

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

THE TESTIMONY

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

— VERSE OF THE MONTH —

“The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land...” Song 2:12

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ONE THERE IS ABOVE ALL OTHERS

One there is, above all others,
Well deserves the name of Friend;
His is love beyond a brother's,
Costly, free, and knows no end:
They who once His kindness prove,
Find it everlasting love!

Which of all our friends to save us,
Could or would have shed their blood?
But our JESUS died to have us
Reconciled, in Him to God:
This was boundless love indeed!
JESUS is a friend in need.

Men, when raised to lofty stations,
Often know their friends no more;
Slight and scorn their poor relations
Though they valued them before.
But our Savior always owns
Those whom He redeemed with groans.

When He lived on earth abased,
Friend of sinners was His name;
Now, above all glory raised,
He rejoices in the same:
Still He calls them brethren, friends,
And to all their wants attends.

Could we bear from one another,
What He daily bears from us?
Yet this glorious Friend and Brother,
Loves us though we treat Him thus:
Though for good we render ill,
He accounts us brethren still.

O for grace our hearts to soften!
Teach us, Lord, at length to love;
We, alas! forget too often,
What a Friend we have above:
But when home our souls are brought,
We will love thee as we ought.

John Newton

Sel. by Maribeth Filbrun

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

SPRINGTIME

The tender heart of God

If you ask young children what they think about first when they think of Springtime, you will no doubt hear them say something about seeing fields being planted, or seeing blossoms on the trees, or beautiful flowers springing up. Isn't that what you think of as well?

What is so exciting about the Springtime? The air is warmer, of course, but that is not all. There are fresh grasses, leaves, and flowers springing up abundantly, and the landscape is full of new evidence of life. And this new life is shown forth in something called **tenderness**! So when you stoop and look at the grass, it is not just grass you see, but it is **tender** grass. And when you look at a new small leaf, you notice that it is a **tender** leaf. The new buds are **tender**, and the emerging petals of the flowers have a softness and **tenderness**; a very real and attractive expression of the heart of our God!

The Spring season is not only a reminder of the glorious resurrection, but also a reminder of the soft and **tender** heart of God! The spring leaves are **tender** because God made them so.

The word **tender** is only found four times in the New Testament. Two of those times are describing the mercy of God. James speaks so graciously of God as he says this: (James 5:11b) "Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord

is very pitiful, and of **tender** mercy." The Lord is not just a God who is merciful, but His mercy is very **tender**. "His **tender** mercies are over all his works" (Ps. 145:9b).

There are many things that we do not understand in life, and there are many circumstances that are very difficult. There is much suffering in humanity, and even among God's people. There are many questions that we may never receive an answer to. We may not ever come to understand fully the severe judgment of God on heathen nations of the past, or of that retribution which will follow the Great Judgment to come. But we can place our trust in God and know that He is full of **tender** mercy toward those who come to Him in faith.

When the Lord looks down upon the earth, He remembers things. When He sees the rainbow, He remembers His covenant. When His people repent, He remembers His promises to them. When He hears the cry of the sinner, He remembers the blood of His cross.

What would you like for the Lord to remember during the Spring season, as He looks upon the new **tender** life coming forth? Hear the words of the psalmist, "Remember, O LORD, thy **tender mercies** and thy lovingkindnesses..." (Ps. 25:6).

As you witness the flowers and the tender blades of green this Spring, remember the tender heart of God. It will give NEW LIFE to your meditation about Him!

Lowell Miller

SEASONAL

**WHY STAND YE GAZING
UP INTO HEAVEN?**

May the 18th is Ascension Day on the calendar for this year 2023. Do we, or should we, acknowledge Ascension Day, as much as our Savior's birth (Christmas), or our Savior's death (Good Friday), or our Savior's resurrection (Easter)?

Acts 1:2-3: "Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the



apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God..."

Acts 1:5: "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

Acts 1:9-11: "And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked sted-

fastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

He who dyed His garments for you and for me will come again and all will see. In brightest glory He will come, and take His people waiting home! Each and every one must be sure that we are ready for this coming event! This world is definitely coming to a close.

Revelation 1:5-8: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

L. D. Flory

GENERAL

**CRYING OUT IN THE
BATTLE**

My brother, when is the last time you cried out for help right in the middle of a spiritual battle or calamity?

So often we subconsciously think, “Well, it’s too late now, this problem, this frustration, this argument, this temptation is already upon me, maybe someday I’ll be more prepared, but now... Oh well, I’ve already blown it, it’s already a disaster. I’m just going to give up and let happen what will happen.”

If you have ever had thoughts similar to these, I want to point out a rather obscure verse in I Chronicles, that has really helped and inspired me through the years:

1 Chronicles 5:20 says, “And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.”

I know we are not Israel, and our “battles” today are different. Yet “all scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable...!”

So let’s read this verse again with some added emphasis and paraphrase that might be useful and applicable to us in our day:

“And they [YOU!] were helped against them, and the Hagarites

[your flesh enemies] were delivered into their hand, and all that were with them: for they [YOU!] cried to God IN THE BATTLE, and He was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.”

Did you notice that? They cried out IN the battle! Right in the middle of the struggle they cried out to God for Help! And guess what—God heard.

The ESV says it this way: “...*he granted their urgent plea because they trusted in him.*”



My brother, my sister, learn to cry out spontaneously. Learn to pray—on the spot. Have you already suffered some battle wounds, and have you even lost a little ground? Don’t concede the battle! **CRY OUT!**

God loves that kind of reliance, that kind of trust. REMEMBER, just like you have an ear attuned to the anguished cry of one your children, so does your GOD!

Joseph Root

VICTORY OVER LUSTS AND TEMPTATIONS

The purpose of this writing is to expose the power of God that is available when faced with *the fiery trials of Satan*. Victory that overcomes must come from a higher power than self. My prayer is, that as you study this biblical lesson on “victory over lusts and temptations” that, by the Holy Spirit, your study and meditations will plumb deeper than this writing. This is not intended to be complete and exhaustive. May the Lord’s blessings be upon us as we seek His power in attaining victory.

What do we mean by “victory over lusts and temptations” while living in the flesh? It’s a process that conquers by giving our self up, and **overcoming the attraction to sin before it conceives into an action**. This victory is experienced **only through repentance and confession** by the power of the Holy Spirit, resulting in true freedom from the bondage of guilt.

However, while living in the flesh, there will be warfare between the flesh and the Spirit, for they are contrary influences. Make no mistake, the power of Satan is no match for the Holy Spirit to overpower when acknowledged and called upon from a person in need. God is listening for confession. God wants you to hear yourself acknowledge your fleshly weakness and your complete dependence upon Him. A Spirit filled person that loves God will not live

with lust, which is an attraction to what God forbids.

You may wonder, where do all lusts and temptations originate. James is very clear in answering this question. “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” (Jas. 1:13).

Any level of temptation which tends to pull you away from God, whether it’s a temptation to sin through lust, or a trial, is from Satan (the devil). Satan is called *the tempter* in Scripture.

Notice the following Scriptures: Matthew 4:3: “And when the tempter came to him...”

I Thessalonians 3:5: “I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain.”

Remember that God does not tempt us to sin, but He may test our faith, as He did Abraham (Gen. 22:1, Jas. 1:13).

You may wonder how far Satan can go with his attacks. Is he limited in any way, or can he strike with any magnitude at any time he sees a target? The Lord seems to have set Job up, knowing Job would succeed, and Satan be defeated.

The Temptations of Job

Note the following sequence of events in the life of Job:

1. The Lord says to Satan (Job 1:8), “...Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in all the earth, a perfect and upright man...”

2. The Lord then puts limits on Satan (v. 12), "...only upon himself put not forth thine hand." It's like the Lord suggested Satan's first attack on Job to take his possessions, but Job still worshipped, and Satan's attempt failed.

3. Some days later, Satan, as bold as he is, came around again and the Lord said (Job 2:1-6), Satan, have you thought any more about my servant Job? It's like Satan says, yes, I have, and "touch his bone and flesh and he will curse thee to thy face." How bold!

4. The Lord says (v. 6), "...Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life," again limiting Satan. Notice the boldness of Satan in repeatedly coming back.

The Temptations of Jesus

Early in Jesus' ministry God arranged for His own Son to face off with the devil. Matthew 4:1: "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil." The Lord through His Spirit set up a meeting with Jesus and the tempter, but puts a forty day limit on Satan (Mk. 1:13).

Your Temptations

When you feel tired and burdened with temptations, remember—God knows you better than you know yourself and has limits on Satan's advances.

Notice these Scriptures:

I Peter 3:12: "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers."

II Peter 2:9: "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of

temptation..." SUCH COMFORTING WORDS!

I Corinthians 10:13a: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able." The Lord will never permit you to be pushed over the edge of what you can endure under the anointing of His Holy Spirit.

The Purpose of Temptations

You may wonder, what is the purpose of temptations? The purpose of temptations is to reveal what the mighty power of God can conquer in crucified flesh. II Corinthians 4:7: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." Remember that true conquering victory is in no way accomplished through ourselves, but rather the dying to self, and turning our life over to "the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe" (Eph. 1:19).

Different Types of Temptations

1. Temptations for endurance

These are to be received with joy
James 1:1-12

Versel: "James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting." James wrote to Jewish Christians *scattered abroad* from their homes in Jerusalem to other parts of the world because of persecution for their faith in Jesus, and now facing persecution in a foreign land. Through their hostile experiences,

their faith was being tested and tried. James was well acquainted with temptations and trials, of this kind. James, being Jesus' biological half-brother, also died a martyr for his unwillingness to denounce his brother as Messiah.

Verse 2: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations." These are conditions we *fall into* by divine permission, are beyond our control, and not self-induced. View it with cheerfulness when these *temptations* (trials, testings, persecutions, etc.), come upon you.

Verse 3: "Knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience." The Lord permits our faith to be tried to enhance our patience, making us aware of our complete need and dependency upon the Lord for His refining of us.

Verse 4: "But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." Accept the trial knowing God is perfecting our faith.

Verse 5: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..." The Lord is our only source of wisdom and is available for the asking. He alone can supply wisdom to achieve entire victory and freedom in testing and in trying times.

Verse 6: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering." Not just asking, but asking in faith.

Verse 8: "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." He has a divided loyalty.

Verse 9: "Let the brother of low degree rejoice..." When down cast

with temptation and trials, and you pour out your heart to the Father as in verse 5, He will provide you with the completeness of verse 4.

Verse 10: "But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away."

Verse 11: "...so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways." Without exception the rich and poor alike *shall pass away*.

Conclusion: 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." God promises victory in all spiritual warfare to any person that loves Him. Victory over testings that God allows Satan to bring to you can end as victory for the Lord, you with the crown of life, and Satan's defeat. We are to rejoice over temptations we *fall into* by divine permission, because they are opportunities to bring glory to God by being a testimony of Jesus to others. When persevering over temptations of adversity brought upon us by divine permission, James 1:2 says, "count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptation." Peter says in I Peter 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." I Peter 4:12-13: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as you are partakers of Christ's sufferings."

2. Temptations Caused by Lust

These are to be Avoided

James 1:13–18

Verse 13: “Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God...” Don’t blame God for being tempted with sin. Remember, Satan is called the tempter.

Verse 14: “But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.” Temptation to sin carries no influence or power without lust to feed it. While God permits temptation and testing, He also supplies wisdom and power to bring victory.

How Temptation Works

Temptation itself does not originate with God. This temptation is not something *you fall into*, but is self-induced through lust. Every man that draws away from the Lord will be drawn to attractions that entice temptation to sin. When we draw away from God in prayer and devotion, earthly things become enticing, thus opening the door to the tempter. Lust is the attraction to, and desire for the forbidden. Lust is the front entrance door to the room of acting sin. Lust is a danger zone where God does not want you to reside, and He has provisions for you to flee. Lust is not an end in itself. It is never satisfied, but is a means to an experience. Lust develops when we are not fellowshiping with God, and we become vulnerable to the tempter.

The Downward Progression

Verse 15: “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

The Remedy

Romans 13:14: “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lust thereof.” Temptation is the conceiving of one’s lust. James 1:15 is a three step process to death, beginning with ***lust, to sin, to death***. This temptation to sin is what Jesus instructed us to pray for deliverance from in the Lord’s Prayer. At any point and time recovery is available while the Spirit continues to plead and chide. It does not matter who you are, your age, your calling, or your current responsibility, if you are experiencing an attraction to the forbidden, consider who is making you aware of it. Could it be the Lord calling you to repentance with an offer to cleanse you and free you of that bondage? Sincere repentance is followed by sincere confession. Confession must be genuine and specific, not just generic. Confession is a steppingstone to complete healing, first to the Lord: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 Jn. 1:9). And to one another, “Confess your faults one to another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed” (Jas. 5:16). This verse could imply the need for a fervent prayer group in gaining victory from bondage.

May God bless and keep you.

Kenneth Hopkins

FAITHFUL SINGLES ARE LIKE GUARDIAN ANGELS

Single life may often be more difficult and lonelier than a good marriage, but surely much easier than feeling trapped in a bad marriage. Humans are hardwired for intimate companionship, and yet in a broken world, not everyone has that privilege or calling. As Christians, we have a variety of approaches that we can take toward remaining unmarried. Christians historically, have placed a high value on being celibate and in I Corinthians 7, Paul gives the church reasons for leaning that direction. I would like to describe three gifts that the unmarried give to the church and the world. No doubt there are more gifts than the ones I am listing. Note: I use the word celibate several times in this essay to differentiate from the common practice of singles that cohabitate with unmarried companions in our present culture.

GIFT #1—A TESTIMONY BEFORE MEN AND ANGELS.

Here in America, there are so many benefits that come with Christian living that it can be difficult for the world to believe that Christ is our central purpose of life. The lives of faithful, celibate, singles prove the sufficiency of Christ in a way that must certainly be a mystery to the world looking on. We live in a culture that is drunk with the right to help ourselves to any conceivable pleasure, and when faithful singles serve

God instead of seeking personal pleasure, they are clearly traveling the opposite direction of the masses. Likewise, it is puzzling at the least and absurd at best, to religious cultures such as Muslims, when they meet a faithful, young woman and find out that she is single and will not make marriage her first and greatest priority.

In a world where pure living is discarded in a heartbeat for self-seeking, our single brother's and sister's testimony actually extends not only into the unseen world but quite possibly has its largest testimony in the unseen world.

The book of Job reveals that Satan is deeply envious toward individuals that choose God against the odds. It also reveals that God is greatly glorified by the faithfulness of His children. In Daniel we can see that nations have representatives in the unseen realms. The prince of Persia withstood Gabriel who was finally able to break through to Daniel because of Daniel's fast. Gabriel speaks to Daniel about Michael the archangel's position as the Prince of Israel. When you put the pieces together, it seems irrefutable that our faithfulness impacts and produces consequences in the unseen realms.

For those of you who remain unmarried, consider it your sometimes difficult but incredibly acute opportunity to daily testify both to the visible and the invisible world, that the companionship of Jesus Christ, is worth more than any-

thing else. In doing so, you push back against the cultural and spiritual darkness. This principal applies to those of us that are married, but who can really know for sure if the happily married find their ultimate fulfillment in Christ? Anywhere we see a faithful, joyful single, we are seeing a visible manifestation of the power of the resurrection.

GIFT #2—PROTECTION OF FUTURE FAMILIES AND MARRIAGES

Apart from Christianity, there is little power for celibate living. In permissive cultures, many people go from broken relationship to broken relationship. In oppressive cultures, many, if not most, women are married into situations that are empty at best and abusive at worst. The level of divorce, abuse, homelessness, and child neglect is not just an individual sin problem but a systemic problem. It is systemic because the wide acceptance of this behavior propagates itself. Those who remain faithful, and celibate are not only keeping themselves pure, but they are contradicting the accepted conditions that repeat these problems.

When children grow up in a church culture where they can witness the lives of older, faithful, singles, they know without being told that marriage is not a requirement for life fulfillment. If marriage is not a requirement for fulfillment, then at least some will be more careful about who, if, and when they marry. The faithful un-

married Christian also gives courage to those who are in difficult or bad marriages, reminding them that marriage is not the source of happiness or success. Older, fulfilled singles are projecting an unspoken reality against false assumptions about self-worth. I believe that those who have lost a companion and those who have remained faithful when a companion has left them are also included in this work. This role seems comparable to the role of guardian angels. We know that in the unseen realm, angels are guarding, but we rarely see them or observe what they do. Likewise, faithful Christian singles are affirming a reality that is impossible to quantify and easy to miss. Their testimony silently permeates our understanding of the sufficiency of Christ. In so doing, faithful singles protect families and children by reorienting the wrongly assumed values of the world.

GIFT #3. SINGLES CAN SERVE IN WAYS MARRIED PEOPLE CANNOT

I put this gift a full third on the list for a reason. For one thing, our greatest sense of value comes from what we are, not what we do. Yes, singles can be available to work in circumstances that married people cannot or are not available for. However, if an unmarried person is giving the first two gifts to the church and the world, this third gift will result automatically.

Os Guinness, a respected church historian, teaches that the second most impactful Christian

mission to the western world, next only to the Roman world receiving Christianity, was the conversion of the barbaric tribes of Europe. Much of this work was done by celibate monks, operating under strict authority. Pretty much our entire Christian heritage, comes from that work. A lot of very special Christian work has and is being done by those who are not restrained by marriage or children.

If those of us who are married, pursue, and display luxury, convenience, and privilege, will the unmarried feel us standing in solidarity with them in their sacrificial calling? Without a practice of mutual sacrifice for the common good, expecting singles to live celibate and apart from the world becomes more difficult. Sometimes older singles deal with excruciating pain and loneliness, especially if they are haunted by a sense of being left behind or unchosen. On one hand, that may be a failure to understand the importance of the role they fill. On the other hand, that pain may also be the measure of how important their calling is.

May you who are unmarried, or living without a companion, know and feel how deep and valuable your calling is. Do not believe that you have to escape authority and restraint to become valuable or to be whole. It is quite the opposite. Do not sell yourself short by giving in to Satan's dark little idea that your life is meaningless, and you are forgotten by God or that you must launch out on your own.

If these premises about the gifts that the unmarried offer the church and the world are correct, then it doesn't take any imagination to figure out why Satan would propagate that deception. Nothing could be further from the truth! Goodness, whoever told you being a guardian angel was going to be easy?

Anthony Hess

“ONLY BELIEVE”

REASONS FOR THESE MEDITATIONS

Over the years we have observed that there is a spectrum of thought on belief, grace, faith, and obedience. On the one hand, some focus on “Only Believe” as being all one needs to receive God's salvation. On the other extreme others suggest, mostly by their conduct, that they place more emphasis on the essential place of works in the plan of salvation. To those who hold to “Only Believe,” a “Works Salvation” is *anathema*. To those who hold more extremely to the importance of works, “Only Believe” is just as offensive. Sometimes the two factions cannot continue a discussion on the subject with one another.

We consider both points to be the “extreme” ends of a spectrum. The proponents of each are often unwilling to even try to understand the other. Within our own brotherhood these two extremes have caused pain and division in

years past. It is for this reason that we have attempted, in the past, and without success, to find a resolution to this impasse. We are not sure an attempt here will be any more successful.

In our mind we have thought that each of the two extremes are represented by sincere people. We have thought that, though zealous in their beliefs, these lacked charity in interpretation, making a common understanding impossible. After all, no reasonable person would believe that Jesus, in His words in the Bible, does not teach a need for obedience to His teachings; and no reasonable person would deny that the Grace of God does not surpass all else in His perfect plan of salvation.

Somewhere between we know that, on the one hand, the Grace of God is Salvation, while on the other, obedience to the teachings of Christ as taught in the Word is His will for us. In II Peter 3:14–15 we read, “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless. And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...”

WHAT IS THE MIND OF GOD?

Some have equated what has been called “Only Believe-ism” with “Salvation by Grace.” “Salvation by Grace,” however, may and must be accompanied by a life of holiness. A life of holiness is associated with a regenerated life—a new person. A regenerated

life, we believe, must be manifested as a life of obedience to the teachings of Christ. Paul wrote to both the Ephesian church (4:24) and the Colossian church (3:10), “...that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.” “...put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him [Christ] that created him [the new man]...” This indicates a new man of true holiness. True holiness is the image of Christ. Holiness is not the result of belief only. But remember—the devils believe. James writes in 2:19, “[If] thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.”

The German martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his book, “The Cost of Discipleship” defines “Cheap Grace” (incorrectly equated with “Only Believe-ism”). There Bonhoeffer says, “Cheap Grace” teaches that, “Of course you have sinned, but now everything is forgiven, so you can stay as you are and enjoy the consolations of forgiveness.” Bonhoeffer counters this thought by saying, “The main defect of such a proclamation is that it contains no demand for discipleship.” This is one extreme of the spectrum from “Only Believe-ism” on the one hand, to a regenerated life of holiness through obedience to the teachings of Christ on the other. Unfortunately, some call the latter a “Works Salvation.” According to Bonhoeffer, “Cheap grace is the preaching of for-

givenness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline. Communion without confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." Obedience to the "works" which Bonhoeffer would require would be my definition of "Saved by Grace," embracing a life of holiness, or as Paul wrote to the Ephesians and Colossians, "...put on the new man..." by the Grace of God.

Some believe that, upon confessing one's sins and "praying the sinner's prayer," he or she is instantly saved by the Grace of God, fully justified, and even instantly sanctified (made holy). They would see no further need for any input on the part of the believer, nor for what those would term "works" on the part of the "sinner saved by grace." This has been called "easy believe-ism" or "cheap grace" because supposedly it costs the sinner nothing—though it is, in truth, a very costly grace, for it cost the life of the person of God on the cross. Those who believe thus, often add that there is "no place for works in salvation"—salvation is by grace and by grace alone—or by believing only. They overlook the need for a change from the old man of sin to a new man, regenerated through obedience to the teachings of Christ. All too often, the phrase "Only Believe" offers a false sense of security. Believers in "grace alone" all too often have gone so far as to

classify an obedient life as being evidence of "dead works." Thy hold that salvation cannot be attained by works (which is true). But they carry it to the point that there is no merit in any works at all. They teach that it is unnecessary to manifest such works of obedience as simplicity in life and appearance, holiness in conduct and conversation, humility, nonconformity to the spirit of the world, immersion baptism in testimony to one's new life, feetwashing according to Jesus' example of service, the manifestation of love toward all men, fellowship in a community of believers, modest dress, non-resistance, recognition of the higher Kingdom, and many other scriptural teachings. Some say works, even works of obedience, have no place in salvation.

Grace is an influence of God, through the Holy Spirit, upon the heart of the believer, a blessing of God which manifests itself in a life of conformity to biblical teaching. The dispensing of grace is not a one-time event. It is the continuing blessing of God over a lifetime. We understand that 1) we were saved at our first confession, 2) are being saved through the process of regeneration, and 3) we will be saved eternally only after we have passed from this life of action.

The Brethren have attempted to follow the teachings of Christ, the Gospels, and the epistles. Most believe that there is no merit in works alone. Neither is there any hope of salvation in a life void of

obedience to the teachings Christ. Several years ago, a brother shared with me a list of over four hundred "commandments" found in the New Testament, all from the words of Jesus Himself. These are not to be considered "works" in the sense of a means to salvation. They are a list of the heart of God—the characteristics of God which are an expression of His holiness. Through them one can become "...a new man of true holiness..." to be found "after the image of Christ." The list includes "love one another," "fear not," "repent," "follow me," "come and see," "marvel not," "Pray that ye enter not into temptation," "go," "come," "take heed," "seek and ye shall find," "do not covet," "love your enemy," "call no man a fool," don't resist evil," etc., etc. etc. If we should read all the Scriptures, looking for such statements which express the will of Christ, the list would be huge!

Then in the Revelation we read such statements as this found in 20:12-13, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to *their works*...and they were judged every man according to *their works*." (Emphasis my own.) This is a fulfilment of the words of Jesus Himself when He said in Matthew 16:27, "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then

he shall reward every man according to *his works*." Paul wrote in II Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that *every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*." Some will explain these Scriptures away according to their understanding of Greek, or their personal interpretation of the Word, or in a way that fits their own understanding of the place of "grace alone." While some contend that we cannot be saved by works, we wonder, according to the Scriptures, if it is possible to be saved without obedience to the will of God.

Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me keep my commandments." (A commandment in itself!) He said in John 14:21 "He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him and will manifest myself in him." He says in John 15:10, "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." The love (grace) of the Father is inseparably bound to obedience to His will for our lives.

I have often thought to go through my Bible and make a list of every "work" commanded in the Gospels and the epistles. I would be among the first to say that there can be no merit in the rote performance of so great a list of "works"—even works of obedience.

But we would also submit that the effectual work of God's grace might well be frustrated, or even cancelled out, by a willful refusal to submit one's life to the will and the teachings of the Father of Grace.

SEEKING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S WILL

In I Thessalonians 1:3 Paul writes, "...Remembering without ceasing your work of faith [Even faith is a work!], and labour of love [Even love sometimes requires exertion and struggle!], and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father." In Hebrews 6:10 the author writes, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." To minister is to serve, to wait upon as a servant or a slave. And we are as slaves bound to serve our Master. That sounds like something to do.

To those who prefer "Salvation by Grace alone," I ask, can we move away from the suggestion that it holds to some, that grace doesn't cost anything, that it is forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without communal accountability. Communion without confession? For those who have trouble moving away from rote obedience to "a list of things to do," can we move away from the suggestion of some that there must be a list or an itemized catalog of things to do in order to be

"good enough." If we can all do this, perhaps we can meet nearer the center of what God has outlined for us in His Great Plan of Salvation.

BEING CAREFUL IN JUDGMENT

From time to time we have passed a large billboard along a highway stating the focal creed of the nearby church—"ONLY BELIEVE." Over the years we judged that this church fell under the class mentioned by Deitrick Bonhoeffer as he gave his life in Nazi Germany for his belief in "Costly Discipleship." The sign disturbed us, until one time we were working professionally with a nurse—a sister in that congregation. Once on Monday we were discussing the activities at our respective churches over the weekend.

She said, "We had some baptisms at our church Sunday—in the lake out by the highway."

We were a little surprised that a church that teaches "Only Believe" should require, as admission to their fellowship, submission to baptism by immersion, outdoors, in a lake—"where much water" is.

So, we responded, "Baptisms!!? I thought your church taught 'Only Believe.'"

She smiled and said, "If you believe you must be baptized in water!"

I wonder—is not the same true of all the rest of God's teachings?

Marcus Miller

THE CROSS

What does the cross mean to the believer's life?

We hear a lot about it from ministers who preach about it occasionally. I delved into it to see if we can find some practical applications. Please read the Scripture regarding taking up the cross. It is important. The cross is where our sins come to meet the blood. A necessary conclusion. The cross is meant to be a symbol of suffering. Christ suffered and died for us so we can have life. Oh, what a blessing we all have who claim Christ! We are grateful to come to the cross. We would be lifeless if we didn't have the cross. For we know that this suffering for a time is grievous, but a time that is necessary for us. Read the Scriptures and see the importance of the cross. Self-denial is a part of it.

Notice some Scriptures:

Matthew 10:38: "And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."

Matthew 16:24: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Mark 8:34: "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come af-

ter me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Mark 10:21: "Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me."

Luke 9:23: "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."

Luke 14:27: "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

I Corinthians 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

So, brother and sister, take up the cross daily and follow Jesus Christ to our home in heaven!

We might suffer some. I Peter 5:10 speaks of suffering for a time and then He will perfect that which concerns us. Suffering will be well worth it in the end. So be strong and steadfast. There will be a reward. Pray for all Christians that they be faithfully until the end.

Dan Bowman

HOME AND FAMILY

STOPPING AND STOOPING

On a day when the mama of the house was bustling around with all manner of domestic duties, probably at a rate of speed which amused the children around her knees, one of them spoke up. It was a little girl with hair askew. At that moment, she was playing with an old “real” stethoscope that had found its way from her great-grandma’s once-upon-a-time nursing uniform into the little girl’s toy cupboard. After chasing down the mama, the daughter said, “Mama, stop! Be real still. I want to listen to your heart.” And the mama, who has listened to many hearts with a stethoscope in one of life’s previous seasons, had never received a request like this, causing her to pause the scurrying and take note.

Just what does it mean to “mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate” (Rom. 12:16)? In my current place as mother to small children, I’m going to take it personally and literally. I need this admonition. Too often, the physically high things, like a counter of dirty dishes or a dress to sew, divert me from my people of small stature. They become frustrated, and consequently, I do too. Other days, the high things are in my

mind. I attempt to plumb the depths of life’s challenges and circumstances, analyzing them from different angles. Thus, even though I go on with caring for my home and family, I am somewhat distant as I mull over things deep and high. It is not for me to figure out life’s complexities; I know what I’m supposed to do. It’s spelled out quite clearly in the Word of God. It’s simple, though not always easy. It’s gratifying, though the reward is not received on a public stage with the background of an audience applauding. It’s restful, though my feet might be weary at day’s end. Mama, stop. Be real still. Your children want to listen to your heart. Take time to listen to theirs.

When I stop and when I stoop, I learn things. Sometimes I am made aware of areas that need correction. Other times, I hear profound words. I conclude that Scripture is right when it says, “Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise” (Matt. 21:16).

I hear things like, “Joy to the world, the Lord is kind.”

And I think, “She is so right.” My heart is warmed. Not only has the Lord come to this earth—crowning example of condescension—but He is kind. His hand is outstretched still. He remembers that we are

dust. The grace that saved us from our sins is also what can keep us from returning to sin. Though His whole creation groans with the effects of evil, the Lord tarries. Though men do wicked things, He does not often strike them dead. He waits. He calls. He pursues through so many painted skies, stunning snowflakes, delicate daffodils, waves upon sand, wafting breezes. He hopes. Yes, the Lord is kind. He has not left us comfortless. His lovingkindness is better than life. Joy to the world!

Sometimes the words I hear are in question form, and I feel my weakness. I must pray for wisdom as I wonder just how to answer.

“Won’t let Satan blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine... Who is Satan, Mama?”

Oh. She doesn’t even know. I don’t even want to tell her. But, yes, she **MUST** know. The enemy needs to be exposed! I’d rather talk about the goodness and glory of God, but my child must certainly be aware of the Creator’s opponent. She must know of the two spiritual beings that will pursue her soul.

On another day, she tells her brother, “No, don’t cry. Be happy in Jesus, because Jesus said to be happy in Him.”

Well. That’s simple enough. The little brother doesn’t understand, but I do. “Because Jesus said so” should be reason enough to do an-

anything. (That’s what we’re trying to teach her.) Is that reason enough to be happy? The song she was quoting says, “There’s no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.” “Whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he” (Prov. 16:20). “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them” (John 13:17). If we are commanded to be joyful, we can know that the Lord gives whatever we need for it to be so. If I believe that practice makes perfect, then I must practice being happy. I must think on things true, lovely, and of good report, “for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Prov. 23:7). Happiness is my choice, after all.

One day we read about the woman who touched the hem of Jesus’ garment. He perceived that virtue went out of Him, and the woman was healed. The question came, “What is virtue? Does it heal everybody?”

I thought, What a good question! I think it would heal everybody, if it is born out of “sincere love to God and His laws” (A definition of virtue, Webster, 1828). “And every virtue we possess, and every virtue won, and every thought of holiness are His and His alone.” The power comes from Jesus, and still today, healing is offered to whosoever will.

One day I overheard a conversation between siblings. One said, “I love Jesus!” The other replied, “If

you love Jesus, you should be like Him... He never hit; He didn't push..." I had to smile, realizing the thrust of the message, aimed well at the one who claimed to love Jesus. But the words lingered within, and I had a chance for some self-examination. Am I like the One I claim to love and am attempting to teach my children to love? They might know the honest

answer better than I.
I'm discovering that condescension to people of small stature is minding the truly high things. My prayer is that I might become more like them in their sweetness and innocence, that I might attain the kingdom of Heaven.
Allison Markley

MEDITATIONS

Jesus told the blind man, "Go." Go even though you cannot see the way.
The feeling on leaving the Communion Table? Take it to the world.
Education is expensive. Ignorance may cost even more.
The biggest troublemaker in life is in the mirror.
The Bible is God's heart bound in a book.
The whole world is your pulpit.
Have patience with God.

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.

Mothers have always had a special place in the hearts of good children. And when life is going well, mothers receive praise and appreciation. As the world moves further toward darkness and unbelief, and experiences the resulting consequences of sin, we think of the increased sorrow this brings to mothers.
Jesus made mention of this as He spoke of the last days:
And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days (Matt. 24:19)!
Perhaps these thoughts should arouse some questions:

- 1. Have I observed the increase in sorrow for mothers when sin and its consequences affect children?
- 2. Am I aware of mothers who could use some comfort as the darkness of the world affects their children?
- 3. What should I do when there are no words that seem adequate to give encouragement to mothers?
- 4. If I am a mother, where can I find support when days are dark?
- 5. How can mothers encourage other mothers in these last days?
- 6. Are there Scriptures that give special support to mothers?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

Mar. 26, 2023; Cascade Valley, WA
Jared Garber
Mar. 27, 2023; West Manchester, IN
Chad Mohler and Wren Deaton
Apr. 3, 2023; Lower Twin (Tennessee)
Brianna Frantz

MEMBERS RECEIVED

Feb. 28, 2023; West Manchester, IN
David Callaway
Mar. 19, 2023; Olive Branch, OH
Kelly Bear
Mar. 22, 2023; Cutler Ridge, IN
Annika Wolf
Apr. 12, 2023; Caldwell, ID
Laura Alspaugh

COMMISSIONS

Feb. 25, 2023; Kidron Valley, KS
Joe Markley (with wife Jana)
Advanced to the second degree
of the ministry
Mar. 31, 2023; Maple Grove, OH
John Sink (with wife Heidi)
Ordained to the Eldership
Gary Koble (with wife Sheila)
Ordained to the Eldership
Apr. 6, 2023; Lower Twin, OH
Clint Brubaker (with wife Crystal)
Advanced to the second degree of
of the ministry
Apr. 14, 2023; Pleasant View, OH
Kent Markley (and wife Allison)
Advanced to the second degree
of the Ministry

COMMUNION NOTICES

Jun. 24, 2023 Mountain View, ID
Sept. 23, 2023 Pleasant View, OH
Sept. 30, 2023 Providence, IN
Oct. 14, 2023 Maple Grove, OH
Oct. 14, 2023 Zillah, WA
Oct. 21, 2023 Stillwater, OH
Nov. 4, 2023 Columbia River, WA
Nov. 4, 2023 Kidron Valley, KS
Nov. 11, 2023 Covington, OH

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 2–7, and will be held at Indiana 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 3. 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, June 4 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 2, 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 digital 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

LOST!

Leaning On the Savior Today

Lost, are you lost?

Have you lost your way?

Have you, have you, child, lost Jesus?

Have you traveled down that road, down that road that you think pleases?

Have you found yourself not knowing, not knowing where to go?

Not knowing which way to turn, escaping from your foe?

Have you looked around the land, from sea to shining sea, sea to shining sea?

Looking for that hand to hold and voice that says, "Follow me?"

If you find yourself, find yourself lost and all alone, cry out my friend for Jesus. For Jesus will lead you home.

Galen Peters

YET LISTEN NOW

Oh, listen with the wondering olive trees,
 And the white moon that looked between the leaves,
 And gentle earth that shuddered as she felt
 Great drops of blood. All torturing questions find
 Answer beneath those old grey olive trees.
 There, only there, we can take heart to hope
 For all lost lambs—aye, even for ravening wolves.
 Oh, there are things done in the world today
 Would root up faith, but for Gethsemane.

For Calvary interprets human life;
 No path of pain but there we meet our Lord;
 And all the strain, the terror and the strife
 Die down like waves before His peaceful word.
 And nowhere but beside the awful Cross,
 And where the olives grow along the hill,
 Can we accept the unexplained, the loss,
 The crushing agony and hold us still.

*Psalm 40:2–3 “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit,
 out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and
 established my goings. And he hath put a new song in
 my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it,
 and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”*

Selected from
Rose From Brier
 Amy Carmichael
 By Karen Filbrun

*“And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be
 sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, My soul is
 exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.
 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that,
 if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, Abba,
 Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me:
 nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.” Mark 14:33–36*

THE BLESSINGS THAT REMAIN*Annie Johnson Flint*

There are loved ones who are missing from the fireside and the feast;
There are faces that have vanished, there are voices that have ceased;
But we know they passed forever from our mortal grief and pain,
And we thank Thee, O our Father for the blessings that remain.

Thanksgiving, oh, thanksgiving that their love once blessed us here,
That so long they walked beside us sharing every smile and tear;
For the joy the past has brought us, but can never take away,
For the sweet and gracious memories growing dearer every day.

For the faith that keeps us patient, looking at the things unseen,
Knowing spring shall follow winter and the earth again be green;
For the hope of that glad meeting far from mortal grief and pain—
We thank Thee, O our Father, for the blessings that remain.

For the love that still is left us, for the friends who hold us dear,
For the lives that yet may need us, for their guidance and their cheer;
For the work that waits our doing, for the help we can bestow,
For the care that watches o'er us wheresoe'er our steps may go.

For the simple joys of living, for the sunshine and the breeze,
For the beauty of the flowers and the laden orchard trees;
For the night and for the starlight, for the rainbow and the rain—
Thanksgiving, Oh, our Father, for the blessings that remain.

Selected

OBITUARIES

PETERS — Diane Kay was born on January 20, 1955, in Lafayette, Indiana, to Charles and Mary Helen (Long) Skiles. She peacefully went to be with the Lord on January 5, 2023, at home surrounded by her family, at the age of sixty-seven years, eleven months, and fifteen days.

On September 7, 1974, she was joined in marriage to Loren Ray Peters. Shortly after, on November 3, 1974, she committed her life to the Lord and was baptized. Throughout her life Mother eagerly shared her love for Jesus and watched for His return. She was a faithful member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church—New Conference, in the Olive Branch district of Ohio.

Dad and Mother were blessed with forty-eight years together. To this union were born three children, Heather and Chad Nicodemus of New Carlisle, Ohio, Eric and Julie Peters of Sandpoint, Idaho, and Tamara and Layton Yost of Camden, Ohio. In her healthier years Mother took delight in caring for her grandchildren, Clay Nicodemus, Jenna (Ashton) Shuck, Alec, Elsa, and Anika Nicodemus; Landon, Jaylyn, Hayley, Conner, Evelyn, and (her newborn namesake) Brielle Diane Peters; and Reed, Jack, and Ava Yost.

For forty-six years Mother found pleasure in living the farm life alongside Dad in Elida, Ohio. There she served cheerfully, freely opening their home to family, friends, and young folks. After her diagnosis they moved to Camden, Ohio to be closer to family. In her heart, though, Elida was still home.

She was preceded in death by her father; parents-in-law, Everett and Mildred Peters; and brother-in-law, Mark Peters. She is survived by her husband; her children and grandchildren; her mother; sisters, Sharon and Lynn Peters and Marcia and Robin Root; brother, Larry and Joyce Skiles; sisters-in-law, Kris Peters and Mary and Norm Filbrun; brother-in-law, Mike and Kim Peters, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Mother's Alzheimer's/Dementia diagnosis was a distress to her, yet she humbly accepted it as being the Lord's will. Despite the unpleasantness of her disease, she faithfully claimed her Jesus and praised Him in song. We are thankful for the life she lived and for good memories to treasure.

The Family

HESS — Marjorie Jean (84) was born November 9, 1938, to Louis and Martha (Stoner) Benedict of Quincy, Pennsylvania. She passed

from this life February 15, 2023, at her home in Shady Grove, Pennsylvania, following five years of decline from Alzheimer's disease. We are exceedingly thankful that she seemed to suffer little distress of body or spirit during those years and her appreciation for and cooperation with her care made her care easy and a joy for her caregivers.

She grew up on the family farm at Quincy, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Quincy High School in 1956. She confessed Jesus Christ as her Lord and was baptized into the Old German Baptist Brethren Church on December 2, 1956, and was currently a member of the Browns Mill district. She joyfully and contentedly worshipped with her church family until 3½ months before her passing, when she was no longer able to attend meeting.

On August 14, 1959, she married D. Robert Hess, Jr. They lived at Baltimore, Maryland, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Dayton, Ohio, during her husband's medical training until moving back to the Shady Grove, Pennsylvania, area in 1966 for the rest of her life. Her life's work was caring for her family and following her Lord. She had eight children who are grateful for her Christian training and example.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother Fred (Reva); two sisters, Frances (Joseph D.,

Jr.) Skiles, Emma (Nelson) Rotz; father- and mother-in-law, David and Irene Hess; brothers-in-law, Kenneth Woods, Harold Slothour, and Douglas Hess; and two great-grandchildren.

Surviving are her companion of 63 years; children, Reuben (Pollyanna), Rodney (Wanda), Howard (Linda), Neal (Lisa), Andrew (Jessica), Joanna (Michael) Frantz, Emily (Troy) Landes, and Anthony (Priscilla); 68 grandchildren and 105 great-grandchildren; brothers and sisters, Florence Lyman, Isabelle (Donald) Hess, Laura Slothour, Frank (Doreen), Dan (Martha); brothers and sisters-in-law Nelson (Eva) Hess, Suzanne Hess, Richard (Martha) Hess, Calvin (Anita) Hess, Mildred (Jim) Wagoner, Mabel (John) Wagoner, Eldon (Laura) Hess.

She was a woman with a strong faith in Jesus and had an abiding interest in those who were disadvantaged whether by physical limitations or circumstances. She enjoyed ministering to their needs as well as demonstrating a love for children and showing hospitality to family, friends, and strangers alike. Her ready smile and friendly manner made others feel comfortable in her presence. People with whom she visited could often sense her special interest in them, a result of the love of God flowing through her. She believed life need not be compli-

cated and two of her mottos when things got busy were "simplify" and "just do your next thing." She learned to commit the challenges in her life to her Savior and rest peacefully in Him.

A visitation was held at the Brown's Mill meeting house on Monday, February 20, followed by a funeral service at the same location on Tuesday, February 21. A family service was held in the basement where Brother Clinton Hess aptly applied the attributes of I Timothy 5:10 to others besides widows and we sang Hymn 78. Hymn 498 and 483 were sung as the family entered the meeting house. Brother Jesse Benedict opened the service and spoke of the greatness of charity from I Corinthians 13:13. Hymn 447 was sung. Elder Jerre Longenecker brought the main message further

enlarging on I Corinthians 13 and we sang Hymn 452. Brother Galen Hess then closed with Hymn 393 and thoughts from Philippians 4:8, which was one of Marjorie's favorite verses that she would use to teach and admonish her family and acquaintances.

Hymns 390, 268, 448, 455 and 499 were sung during the viewing after the service. Hymn 403 was used at the graveside as Brother Daniel Heffley made appropriate remarks concerning the resurrection. Hymns 460, 395 and 384 were sung while the grave was being filled. Burial was in the Brown's Mill Cemetery at Kauffman. Her family and others will sorely miss her, but it is not trite to say that our loss is her eternal gain. We lay her away in full hope of the first and best Resurrection.

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.

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