there an on-going situation that is troubling you? Does "self" become defensive and protective at the very thought of these questions?

Notice the following Scriptures:

Matthew 5:7—"Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy."

Matthew 5:23-24—"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."

Matthew 6:12—"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

Matthew 6:14-15—"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Matthew 18:10-35—"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven:

and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

“Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

“Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

“Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

“Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at

his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

“Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow-

**Eph. 4:30–32...Eph. 5:1–2...
James 2:13... These
verses point out that
there is a direct
connection between
our relation with
others and our worship.**

servant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

“So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.”

Ephesians 4:30–32—“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil

speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

Ephesians 5:1–2—“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”

James 2:13—“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”

These verses point out that there is a direct connection between our relationships with others and our worship. The Christian is to be of a blameless, pure, and perfect attitude. Does this sound lofty? Yes, it does! This can be a reality if we’re following Jesus, walking in the Holy Spirit and self is crucified, and our cross embraced.

We are to be quick to forgive, quick to reconcile, quick to pursue peace. Our language should be a language spoken by word and action of love, mercy and forgiveness. Before mercy or forgiveness is extended to us, we must be willing to first extend it to others.

Our prayers can be “hindered” the Bible says. That reference is speaking in the context of a marriage relationship. (Yes, our marriages matter to God.) It matters

not what relationship were speaking of, if the relationship isn’t healthy—hence the flat feeling in our worship.

Jesus said, when you come in your heart to worship (or prayer), if the Holy Spirit pricks your conscience concerning a relationship that isn’t where it should be before God, you go your way, and first be reconciled to that person.

Well, my flesh says, “What about the other person?” What’s their responsibility? They started the whole thing! It’s their deal! Sorry! The Bible will not defend this position. Jesus said I am to go and be reconciled. When I gave my life to Jesus, my rights to my way of thinking was over. I forget that too often! There are fruits of unforgiveness and an unwillingness to reconcile. It’s bitterness for one thing, and that root is a hard one to pull out. God isn’t interested in just controlling that plant of bitterness. It must be pulled out and uprooted entirely. The fruits of living God’s way are so much more pleasant and edifying!

So, if worship seems flat, we should examine ourselves before God in truth, humility and sincerity. Maybe it’s neglect of devotions and prayer. Maybe I’ve been consumed with and pursuing worldliness. Maybe I’ve lingered too long in thoughts of sin, and my heart is dirty and needs cleansed. Or maybe I’m not reconciled with someone. In any case, Jesus says, “Go

thy way and first be reconciled.”

Prayer: “Oh Father God, help us to worship You in Spirit and in truth! Please forgive us where we haven’t. Help us to not just admit this but confess this and be willing to change by the power of the Holy Spirit. Help us to follow You more closely and more yielded. Help us to walk in Your love with all people. Help our language to be of mercy and forgiveness and righteousness. In the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen!”

Aaron Garber

BE A TITUS

Titus, in the New Testament Scripture, seems to be a laborer in the church with so many virtues, and one who was commended often—a very useful servant.

When I read II Corinthians 2:13 (“I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother.”) my first thought was that he, like Demas, had forsaken Paul, and that Paul was grieving because Titus had left him. But then I searched to see if there had been any mention of him before this passage to ascertain why Paul even expected to find him there upon his arrival. But, no, this is the first mention of Titus.

The next was in II Corinthians 7:6, “Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down,

comforted us by the coming of Titus.” We can see that Titus was a comforter to Paul.

In 7:13, Paul commends the Corinthians, also as comforters to Titus, for his joy and that his spirit was refreshed by them.

The following verse (14) Paul says he is not ashamed of his boasting of the truth about Titus.

In 8:6 Paul says that he hopes the grace Titus sought to work in them might be finished and completed.

In verse 16 Paul thanks God for the earnest care Titus had for the Corinthians.

In verse 23 Paul speaks of Titus as his partner and fellowhelper concerning the Corinthians, and also a messenger of the churches and the glory of Christ. A wonderful commendation!

In 12:18 Paul speaks of Titus as a brother that walked in the same spirit and in the same steps as he himself.

In II Timothy we find Paul is nearing the end of his journey, and in 4:10, lamenting Demas’ departure, and in giving Timothy directions for closure, he writes of Titus going to Dalmatia. It is fair to assume, as a minister.

In Titus 1:4 Paul calls Titus, “mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.” A very endearing description of a helper in the faith that he loved.

And finally, in Titus 3:15, Paul writes to Titus, ordained the first

bishop of the church of the Cretians, or Greece, hence a Gentile preacher to a Gentile people. "All that are with me salute thee. Greet them that love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen."

May the Lord help us to be like Titus. Men and women of faith. Helpers in the Gospel. Faithful in all things.

Alice Mae Haney

WHY ARE YE FEARFUL?

Fred Beachy

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful. O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. Matt. 8:26

Faith is the most significant element in overcoming fear. Faith is bold; doubt is timid. When faith fails under test, there is great danger of shipwreck. An important prayer for all who desire to be saved is, "Lord, increase our faith!"

Satan especially attacks those who manifest strong faith in the words of our dear Savior. Faith and prayer are our two most powerful weapons against these attacks. When we encounter adversity, Satan uses discouragement, a tool to make us give up hope. But where faith abounds Satan is helpless to penetrate our wall of pro-

tection. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7).

Ephesians 6:13 tells us, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." The shield of faith is part of the armour, and fear cannot penetrate true faith! Once when I made an emphatic statement about how to do something, my father asked if I truly believed that. I said that I did. So he asked, "Then why don't you do it that way?" I then realized that words without action do not qualify as faith.

Today's Bible reading includes the lines, "Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?" (Exod. 15:11) If we can have faith in God as Moses did, we can overcome fear. We also need to recognize a different aspect of fear. Hebrews 10:31 says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." But to those who have a proper fear of God, He is a merciful and loving Father.

We can fear Satan and be doomed or fear God and be justified.

Selected from:

"Beside the Still Waters" by

Darlene Killingsworth

GOD KNOWETH BEST

Sometimes God who knoweth best, gives us joy and peace and rest;
Sometimes days glide swiftly by, filled with sunshine from on high.

Sometimes God, who knoweth best, sends us sorrow as a test;
Sometimes He doth wound a heart, greater sweetness to impart.

Oft a heart bowed down in grief, looks to Jesus for relief,
Seeds the Saviour's loving care, learns to have more faith in prayer,

Well we know whate're betide, if we let the Spirit guide;
Will but prove God knoweth best, then fear not, though hard the test.

So we leave in His dear hand, all we cannot understand,
While our God with heart of love, leads His own to heights above.

Emily Donaghy

MEDITATIONS

If things don't seem right you may not have all the information you need.

Knowledge is the ability for one to answer questions correctly.

Wisdom is the ability to ask questions with humility.

In "the beginning," God already existed.

Worry has a touch of faithlessness.

Never argue with THE JUDGE.

Doubt is a powerful a tool.

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.

One of the simplest promises that are given in the Scripture is found in the beatitudes. Matthew 5:8 records these words of Jesus, **"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."**

Pure...in heart. This is written as if being pure in heart is possible for the child of God. Though it is possible only with the help of God, let us ask ourselves some questions:

1. What does it mean to be **pure** in heart?

2. Does it mean to have a heart that is free from selfish motives?

3. Does it mean a heart that simply trusts in God without doubting?

4. If I am often angry, is my heart pure?

5. If I am not gentle with my wife or family, is my heart pure?

6. If I am constantly critical of others around me, is my heart pure?

7. What is the solution if I do not feel like I have a **pure heart**?

8. Is this something I should share with others who can help and pray?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

May 13, 2021; Covington, OH
 Kyle Flory
 May 26, 2021; Shenandoah, VA
 Kammi Hicks

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Nov. 15, 2020; Zillah, WA
 Jana Crist
 June 6, 2021; Olive Branch, OH
 Katrina Popejoy

COMMISSIONS

May 21, 2021; Bear Creek, OH
 John Denlinger (with wife, Holly)
 Called to the Ministry
 Simon King (with wife Sally)
 Called to the office of Deacon

COMMUNION NOTICES

Sept. 11, 2021 ... Mountain View, ID and
 Mission Valley, MT together in Idaho
 Sept. 11, 2021 Western Kansas, KS

Sept. 18, 2021 Clearwater, IN and
 Scottville, MI together in IN
 Sept. 25, 2021 Pleasant View, OH
 Oct. 2, 2021 Providence, IN
 Oct. 2, 2021 Caldwell, ID
 Oct. 9, 2021 Lower Twin, OH
 Oct. 16, 2021 Maple Grove, OH
 Oct. 23, 2021 Stillwater, OH
 Nov. 6, 2021 Columbia River, WA
 Nov. 6, 2021 Bethel, OH
 Nov. 13, 2021 Shenandoah, VA
 Feb. 5, 2022 Pine Grove, FL

HARVEST MEETINGS

July 4, 2021 Lower Twin, OH
 July 25, 2021 Shiloh, OH
 Aug. 8, 2021 .. Covington/Sugar Grove, OH
 Aug. 22, 2021 Salem, OH
 Sept. 12, 2021 Stillwater, OH
 Sept. 26, 2021 Bear Creek, OH
 Nov. 25, 2021 Pleasant View, OH

POEMS

RECLAIMING THE HOLY GROUND OF MARRIAGE

A holy calling sent from God, though not for everyone,
 There's truth for all of you that here do dwell beneath the sun.
 God's Wisdom like a diamond shines, to all the world most fair,
 As we behold we seek to find, His Wisdom everywhere.

We're called to leave the world behind, and follow after Christ,
 So man leaves family behind, and follows after Christ.
 Man without woman incomplete, In Christ they shall be one.
 A helper, woman, for the man: the Christian race to run.

As we leave sin and self behind: are made alive in Christ,
 So man must die and be made one, together with his wife.
 Self has no place in Christian Life, nor in the marriage too.
 To die to self and live to Christ, is something we must do.

Continued on page 22...

Continued from page 21...

A man of God will love his wife; her love grow strong for him,
As they together seek the Lord, their light will not grow dim.
Subjection to your husbands, wives, just as the Church to Christ,
Of greatest value to the Lord, it never can be priced.

God's greatest purposes seem hard, and yet if we embrace
His will for us He'll bless us so, if we can take our place.
A wife subjected to the Lord, and to her husband too,
Will win her husband to the Lord, a vessel God works through.

Desire that ye be all adorned with what God loves to see,
And to your husband you will show yourself to pleasing be.
The serpent subtle, then suggests, begins a dialogue,
And then men lust, and they partake, and wallow like a hog.

A woman who is in her place, gives strength unto the man,
And gives him courage to desire and carry out God's plan.
What is a godly marriage worth? 'Tis worth the cost for you,
Your strong desire God will bless, and give you strength anew.

If you are struggling here and now, your marriage lies a wreck,
God's grace will still reach down to you, if you will risk your neck.
Christ, the Savior of the Church, the great example He,
So to his wife, a godly man, her savior he must be.

A man must love his wife so much, he'd give his life for her.
His love must cause emotions strong, within her heart to stir.
A man must wash his lover's heart, with water of the Word,
As she is cleansed by this she'll feel as free as any bird.

Young people, guard with all your strength the door into your heart,
If you can save your heart's desires, His blessings He'll impart.

Young ladies purify your hearts, and sanctify your lives,
Save all your heart for Jesus Christ and you will win the prize.

Young families, read God's Holy Word, and worship every day,
Rich blessings you will find from Christ, along the narrow way.

So many things distract our lives, and pull our hearts away,
From spending time with God above in every single day.

Your marriage struggles? Build a bridge. Reach out both for the Lord,
Build long and hard on Jesus Christ, together in the Word.
God's plans for marriage, Beautiful! Most glorious to behold!
A marriage centered on the Lord, is worth much more than gold.

Reuben J Shankster

IS THAT FOOTSTEPS THAT I HEAR?*Author Uncertain*

There is something that's gonna happen
And the day is drawing near,
It is time to get excited,
Is that footsteps that I hear?

Come on, Gabriel, blow your trumpet,
And the dead in Christ shall rise,
We are going to a meeting
Just beyond the eastern skies.

Are you ready for the Rapture
When we meet Him in the air!
O, His coming is drawing closer!
Is that footsteps that I hear?

Many a saint has fought the battle,
Run the race and shed the tear,
And it's time to get excited,
Is that footsteps that I hear?

Is that footsteps that I hear?
Heavenly portals seem so near,
Heavenly lights are shining clear,
Is that footsteps that I hear?

Selected by
Ben and Lynae Bayer
New Lebanon, OH

SCENES OF VICTORY

There'll be smiles, there'll be singing;
I can hear the arches ringing,
And I hear the angels winging
At the music 'round the throne:
There all tears forever banished,
When our trials and cares have vanished;
Where our souls no more are famished
As we gather 'round the throne!
O, the glories of reunion,
When we meet in blissful union,
And enjoy that sweet communion,
There, in victory, 'round the throne!

Curt Wagoner

OBITUARIES

RUMBLE — Mark Weston was born July 10, 1930, to Charles and Flossie (Flora) Rumble of Modesto, California. He passed away on March 19, 2021, at his rural home north of Modesto. Growing up, he enjoyed the farming life of the San Joaquin Valley of California. Mark, apart from his 1-W service, was a lifelong resident of Modesto.

He was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on June 29, 1947, along with nine other boys. It was his great joy to attend the church services and social functions of his church community. At the time of his passing, he was a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church (New Conference).

He married Donna Louise Brubaker of Flora, Indiana, on July 6, 1952. They started their life together in Modesto, until he was called to the 1-W service in 1953. During his service, they lived in Camarillo, California, where their first son was born. In 1955, they returned to Modesto, where they spent the remainder of their more than sixty five years together. Living there, they were blessed with two more children, operated a small almond and walnut ranch, and built a home. He was happiest working on his ranch. In addition to his farming, he worked for over twenty-five years for the Modesto City Schools District, first as a bus driver and later as a truck driver for the food delivery program.

Mark and Donna were blessed with three children, Joseph and Marjorie (Boone) Rumble of Ripon, California, John and Debbie (Young) Rumble of Prosser, Washington, and Karen and

David Fisher of Hughson, California. Also surviving are grandchildren, Isaiah and Janelle (Johns) Rumble, Gabriel and Julie (Garber) Rumble, Timothy and Lisa (Overholtzer) Rumble, Samuel Rumble, Nathan Rumble, Jonathan and Lexie (Boone) Rumble, Peter Rumble, Christina and Clyde Layman, Faith Rumble, David Rumble, Wendy and Aaron Lavy, Carrie and Joel Bowman, Judy and Rod Miller, Jason and Deborah (Boone) Rumble, Kristy and Britton Filbrun, Brent and Monica (Strickler) Fisher, and twenty-seven great-grandchildren. Also, surviving are his sisters-in-law, Martha (Brunk) Rumble, Bethel (Brubaker) Hinkle, and Muriel (Smith) Brubaker.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his siblings, Dale Rumble, Paul and Barbara (King) Rumble, Mary Ellen and Sheldon Grover, Lois and Eldon Root; and his in-laws, Wayne Brubaker, Dean and Vivian (Bowman) Brubaker, Fred Hinkle, Betty and Bud Fife, and Eddie Brubaker. Dad was blessed with remarkably good health, but with the last years came the infirmities of age. He was anointed in 2018. Recovering from this health crisis, he was able to enjoy another couple of years of relatively good health, until the last weeks before his passing. One of our hymns, expressed Dad's mind during these final weeks, "Faith our languid spirits cheering, Points to brighter worlds above, Bids us look for his appearing—Bids us triumph in his love" (#164).

The funeral was held March 25 in the pavilion at the Brethren Heritage

School. Following the service, friends and family walked to the adjacent Wood Colony Cemetery where he was laid to rest. Dad's example of sober mindedness, integrity, and consistent Bible reading left us a pattern to follow. His words when parting from family were often, "Keep on praying!"

We rejoice in the blessed hope, that, although Dad did not experience the rapture as he had so much desired, he is now in glory. May our lives, too, be lived "looking for that blessed hope, and glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

The Family

BRUNK — David Samuel, son of the late William and Leanna Garman Brunk was born on September 9, 1943, in Roanoke County, Virginia, and changed time for eternity on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at his home after having met with a tractor accident at the age of 77 years, 6 months and 14 days. His early life was spent in the Johnsville district area of Virginia. At the call of his Heavenly Father, he was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on March 16, 1958, with his older brother Roscoe and his twin brother Daniel. The Johnsville district was disbanded in the fall of 2000 at which time his membership was absorbed into the Peters Creek congregation where Dad enjoyed and cherished a special bond with young and old alike. Dad remained faithful to this calling until his death.

On June 24, 1967, he was united in marriage with Julia Ann Rutrough. Dad and Mom shared the joys and

sorrows of life for 53 years and 9 months. Their union was blessed with four children. Dad was a wood worker most of his life until his later years when he drove a school bus.

Surviving family, in addition to his wife, are three sons and their companions, Jonathan and Melissa and their children, Darcy, Clay, Tori and Alexa; Joseph and Linda and their children, Derick and Nicole; Aaron and Mary and their children: Wil, Carter and Ella; and one daughter, Jeanette; a brother, Randolph; one sister, Martha Rumble; a brother-in-law, Albert Rutrough; sisters-in-law, Fannie Brunk, Wilma Brunk, and Marie Brunk; four brothers-in-law, Albert Rutrough, Dale Austin, Abram and Martha Ann Rutrough, and Jacob Rutrough. Also surviving are several nephews, nieces, cousins, and a host of friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his father and mother-in-law, Ezra and Mary Rutrough; three brothers, John, Roscoe, and his twin Daniel; one sister Mary Lee Brunk Heffley Rutrough; in-laws, Rebecca Brunk, Arlene Bowman Brunk, Paul Heffley, Paul Rumble, Lydia Rutrough, Nancy Austin, and Dianne Rutrough.

After a short family service in the church basement, the funeral was held on Sunday, March 28, 2021, in the Peters Creek meetinghouse by the home Brethren. We were encouraged using the following Scriptures: Psalm 27:1 and 13-14, II Timothy 4:7-8, Matthew 24:44, and the singing of hymns 463, 484 and 399. While viewing, hymns 539, 451, 499 and 108 were sung. Burial was in the Brubaker Cemetery, Roanoke County, Virginia

where hymns 502, 442 and 400 were used while the grave was being filled.

The Father's way may twist and turn...but...by and by the mist will lift, and plain it all He'll make, through all the way, tho' dark to me, He made NOT one mistake.

Lovingly submitted by

The Family

ULREY — Etta Mildred (Blocher), daughter of Simon and Lucy (Wagoner) Blocher was born near Minot, North Dakota, on June 17, 1913. During many conversations with her, she often mentioned her growing up years in North Dakota.

In her early adulthood she was baptized and became a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church and remained a faithful member for many years until her passing.

Etta loved traveling and visited all fifty states except Hawaii. She did most of her traveling with various single lady friends.

She was employed at Cyclone Mfg. in Urbana, Indiana, for thirty-one years and retired in 1974.

At age forty-seven, Etta married Jake Ulrey on her birthday on June 17, 1960. They lived in a cute, little cottage home on Round Lake in Laketon, Indiana, for several years. Jake was a fisherman and she traveled and fished with him in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota until his health declined. They then moved into Jamestown Apartments until he died on October 23, 1982.

In 1994, Etta moved to Timbercrest Retirement and Nursing Home. She enjoyed playing Scrabble. She was

actively playing even after turning one hundred years old. She also put together many, many scrapbooks and photo albums depicting all of her travels and many interests.

Etta was kind, cheerful, and a non-complainer. She peacefully took her last breath midmorning on May 1, 2021, with her sister Lydia at her bedside.

She is survived by one sister, Lydia Kinzie of Delphi, Indiana; a step-granddaughter, Jo Beth Swisher; a step-grandson, Stephen Ulrey, both of North Manchester, Indiana, a step-great-granddaughter, Lisa Warmuth, and a step-great-grandson, Matthew Schilling; and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends who loved and cherished her.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Simon and Lucy Blocher; husband, Jake Ulrey; stepson, Paul Ulrey; three sisters, Anna Fingerle, Dorothy Bower, and Bernice Garber; five brothers, Delbert, Chester, Ora, Isaac, and Walter Blocher; sisters-in-law, Clara (Blocher Frantz), Miriam Blocher, Eileen Blocher, Edna (Blocher, Garber), and Jerra Blocher; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Fingerle, Everett Kinzie, Lester Bower, and Lavern Garber.

This ends a long life, well lived.

Funeral services were held May 5 at the North Manchester Old German Baptist Brethren Church with the home brethren officiating.

She was laid to rest in the nearby church cemetery to await the resurrection morn.

A Nephew

BOYD — Neva Lorene was born in Salida, California, to Arthur and Iva Bauman on February 15, 1926. She passed peacefully into the arms of Jesus on May 25, 2021, at Bethany Home in Ripon, California.

She spent part of her childhood in Jamestown. Later, the family moved to Modesto, where she graduated from Modesto High School in 1943. She loved being together with friends from church and enjoyed going to singings, Yosemite, the beach, and Sunday drives in the mountains.

As a teenager Neva realized her need of a Savior and accepted Jesus into her heart. Later, on September 19, 1943, she was baptized and served Him faithfully the remainder of her life. She started dating Warren Boyd in 1944 and they were married on October 20, 1945. God blessed them with five children and fifty-six years of marriage, until Warren's passing in 2001.

One of the greatest joys in Neva's life was faithfully and unselfishly serving her husband and children. She

had a genuine gift of hospitality and hosted people from every walk of life with her delicious meals. She enjoyed sewing, cooking, gardening, Bible studies, conferences at Mount Hermon Christian Conference Center, making memory photo albums and traveling in the U.S. and overseas to visit their children and grandchildren.

She will be greatly missed by her children, Gary and Becky Boyd, Dennis and Cathy Boyd, Annette and Jim King, John and Keriann Boyd, and Mike and Kim Boyd, as well as: twenty grandchildren (one deceased), fifty great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter. She is also survived by her sister-in-law, Emily Bauman and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

We wish to thank all those from Bethany home for their loving care for Mom the last two years, and all who faithfully lifted her up in prayer.

A viewing and graveside service was held at Wood Colony Cemetery, Modesto, Sunday June 6, 2021, at 3:00 P.M.

The Family

Terms

Subscriptions should be made through the congregational contact or through *The Testimony* office. Subscription price is \$20.00 per year. New subscriptions should be paid (prorated) through the remainder of the current year. All renewals begin at the first of the calendar year. Newly married and those unable to pay for a subscription may receive a free subscription through the agent of their local congregation.

Contributors

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

maintain a fellowship of true primitive Christianity through the communication of all good things.

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