

"And I, brethren...came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you...

THE TESTIMONY

...of God. For I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ..." I Cor. 2:1-2

VERSE OF THE MONTH

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Rev. 7:17

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A DOXOLOGY FOR CHRIST

Jesus Christ, the Holy, Perfect, Eternal Son of the great Jehovah Father God upholds all things by the power of His Word. He is the shining brightness of the glory of God, and the express image of His person. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is before all things and by Him all things consist. Because He humbled Himself before His mortal creation, by being made flesh and being obedient unto death, even death on an old rugged cross, Almighty God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of things in heaven and things in the earth and things under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. As Lord of lords and King of kings, He sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high in the heavenly places far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but also in that which is to come. All things are put under His feet, and He has been given to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all. He now sits with great love and mercy as a merciful and faithful High Priest, the one and only mediator between God and man, the man, Christ Jesus.

Because of these wonderful, glorious, truths revealed by His Holy Spirit to our hearts through His Word, we mere mortals owe Him our undivided attention, our utmost devotion, our most ardent love and praise, and our acknowledgement that in all things He might have the preeminence. When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall we also appear with Him in glory. Even so come Lord Jesus! Amen.

Phil King, Greenville, Ohio

THE TESTIMONY

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EDITORIAL

HE LEADETH ME

What a comforting thought it is to be led. We don't have to know the path when we know the destination and the guide. When we are in the driver's seat of a car, we must always be thinking and concerned about where we're going and what turns to make. But when we are in the passenger's seat of a car driven by someone we trust, we are able to rest and enjoy the scenery along the way, knowing that the driver is taking care of all the details and will get us to the destination.

Such is life as a true follower of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we place ourselves fully in His care, we can trust Him with both the destination and the journey. Furthermore, our Shepherd has been this way before.

In Psalm 23 and later in John 10, we get pictures of the Lord our Shepherd gently leading and caring for His sheep. In my lifetime, I've worked with sheep, and I've worked with cattle and other animals, and there is a difference. Sheep don't do well being herded or pushed from behind; cattle and other animals usually aren't as easily led. That's why the pictures are given in the Word of green pastures, still waters, paths of righteousness, and a shepherd's voice.

A comforting scene no doubt, but it's not always an easy road.

Deuteronomy 8:15–16 speaks of God leading “through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water,” but even in trying circumstances we can trust our Leader for our every good “who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do thee good at thy latter end.”

In times of disobedience as a child, Dad would take my hand and lead me to a place I didn't want to go—a private room for correction. But I'm so glad I followed. Because it was in those times I learned the value of chastening in my life.

We can trust our Lord fully with our future. Isaiah 40:11 says, “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.” Even when things seem cloudy and we can't see the way, Isaiah 42:16 says, “And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness

light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.”

God has always led His people this way, sometimes by a cloud and sometimes by a pillar of fire, but for those who will truly follow, we can rest in the One at the helm. And some sweet day we can be led into the realms of glory to be in His presence for evermore where Revelation 7:17 tells us, “the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”

*He leadeth me, O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
What e'er I do, where e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.*

*Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis His hand that leadeth me.*

*Lord, I would place my hand in Thine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine;
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis my God that leadeth me.*

*And when my task on earth is done,
When by Thy grace the victory's won,
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
Since God through Jordan leadeth me.*

*He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful follower I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.*

Joseph Henry Gilmore

Tim Deaton

GENERAL

LORD, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

“Simon Peter said unto him, Lord, whither goest thou? Jesus answered him, Whither I go, thou canst not follow me now; but thou shalt follow me afterwards” (John 13:36).

“In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also” (John 14:2–3).

At this point the disciples didn't

understand or realize what was happening or taking place.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father” (John 14:12).

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13).

“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you” (John 14:20).

“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 to him” (John 14:21).

“These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you” (John 14:25).



“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

Jesus is not going to talk much more, but He is saying “Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).

“And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it is come to pass, ye might believe” (John 14:29).

As Ascension Day has come and is past for 2026, what were your thoughts that day and what will they be through the rest of the year? My thoughts were, since our friend, the Savior of mankind, has ascended on high with the Father, He said, “I will come again and receive you unto myself.”

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.” (John 15:13–14).

OUR BEST FRIEND! (Hymn 150)

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.

Which of all our friends, to save us,
Could or would have shed his blood?
But this savior died to have us
Reconciled in him to God.

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.

Rev. 22:12 “...behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Rev. 22:13 “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”

L. D. Flory

MOTHERS AND THE GREAT COMMISSION

Sheryl Zeiset

Have you ever wondered how you, a busy mother of children, can obey Jesus' command of going into all the world and preaching the Gospel? I have. Even though I live across the ocean and some people call me a missionary, I often wrestle with knowing how to make this mandate practical in my own life. While I'm still learning how to navigate this, I am also learning how important and how very short the child-raising years are and how beautifully they fit into the call of God for us women. Here I have listed seven hindrances or misconceptions that I believe affect us women, and our ability to be productive in the kingdom of God.

1. We struggle with our flesh or unresolved personal issues.

In John 15, Jesus says, "As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

Our relationship with Jesus is the foundation of everything we do, the most important priority in our lives. The fruit in our lives grows out of this relationship. It affects our discernment, how we mother our children, and even our desire to be involved in others' lives. If our spiritual life is not healthy, the people around us will suffer, rather than be built up.

If we're struggling with laziness, procrastination, or selfishness, we won't have our homes in

order, nor will we have an outward focus. If we allow unhealthy habits to form, they will eventually control our lives. If we fail to be obedient in keeping our own souls fed and inspired, our spiritual discernment will be clouded, and we will be consumed with ourselves and the disorder in our hearts.

If you have buried pain or trauma from your past, seek help. Redemption and healing are possible and can transform you into a person equipped to help others.

2. We think the Great Commission is for those who move overseas.

Rather than categorizing ministry and thinking my quiet home doesn't fit into any category, let's start viewing intentional mothering as one of the most important ways we can further the kingdom of God. The tender young years are the only chance we have to fill our children's minds with truth—the Word of God. So soon those years are over, and our teenagers are a product of our investments. We can't go back and redo it. The reality is that we can move overseas and win souls for Christ, yet if we neglect our home and family in our heroic efforts, we miss the mark. Our children are the first disciples God gives to us.

3. We are entrenched in our own culture.

We are a part of a vibrant and healthy community of women who have farmed, harvested, and preserved for many generations. This is a healthy lifestyle. Our children learn valuable work ethics, and the family is fed. But we also live

with expectations that often hinder us. If this stage of life is particularly busy, perhaps to stay healthy and have time for others, we could leave the garden for a year. Or let the weeds grow a bit more, without worrying what the neighbors will think.

Culturally, we have high expectations for clean houses, home-baked bread, and perfect landscaping. Even though all these things are good in their place, people care more about your care and hospitality than about the immaculate perfection of your house. The love of Jesus is felt in a real way when a busy mother willingly gives of her time to prepare a meal, make an encouraging phone call, or any one of a host of creative things her hands can do for others.

4. Our lives are lived within our small subculture.

If you've never been introduced to people of other cultures and aren't comfortable relating to them, you deny yourselves many rich experiences. Even with a family, it is possible to explore the possibilities in nearby neighborhoods and cities.

I have many memories of my parents inviting people into our home. Without knowing what they were doing, they were establishing a family culture of openness and love for people vastly different from us. "Hope and love for everyone" was my Dad's life slogan. I remember a single mom and her little daughter from Chicago, looking for a better life, then a dad with four children, trying to get

his bearings after separating from an adulterous relationship. It was troubled, angry teenagers and lonely single moms. I have no idea how they found these people, but we were rarely without someone extra in our home, which gave us endless exercise in being patient with different cultures, people, and personalities. I'm sure we weren't always gracious, but that didn't keep my parents from making these choices.

5. We believe that we need to be involved in something outside our home.

Deep down, somehow, some of us have the misconception that the duties of home, the endless dirty dishes, the mountains of laundry, the dirty floors, and the hungry tummies are disconnected from a viable ministry. But we need to adjust our perspective. The years of babies and diapers are precious years and so full of potential. During these years, our children are our disciples, and oh, the potential wrapped up in these little hearts! For us mothers, if done well, this will be the most successful ministry we'll ever have.

In her book, *Beholding and Becoming*, Ruth Chou Simons says, "Given a choice, I would rather have the Lord send me to Africa than clean out my pantry. I'd rather dig wells in impoverished lands, seeing progress and visible fruit, than work through math problems again with my child. So often we are quick to say, 'Send me, Lord!' as long as He doesn't

send us to...the unseen work of sowing the truth of God's Word right within the walls of our messy home."

And might I add, disorganized pantries and math problems also exist in Africa. I'm not sure where "seeing progress and visible fruit" comes in, as that doesn't seem to happen fast in any part of the world. Raising children or any work of God is like a rising bowl of yeast dough—slow and steady.

about the many people in and out of our home, except for the time a dysfunctional family descended on us for the weekend when we were all down with the stomach flu, and their first words were, "Eeew, it smells sick in here."

Perhaps my parents should have had some boundaries, but they successfully built an unselfish family culture, which I long to pass on to my children as well. My Mom used her home to minister to



We often underestimate the power and potential of our small lives and the choices we make. Setting a simple, pretty table, making food, and inviting people can be done with your children, teaching them valuable things in the process. Your attitude about unexpected visitors or unplanned opportunities to welcome people into your home is contagious. You are training a spirit of love and welcoming your children without saying a word. You can be a gracious or fledgling hostess. I don't remember ever feeling resentful

others, rather than pursue something that excluded us, which I think was her secret ingredient. She sewed and cooked and invited in, all with her children around her, learning, absorbing, and working together. She was constantly present for us. So much so that inviting others in wasn't a negative for us children.

6. We believe it is our husband who has the calling to minister.

And he does. You enable and support him in whatever calling he has by keeping his home and giving him a lovely place to come home to. But it is important to rec-

ognize our tendency to hide behind our husbands and forget that God has also given us gifts that He expects us to use in the church. Speaking words of encouragement and wisdom to other women, teaching at women's meetings, exhorting and admonishing as a healthy part of the church. We need to know how to use our voices. "The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Tit. 2:3–5).

7. We are taken up with the fads and fashions of the world.

Sewing new dresses, shopping, coffee shops, and decorating your house can all be a part of a healthy lifestyle, but if done in excess or to keep up with all the newest fads, they will define your life. None of these things are sinful; perhaps a coffee shop is the best place to meet a friend. Shopping and sewing are a necessary part of life to care well for our families, but we only have twenty-four hours in each day. Perhaps in our minds we are doing it all—reaching out to people, finding opportunities to serve others, inviting people in, but we're also keeping an up-to-date house and wearing all the newest. This is likely an illusion. One or the other usually defines our life, and we're the only ones who can make the choice.

The easiest thing for us humans to do is gauge our lives by what is normal around us, to live the status quo quietly. But we need to ask if the status quo is in line with the Word of God and what we believe about eternity.

We all go through stages when our energies are expended on ourselves and our family. And that is okay. God will give us wisdom to know when to rest and when to give ourselves for others. Morning sickness and ill health sometimes have us on the couch for hours a day, and it's all we can do to keep life floating. Perhaps you're going through a dark night of the soul, and you need to focus on your own emotional health, or you are facing challenges with a needy teenager. This, then, is the assignment God has for you. To have another child, to learn lessons of patience, to heal, and to focus on family. The important thing is to tune in to what God wants to do in us, through us, by His Spirit, and not give in to the lesser things of this world that so quickly steal our time and focus.

By God's grace, we can become women of strength and purpose, with our eyes focused on preparing our children and others for eternity. This is the Great Commission, and we have an irreplaceable role. We have only one life to live. Let's live it earnestly and well.

Selected from *The Heartbeat of the Remnant* (Summer 2025) by

Ken Hopkins

JESUS THE LAMB, OUR KINSMAN REDEEMER

Part 1 of 3

The book of Revelation is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ!” And contrary to the suggestions of some, it is not a thing to be avoided or minimized, for Jesus Himself told the apostle John (Rev. 1:1, 3) that it is “the Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass [and] blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.” It is a revelation for the people of God, first given in visions to the prophets of old and then sealed up for a time (Dan. 12:9); but then Jesus Christ came, His Church was established, and we read in both Revelation 1:3 and 22:10 that, unlike Daniel’s day, the time is at hand! Revelation speaks of many things yet to come, perhaps very soon and perhaps even today!

In the first chapter of Revelation, Jesus appeared in splendor and authority to the Apostle John, exiled as an elderly man to the island of Patmos for the Word of God, and in the second and third chapters, messages of warning and/or encouragement are given for seven congregations in Asia Minor, each of which remain relevant in some way for the believers in every age and locale. Following these things, the fourth chapter

records how John was caught up before the very throne of God to behold Jehovah Himself sitting upon a glorious throne with majesty and authority, and surrounded by lightnings, thunderings, an emerald rainbow, cherubim and 24 white-robed elders with crowns (possibly representing the saints of the ages).

The context is that the God of all Creation is preparing to unleash His righteous and holy justice upon a sinful, corrupted, fallen earth and its rebellious inhabitants, and yet, John tells us of thousands upon thousands (and later, an uncountable host from every tribe and tongue and nation and kindred) gathered before that most holy throne. Heaven is filled with the praises of Jehovah, and surely it is thus filled because those present understand what the Lord is about to do, and that they praise Him for His glory, His power and creation, acknowledging His right to judge the world and all that is therein! John was given a heavenly perspective of what will happen on earth in “the last days,” and when events around us are viewed from a purely earthly perspective, how easily they can cause fear, doubt and confusion! Yet when the events around us can be viewed from a heavenly perspective, how often we find that everything begins to make a little more sense, and we can trust all to the One upon the throne!

Chapter 4 ends with the Almighty receiving the praises of His created beings and redeemed saints, and we behold an awesome scene of worship and singing in this awesome gathering of cherubim and angels and saints alike, those from ages past all the way to the very last of the redeemed saints who will be caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds! As we conclude this chapter, we see that John is still standing before the throne of God, but things are about to change; the stage is being set for righteous judgment to descend during an awful time of tribulation, and suddenly, amid all the worship and praise and honor and glory and singing when it seems that the music stops!

Without Chapter 5, we would never see what our great God will yet initiate and orchestrate; there would be no ultimate judgment poured out on an unbelieving creation and humanity, nor any final redemption for His believing people! And yet, surely that is what lies at the heart of this Revelation of Jesus Christ—not only judgment and wrath, righteous though they be, but a gracious redemption and restoration! Our God is not only the Sovereign Creator, but He is a God of redemption, and in this lies our hope! Too often men get hung up on interpreting signs and timelines, assigning meaning to images, and much may be discerned in studying this book, yet here John beholds and conveys

that the ultimate focus of Heaven is upon our God who sits on His throne, upon the Spirit of God blazing in glory before the throne, and particularly upon Jesus Christ, the Lamb who was slain, and who is our Kinsman Redeemer!

John begins (Rev. 5:1) by saying, “And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.” Ancient books were recorded as scrolls, often made of long sheets of paper or animal skin, and when written on, they could be rolled up and then perhaps tied with string and sealed by one or more witnesses, typically with hot wax and an individual mark or imprint; in order for someone to unroll the scroll, they then had to break the seal or seals one by one. History tells us that Roman wills and contracts had seven Seals, while Jewish documents often had a minimum of three seals, and the scroll which we find here in the hand of God had seven seals keeping it closed. The number 7 is often associated in Scripture with the concept of “completeness,” and John’s audience (particularly those under the rule of the Roman empire) would easily recognize this image of a scroll and being to understand its purpose; they would also understand that only authorized persons might open it!

As we witness John’s vision progress in the book of Revelation, we

see each seal broken in succession, and a specific judgment from God to be poured out on the world and particularly upon rebellious men. Nevertheless, that is not our focus at this time, but to take hope and encouragement from what happens and Who we see before that time! As we begin by looking at this book, or scroll, in the hand of God, what do we know about it? First, we understand from vv. 2–4 that it has something to do with “man,” and second, we see that it has something to do with “the earth,” or with God’s creation, because we read that nobody in heaven or on earth or under the earth (i.e. anywhere!) could open it, though the seals will begin to be opened later in Chapter 6 and their contents will be read, revealing that which is ordained to come upon the earth during the Tribulation Period.

Third, we begin see that this scroll has to do, not only with judgment, but with redemption; and after Jesus takes the scroll from His Father (v. 2), we find that He is praised (vv. 9–10) for His redemptive work, and we discover that this scroll is ultimately a book of redemption! To “redeem” something means “to buy something back for a price,” or to save it from another at a cost, and it is absolutely vital to our limited understanding of God’s plan for the ages that we have some understanding of “redemption”; all that He has done and will still do is directly related to His redemptive

work on our behalf, and to better understand the concept of redemption, we return briefly to the Old Testament, where we find (at least) three things which could be redeemed: a slave, a wife, and land (or inheritance).

If a master lost a slave or servant, or had to sell them, he could pay a “redemption price” to buy that individual back. Hosea 3 gives us a beautiful picture of redemption from slavery as we read of how he redeemed his wife, Gomer, back from slavery and prostitution at the Lord’s command for 15 coins and 1.5 omers of barley. This was the financial equivalent of 30 pieces of silver, the same amount of silver for which Jesus was betrayed, when He redeemed you and me on Calvary’s cross! First Corinthians 6:19–20 reminds us that we have been “bought with a price,” and in Revelation 5:9, we hear the saints’ testimony that Thou “hast redeemed us to God by thy blood...”!

Wives could also be redeemed, as we find in Ruth 4:1–15. Under the Law, a widow with no male children could be redeemed (along with any inheritance from her husband) by a close kinsman of her husband, and we see this happen as Boaz paid a “redemption price” for Ruth, redeeming her as a wife and redeeming the inheritance of her late husband as well; Jesus has done the same for us at Calvary, shedding His own blood to redeem us as a Bride unto Himself. Ephesians 5:25–27 says that “...Christ also loved the church,

and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Thirdly, Scripture records that land or inheritance could also be redeemed, and that if a man lost the land he had inherited (perhaps by debt), he would have the opportunity to buy that property back by paying a “redemption price!” Jeremiah 32 records an account of a man named Hanameel who came to visit his cousin, the prophet Jeremiah, who was imprisoned for having spoken the Word of the Lord regarding the fall of the king during a coming siege by the Babylonians. Though Jeremiah was currently imprisoned, Hanameel asked Jeremiah to fulfill the role of a kinsman and to buy a field he had in Anathoth, a place just outside the city which had already been overrun by the Babylonians.

As the account goes, Jeremiah agreed to redeem the land in spite of the Babylonians, acting in faith that God would return His people to the land after their pending captivity; in v. 10, we read that Jeremiah recorded this transaction upon a scroll and sealed it, which was significant in that Jewish practice was for redemption information to be recorded on both sides of a scroll: on the inside was written the reason that the land had been forfeited, and on the outside were written the terms of re-

demption for that particular land. After the transaction, two copies were kept, one remaining unsealed and available to be read, the other being sealed by several witnesses (vv. 10–11), and both were to be kept in jars within the Temple for safekeeping (which we see in v. 14). In short, Jeremiah acted as a Kinsman Redeemer for his cousin’s property, redeeming a worthless land because of his faith in God’s promise, which we read in v. 37, as Jeremiah wrote, “...I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely: And they shall be my people, and I will be their God”!

Once more we see Jesus in Revelation 5, similarly acting as our Kinsman Redeemer, and the scroll in the hand of God also having been written on both sides and sealed up, just like the property deed of Jeremiah 32! Again, as Jesus died upon Calvary, He paid that Redemption Price to save fallen men and a world corrupted by sin, just as Galatians 1:4 reminds us that He “gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world”! And with great joy we can lift our voices with the message of the old hymn that begins with the words:

*How I love the great Redeemer
Who is doing so much for me;
With what joy I tell the story
Of the love that makes men free.*

To be continued...

Christian Filbrun

SON-RIPENED FRUIT

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23).

LOVE—God knew we could not love until we had felt and experienced love for ourselves. He expressed His love in human form to help us grasp the patience, kindness, humbleness, confidence, and joy that is contained in His perfect love. In fact, each quality listed in the fruit of the Spirit can be summarized in the word *love*.

Love is a prize to be won.

Love is the pinnacle of grace.

Love is an object of prayer.

Love is a slow-bearing fruit.

JOY—The apostle Paul includes joy as the second aspect of the fruit of the Spirit and describes it as a key ingredient in the Spirit-filled believer's life, without distinguishing the good times from the bad.

Joy is not an end in itself.

Joy is not a fleeting happiness or spiritual giddiness.

Joy is a deep inner contentment.

Joy is gladness of heart.

PEACE—Peace is produced in our lives only as we walk in the Spirit and is the antithesis of the works of the flesh and to experience God's peace, we must deliberately will to believe God's promises.

Peace is often inexpressible.

Peace is being in harmony with God.

Peace is loving His law and trusting Him.

Peace comes when we choose to receive it.

PATIENCE—Long suffering equates with patience and demonstrates a high sense of quiet, self-



less love, which accepts God's seeming delays and the weaknesses and failures of others. It is contrary to the flesh and we need to deal with it and allow the Spirit to produce His fruit.

Long Suffering is perseverance.

Long Suffering is not being easily provoked.

Long Suffering does not hastily retaliate a wrong.

Long Suffering is patience when suffering comes.

KINDNESS—Gentleness equates with kindness and is an attribute rooted in the very fiber of God's character. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, according to His mercy, He saved us.

Gentleness is an unavoidable reality of a believer.

Gentleness is most evidenced in behind-the-scenes service.

Gentleness is synonymous with the grace of our Lord.

Gentleness will remain a kingdom showpiece for eternity.

GOODNESS—God Himself is the essence of goodness. In Scripture, His goodness is clearly defined. He said to Moses, “I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Goodness springs from a heart given to God.

Goodness is genuine, honorable, generous, honest and loyal.

Goodness must be manifested in the life of every believer.

Goodness will provide for, deliver, and protect.

FAITH—Faithfulness describes the trustworthy nature of God. “Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of



turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be...Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!”

Faithfulness is a characteristic of Christ.

Faithful sums up Christ’s ministry. Faithfulness is required of His stewards.

Faithfulness honors commitments and keeps promises.

GENTLENESS—Meekness equates with gentleness and reflects a taming through God’s Holy Spirit. A gentle person will be:

- Mild toward others in difficult circumstances;

- Considerate when others are not;

- Tender when others are rough;

- Quiet and kind when others are loud and coarse.

Meekness was Christ’s spiritual reflex—

On the cross He recognized His mother’s need for care.

Meekness refrains from quarreling.

Meekness defines God’s will in our lives.

SELF-CONTROL—Temperance equates with self-control. Three areas in our life threaten the control of our spiritual vitality—overeating, sensual focus, and discouragement. To allow the Spirit to have His way in us, we must daily draw spiritual strength from Christ through His Word.

Temperance is possible; it’s characterized by the availability of power to control our appetites warring within.

Right now, believers possess the resources for a controlled life.

Why then, do we fail to use them?

Selected, edited, and adapted from *SON-RIPENED FRUIT* by the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago—1986 by

AliceMae Haney

THINKING ALONG THE LINE OF TIME

How many of us are linear thinkers? We want to know from the beginning to the end—or at least from today. Are you one of those people who gets frustrated by the fact that Scripture many times is not written in this manner? There is a reason why it sometimes wasn't, and one of them may be so you will search it out. We in America are way too consumed with today to think of yesterday or future years. Our faith is rather simple and that is because we can read the Bible (honestly, not even much of it) and become believers. Isn't the printed Word a blessing beyond comprehension? Aren't you glad someone taught you to read at a young age?

We don't have to search out a Priest or Prophet. If our fathers have forgotten God, we can read His law and learn His grace. We can walk in His ways and not err these thousands of years after His Son, Immanuel ("God with us") lived among men, died, was laid in the grave three days, and rose again. It is an everlasting marvelous plan!

Imagine living in a time without the written Word. How about those dark ages when men were unlearned and ignorant. The common man was often unable to read. Truly for this lover of books those would have been trying years, and we are thankful that is not our lot.

So let us make a beginning and

hopefully you will be inspired to dig deeper. We will warn you not to add to Scripture. There are some blanks that God did not fill. Men have, and much of it is supposition. But let's stick with the facts. Someday we may know the rest.

We know that Adam and Eve had three sons by name, Cain, Abel (whom Cain killed), and Seth. The Old Testament gives us a good genealogy from Adam to Noah through Seth. Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Enoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah. We know how long these men lived and thus we know the first 2000 years of mankind. With simple addition and subtraction, we know that Seth was 807 years when his 7th great-grandson, Noah, was born, and Lamech, Noah's father, was 153 years when Adam died. These men knew each other and their life stories. Doesn't that make the world a smaller, more intimate place? After the fountains of the deep were broken up, the world was much larger and water covered much of it. Suffice it to say the nation we know as Turkey was the new place to set up housekeeping in the mountains of Ararat. Today you can take a 16-hour flight, passing through Germany, and visit the Noah's Ark National Park at Dogubayazit.

From Noah to Abram it gets more complicated, but the easiest line to follow is Noah, Shem, Arphaxad, Salah, Eber, Peleg, Reu, Serug, Nahor, Terah, and Abram. Because Abram had two wives

(Sarai and Hagar), and his son Jacob had four (Leah, Rachel, Bilhah, and Zilpha), we follow the line of Abram (later Abraham) and Sarai (later Sarah) through Jacob's eleven sons and one grandson. Most of us could name them: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Ashur, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

Roughly 427 years of history had passed since the flood and Noah died two years before Abram was born. Twenty generations had lived from creation, but man's life span was much shorter after Abraham, who only lived 175 years. Bible chronology becomes difficult at this point, but it would seem that Terah would not have known any of his grandsons. Certainly, Joseph being sold into Egypt had only childhood memories of Canaan, and the generation remembering Egypt was confined to Joshua and Caleb, with Moses dying on the other side of Jordan. The departure from Egypt is generally considered to be 1445–6 BC and the crossing into Canaan 1405 BC.

We have the Judges, Kings, and Chronicles interspersed with the Prophets, a great number of silent years, and then the lineage of Jesus. Luke records this through Mary and Matthew through Joseph, especially noting that it was fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the carrying away to Babylon, and fourteen more to the birth of Jesus. The kingdoms of the world rose and fell from Egypt to Baby-

lon, Media/Persia, Greece, and Rome. After His ministry, the Lord went back to glory, and the Apostles passed to their reward. The Gospel went out into the world, and the church age began. Israel was carried away among the nations and scattered.

Rome fell as an empire and the nations had their own kings and rulers. We can read early church history and learn of corruption and persecution. We read of a reformation, a return to Scripture, the perseverance and migration of Anabaptists, the rise of Protestants, later Pentecostals, and Evangelicals to the present day.

We know that all things will not continue as they have since the fathers fell asleep and the church ever watches for the Lord to return for her. There is knowledge of a coming tribulation, antichrist, and false prophet. We see the wars and rumors of wars, the deception, the running to and fro, the falling away, and increase of knowledge. We know of the war of Gog and Gomer, Persia, Ethiopia and Libya. We know of a battle called Armageddon and the Lord reigning a thousand years with a rod of iron. We know of a pit for Satan, a judgment with a lake of fire for the wicked, and heaven for the saints of all ages. It all seems so short, and we hardly leave a mark on the line of time. It is as the psalmist said, "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: we spend our years as a tale that is told" (Ps. 90:9). We

could easily echo the words of Jacob to Pharaoh, "And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage" (Gen. 47:9). We wonder if a few more years will roll, a few more seasons come.

Lately we've been wondering about the next generation. It seems that our young men and women are not marrying as in by-gone years. We already know that the nations are falling below the rate of replacement with respect to population. Contrary to what some think of as overpopulation, the reality is that two are having few (two or less children) in the U.S., and many other nations are in the same circumstances.

One day a number of fine, single, young brethren gathered around our table. Knowing how much more expensive it is to start up housekeeping we asked "Are finances the cause?" When a brother finally spoke, he said this, "I don't think it would stand in the way if I was led to get married." The rest agreed. We appreciated that they were seeking the Lord's will on this, but being a sister we wondered how other unmarried sisters felt. Doubtless they thought of marriage, and a family, and probably would like to have both, but it is not a woman's choice in the same

way it is a man's. If they are not chosen they have no choice but to remain single. Did they know why they weren't married? Would it make a difference if our young sisters considered something on the line of time we may be seeing in our day?

Revelation 7 and 14 speak of this. "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephtalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the

tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand" (Rev. 7:1–8).

"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth. These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God" (Rev. 14:1–5).

Think back to Israel being scattered among the nations. We know who the tribe of Judah is—the Jews. But where are the other eleven? You will note that none are from the tribe of Dan, who is not mentioned. Some commentators think this is because of the sin of Jeroboam and the golden calf he set up at Dan instead of Israel worshipping at Jerusalem.

Somewhere there are an additional 132,000 virgin men. They will be, if they haven't been already, marked with the seal of God for a special purpose which seems to be singing a new song, preaching the Gospel, and following the Lamb.

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

"And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of

his name. Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Rev. 14:6-13).

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the

throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes" (Rev. 7:9-17).

Frequently we meet those around us whom we would say are believers; they have faith. They are concerned about where the world is going. This is beyond the common sort of an older generation observing change. They know what their Bible says and they don't see a generation rising with the vision, ambition, or hope of previous generations. They, like us, see an untoward, godless generation. They no longer have any hope in this world or of a revival in its youth. We would agree that it appears the axe is laid to the root, the winepress is about to be trodden, and judgment is coming. God gave man, not machine, domination and man is not wielding it correctly. There is bound to be a day of reckoning for more than one reason. It's only a matter of time.

Wherefore, my young sisters, do not be grieved if you likewise remain unmarried virgins. Trim your lamps and buy plenty of oil. Your Bridegroom is coming! While there will be marrying and giving in marriage, as was in the days of Noah, turn and read Revelation 18. This is about that fall of Babylon. Verse 23 reads like this, "And

the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee." The Bridegroom will have come in the twinkling of an eye at midnight and the Bride will be at the wedding feast.

***IS THAT WEDDING MUSIC THAT I
HEAR?***

*The Bride's adorned and ready to appear.
There's heavenly preparation for
the wedding celebration.*

*Is that wedding music that I hear?
The family is preparing for a wedding.
All have been invited to attend.*

*The Bride is standing ready, waiting
for the signal,*

*When the Groom says, "Rise, my
children, Come on in."*

*Soon we'll rise to leave this land of
sorrow.*

For that ceremony in the air.

*The Father then will lead us
Through the Holy Land of splendor.
Have you made your preparation
to go there?*

*There's heavenly preparation for
the Wedding Celebration.*

Is that wedding music—

*Oh, is that wedding music that I
hear?*

Phil Cross, L. Kirk Talley

Rachel Brubaker

JUST A LITTLE JOB

I was inspired by reading of a person who was given a little job. Have you ever felt like that was

all you could do in life, or all you had been given?

Compared to all of the things that God has given, what can I do, or what can I give back? Sometimes it may seem like we just have the small corners to bloom in. We are just to let our light shine! We wonder if we may not know what all is done for Christ in little ways.

There is food brought in, and there are letters written. The Bible says that Dorcas sewed garments. What do we do? What can we bring to encourage others? An encouraging thought is just to bloom where we are planted!

Most of us are just average, but with God's calling, what can we do?

I am thinking of two in our lives who are real examples to us, regarding caring and sharing. They just seem to come humbly, and lift our load when the shoulders hang low. They give time. They cheerfully smile, and here they come!

"Charity is kind," the Bible says. How big is that?

First Corinthians 13:5–8 says, "Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth..."

One poem says, "Only what's done for Christ will last."

Do we have to have a "cleaning" or a "sewing" to go help others?

Have you ever known someone who just "eased the air" by walking into the room? Could God

teach me to be the quiet calm for others? Perhaps I could begin at home, by praying for those in need. We all need those prayers.

Faithfulness is just walking one step in the right direction, followed by another. Patience takes a lot of love, and I have seen many good examples! But could God set a new rhythm in my own heart also?

When I pray, do I often pray for things of leisure or ease instead of things that are related to salvation, that bring joy and peace?

Romans 15:13 says, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Is it possible that I could get to the place (with God's help) that it is "All of God, and none of Self"?

Then it will not matter how small a job God will give me.

"There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God."

Vicki Witmer

MEDITATIONS

God called you not to change lands overseas; His call is to change you.

Many seek to change the world but are unwilling to change self.

Whenever you refuse a gift, you deny two people a blessing.

Temper gets one into trouble. Pride keeps him there.

The past doesn't seem to be what it used to be.

True genuine Humility is Teachability.

Hope is something greater, later.

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.

Jeremiah 10:23 declares, "*O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*"

This is written as if it was understood by all to be true. Something that we all just know. And yet it seems that all of our life long, we seem to be struggling against those things that could direct us and correct our mistakes.

Questions:

1. Do I actually believe those words of Jeremiah?
2. Do I believe they apply to me?
3. Do I usually believe that I am in need of the viewpoint of others?
4. Is the counsel of those around me valuable to me? Or not so much?
5. Do I value the restraining influence of my church, and brethren?
6. How strongly do I defend my thoughts?

GENERAL ITEMS

BAPTISMS

May 20, 2026; Covington, OH
 Thaddeus Boone, Illsa Boone
 May 27, 2026; Cascade Valley, WA
 Adayah Flory
 May 30, 2026; Maple Grove, OH
 Bradley Bogert
 May 31, 2026; Sequatchie Valley, TN
 Wynne Oyler, Meg Frantz
 June 15, 2026; Lower Twin, OH
 Kidron Brubaker

COMMUNION NOTICES

Sept. 26, 2026..... Pleasant View, OH
 Oct. 3, 2026..... Providence, IN
 Oct. 10, 2026..... Lower Twin, OH
 Oct. 10, 2026..... Zillah, WA
 Oct. 17, 2026..... Clearwater, IN/WI
 Oct. 17, 2026..... Maple Grove, OH
 Oct. 17, 2026..... Western Kansas, KS
 Oct. 24, 2026..... Stillwater, OH
 Oct. 31, 2026..... Bethel, OH
 Oct. 31, 2026..... Columbia River, WA
 Nov. 7, 2026..... Covington, OH
 Nov. 7, 2026..... Kidron Valley, KS
 Nov. 7, 2026..... Shenandoah, VA
 Nov. 7, 2026..... West Modesto, CA
 Nov. 14, 2026..... Fall Creek, IN
 Jan. 30, 2027..... Pine Grove, FL
 Feb. 6, 2027..... Living Epistle, NM

HARVEST MEETINGS

July 12, 2026..... Lower Twin, OH
 July 19, 2026..... Bethel, OH
 July 26, 2026..... Shiloh, OH
 Aug. 2, 2026..... Maple Grove, OH
 Aug. 9, 2026..... Covington/Sugar Grove, OH
 Aug. 23, 2026..... Stillwater, OH
 Aug. 30, 2026..... Salem, OH
 Sept. 20, 2026..... Bear Creek, OH

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

We gathered on Friday, June 5, into the large Indiana Wesleyan Campus for our Annual Conference under very pleasant circum-

stances. The Indiana districts, who were hosting, greeted us and made us feel at home immediately as we were given packets of information and directions to our places of lodging.

After supper, which was served by the Wesleyan University, some gathered to sing, and others visited, or made their way to where the young people had begun to assemble.

On Saturday morning the worship services began, with thoughts of thankfulness and rejoicing for the *redemption* that is in Christ Jesus. The main message carried the thought of self-denial, and what it is in the Christian life, and what it means to “Live For Christ,” to take up the cross, and follow Him.

The afternoon service brought lessons learned from bees, and the wonderful designs of God in nature that have much to teach us. Then more thoughts on denying self, and being part of a community of believers.

Sunday morning worship was an impressive reminder of the difficult, but necessary, feature and blessing of *Lamenting* in our lives, and dealing with prayers that seem to go unanswered, and sorrows that can find no remedy.

Sunday morning taught us about God’s methods of guiding our lives, and led on into an inspiring message of Pentecost, and the blessing of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the New Testament saints.

Sunday afternoon was a continuation of thoughts regarding bear-

ing our cross, which can only be done by those who have made a commitment to Christ, and are walking in His way.

The Love Feast on Sunday evening found approximately 230 communicants surrounding the table of the Lord, worshipping and remembering the great cost that was paid for our redemption. The scene of the Suffering Savior, offering himself in full surrender and sacred sacrifice, was held forth with clarity, bringing edification to all.

The Monday morning service opened with the earnest appeal of certain Greeks at the feast, saying, "Sir, we would see Jesus!" The message following dealt with the sober declaration of Jesus Himself, "I am come to send fire on the earth." with many good thoughts concerning the attributes of fire, and attributes of God in connection with fire.

On Monday afternoon, we were instructed to have a surrendered faith, drawing from the experience of the father who was seeking to have his son healed (Mark 9). "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief"! The beauty of completely surrendering before we can properly fight the fight of faith.

A large crowd gathered into the sanctuary Monday evening, and the preaching was very inspiring and instructive. We were taught how to be "A Green Leaf in a Desert Land" (Jer. 17:5-8). The many beautiful promises of God to His People as they live in a barren and parched land in the earth.

The business meeting began on Tuesday morning at 9:00 with an opening exhortation that empha-

sized the importance of knowing that we are here for *the exaltation of the glory of God*. We should know this, and try to be sure that all of our efforts daily, and in all of our worship settings, should be focused toward that end.

The main message preceding our business session focused on setting about to prove that Jesus is the only way to God, and a better way than all of the other false religions that can be found in the earth. Christianity is very exclusive. "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

The business meeting revealed a very strong desire to work together and be as unified as we can in our extended brotherhood, and in our local congregations. A strong interest on the part of all to work together in love, submitting to one another, so that the world will know that the Father has indeed sent the Son (John 17:21). There seemed to be a great interest in being conscious of the impact on seeking souls that a church has that is unified in spirit, filled with humble, self-denying love for one another.

We came away rejoicing in the spirit of love and care that we feel in the church, and the focus on the Lord Jesus and His salvation that was expressed throughout our time of gathering. We pray that the unity that we felt will *more importantly* be expressed and felt in our local churches and daily life.

L.M.

OBITUARIES

EICHMAN — Larry Lee, was born April 17, 1938, to Chester and Emma (Brubaker) Eichman at Baldwin City, Kansas.

After many years of heart issues and related surgeries, Dad peacefully exchanged time for his eternal home on April 23, 2026, making his time here 88 years and 6 days.

Dad accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and was baptized at age 18 in the Old German Baptist Brethren Church at Cedar Creek district. On July 2, 1963, Dad was elected to the ministry, and served there for more than 20 years. At the time of Dad's passing, he was a member of the Kidron Valley district, New Conference.

On Feb. 2, 1958, Dad was united in marriage to Rochelle Marie Wagoner at the home of her parents, Andrew and Wilma (Gish) Wagoner, Westphalia, Kansas. Dad and Mom enjoyed over 68 years together, establishing their home in the Westphalia area, except for two years in Halstead, Kansas, during his C.O. work in the hospital.

This union was blessed with four children. Dad worked in the building trades during his working years, building houses, plumbing, electrical, cabinet shop, owning a lumber yard, and drawing blueprints.

Dad enjoyed traveling the brotherhood and other countries, gardening, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dad leaves behind his devoted wife and his children, Kendall and

Debra, Calvin, Janetta and Dale Knaus, Steven and Tyna. Grandchildren, Melody and Nathaniel Bauman, Brett and Mary Eichman, Logan and Carrie Eichman, Brandon Knaus, Derek and Courtney Knaus, Lisa and Justin Wray, Byron and Mercedes Knaus, Jacqueline and Nick Hays, 18 great-grandchildren and four sisters-in-law, "Betsy" Elizabeth (Wagoner) Boone, Alma Eichman, Donna (Jamison) and Marlin Flory, and Kathy Eichman.

Preceding Dad in death were his parents; parents-in-law; stepmother, Ruth (Brubaker) Eichman; step mother-in-law, Ethel (Boyd) Wagoner; infant sister, Janell Marie; his brothers and sister-in-law, "D.C." Delphus and Betty, Ira, LaVerne and Leslie. Brothers-in-law, Melvin Wagoner, Charles Jamison, and "Bob" Robert Boone.

Dad called for the anointing service many times over the years and was not hesitant in expressing his belief in the benefits and comfort it had provided him through the name of Jesus.

Dad looked forward to the promise in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18: "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. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Dad spoke often of having a glorified body in the resurrection, like

the one our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ has. "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself" (Philip. 3:20-21).

The funeral was April 30 in the Cedar Creek Old German Baptist Brethren meetinghouse, with burial in the Bethel cemetery near Westphalia. The funeral was conducted by the Kidron Valley brethren.

Dad is now awaiting the Resurrection, a new body and a new Heart!

The Family

BOONE — Blaine Wilson—our sweet little Blaine Wilson Boone was born March 18, 2026. We are so in love. Pretty quickly the doctors knew something wasn't right and that Blaine was struggling to breathe. We were told that his airway had collapsed, and that he would need to be intubated. As soon as Blaine was stable, he was airlifted to University Hospital, Charlottesville, Virginia. A few days later we found out that he had an aortic arch stenosis and he underwent heart surgery. His final diagnosis of Trisomy 13 came a few days later.

We shared 40 days with our son. 40 days of love, of snuggling him, of caring for him, of praying over him, of holding his little hands, and of singing to him. Room 7193 at UVA was filled with lots of sadness, grief, medical equipment, doctors, nurses, and respiratory therapists, but above all, Blaine's room was filled with love.

On the evening of April 26, 2026, Blaine took his last breath and entered his heavenly home from our arms, surrounded by many people who loved him. Blaine was welcomed to heaven by his sister, Anne Marie. We envision them being held by our grandparents at the feet of Jesus.

Holding him forever in their hearts are his parents, Ben and Kim Boone; his brother, Jayden Altice and girlfriend Addison Hodges; his sisters, Annaleigh, Kensley and Hattie; great-grandma, Eddie Wilson; grandparents, Gary and Lorrie Wilson, and Billy and Emily Boone; aunts and uncles, Timmy Wilson, Makayla and Matt Reynolds, Sara and Melvin Peters, Karen Boone and Brian Ritchey, and Polly Boone; cousins, Tanner, Kyler, Gracie and Olivia Wilson, Corbin and Colton Reynolds, Kelsey and Michael Plum, Crystal and Jasmine Peters; as well as many more family and friends.

His funeral service was on Friday, May 1, 2026, at Twin Oaks Baptist Church, Henry, Virginia, and we were blessed with a message with the words of King David from Psalm 139, by Pastor Terry Covey.

The Family

LONG — Russel Eldon, son of Charles E. and Alberta M. (Wampler) Long, was born near Knob Noster, Missouri, on August 17, 1934. He passed from this life to eternity in the early morning of April 29, 2026, at his home in Port Angeles, Washington. His age was 91 years, 8 months, and 12 days.

In 1935, Russell with his family, moved to Lapel, Indiana, where they lived until the spring of 1941. They then moved to a farm three

miles southwest of Rossville, Indiana. This is where he grew to adulthood, graduating from Rossville High School in 1953.

On May 29, 1960, he was married to Bonnie Louise Miller at Modesto, California. They made their home in Pyrmont, Indiana, for about a year before moving to Modesto, where they raised their three children: Kimberly Louise, Kelly Rojean, and Kenton Russell.

Feeling the need of a Savior, Russell was baptized on November 13, 1965, becoming a member of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. At the time of his passing, he was a member of The Independent Bible Church at Port Angeles, Washington.

In 2005 Russell and Bonnie moved to Sequim, Washington, to be closer to their children, later moving to Port Angeles, Washington.

Russell is survived by his companion of nearly 66 years, his three children and their companions; Kim (Mike) Peters, Kelly (James) Gonzalez, and Kenton (Alyssa); 17 grandchildren; 17

great-grandchildren; a brother, Dale (Lois); 3 sisters, Mary Helen Skiles, Marlene (Gary) Boone, and Charlene (Steve) Lynch; sisters-in-law, Charlene Bauman and Karen Miller; stepbrothers, Norris (Mary Catherine) Skiles, and Jerry Skiles; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; stepmother, Belle (Skiles) Long; parents-in-law, Leslie and Lola Miller; brothers-in-law, Darrell Filbrun, Charles Skiles, David Bauman, and Ray Miller; half brothers, Everett Long, and David Long (and his wife, Virginia).

Russell's mild temperament, sense of humor and quick wit will be long remembered by all those who knew him.

A graveside memorial service was held on May 7, 2026, at the Ocean View Cemetery in Port Angeles, Washington, where his body was laid to rest. "The LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

The Family

Terms

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

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

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

Old German Baptist Brethren
Church—New Conference

THE TESTIMONY

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

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

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