

“...And he said unto me...worship God: for...

THE TESTIMONY

...of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” Revelation 19:10

VERSE OF THE MONTH

“Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.” Psalm 24:9-10

Vol. XIV

April 2023

No. 4

WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?

(Beginning at Matthew 20:30)

“Have Mercy on us Lord, O thou David’s son!”

[The blind seeking Jesus cried out all as one.]

The multitude scolded them—told them to cease:

“Be quiet, you blind ones. You should hold your peace!”

The blind knew Jesus was not “just anyone”

And cried out again, not to be overrun.

Christ stood and called back so His voice would break through,

“What is it that I shall do unto you?”

“Lord, open our eyes so that we can see You”

And with rapture our old acquaintance renew!

So with tender compassion He healed their sight

And they followed Him (plus the crowd of great might).

And when they’d come to the town of Bethphage,

He sent two disciples His will to assuage,

Down to the village on a specific task:

To bring back a colt—the young foal of an ass.

The promised young colt from Bethany travels

As the kingly procession of Jesus unravels:

Two chosen disciples were guided to bring—

‘Twas chosen beforehand to carry the King.

His intentions couldn’t be hindered or stopped now,

For He’d presently set His hand to the plow—

No use in trying to stop or persuade Him,

His face was now set toward Jerusalem.

Continued on page 20...

David Fall

THE TESTIMONY

CONTENTS

FRONT COVER	1
WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?	1
EDITORIAL	3
THE PRESENT POWER OF THE RESURRECTION...	3
SEASONAL	4
JESUS CRUCIFIED	4
THE WONDER OF HIS RISING!	5
GENERAL	8
CHRIST'S FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW	8
GOD'S LOVE, MERCY, AND GRACE	13
MEDITATIONS	18
QUESTIONS TO PONDER	18
GENERAL ITEMS	19
POEMS	1, 20
OBITUARIES	24



“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:4

EDITORIAL

THE PRESENT POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

As we anticipate celebrating the Resurrection soon, what is it to you? An old religious holiday that has always been celebrated, so we shouldn't let it stop? One of the best Bible stories you can read? A time of the year you should really think about Jesus dying and rising from the grave? An amazing story about someone that died and came back to life (that doesn't happen every day, you know)?

I remember during my Junior year of high school in Geometry class when the concept finally clicked. For the first six weeks of Geometry I had been trying to memorize the formulas while applying them to shapes and figures on a page. I'll never forget the day it clicked and I realized that Geometry was happening all around me in three dimensional space and in real time as I sat there in my seat. There were triangles and hexagons floating around me at every angle and on myriad planes.

My enlightening experience regarding the Resurrection was somewhat similar. Though I always enjoyed the retelling of the account and all its details, I suddenly realized it wasn't relegated to a point in time thousands of years ago, even as important as Jesus's resurrection after His death on the cross is in the whole timeline of God's plan for mankind. No, like I learned in Geometry, the resurrection is happening all around us all the time. By the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, God is making new creatures out of sin-sick carnality every day. Every time you attend a baptism, remember the correlation

Romans 6:4 gives us. Marriages are being restored and revitalized by this Resurrection power. Hebrews tells us that ALL things are held together by the word of this power. One of my favorite experiences in the seasonal calendar is seeing the crocus or daffodil pushing though the soil even when it still seems like winter, sometimes even through snow. It is similarly amazing how one can be completely worn out after a long and tiresome day, and yet after a night's rest, feel revived and rejuvenated to face another day with zest. Many more examples could be given, but the simple fact is that the power of the Resurrection is eternal and omnipresent because the God of this power is.

One of the areas Paul prays for us in Ephesians 1 to be enlightened in is in verse 19-20, "And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places..."

Romans 8:11 also makes the direct connection between Christ-resurrecting power and life-changing power: "But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."

May we be continually thankful for the access the born-again Christian has to Resurrection power!

Tim Deaton

SEASONAL

JESUS CRUCIFIED*Dr. Richard Donovan*

After having been arrested and then deserted by His followers, Jesus went through mock trials before Jewish authorities and before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor in Judea.

When they had finished the mockery of trying the sinless Son of God, we are told that they led Him away to be crucified. The place was "Golgotha", that is, "The place of a skull". Luke tells us, "There they crucified Him."

James Stalker writes, "The spot to which we come in the center of all things. Here two eternities meet. The streams of ancient history converge here, and here the river of modern history takes its rise."

Crucifixion was reserved by the Roman criminals to be marked by special infamy. Those crucified were both a spectacle and a warning to anyone who would dare break the laws of Rome.

"It was an unspeakable awful form of death," says Stalker, "Cicero, who was well acquainted with it says, "It was the most cruel and shameful of all punishments. Let it never come near the

body of a Roman citizen; nay, not even near his thoughts or eyes or ears."

The shame of crucifixion was awful and the pain of it was excruciating to say the least. The hands were fastened to the cross with nails, as were the feet. The head hung free in order that the dying man could see and speak to those about the cross. The one crucified did not die from loss of blood, etc., but we are told that he eventually died of suffocation. Sometimes this would take a long, long time. Meanwhile, the one on the cross (probably Jesus more than others) was jeered and mocked and ridiculed by those standing near and those passing by.

Why did Jesus have to go through this awful experience? It was not for anything He had done. Pilate said of Him, "I find no fault in him at all." He died for what we have done.

"The just for the unjust that he might bring us to God."

Hallelujah! What a Savior!

Selected from *The Brookville Star* by

Sam Boone



THE WONDER OF HIS RISING!

Oh, the wonder of it all! The delightful Gospel given to the children of men! The amazing story filled with the exquisite delights that love and compassion can offer to the weary soul, mingled with the heavenly displays of affection, healing and acceptance, coming down from our Father in Heaven through the person of His Son!

The Wonder of His Desire For Us!

The great wonder that The High King of Heaven, in all of His righteousness, purity, and truth, and His hatred of sin, held within His pure heart a desire for stumbling humanity, including you and me. **This single thought is so captivating! It will not let our thoughts rush on to other things!** It holds us! It is a most delightful meditation, quite beyond our understanding. **HE WANTS US!** He wants to fellowship with us; to have us as His children! His great love for us is spoken of throughout the New Testament, and the trail of bare and sandaled feet following Him through all the cities of Israel reveal that the common people knew of His great desire. **Their hearts were filled with wonder. "...the common people heard him gladly" (Mark 12:37).**

The Wonder of His love

Of all of the wonderful things we learn about our God, we marvel most of all at "*His great love, wherewith he loved us*" (Eph. 2:4). There are many deep things that we may never understand about

God, about His nature, about His righteousness, about His judgment of the wicked, etc. **But the most important thing we do need to know is that He loves us!** This knowledge will carry us through the difficult times of life when we may be tempted to doubt. **It is a wonderful thing to know!** It is the most amazing thing in the Scriptures. All of the events that God orchestrated after Eden, and the precepts that were given, and the words of the prophets that were sent, are because of this great love in the heart of God. All of the appeals of God to His people are born out of His love. All of God's corrective measures, and His chastisements come from His great love. He wanted His people to live! "Oh, why will ye die, ye house of Israel!" (Ezek. 18:31). And it is clearly recorded in John 3:16-17, "*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.*" These words help explain to us in never-to-be-forgotten words, the great wonder of God's love toward us.

The Wonder of it All

As we give serious thought to the details of our Lord's efforts to save fallen man, we become overwhelmed by our limitations. We are moved to say, "And what shall I more say? Time would fail me to tell of the wonder of His coming, His childhood, His teachings, His healings, His patience with His accusers, and finally His suffering and dying on a miserable, tor-

turous cross, alone, rejected, bound between two thieves. **How can tongue or pen describe the wonder of it all?** And how can we explain the amazing truth that this was not forced upon our precious Savior, but that He ***laid down*** His life ***willingly***; a ***will-ing sacrifice*** for our sin? And how can we tell the tender story of loving disciples, who had believed and hoped in Him, carefully and with pained and sorrowful hearts, taking His body down and laying it lovingly in an offered tomb, not understanding yet what it all would mean? *“But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel...”*, they said, in their sorrow.

The Wonder of His Rising!

Oh, the hopelessness that death can bring to the sorrowful heart! They were trusting in Him! And yet, He had allowed himself to be taken, and to be slain! They had missed some of His words as He spoke to the people. He had told

them He would be taken and crucified and slain. **But He had also told them that He would be raised the third day!** He told them that He had power to lay down His life, **and also had power to take it again** (John 10:18). This is beyond the scope of human understanding! Is this not impossible?

The record is clear concerning what took place on the third day after the crucifixion. Matthew gives this testimony: *“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. And the angel answered and said unto the women, 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”* (Matt. 28:2-6).



"And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him" (Mark 16:1-6)

What joy! As they slowly each began to understand that Jesus was actually risen, their hearts were filled with an unspeakable JOY! What a joyous realization! That Jesus, their Lord and Master, the One in whom they had hoped, was indeed RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

And let this joy and eternal thrill be born anew daily in our own bosom! Though He allowed Himself to be slain, HE IS NOW RISEN! He broke through the bars of death and hell, and is victorious over all of His foes, and over all of our foes as well!

We continue to rejoice together in the Christian Church as we consider the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus! The Resurrection of Jesus is the **proof that the Gospel has saving power!** It is the Resurrec-

tion that gives life to all of the teachings of the Lord, and to the promises He has given. **It is because He lives today that we know we shall live also** (John 14:19). It is because of the Resurrection that we can stand by the open grave and rejoice together through our tears as we experience bereavement.

Oh, the wonder of His Rising! After the seeming destruction of the natural body, and the ceasing of natural life, **our Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and against all of the expectation of carnal men, and the expectation of His enemies, and the host of hell, rose up in glorious resurrection from the grave! He rose from the dead! He awakened from death to life! It was a triumphant fulfillment of the prophecies, and a marvelous display of the power of our God! The stone was rolled away! He came forth in glorious splendor!!**

The Gospel is a Gospel of Wonder! Let us never lose it! At the center of the Gospel is the cross of our Lord Jesus, as it stands as a symbol of sacrifice, and atonement for our sin. **Hallelujah!! And at the center of our HOPE is the glorious Resurrection!**

Rom 5:10, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, **much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**"

Lowell Miller

GENERAL

CHRIST'S FULFILLMENT
OF THE LAW

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I believe Jesus Christ fulfilled the entire Law. That law given by Moses to God's chosen people included the 10 commandments, all the bloody sacrificial ceremonies, their dietary laws, their civil laws, their dress codes, laws of hygiene etc. We pick up on the 10 commandments in Exodus, and all the rest follows in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The 10 commandments are sometimes called the moral law of God. If you broke that law and there were enough witnesses to it you would die without mercy. Other lesser laws, if broken, could be atoned for by bringing an offering from your flock or from your kitchen and you continued to live. The law, many times referred to as the law of Moses, was strict, but good because God gave it. (to Moses.) We can learn from it, refer to it, but we are no longer under it. That means we are no longer obligated to observe it as a means of remaining in God's favor and fellowship. Our favor and fellowship comes from abiding in Christ in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. The New Testament teaches that if you try to keep any part of the law as a means of winning God's favor, you are obligated to keep it all. If you break the law that you are under, it crushes you, because the wages of sin is death. In Christ, we are protected, because if sin abounds,

grace does much more abound. While that is wonderfully true, the Bible, in the same place also says, but God forbid that we sin that grace abound. Rather, our love for Jesus assists us in performing the morality taught in the 10 commandments. The favor that we tried to win by keeping the law has now been secured for us by Jesus Himself, because He allowed the law to put Him to death because of sin; not His, but ours. His one great sacrifice fulfilled and eliminated all former sacrifices. We now live in a spiritual Kingdom or in a spiritual relationship with Christ.

The kingdom of God is no longer about meat and drink, but about peace and joy, and righteousness in the Holy Spirit. It is no longer about what we are under but whom we are in. (if you want to be under something, the Bible teaches that you are under grace). The law was good, like a good schoolmaster who brought us to the gracious one. Now we no longer need to look to it for God's standard of moral living; we find that in the virtuous person of Jesus. We need to learn and rest in Him. We learn to morally interpret life the way Jesus interpreted it.

SCRIPTURES ABOUT THE LAW

Matthew 5:17—"Jesus said, think not that I am come to destroy the law and the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

John 1:17—"For the law was given by Moses but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

Galatians 3:24-26—"Wherefore the law WAS our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

But after that faith is come we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."

1 Tim 1:8-10—"But we know that the law is good if a man use it lawfully, knowing that the law was not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine. (Do you see the morality of the 10 commandments reflected here?) Jesus is none of these things. We see in him the exact opposite of these."

Romans 7:12—"Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good.

Romans 7:14—"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin."

Romans 7:7—"What shall we say then, is the law sin? God forbid, yea I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust except the law had said, thou shalt not covet* (that is the 10th commandment).

Romans 10:4-10—"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth. For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth these things

shall live by them. But the righteousness that is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, who shall ascend into heaven? (that is to bring Christ down from above:) Or who shall descend into the deep? (that is to bring up Christ again from the dead.) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth and in thy heart: that is the word of faith which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, a.'ld shalt believe in thy heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

SCRIPTURES THAT RELATE TO CHRIST'S FULFILLMENT OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

(See Exodus chapter 20 for the 10 Commandments.)

Commandment #1—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Jesus is that God. In him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9).

I John 5:20—"And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. (Jesus told the Jews that if they believed not that he was the Christ they would die in their sins. To profess a belief in God without Christ, is untruth. (Read the gospel of John, chapter 5, entirely.

Commandment #2—"Thou shalt not make and bow down to graven images (idols)."

We serve an invisible God from our hearts, not our flesh. Jesus Christ is that invisible image. Acts 2:25 says, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is at my right hand that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope. Hebrews 1:3 says, Who (Jesus) being in the brightness of his (God's) glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. Colossians 1:15-16a says, "Who (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by him were all things created..."(if you need a spiritual, mental image to relate to, acquaint yourself with the glorified image of Christ in Revelation 1:12-18. We worship no manmade images; Jesus is our image.)

Commandment #3—"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

Nothing about Jesus' life was in vain. He spake reverently of His Father in heaven as a subordinate Son even though He shared Deity with His heavenly Father. He promoted His Father's will on earth, He finished the work that He was given to do. John 8:29 says, And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. John 17:4 says, I have glorified thee on the earth. I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." Nothing about the ministry of Jesus was in vain. Never man spake like this man. His words were firm and powerful but never vulgar. 1 Peter 2:22-24 says, "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness, by whose stripes we are healed." We should regard Jesus with the utmost honor and never speak lightly of Him. He was the only one to fulfill the 3rd commandment perfectly in every way.

Commandment #—"Remember the sabbath to keep it holy."

Of all of the 10 commandments, this one was the one that Jesus was repeatedly accused of breaking. The original Sabbath was given to a chosen people to observe in a promised land that was just the right size for the sun to go down on all the people at the same time, it was for the good of man. God rested on the 7th day because He had finished creation. Man needed rest because he became tired. The Sabbath was primarily intended to be a day of rest, but public worship had been incorporated into it at the time of Jesus. I believe that Jesus is my Sabbath. It is no longer about a day but a person. Matthew 11:28-30 says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavily laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn

of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Some religious men will argue; I will grant them that privilege, but I will claim Colossians 2:16-17, "Let no man therefore judge you (as unrighteous) in meat, or drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon or of the Sabbath days: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ." Why observe and worship a shadow when we have the real bodily article, Jesus Christ. Jesus believed in doing good on the Jewish Sabbath. He was persecuted for it. Read John 5, John 9, Matthew 12. Hebrews 4:10-11 speaks of a rest that we should by faith labor to enter into. It is a rest that Jesus wants to give us. It is Matthew 11:28-30 all over again. We can cease from our failures to please God and simply trust Christ's work on Calvary. It is now a matter of serving God by trusting Him instead of trying to always win His favor. This is the day the Lord hath made, let us be glad and rejoice in it. Spiritually every day is Sabbath day because He has given us rest.

But if it becomes a matter of conscience, Romans 14:4-6 gives instruction. One man regards the day; another doesn't, but both regard the Lord. So it is no longer about the day, it is about regarding the Lord.

The church of antiquity thought it good to collectively worship on Sunday, the 1st day, starting the

week together with God in commemoration of Christ's resurrection. We have made a Sabbath out of it as we simultaneously cease our normal work to worship collectively. The Jewish Sabbath, however, has always been the 7th day. It is good for man to rest, but even better when he rests in the Lord. I believe Jesus fulfilled the 4th commandment for me when He gave me rest. I feel an obligation to keep all days holy, because Jesus beseeches me to live that way. God may have chosen the 7th day for his chosen people to rest, but as for worship, we should from our hearts worship Him in Spirit and in Truth every day. If Jesus had said that Saturday was the day to rest and Sunday the day to worship, we should honor that, but He didn't. Jesus commandments were all about faith and love, not about observing days, months and times and years. We should live all days in the holy manner of faith and love.

Commandment #5—"Honor thy Father and thy Mother."

I do not need to spend a lot of time here. Jesus honored His parents. At age 12, Luke 2:51 tells us that Jesus was subject to His parents, even after He had told them that they should understand that He was to be about His Father's business. (Meaning His Heavenly Father) In His dying hour on the cross, He beheld His beloved mother and besought His disciple John to take care of her. Though Jesus was Deity, He recognized His obligation to honor His earthly parents.

Commandment #6—"Thou shalt not kill."

Commandment #7—"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Commandment #8—"Thou shalt not steal."

Commandment #9—"Thou shalt not bear false witness."

Commandment #10—"Thou shalt not covet. (Anything that is thy neighbors.)"

Jesus fulfilled these 5 commandments in a beautiful way. If I really love my neighbor, will I kill him? Of course not! Will I commit adultery with his wife? Of course not! Will I steal from him? Of course not! Will I bear false witness against him? Of course not! Will I look on his possessions greedily and plan to use them for myself? Of course not!

Romans 13:8-10 says it this way, "Owe no man anything but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, thou shalt not commit adultery, thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, thou shalt not bear false witness, thou shalt not covet; and if there be other commandment it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Did anyone love like Jesus? He killed no one but wants to save us all. His relationship with women was pure and unadulterated. Jesus stole from no one; in fact he took very little, just a few accommodations now and then, but he gave new sight and life to multitudes. Jesus spoke the truth to perfection, no

false witness. The ultimate truth that he spake was that he was the great "I AM". He coveted nothing, but He jealously seeks our praise and devotion. He sometimes had no real place to lay His head, yet He knew heaven was His real home and that He would return there.

Jesus not only fulfilled the law, but also the prophets. Look at Isaiah 53 and see if it doesn't fit the work that Jesus did on Calvary. Jesus is the fulfillment of many other prophetic writings which we need not mention here, but the ultimate fulfillment of all of the Old Testament writings is summed up in these words, "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." If a man has that love, in any measure, within him, he will seek to live life in a wholesome, honest, holy manner. His life will be changed from self-seeking to love. His walk may not be flawless, but he will know where to find grace and forgiveness. The living presence of Jesus will be with him, leading him; he will no longer need to feel God's condemnation. Christ felt and took that for us. He who fulfilled the law, now desires that His righteousness be fulfilled in us, by not walking after the flesh but after the Spirit. Jesus wants us to live a saved, sanctified, and glorified life; a life that will not spiritually boast but give full credit to its Savior.

Does any man need a spiritual formula to put this all together? Well, the Bible has one. A young

man by the name of Titus received these words: "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of works." Praise Him! A full salvation lies here; from His cross to His throne.

Phil King

GOD'S LOVE, MERCY, AND GRACE

QUESTION: AM I INVESTED IN GOD'S LOVE?

(Read I John 4)

Bible dictionary: *Love*—*The high esteem that God has for His human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people. Webster's 1828: Invest—to clothe; to surround.*

Am I clothing myself or surrounding myself in the high esteem that God has for me? God loves everyone and longs for us to choose to love Him in return. So do I love God in return for what He has done for me through His Son? God did have a reason for

A. Creating the human race with the ability to choose,

B. Causing us to see good and evil (through the disobedience of Adam), and finally

C. Sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

His reason wasn't to have entertainment in watching these poor wretched humans try living on the sin cursed earth. But God's reason was to have beings in His creation that see and understand His unconditional love and mercy and choose (with their own mind by the power of the Holy Spirit) to serve Him, praise Him, give Him glory, and surrender their lives to Him; rather than just having nature which glorifies God instinctively. **How incredible!** He longs for companionship with His earthly children, children that clothe themselves with His amazing love! "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." (I John 4:8-10) What an incredible hope we have through the unfailing love of God! May we each seek the love of God, that we may return praise to Him! This is the first aspect of investing in God's love; choosing to clothe ourselves in His love that we may return all glory and praise to Him. This is only possible with the power of the Holy Spirit. Man does not naturally love. God is love.

The second aspect of investing in God's love is allowing His love to flow through us. "Beloved, let us

love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.” (I John 4:7, 11) It is crucial to allow God’s love to flow through us, loving the brethren. “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (I John 4:20) “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.” (John 13:34-35) These verses clearly state the importance of loving our brothers, for Jesus commands it and John convicts us so! If we have not love towards a brother then how can we love God? Love carries with it accountability, we must confront one another with offenses and faults (Matt. 18:15) rather than living with grudges. Along with this we must: “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (Colossians 3:12-13). When a quarrel arises, seek the love of God and invest yourself in His love so that you can (with His love), love the dear brother, forgive the dear brother, and continue on with unity. This may seem cliché or be easy to read, but let us

all do a self examination: Is what I am doing in life done with the love of God? Am I treating others with their best interest in mind and is it done with God’s love? Am I letting pride and self interest distance me from God’s love? Let us each examine our own heart and invite the Holy Spirit to guide us. While doing so, read through I John 4 especially starting at verse 7. “And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness” (Col. 3:14).

May the Lord bless each one as we strive to be invested in God’s love! “Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

**In response to God’s
love and mercy to-
wards me, it should
stimulate me to long to
serve Him, praise Him,
and love Him.**

Be kindly affection one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another...If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:9-10, 18).

AM I RESTING IN GOD’S MERCY?

(Read James 1)

Bible dictionary: Mercy—*The aspect of God’s love that causes him to help the miserable.*

Webster’s 1828: Rest—*ceasing of motion or action of any kind, the mind is at rest when it ceases to be disturbed or agitated; peace.*

Am I resting in God’s desire to

help me through life's journey? He wants to help me through the trials of this life, but often I neglect to cry out to Him for help and tell Him all about my troubles. God is faithful and we can assuredly rest in His mercy towards us! When we find ourselves sinking into the quicksand of life our only hope is our Lord Jesus Christ, and if I would just seek Him I would find Him standing right beside me with outstretched arms waiting patiently for me to give up my will and cry out for His help. Then through mercy He will have grace and will draw nigh unto us and help us out of the sinking sand. "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up." (James 4:10) This is only possible if I come to Him with an humble and contrite heart, for God resisteth the proud and selfish. "Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (James 4:6-8). God's wonderful boundless mercy is so great! His mercies are new every morning! I have to constantly remind myself of that and thank God for it, because He is faithful to help in time of need! "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16) What a wonderful hope we have in the love, mercy, and grace

of God and Jesus Christ, that we may be able to stand steadfast upon The Solid Rock in this world of unstable ground!

In response to God's love and mercy towards me it should stimulate me to long to serve Him, praise Him, and love Him. Yet so often I find myself becoming lukewarm in my walk with Him, and praise towards Him. After all the Lord has helped me and guided me through in this life, I often find myself having trouble being diligent, staying in the Word, continuing in prayer, and living a surrendered and submitted life to the One who has saved me. Prayer time may still be in thankfulness to God in realizing what all He has done for me, but with distractions entering the mind. Distractions of what the tomorrow holds, work, life in general, or whatever it may be. So why is it? Why does complacency seem to creep in unawares? It's because the adversary of our souls walketh about seeking whom he may devour. And this is why we need to rest in God's mercy! "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that our in the world. But the God of all grace, who has called us into his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make

you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.” (I Peter 5:6-10) Another undoubted answer is that we are flawed and imperfect beings.

That isn’t an excuse for us though, but rather a reminder of God’s mercy that He has bestowed upon us by His Word! He has shown great mercy in giving us flawed humans His word, which brings hope and peace! Read James 1. It says, starting in verse 12 “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren.” And there are more encouraging words in that chapter. But here we see “blessed is the man that endures”! And as mentioned before, we see “draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you”! There are many tactics that the devil will use to try and make us become lukewarm in our devotion to God. It usually comes down to one simplified word “selfishness”. Whether it be sin, pity, worldly pleasures, the American dream, and so on. There are so many distractions, and they typically will trace back to selfish interests. But we can rest assured that God Almighty is far more powerful than Satan! So we must continually “come boldly unto the throne of

grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16). If we exercise our spiritual muscles in our strong times, it will equip us when failings and trials come, to remember to seek God and cry out to Him for mercy. We can’t just sit around and think He will help. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to work freely through us. And He most certainly will have mercy toward us! “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (II Peter 3:9).

So beloved brothers and sisters! Let’s rest in God’s mercy, and may we have mercy one towards another when hardships arise. May we use the example of our Almighty Father in Heaven, who has shown great mercy to us, to live out our lives here on earth with one another! “God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us; Selah” (Psalms 67:1).

AM I TRUSTING GOD’S GRACE?

(Read Romans 5)

Bible dictionary: Grace—*Favor or kindness shown without regard to the worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that person deserves.*

Webster’s 1828: *Trust—Confidence; a reliance or resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, friendship or other sound principle of God.*

Do I have a confident reliance and resting of the mind on the favor and kindness shown to me by my Creator? “For if by one man’s

offense death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous" (Romans 5:17,19). Through the obedience of Christ we may have victory, Hallelujah! "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57).

Grace is very special to us because it is a supreme kindness shown towards us in times when we don't deserve it. When we as humans feel unworthy, but kindness is shown to us, it gives us confidence and it can renew our strength. I should continually grow in confidence of His grace towards me, because God's grace is one that is given out of pure love and mercy for his children. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). This is the most supreme act of grace that God has given to us, that while we were yet sinners here in this barren land, He sent His only son to die for us that we might have forgiveness of sins and that we might have life and have it more abundantly! Salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ is a gift of grace by God and it has to be received as a gift through faith. "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2). This act of kindness (salvation) alone gives us confidence in God's grace! But as life goes, often times I find myself forgetting the wonderful fact of God's supreme grace. Or

forgetting the fact that I am not worthy of God's grace, thinking that I am worthy through "my effort". Not that we should dog ourselves down with the thought that we are not worthy, because that can be unhealthy. But it is good to realize that we are not worthy of our "own effort" to receive salvation but that it is a gift of grace! It is only through the Holy Spirit that good fruit comes out of our lives so we really can't claim any as "our effort" anyway. Besides, I should be stimulated by God's love, mercy, and grace to constantly lay my self down for Him and for others, and not feel like I need something in return, because we have already been given to freely, so freely, we must give! "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9) "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:7-8).

God loves us, which causes Him to have mercy upon us, which causes Him to show grace to us even though it is undeserved! It is ever abounding and God is always ready to show unto us His grace when we fall, but we can't use His ever abounding grace as an excuse to sin as Paul says "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were

baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:1-4). So rather we put off the old man, trust God, and allow His Spirit to renew us.

May we be thankful for the loving kindness of our Father in heaven, and cleave to our Lord Jesus as we walk down the

straight and narrow way. He has made a way for us that leads us to life eternal in His presence, so let's continue with confidence in God's grace until that day comes. And again "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Toby Shellabarger

MEDITATIONS

Men know some of the Universe, less of self, and very little about God.
The Law was by commands. Grace is by His nail-scarred hands.
Your love for God is measured by how you treat others.
The cross is not to be worshipped but to be suffered.
Practice doing good outside of your comfort zone.
Resurrection turned the cross into grace.
The cost of redemption was the cross.

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.

The Scriptures speak often of the coming of the Lord, and that we are waiting for His coming. Notice these scriptures:

I Thess 1:9-10 "...ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven..."

I Thess. 4:16-17 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev 1:7 "Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him..." (and many more...)

Questions:

1. Am I continually rejoicing at the thought of His coming?
2. Am I comforting the saints with the prospect of His coming (I Thess. 4:18)?
3. Do I look and long for His appearing (II Tim. 4:8)?
4. Do I pray for His coming (Rev. 22:20)?
5. Is there anticipation in my face and on my tongue?
6. Am I ready for His coming, and saying, Even so, Come, Lord Jesus?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 18, 2022; Fair Haven, KS
 Jake Miller
 Dec. 11, 2022; West Modesto, CA
 Katelyn Flora
 Jan. 15, 2023; Lower Twin (Tennessee)
 Seth Garber
 Feb. 17, 2023; Bethel, OH
 Isaac Flora
 Feb. 26, 2003; Cutler Ridge
 Payton Dutter, Dana Dutter

MEMBERS RECEIVED

- Feb. 19, 2023; Lower Twin (Tennessee)
 Dorothy Wolf

COMMUNION NOTICES

- Mar. 4, 2023..... West Manchester, IN
 Mar. 4, 2023..... Morning Star, OH
 Mar. 18, 2023..... Dallas, OR
 Apr. 1, 2023 Fair Haven, KS
 Apr. 1, 2023 Mt. Zion, PA
 Apr. 1, 2023 Salem, OH
 Apr. 8, 2023 Modesto, CA
 Apr. 8, 2023 Shiloh, OH
 Apr. 15, 2023 Cascade Valley, WA
 Apr. 15, 2023 Fall Creek, IN
 Apr. 22, 2023 Caldwell, ID
 Apr. 22, 2023 Cutler Ridge, IN
 Apr. 22, 2023 Sugar Grove, OH
 Apr. 29, 2023 Bear Creek, OH
 Jun. 24, 2023 Mountain View, ID
 Sept. 30, 2023 Providence, IN
 Sept. 23, 2023 Pleasant View, OH
 Oct. 14, 2023;..... Zillah, WA
 Oct. 21, 2023 Stillwater, OH
 Nov. 4, 2023 Columbia River, WA

HARVEST MEETINGS

- July 2, 2023 Lower Twin, OH
 July 23, 2023 Shiloh, OH
 Aug. 6, 2023 Maple Grove, OH
 Aug. 13, 2023 Covington/Sugar Grove, OH
 Aug. 20, 2023 Salem, OH
 Sept. 10, 2023 Bear Creek, OH
 Sept. 10, 2023 Stillwater, OH

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date and Location: The date for the Annual Conference is June 2nd – 7th and will be held at Indi-

ana Wesleyan University, 4201 S. Washington St., Marion, IN 46953, Lord willing.

Worship Services: We invite friends, neighbors, and all to join us in glorifying and praising GOD together. The first worship service is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 3rd. There will be 1-2 hymns sung prior to each service to quiet and draw the congregation to their seats. We also look forward to holding a communion service for OGBBC-New Conference members on Sunday the 4th at 4:30 p.m.

Registration: All persons planning to attend Conference must register. This year registration for the Conference will be available only on-line. An electronic form must be filled out online at www.ogbbc.org. A paper Registration Packet will not be available.

Registration is needed for meal planning. Lodging fees for Dorm or RV accommodations will be calculated online and may be paid via credit card in order to finalize the form. If acceptable credit card information is not included, the registration cannot be processed.

If you do not have access to the internet or have trouble processing the form, please find someone in your district to assist you. If staying offsite all are asked to register for meal planning.

Check-in: Lodging committee will be open on Friday, June 2nd, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Piazza Terrace room, located in the Barnes Student Center. All who plan to stay on campus, whether dorms or RV, need to report to the

Information Center upon arrival. Additional info can be obtained as you check in.

Awareness: For safety/liability purposes, the COA asks that NO ONE bring rip sticks, skateboards, roller blades, bicycles, roller skates, etc. to Conference.

Call-in: The call-in number for worship services is 712-432-8773, and the Conference ID# is

201262#. This number is posted on the OGBBC website and in the Information Packet.

It is our prayer that the spirit of God would move among His people, encouraging the saints, mentoring the youth, convicting the unsaved, and that together we might bring praise and glory to God.

On behalf of the 2023 COA,
Trenton Wray, Secretary

POEMS

WHO IS THIS KING OF GLORY?

Continued from page 1...

Over the Mount of Olives He travelled 'til
The City of David became visible.
There on the slope the crowd sang Him His praises
As rulers growled sanctimonious rages,

To which Jesus answering, said unto them,
"These people—their praises are filled to the brim,
And if they don't overflow praise unto Me
These dumb rocks would cry out my praises. You see?"

"Hosanna! Hosanna! He's coming!" they cry,
As Jesus the Prophet and Friend passes by.
The man full of promise, Hope of the Ages,
Searched for by many of Israel's old sages.

Then, Jesus stopping, looked out o'er the city,
Said with kind compassion, tenderness, pity,
"If you could just see, and had not in sin slept!
Tribulation is coming!" and there He wept.

Down into the Kidron Valley they followed—
This significance was on them unhallowed:
As through this valley, flowed the blood of the lambs
But the Father had not yet "revealed His Ram".

While thousands of lambs would be slain passion week,
Sacrifice, and atonement many would seek.
Perhaps at this time of Jesus' arrival
The priests gave these lambs a bloody deprival.

[In Egypt, the Hebrews received redemption—
A foreshadow of God's plan of salvation.
To the doorpost the lamb's shed blood was applied
While families waited and prayed on the inside.

Then, after nightfall, with all Israel inside
Came the angel of death; and many there died
Who weren't covered by the Lamb's blood that dark night.
But, those with the blood were alive, come day's light.]

Did Jesus flash forward -and back - in that vale?
Did He see it unfold supernaturally
As He saw men choose death, and others, life
(Applying the blood, or walking in strife)?

We'll not know in this life what He was thinking
As the adoring crowd was there worshipping,
Perhaps in heaven- at the Marriage Supper,
We can ask the Lamb, The Lion, The Victor.

On He rode through the "Eastern", or "Golden" Gate,
As the Pharisees tried to conspire His fate.
The epic battle raged between good and evil,
But Jesus would give the blow that was lethal.

On a rugged cross where He suffered and died,
Where a soldier with a sharp spear pierced His side.
He was laid in a grave (after Golgotha)—
Where for three whole days lay our Lord Jehovah.

Then came the morning! Night was turned into day!
All His friends thought He had begun to decay.
His disciples were forlorn, and may have wept
While Jesus became first fruits of them that slept.

Jesus Christ is alive—our Lord is risen!
He can break our bonds and free us from prison!
He died on that old cross, our souls there to save;
And brought us to hope—when he rose from the grave.

Lift up your heads, ye gates. The King is coming!
Even as He left He will be forthcoming.
Be ye lifted up ye everlasting doors
And the King of glory will come in and be yours!

Who is this King? Who is this King of glory?
 It's Jesus, who lived the greatest love story.
 He's the Son of David, giver of mercy.
 He's the Lamb of God, the only one worthy.

Dear friend, have you asked Him to unblind your eyes?
 Is your hope fixed on heaven's eternal prize?
 He once rode a donkey in tranquility;
 But next time there will be no docility!

In the fullness of time He will show to all
 He's King of kings, Lord of lords, prostrate we'll fall.
 So now while the day of salvation is here
 Call out unto Him, and your voice He will hear!

David Fall

SEARCHING FOR HIM

There was a time when I knew
 not who I was.
 I drifted from one day, one
 moment to another,
 From one dream, one idea to an
 other.
 I barely had a thought of my own.
 Around and around spun my head
 and my heart.

I thought they would guide me.
 They knew the way I should go,
 what I should do.
 They taught and they preached,
 Held seminars and retreats.
 "Do this and do that, don't do this
 or do that,
 Not that way but just like this."
 They knew their way was right.
 And that theirs was the only right
 way.

Around and around spun my
 heart and my head,
 Around and around and around
 again.
 Then through all the noise and
 the bustle,
 A quiet voice whispered, "Come to Me.
 Search My word and My actions.
 Learn just what makes Me who I am.
 Search from beginning to end.
 Let no other Word stir your ear or
 your soul.
 Search Me and learn Me.
 Seek My very face and My form.
 Let nothing intrude. Nothing,
 nothing at all.

Start right from the beginning,
 From the very creation and the
 six days it took.
 Then through the pages, so many
 there are.
 To search and to see My hand
 over all,

Through the five books of Moses,
 The Psalms and the Proverbs,
 The prophets and teachers, all
 wise men of old,
 The gospels, My very own words
 on the page,
 Then through the epistles to the
 Revelation.
 Just search the words for clues of Me,
 Of My face and My ways.
 From beginning to end, it's all
 there and true."

Now hunger overtakes me, like
 deer for the water.
 The book just keeps on giving and
 giving
 With new insights and thoughts
 every page.
 I keep coming back and back and
 back for more,
 For I never know just what he
 might have
 Waiting, just waiting, for me to
 explore.
 What treasure, what joy and all
 just for me.
 Each time I open the page of His
 bounty,
 A storehouse of wisdom and love
 is His Word.

He teaches me throughout all the
 pages
 To face all the trials that make up
 my life,
 And through it all, just like He
 said,
 He has become my rock and my
 fortress,
 My mainstay and my comforter,

My savior, my redeemer, my
 friend,
 My shepherd and my strong tower.
 My everything, is my Jesus, my Lord,
 Now and forever, worlds without end.
 From everlasting to everlasting,
 forever more.
 I praise Him, His name, and His love,
 My Savior, My redeemer. My all.

Joyce Stamy

OF WHOM TO FEAR

O fear of man—Thou snare!
 My stumbling foot has known too
 much of thee.
 You steal sweet peace, and I despise
 Your schemes that trip and paralyze.
O fear of man—Thou snare!
 I weary wrestling thee continually.

O fear of God—My Guide
 Who keeps my soul within the
 narrow way.
 Thou fount of Wisdom—Thee I
 quest;
 Then I can live and work and rest.
O fear of God—My Guide
 Who leads me to the land of
 Perfect Day.

*The fear of man bringeth a snare: but
 whoso putteth his trust in the Lord
 shall be safe. Prov. 29:25*
*The fear of the Lord is the beginning
 of wisdom: and the knowledge of the
 Holy is understanding. Prov. 9:10*

Allison Markley

OBITUARIES

STAMY — Naomi Jean, 91, went to be with her Lord Thursday, December 8, 2022 at Pratt Health and Rehab, Pratt, Kansas. She was born on September 24, 1931 in Sawyer, Kansas to Raymond and Minnie (Flory) Kessler. Naomi married Hubert Charles Stamy on March 22, 1952 at her parent's home near Sawyer. He preceded her in death on May 29, 2005.

Mom was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Sawyer, on August 4, 1946, and later became a member of the New Conference.

Dad and Mom made their first home in Whittier, California, then relocated to Dallas, Oregon in 1963 and became charter members of the Dallas congregation. In 1976, they moved to Sawyer and built a home just down the road from where she was born.

Mom enjoyed helping Dad with various farming operations through the years, from harvesting fruit in California and Oregon, to driving a wheat truck in Kansas. She lovingly focused on her family, welcoming her daughters-in-law and each grandchild and great-grandchild into the family. She loved to crochet and made baby blankets for all the grandchildren. She and Dad loved traveling in their fifth-wheel, visiting their far-flung family, and touring Mexico, Alaska, Canada, and most of the 50 states. She also greatly enjoyed volunteering in the 2nd-grade class at Skyline and serving as a substitute bus driver for Dad. They also planted a huge garden

each year and had fruit trees in the backyard, preserving the produce and supplying neighbors with the surplus.

The family cared for Mom in her home for several years, throughout her lingering illness, before she spent nearly a year in the nursing home. She was a bright spot in the home with her sweet smile and wit, entertaining residents and staff alike with her harmonica, before answering the call of her Savior early Thursday morning.

She is survived by her children, Dennis Stamy and wife Norma Jean of Dallas, Oregon, Joyce Stamy of Sawyer, Kansas, Merle Stamy and wife Arlene of Delta, Colorado, and Paul Stamy and wife Joan of Pratt, Kansas; sister Opal Boone and husband Roland of Quinter, Kansas; sister-in-law Mary Ann Schaurer and husband Raymond of Covington, Ohio; 17 grandchildren and 32 great-grandchildren.

Naomi was preceded in death by her parents; husband Hubert; grandchildren Logan Douglas Stamy, Shane Logan Stamy, and Carina Nicole Stamy; brothers Forrest Kessler, and Leonard Kessler and wife Ruby; sisters-in-law Erma Rinehart and husband Leslie, Lois Rumble and husband John; and brother-in-law Kenneth Stamy and wife Edna.

Services were held Monday, December 12, 2022 with a short family service, viewing and funeral service, all at the Sand Creek, Old German Baptist Brethren Church,

Sawyer Kansas. She was laid to rest at the Pleasant View Cemetery after a short graveside service.

The family

HOWSER — Mary Lydia was born on April 3, 1934, in Modesto, California, the youngest of four children, to Walter and Mary Lauretta Heinrich. She passed peacefully in her home on the night of January 10, 2023, with her daughter and grandson by her side. She was 88 years, 9 months, and 7 days old.

Mary was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on April 29, 1951 by Orlando Blickenstaff and later became a member of New Conference. She married her childhood sweetheart, Donald Howser, son of Fred and Pearl Howser, April 19, 1952. They enjoyed 66 years of marriage, until Don's passing in 2018. To this union were born four children, Ronnie, Brenda, Daniel, and Rhonda.

Mary dedicated her life to being a wife and mother. Mary once wrote that her favorite sayings were "Anything worth doing is worth doing right" and "Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today". Mary worked hard in the almond harvest, often helping by driving a sweeper with her dog in her lap. She enjoyed volunteering for various organizations including but not limited to: Doctors medical center (as a pink lady), and Hart-Ransom School. As an avid knitter and crocheter she donated many blankets, throws and caps to organizations, individuals, and Mod-

esto City Hospital NICU. Working with her flowers filled the quiet times.

When Don retired, most springs/summers were spent at Lake Pardee fishing with Fred and Pearl. They enjoyed traveling in their motor home and cruises to Alaska and the Panama Canal. One of Mary's favorite places was visiting the sea shore, especially Santa Cruz and Capitola. Many memories were made there with her family.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband Don, her parents; their son Ronnie; siblings, Leah Garber, Rachel Powell, and Owen Heinrich.

She is survived by her children and spouses, Brenda and Timothy Garber of Ohio, Daniel and Rosemary Howser, Rhonda and James Grassmidt of Modesto. Also surviving are her grandchildren, Jonathan and Sarah Garber of Ohio, Katie Howser of Mill Valley, Amy and Garrett Howser of Modesto, and James IV and Lily Grassmidt of Modesto.

Services were held January 20, 2023 at the West Modesto meeting house by the home brethren. She was laid to rest at the Wood Colony Cemetery after a grave side service. Mom had expressed how she was ready for a new body and ready to go home. Now safe in His everlasting arms.

The Family

PETERS — Patricia Ann (Boone), daughter of Josiah Harold Boone and Mary Alice (Johnson) Boone, was born August 13, 1949, in Rocky Mount VA. Mom went home to be with Jesus

on Sunday, January 22, 2023, surrounded by her family in her home.

On February 1, 1969, Mom was united in marriage with Roland Lee Peters of Troy, Ohio. She was baptized on May 15, 1973 and committed her life to Christ. She was a faithful member of the Cornerstone Dunkard Brethren Church in Covington Ohio. Mom had a kind heart and a joyful spirit that her family and friends enjoyed. She loved spending her time tending to her flower gardens, sewing, having a good cup of coffee, traveling with her husband, and spending time with her faithful husband, children and grandchildren. Mom always made sure her family had what they needed and served others with a grateful heart. In 2014 she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and lived with this till the end. Even through the hard times she never complained and fought a valiant battle that she ultimately won when she met her Lord and Savior.

Dad and Mom were blessed with and survived by three children, Tonia and Darren Schauer, Heath and Betsy Peters (Bowman), Tricia and Stephen Bowser, and 14 grandchildren, Vidal Schauer, Sydney (Nathan) Jennings, Rylee (Jonny) White, Britton (Baily) Schauer, Ty Schauer, Videline Peters, Barbara Peters, Daphka Peters, Drake Peters, Crew Peters, Kanyon Peters, Eva Bowser, Will Bowser, and Vivien Bowser, as well as one great grandchild, Delilah Jennings.

She is preceded in death by her mom and dad, Harold and Mary "Gran" Boone; her father-in-law and mother-in-law Ray-

mond and Evelyn Peters; and her sister Linda Crenshaw.

We want to extend a special thank you to her caregivers who faithfully helped with Mom through her battle with Alzheimer's these last years, Sydney Jennings, Esther Mwaura, Jenna Shuck, and Elsa Nicodemus.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 am, January 27, at the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Covington. Burial followed in Highland Cemetery, Covington. Visitation was at Moore Funeral Home in Covington. Memorial contributions may be made to, Alzheimer's Association Miami Valley Chapter, 31 W. Whipp Road Dayton OH 45459 and Ohio's Hospice of Miami County 3230 N. County Road 25A, Troy OH 45373. Online condolences may be left at www.moorefh.com.

The Family

LAHMAN — George William, son of Samuel James Tilton and Mahala Florence (Denlinger) Lahman was born on August 29, 1924 in Stanislaus County, on Shoe-make Ave near Modesto California. He passed away peacefully on January 26, 2023 at the home of his daughter near Arcanum, Ohio, at the age of 98 years.

He answered the call of his Savior and along with Otho Holsinger was baptized on April 12, 1942 by Elder Hubert Rumble, becoming a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Modesto district.

On March 22, 1953 he was united in marriage to Vera Viola

Denlinger, daughter of Ray and Angela Denlinger. Together they shared life's joys and sorrows for 69 years. They lived in the Donnels Creek district the first year of their marriage then moved to the Prices Creek district. This union was blessed with 6 children.

Dad grew up in California in the Wood Colony and then Modesto districts. His father died when He was 11 years old and his mother when he was 25. He was drafted during World War II, and being a conscientious objector, was placed in alternate service, working in various camps in northern California. He served from 1944-1946. After marrying he moved to Ohio and became a lifelong farmer. He also enjoyed working in his orchard and garden.

He was recently anointed from which he received much comfort.

He is survived by his loving wife Vera Viola, children Barbara (Charles) Beeghley, Phillip

(Sandy) Lahman, Rita (Bruce) Turner, Russell (LuAnn) Lahman, sons-in-law Reyn (Sue) Angle and David Miller, 27 grandchildren; 68 great-grandchildren; nephew Neal Basore and wife Phyllis.

He was preceded in death by his parents; father and mother-in-law; daughters, Marilyn Angle, and Carol Miller; grandson Justin Turner; half brother and sister-in-law Harry and Evelyn Basore; nephew, Otto Basore and wife Barbara.

Funeral services were held at the Prices Creek Old German Baptist Brethren meeting house near Eldorado, Ohio on January 30, 2023. The home brethren took thoughts from Job 14:14, I Corinthians 15:51-57 and Isaiah 26:3. Burial followed in the adjacent Prices Creek cemetery. Our loved one was tenderly laid to rest to await the Resurrection morning.

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

353 Billman Rd.
New Paris, OH 45347-9102

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.

Send all communication to:

The Testimony
353 Billman Rd.
New Paris, OH 45347-9102
Phone: (937) 604-9464
thetestimony@emypeople.net

The Testimony Committee

Roger Rapp
Lowell Miller, Editor
Dean Kinsley
Phil King
Tim Deaton

Associate Editors

Marcus Miller
Darryl Filbrun