

Our purpose is to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,” and to “prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

OLD PATHS ADVOCATE

“To continue speaking the truth in love,” “endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,” “keeping the ordinance as delivered.”

“Thus saith the Lord, ‘stand ye in the ways, and see and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest of your souls.’ (Jer. 6:16) “And they that be of Thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Paths to Dwell in.” (Isa. 58:12).

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MODESTY

By RICK MARTIN

A few years ago, I found an article titled, I Miss “Miss Modesty”. It laments the fact that modesty seems to be missing from our world today. The article states:

“I miss Miss Modesty with her charm and winsome ways very much. I wonder where she is. I seldom see her on the streets, in the malls, schools, or the media. Probably the worst thing is, she sometimes misses church services. I know that others miss her, too. Just the other day Hal Wholesome and Calvin Cleanmind were asking about her. They liked Miss Modesty’s company because she always put them at ease. That certainly is not the case with Evelyn Exposed and Hilary Highhem who constantly embarrass them. These girls do not seem to care though, because they are quite popular with Larry Lear, Frank Foul, and Sam Smut. I understand that they are dating these fellows quite frequently now. Someone said that they felt that one of the reasons why Miss Modesty is staying away is because many young ladies offended her by just ignoring her. When I made an inquiry, I was told by Mr. Naive and Mrs. Indifferent that they just assumed that their daughters would get to know her. It never occurred to them that you should have to introduce anyone to Miss Modesty.

There is someone who told me that she is glad that Miss Modesty does not come around much anymore. Apparently, she never did care for her. I speak of Felicia Fashion. She considers Miss Modesty to be entirely too conservative and old fashioned. I have heard that there are others, such as Beverly Brazen and Francine Flirtation, who feel the same way.

One thing that does concern me greatly is that two of Miss Modesty’s close friends, Pauline Purity and Virginia Virtue, are not seen very much either. We certainly don’t want them to disappear.

Well, if you see “Miss Modesty”, will you please tell her that many of us miss her? And will you help bring her back? She is our friend and oh how we need her!”
Author Unknown

The Apostle Paul has a few things concerning modesty that I want to notice in this short article. The Apostle addresses these comments to women, but they certainly should apply to men also. He states in 1 Tim. 2:9-10 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”

Unfortunately, many women of today have decided to follow the fashions of the world. Paul states that the woman is not to adorn herself after the manner of the world. I heard the late M. Lynwood say, “They tell me that the hemlines have gone down this year. That’s a good thing. Maybe the fashion world can get the women to do something that the Lord can’t.”

The woman is to adorn herself in a modest fashion. The word modest relates to ornament or decoration, and means that which is well-ordered, decorous, and becoming. The meaning is that the apparel should be as becomes them or is appropriate to them. The woman is to adorn herself with shamefacedness. This means with modesty of appearance, whether at worship or at home. It is also to be done with sobriety. The word sobriety means sanity. As we see the way some people dress or don’t dress you might say, “Have they lost their minds?” We know that there was a man in the Bible, who was out of his mind, that ran around with no clothes on: Luke 8:27” And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs.”

Modesty is opposed to all that is frivolous, and all undue

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Editorial

TREASURES IN THE ATTIC

By STANLEY R. OWENS

A few months ago I was helping clean out the attic in Dad and Mom’s house. It is normally a place that we will put stuff that is in the way, a place that carries with it the idea of “out of sight, out of mind”. And this was certainly the case. There are numerous television shows that reveal the great treasures that others find in their attic or some other storage area. Most of the things found in these places are precious to those that put them there, even though they may have no monetary value. Again, this was the certainly the case. But there was something that I found that gave me a great amount of joy. In some of the boxes that we brought down, I found stacks and stacks of the Old Paths Advocate. Some of them dating back to 1935. I could hardly wait to finish the task and sit down with them. And that is exactly what I have been doing. It may seem silly to many in this digital age of society for anyone to get excited about that, but it is a thrilling thing for me. To consider the problems that were just beginning to plague the Church at that time and read the writings and Field Reports of these faithful men as they upheld the Truth with the Word of God. Although many of these issues have turned brown and they have to be handled gingerly, and I realize they probably have no monetary value, it truly was and is a Treasure In The Attic to me.

The first preacher I ever remember hearing, even before my own Dad, was Brother E.H. Miller. In reading his writings, I could almost hear him speaking again, quoting Scripture after Scripture as I remember him doing. I don’t ever recall having the opportunity to hear Brother Homer King, Brother Homer Gay, Brother H.C. Harper, or Brother J.D. Phillips, but I have always enjoyed hearing and reading things about them from my grandparents, parents, and others that knew and wrote of them. With all of the Treasures these men left behind, I lost myself in their articles, fascinated by their brilliance and seemingly effortless way they had in bringing things to light. I know there are many that could do a much better job than I ever would be able to, but I thought it might be ok for me to briefly and very humbly bring up some thoughts that these men shared so long ago. If any error is made in re-typing, the fault lies with me.

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QUERIST COLUMN

By CLINT DEFRANCE

Question: Where is the authority for having a different brother lead in each part of the worship assembly?

Response: The authority for leadership within the assembly primarily comes from the implication of 1 Corinthians 14.30: "Let all things be done decently and in order." To that end, Paul, in 1 Corinthians 14, gives several instructions regarding who may participate in the assembly, how many men may speak at one time, and what to do when a person does not speak the same language as the audience he intends to address. In these instructions, especially verses 26-27, the apostle describes multiple participants in the leadership role of the assembly. "Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation." Paul does not rebuke multiple leaders in the assembly, but regulates it, saying "let all things be done for edification" and let "one man speak at a time." On this basis it seems proper that several men, as many as are able and as time and orderliness permit, may participate in the leadership of the various expressions of worship in an assembly.

Question: Does 1 Corinthians 11.27-32 teach that whether or not a person eats the Lord's Supper is between them and God alone?

Answer: No. This subject is not in view at all in the context of 1 Corinthians 11.17-34. 1 Corinthians 11.27-32 says: "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world." Those who would use this passage to prove that every man or woman has a right to the Lord's Supper -regardless of how they live -and that whether or not they partake is a personal matter are bypassing the context to reach that interpretation. In the context, Paul is addressing a congregation divided by carnal behavior and bitterness. Evidently, the Christians at Corinth would eat a meal together (a love feast) before they assembled for worship. This meal was intended as an opportunity for

the rich to show charity to the poor, however in Corinth the rich would eat their food themselves before the poor arrived so that some were full and the others were left hungry. Paul says by this conduct, the rich brethren "dishonored the poor."

This public shaming caused the poor to become bitter -thus the frequent references to "judgment" "judging others" and "judging ourselves" -evidently, when they came together as a church, the divisions among them were obvious and it was clear that some did not approve of others. Paul was distressed by this report. The purpose of the assembly was to eat the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice, but in this carnal spirit of abuse and self-centered judgmentalism that was impossible: the assembly had become a carnal war zone of pettiness and prejudice.

Paul warns that the Lord's Supper was designed to be Christ-centered, and those who allow other things, childish personal matters and ignorant feelings of superiority, to keep them from focusing on Christ even when gathered at His table are only hurting themselves.

They are eating and drinking damnation to themselves, (v. 29) and failing to truly eat the Lord's Supper (v. 20) by the unworthy manner in which they are behaving (v. 27), failing to discern the Lord's body (v. 29) because of their inability to forgive and focus on Jesus. Paul is saying: "Instead of judging others, examine yourself and make sure you are doing what Jesus commanded you to do!" Thus verse 31: "For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged."

The discussion over whether or not some people should be offered the Lord's Supper is a difficult and challenging one, worthy of discussion, but this verse does not address it.

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THE RIGHT THING TO DO-TELL THE TRUTH

By GREG GAY

For many years in the business world I was in a position where I was frequently asked what to do in various employee and customer situations. Frequently I used phrases such as, “We will tell the truth, even if it means there is a problem,” and “What is the right thing to do in this situation?” Most individuals in these discussions had no idea I was using Biblical principles to solve everyday issues of life.

Doing the right thing includes making sure we are truthful in all our exchanges. Evidently, when Jesus was on earth it was common for individuals to take oaths so their word would be trusted as true. Jesus addressed this in the Sermon on the Mount. The past practice had been to swear by various things including heaven, earth, Jerusalem, and their own heads. Jesus declared his people in the future would simply tell the truth, “let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one” (Matthew 5:37). Just because someone took an oath did not necessarily mean they were telling the truth, as we learn from the Apostle Peter’s darkest hour.

“Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are saying.” And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, “This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth.” But again he denied with an oath, “I do not know the Man!” And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, “Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you.” Then he began to curse and swear, saying, “I do not know the Man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.” So he went out and wept bitterly” (Matthew 26:69-75).

B. W. Johnson comments on Peter’s third denial, “He not only, with an oath, repeats what he had said in the second, but he affirms it with imprecations of divine wrath on himself if he spake not the truth. The gradations of guilt in the denials of Peter: (1) Ambiguous evasion; (2) distinct denial with a false oath; (3) awful abjuration with solemn imprecations on himself.”

Peter’s actions and words violated Old Testament laws

as given by God to Moses including, “You shall not steal, nor deal falsely, nor lie to one another. And you shall not swear by My name falsely, nor shall you profane the name of your God: I am the Lord” (Leviticus 19:11-12).

As happened with Peter, and as we likely know from our own experiences, one deceit inevitably leads to another and only makes a bad situation worse and more complex.

Often when interviewing prospective employees, I had them tell me about a time when they made a mistake on the job, how they handled informing their supervisor, and what the consequences were, even if they were disciplined or lost their job. My point was, if they had the strength of character to take responsibility for their mistakes, that is much preferred to someone who always hides their mistakes or blames others.

It can happen in the workplace that supervisors may ask employees to be deceitful. It can be as simple as a boss saying to an assistant, “Tell the caller I am not here,” which is an obvious lie. Or, a supervisor ordering an employee, “Tell the customer their shipment is late because the supplier made a mistake,” when the mistake was made in-house.

Truthful, alternate exchanges in the above conversations could be, “I’m sorry, he is not available right now” and, “I’m sorry, we had some problems and your shipment is delayed.” Facing an irate customer in either situation is not a pleasant task, but we should never complicate the situation by compromising our own ethics in the process. Repeated requests to lie would necessitate a discussion with a boss who make such requests to let him or her know that is not something we are willing to do.

These may seem small and insignificant, so-called “white” lies, but they are not. An employee who is asked to lie by a supervisor will likely be lied to by the same person. An employee who becomes accustomed to lying for a supervisor may eventually think little of lying to his or her supervisor or others.

Such requests to lie, especially from individuals who are not Christians, should never surprise us. Paul writes, “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one” (Colossians 4:5-6).

In our exchanges with others we need to let the truth

be our trademark. Paul writes, “Therefore, putting away lying, “Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,” for we are members of one another” (Ephesians 4:25).

As Christians, we know we will be tempted to be deceitful in many situations. Our concern should always be to express ourselves tactfully, respectfully, and appropriately, but there should never be a question of choosing between truth or lies.

Gallup surveys the American public about the quality of ethics by profession. In 2018, the highest six ranked professions were nurses, medical doctors, pharmacists, high school teachers, police officers, and accountants. The lowest ranked professions were business executives, stockbrokers, advertising practitioners, telemarketers, car salesmen, and at dead last were members of congress (<https://news.gallup.com/poll/245597/nurses-again-outpace-professions-honesty-ethics.aspx>).

Interestingly, clergy came in at number eight in the survey, not exactly a stellar position

Such a survey means our culture expects certain professions are usually not truthful and are not to be trusted much of the time.

Still, telling the truth is not just an issue for the lowest ranked professions in the survey. According to a National Geographic study, the most common reasons people lie include: personal transgression (to cover up a mistake or misdeed), economic advantage, personal advantage, self-impression (to shape a positive image of ourselves), humor, and avoidance (to escape or evade) (<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/05/why-we-lie-motivation-quiz-behavior-science/>).

The same study reports, “If you have spoken to a teenager recently, there’s a chance you were lied to-or at least a higher chance you were lied to than if you spoke with someone over 60. Broken down demographically, age accounts for one of the most significant variables in determining a person’s propensity to lie. As cognitive function develops in children, so does their ability to tell lies. Lying peaks in adolescence when children begin to test their independence. As a person ages, lying declines in acceptance, and adults begin to lie less and for different reasons than their adolescence.”

A 2002 University of Massachusetts survey by psychologist Robert S. Feldman revealed, “Most people

lie in everyday conversation when they are trying to appear likable and competent...The study, published in the [Journal of Basic and Applied Social Psychology’s] June issue, found that 60 percent of people lied at least once during a 10-minute conversation and told an average of two to three lies...The study also found that lies told by men and women differ in content, though not in quantity. Feldman said the results showed that men do not lie more than women or vice versa, but that men and women lie in different ways. “Women were more likely to lie to make the person they were talking to feel good, while men lied most often to make themselves look better,” Feldman said” (https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2002-06/uoma-urf061002.php).

While there are over 1500 “National Days” on our calendar, I found it interesting that April 30 each year has been declared “National Honesty Day.” The day is also shared with “National Oatmeal Cookie Day” which likely receives far more attention and appreciation (<https://nationaldaycalendar.com/april/>).

Serving God means we must transform our lives to be like Christ, rather than following bad habits of the past and of the worldly people around us. Paul writes, “But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:8-11).

Learning the good habit of being truthful in our lives is a worthy pursuit. John warns at the final judgment, “all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8).

MODESTY....continued from page one

excitement of the passions. Christian women are to dress in a way which does not cause the wrong kind of attention to be focused on them. It is not appropriate for women who are Christians, to seek to be distinguished for personal or external decoration. A true Christian woman will see the vanity of these things and fix her heart on more substantial realities.

Not long ago my wife was sitting in a restaurant and a man asked her, "Ma'am, are you a Christian?" My wife replied, "Why, yes I am." The man then said, "I thought you were, I could tell by the way you are dressed." Now, how was my wife dressed? She had long hair and was wearing a modest dress. I wonder if she had cut hair and a pair of pants on would the man have asked that question? I will simply leave that for the reader to ponder.

The Christian woman who dresses in a modest fashion is certainly a light in an otherwise dark world. She is doing what the Lord would have her do. Matt. 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Christian women who go along with the fashions of the world, are not giving a good impression. The light that should be shining is dimmed by such conduct.

Every Christian should seek to portray the right kind of appearance to people of the world. Christian women who go along with the fashions of the world, are not giving a good impression. The light that should be shining is dimmed by such conduct. Women who follow God's standard concerning modesty instead of the world's should be highly praised. I miss Miss Modesty. How about you? Rick Martin teachermartin@gmail.com

TREASURES IN THE...continued from page two

In (Eph.2:8-9) Paul says: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: It is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." To a great many people this is a favorite text, and they seem to get a great deal of satisfaction out of it when the subject of our obedience to the Gospel is mentioned; but I fail to see in it what they seem to think they get out of it. Surely it fails to teach what they think it does. They seem to think it overthrows the idea that one must be baptized for the remission of sins; but the passage contains no such idea.

We shall notice first the phrase, "not of works." What did Paul mean when he said, "not of works"? Did he have in mind the works that are necessary to obedience to the commands in the new covenant? If so, please harmonize Paul's language with that found in (Jms. 2:20), which reads, "But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" Also, in (Vs. 24) "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." To place the construction that some people

place on Paul's language would be to make it contradict that of James, and we know that will never do. To place a construction on any passage of Scripture that makes it contradict other passages is entirely wrong. Hence, we conclude that Paul did not have in mind the works that are necessary to obedience of the commands in the New Covenant, but had in mind some other system of works. (Homer L. King OPA November, 1958)

In writing to the young evangelist, Paul said in (I Tim. 4:16) "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." Here are the two main points in making a successful evangelist. First, a desire to save one's self. For, one who knows the truth of God, and has the ability to tell it to others; knowing their awful lost condition, and knowing that the Gospel is God's power to save them, feels as did the Apostle when he said "woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Cor. 9:16). But the evangelist is to take heed to himself, as well as to the Doctrine. All along, I have known of men who, with a strong desire to help the cause of the Lord along, and with a knowledge of the Bible, and the ability to tell it to others, yet the man himself was such in his habits and manners that his preaching did as much harm as it did good. The one who puts himself up as a public target for the world to look at and to criticize, should certainly think of himself. In personal appearance it takes but very little time, effort, or money to keep one's clothes cleaned and pressed and shoes shined. It takes very little effort to wash and keep clean, and keep the face shaved. You may not be able to get a hair cut every time you need one; but you can keep it combed. (Homer A. Gay OPA October 1935).

We are citizens of Christ's kingdom (Jn. 3:3-5), which "is not of this world" (Jn. 18:36). Christ says of His Disciples: "they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." (Jn. 17:14). As citizens of His Kingdom, we must keep ourselves "unspotted from the world." (Jms. 1:27). Mixing with the "kingdoms of the world" is not keeping ourselves "unspotted from the world." Moreover, since God "ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men." (Dan. 4:17), it does no good for Christians to vote. God, by His providence, will set over the nations the men that will do what He wants done, regardless of how we may vote. (J.D. Phillips OPA May, 1935)

Brethren, we have run from the hired pastor system so far, that we are failing to obey (II Tim. 2:2). We need

more faithful men that are able to teach, and the way to get them is to develop them. They cannot develop if they never get any practice. Paying a preacher does not make him a pastor, a preacher preaching often at the same place does not make him a pastor...The pastor system we have run from, is one man running the church. We can never develop the ones having talent to preach if they never receive a chance to preach, neither can they develop if they never receive any teaching. I pray more congregations will start using the preachers in season and out of season; let us keep the workers working by using working preachers to encourage them. (E.H. Miller OPA February 1958)

There are certainly many more pieces of articles from different ones that I could add, and perhaps it brought thoughts to your memory of a time long ago. Although there has been much division that has been caused since these writings, and if the Lord permits the world to go on, I would guess there will sadly be even more. But for now, although it may be just a box of papers to others, I will continue to relish these Treasures In The Attic.

THINGS THE LORD HATES

By PAUL O. NICHOLS

In the scriptures we are told what pleases the Lord, and warned about things which the Lord hates. We are reminded in Rom. 11:22, "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off." In Prov. 6:16 we are warned, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him." Jesus knew this and He was the perfect example of what God demands of all who claim to be Christians. He set the example for all His followers.

The word of God points out the things the Lord hates. We are free moral agents, and can choose to conduct our lives to suit ourselves, or accept the directions of the Lord. The Bible is our guide book which instructs us as to what the Lord accepts and what He rejects. We are not mere robots, but are capable of making decisions for ourselves, and we must accept the consequences of those decisions. God has revealed His will to us through the scriptures, and we can either be guided by them or we can refuse and reject them. However, to refuse to conduct our lives according to the directions of the Lord means eternal damnation.

"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: a proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, an heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren" (Prov. 6:16-19). The word translated "abomination" means "something disgusting". Since this is the case, it certainly behooves a person to carefully consider his own life and attitude.

The first abomination listed is "a proud look". "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18). "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time" (1 Pet. 5:6). "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11). There have been good men, including preachers, who have thought too highly of themselves, and have consequently lost their ability to be useful to the Cause of Christ. God hates arrogance.

The second abomination is "a lying tongue". We are told "in no uncertain terms, "all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8). Some people are incorrigible liars. They practice this abomination all their lives; it is a way of life with them. Nothing they say can be trusted.

Abomination number three on the list is "hands that shed innocent blood." No Christian is justified who sheds the blood of a fellow man. Jesus teaches His followers "be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matt. 10:16). The apostle Paul says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood..." (Eph. 6:12). Children of God are "peacemakers" (Matt. 5:9).

The next abomination to the Lord is "a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations". The person who is guilty of this sin has a tendency to allow his imagination to run wild and to engage in "evil surmising". Notice the word "deviseth", which suggests that he just makes up things with which to accuse others. He is delusional. This person creates trouble for others and can stir up strife in a congregation and he should be disciplined.

"Feet that be swift in running to mischief" is an abomination. It is a thing hated by the Lord. It has been said that some people are just three kinds of trouble -past, present, and future. And this is true of the person who is guilty of having "feet that be swift in running to mischief". If there is trouble in the church, you can

usually find such a person is involved.

The last in the list is “a false witness”. No one can trust his testimony under any circumstance. He will lie if he thinks it is to his benefit. Such a person will lie knowing full well it is wrong. There is a stiff penalty for lying in a court of law, but false witnesses run that risk. The penalty in the day of Judgment will be far worse and he will suffer the consequences in Hell forever, because it is an abomination to the Lord.

God wants no one to be lost. The apostle Peter makes this very plain. He declares, “The Lord ... is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet 3:9). Jesus said, “And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.” And we can have this assurance, too.

The Guy in the Glass

When you get what you want in your struggle for self,
 And the world makes you king for a day:
 Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,
 And see what that guy has to say.
 For it isn't your father or mother or wife
 Whose judgment upon you must pass;
 The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life,
 Is the guy staring back in the glass.
 He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest,
 For He's with you clear to the end.
 And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult task
 If the guy in the glass is your friend.
 You may, like Jack Horner, chisel, a plum,
 But the man in the glass says, “You're only a bum”,
 If you can't look him straight in the eye.
 You can fool the whole world - down the
 pathway of years,
 And get a pat on the back as you pass,
 But the final reward will be heartaches and tears,
 If you have cheated the guy in the glass.

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you” (Titus 2:7, 8)



Our Departed

BARNES - Giovanna Gayle Barnes was born October 11, 1943, near Dora, MO to James Ervin Howard and Jessie Faye (Beavers) Howard. She passed away October 9, 2019, two days before her 76th birthday. She was married to Ira Barnes on November 25, 1964, at the Odom Church of Christ, near Dora, MO, and celebrated almost 55 years of marriage. Her devotion to Ira was immeasurable. Four children were born to their union, Betsy Pipkin, Kent Barnes (wife Rebecca), Christina Long (husband Rick), and Amanda Lawley (husband Chris). Gayle was affectionately known as “Grams” to ten grandchildren: Morgan (wife Sydney), Shane, Ashlee (husband Taylor), Brice (fiance' Christin), Megan, Mason, and Caylee; one great granddaughter, Brylee. Gayle showered all of them with sweetest care and love. She is survived by Ira and all the children and grandchildren. She is also survived by one sister, Linda Smith (husband Bob), one brother, Ronnie Howard, and one sister-in-law, Marie Howard along with several nieces and nephews and a host of friends and loved ones. She treasured her close “sister” relationship with Kathleen Stephens, and referred to Rosa Aviles as her adopted daughter after Rosa lost her mother to cancer. I discovered early in our friendship of almost 50 years that Gayle was a great cook. She was famous for her homemade tacos, tostados, and burritos. She was a champion biscuit and gravy maker, and could whip out her famous French bread 8 loaves at a time! For many years she worked tirelessly at Ira's side in their accounting business in West Plains, MO. After moving to Greene County she worked for Commerce Bank and Village Bank for 22 years. Gayle obeyed the Gospel early in life and lived a devout Christian life until her dying day. She read her Bible every day, and was at worship services every time the doors were opened unless she was sick or she was caring for someone else. Two or three women told me as they viewed Gayle's body at the funeral that Gayle was the one who introduced them to the Lord's Church. She now rests from her labors, but her works do follow her (Rev. 13:14). My heart and prayers go out to Ira and all the family. —Carl M. Johnson

Field Reports

Don L. King, 1147 Sherry Way, Livermore, CA 94550, old_paths@juno.com, November 12, 2019. We have enjoyed being at home recently and preaching here

as well as at Stockton. In January, we look forward to another trip to the Philippines and ask your prayers for success and safety. Since 1981 we have made yearly trips to visit and encourage the work. It has flourished and grown and to God be the glory. We normally stay about 21 days visiting and preaching at as many congregations as time permits each day. A number of preachers there need support and we hope you may consider this great work as you plan for 2020. You can send support directly to the preachers and they will send reports to you. The brethren in Mindanao have recently suffered two major earthquakes which has displaced many from buildings of worship and homes. They need our assistance, can you help? You can contact our dear Brother Conrado Libertino, who lives in Mindanao, at cvlibertino@yahoo.com and he will answer any questions you may have about the needs of the brethren there. May the Lord bless our efforts for 2020.

Paul O. Nichols, 14217 Rosehill, Overland Park, KS 66221, pon.wjn.ks@juno.com, November 8. We have had a good summer, and now that fall is here we are experiencing some rather cold temperatures in the midwest. It is so changeable we need heavier clothing one day, and the next it may warm enough for a lighter garment. Our meeting house is located on a hill with a long sloping drive, so snow and ice are a concern. It can be very treacherous. We have had some good meetings this year - spring, summer, and a young speakers meeting, and we have meetings booked for some years ahead. Recently we have been blessed with the arrival of a young doctor and his family from Oregon who are now meeting with us. He is one of our teachers and can help with anything he is appointed to do. We are thankful they have chosen Stony Point for their home congregation. We have had a visitor for a couple services recently through the influence of one of our families. She has taken much material with her to study at home. We hope she will be convinced to obey the gospel. The word of God teaches Christians to "contend for the faith once delivered to the saints: (Jude 3), and with the help of the Lord, we will continue to do that at Stony Point. May the Lord bless all the faithful everywhere.

Carl M. Johnson, 1400 Northcrest Dr., Ada, OK 74820, carlmj@cableone.net, Nov. 6, 2019. We had a very good meeting at the 85th and Euclid congregation in Kansas City, MO. It was good to work with Mike Criswell again. Mike is a tireless worker both at home and in foreign fields. He and I worked together for years along with Smith Bibens as executive editors of the Christian's Expositor. We had excellent crowds at the meeting,

including fellow preacher Tommy Acton of Scotland, Arkansas. I had not seen Tommy in several years. He and his family came to visit his grandson Aubrey Smith of Brookhaven, Mississippi, who is working, studying, and traveling abroad with Mike. The meeting resulted with one response to the invitation. During the meeting I received a call from longtime friend Ira Barnes with the shocking news that his wife Gayle had just died. He asked if I could arrange to drive to Springfield to conduct the funeral services on Saturday morning. I was honored to be asked and agreed to do it. Keith and Karen Sifford of the Mill Creek congregation actually volunteered to drive Phyllis and me to Springfield for the funeral and they got us back to Kansas City in time for the Saturday evening service. What a wonderful gesture on their part! My last meeting of the year was in Weatherford, Texas. We had a full house every service with visitors from nearby congregations and some from McGregor. Fellow preachers who came to support the meeting include Brett Hickey, Bob Johnson, and Melvin Blalock. Melvin has worked in this part of Texas most of his preaching career and has been a tremendous influence for good. We had an excellent meeting finishing our schedule on a high note this year! I appreciate the hospitality of Gary and Carol Robinson. We continue to solicit your prayers.

Greg Gay, 3816 Tambos Trl., Edmond, OK 73034, papagreg@aol.com, 916-804-3787, November 10, 2019. We were in Jamesville, MO for a weekend meeting just as the leaves were beginning to turn in October. What a beautiful sight to behold as the seasons change. Billy and Judy Dickinson were my hosts for the meeting. I enjoyed our time together very much. I was thrilled to see many dear friends who came from near and far to attend the meeting including preachers Smith Bibens, Brad Shockley, and Richard Bunner. Billy and I were able to spend a few minutes visiting with Ronny Wade, which was a highlight of the trip for me. Jamesville was my first monthly preaching appointment many years ago when I was a teenager. The families there have a special place in my heart. I love the ringing of the bell before worship begins on Sunday morning and I am glad I had time in the afternoon to stroll through the little cemetery behind the building to be reminded of dear friends who have passed on. I have enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Joe and Joann Norton for the meeting at Green Oaks in Arlington, TX that ended today. Joe has been instrumental in the work in many nations through the years and is a fount of knowledge in spreading the gospel around the world and at home. I appreciated the request for a Saturday morning study on an Eldership selection process with

the congregation's leaders. Aaron Boone is working here now, and the work is off to a good start. I also enjoyed spending an afternoon with Jonathan Edwards recording a session for his podcast on the subject of "To Live and Die with Dignity." I appreciate the large crowds with many visitors from area congregations and attendance by preachers Bob Johnson, Bret Hickey, Jonathan Edwards, Melvin Blalock, and Matthew Barnes. Lord willing, our next travels will be to South Africa to encourage brethren there. I am grateful for financial support for the trip from the Edmond and Piedmont congregations. We continue at home with the Piedmont, OK congregation and welcome information of any leads in the Piedmont area.

Frank Brancato, 12718 Larkin Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93312, November 14, 2019, email: frankbrancato@sbcglobal.net. On November 3, I closed a weekend meeting in Fair Oaks California. The meeting was well supported by nearby congregations, and we pray that lasting good was accomplished. We didn't see any visible results while we were there, but we pray that all were edified, and that the gospel seed was planted in the hearts of any visitors. Special thanks to Jim and Jan Maudlin who opened their home to me. Their hospitality was incredible, and I enjoyed staying with them very much. The work here in Bakersfield continues to move forward and we are at peace. If the Lord wills, I plan to be home until Don King and I travel to the Philippines in mid January. May God bless His faithful everywhere!

Irvin Barnes, 3218 E. Farm Road 88, Springfield, Mo. 65803, irvinbarns@aol.com, Nov. 12, 2019. Our family and the congregation here has been shaken by the untimely death of our sister Gayle Barnes. Gayle is my brother Ira's wife of over 50 years. Gayle was diagnosed with brain cancer and in 3 months the cancer took her life. Gayle was a great care giver to many but especially to Ira and her children and grandchildren. She was always faithful to the church and did all she could to further the cause of Christ. She is deeply missed. On Oct. 25th our daughter Sunila and son in law Matt Brown had a final custody hearing in the adoption of their baby Drue. The case went to arbitration and was settled in their favor. Our thanks to God and to all our brothers and sisters across the brotherhood who prayed for the success of this adoption. We enjoyed having Ronny and Alfreda Wade spend a Lord's day with us several weeks ago. In spite of his illness, Ronny preached two wonderful sermons. The help and encouragement Ronny has given me in the preaching of the gospel cannot be measured. Clint DeFrance closed a meeting here this past Lord's day. We had large crowds, good singing and great

preaching. We have David Griffin scheduled to preach here this coming Sunday. Please continue to pray for me. I hope to see a specialist this week to see if anything can be done for ongoing congestive heart failure.

Terry L. Studdard, 538 The Wagon Road, Piedmont, Alabama 36272, (256) 913-7498, email: tstuddard75@gmail.com. It has been awhile since I last reported. During that time, we have been busy. In September, we took a trip into Maine that made it possible (and necessary) to worship with the congregation that meets at the Riverwinds Community Center in West Deptford, New Jersey. This is the first time we had the opportunity to worship there and what a treat it was! Jermaine Smith and Kaven Taylor, are the leaders there and they are doing a great job. Everyone there was so very hospitable and kind. I must make special mention of the young people there. Their interest and participation in the worship service was exemplary and is without doubt the product of wonderful parenting. We were there September 15th and September 22nd and I was allowed to speak on both occasions. If you find yourself even remotely in that area, please make a point to visit! You will be richly blessed as were we. Our next appointment was at Phalba, Texas, October 13th through October 20th. We met the brethren there in Sulphur, Oklahoma five years ago. Being reunited with them each year since is one of the major highlights of the Sulphur meeting for us. Charles Usery, Revis Middick, and Malcolm Schwartz are doing a fantastic job leading the congregation. All of the brethren and their wives go all out to make the preacher know he and his family are appreciated and loved. I wish I had space to name all of the members as they occupy a very special place in mine and Angie's heart. They are extraordinary in every way. The children are so well behaved and complementary. I love them all! The highlight of the meeting came the last Lord's Day when Courtney Usery obeyed the gospel. She is the daughter of Charlie Usery (Charles' and Fran's son) and Rissia Usery (Revis and Robin Middick's daughter). She is a wonderful young lady and we are so proud of her and wish her Godspeed in her new life.

Stan Owens, 8432 Cox Rd, West Chester, OH 45069, November 10th, 2019. At Sharonville this year we had our Spring meeting with Wyn Baker, and our Fall meeting with William St. John. They both had outstanding lessons, as always, and it was great to be able to be around them again. Their work is greatly appreciated. I had a great time conducting the 2018-2019 New Year Meeting in Walnut Grove, KY. It was a pleasure to get to spend time with Zac Evans and his

family. Although he is young, by my standards now, he is diligent in his studies and is doing a great work in the area. He did a wonderful job of lining up the worship each time which enabled me to only have to concentrate on preaching and allowed me to visit with others. Marvin Cromer had to be hospitalized after the first night but was able to come back for the end of the meeting. In the Spring it was my privilege to hold a meeting at Chestnut Ridge, KY. Ova Baker and Dale McNew are laboring with that congregation and they are certainly an asset to the area and it was great to be there once again. In June I was at Burkhart, MO. It was my first time holding a series of Gospel meetings there and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The rafters in that beautiful old building were ringing with magnificent songs. Brother John Scott was not feeling his best the entire meeting, but he was there each time. He certainly was, and continues to be, an example of dedication to the Lord. There were many preachers that came to all of these meetings, some traveling quite a distance, and that is always a very humbling thing. I want to express how thankful I am for the congregations that permitted me to postpone the rest of my meetings this year. It has enabled me to be here at home more since the passing of Dad. We have visitors from the community, and sometimes those that are just passing through, nearly every Lord's Day. We are currently engaged in a study with a young couple that has been coming and we hope that the Word will fall into "honest and good" hearts and produce much fruit. Keep The Faith.

Clinton De France, 2121 S. Columbia Ave. Suite LL 1, Tulsa, OK 74114, November 13, 2019. It has been a long time since I submitted a report to the OPA. It seems impossible to summarize the year's events now in a brief paragraph. The Lord has blessed the work in Tulsa greatly. At present our congregation numbers around 120. Our Lord's Day assemblies are always full to capacity, even when many are traveling. After 85 years without them, the church in Tulsa now has elders, according to the plan and purpose of God. In April of this year, I was privileged to appoint brothers Dwight Smith and Rylan Nichols to serve as overseers of the congregation with the full consent and unanimous witness of the members. It has been an immeasurable blessing. They have been diligent in the work: visiting the sick, conducting Bible studies with members and non-members, helping to resolve challenges and crises that might have otherwise caused great harm to the church. We hope and pray that more congregations throughout the land will work toward an eldership. We have baptized several of our children and two outsiders this year. One of the new converts, a former Lutheran

pastor from Micronesia, has moved to Hawaii and is there working and worshipping with those brethren. We miss him, but we trust that the Christians in Waipahu are a blessing to him and he is to them as well. We held an outreach meeting in April in the predominantly African-American community of Tulsa. Racial prejudice has long been a problem in this city, and we hoped to make a stand against it with this meeting. Brother Todd Bernard did excellent preaching and brothers Bobby Cunningham and Art Lynch assisted in personal work. One lady who lived across the street from the meeting place was baptized and is now engaged in Bible studies and worshipping with us along with her grandson. In the last four years, I have been privileged to help establish works in Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Zanzibar and (this year) Jamaica. These new congregations are doing well. Egypt has about 15 members, UAE about 5, Zanzibar about 5, and Jamaica presently has a husband and wife. They are all young in the faith but have proven fiercely loyal to the apostolic pattern in spite of many attacks and discouragements. Perhaps your congregation would be interested in helping some of the needs of these brethren? They are not great, most would be able to assist with little or no sacrifice, but you would be doing much good. Please contact me if you are interested. I am visiting these churches as much as I can. Some every year, some every other year, some every few years. The fields are white but the laborers are few. Nonetheless, I see growth and I am encouraged. My home congregation and several others have been very supportive and facilitated my travel. I have been engaged in several studies with our multiple cups brethren across the United States (Chicago, Connecticut, Missouri, Alabama, Florida). Some of these studies have proven ineffective and others are still ongoing. Time will tell the results. The studies led to my writing the book *One Loaf and One Cup: A Scriptural and Historical Survey*. I am almost out of the first printing and will print more as soon as possible. Here at home we have Matthew Shaffer (formerly of Richmond, IN) working with us. He is fluent in German and earned a bachelors degree in ancient Greek. We are encouraged that he is using his talent and knowledge to serve the Lord and train for evangelistic service. I am also having other young men for studies at different times. I am encouraged by them and think they have great promise as preachers, teachers, and elders in the future if they remain loyal to Christ. More later, but I hope this encourages the brethren. I am encouraged to hear of all the work others are doing.

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WALKS THROUGH THE BIBLE...

THERE ARE NO TRAFFIC JAMS ON THE SECOND MILE

By JERRY DICKINSON

“You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.” (Matthew 5:38-42)

These remarkable words of Jesus are radical and revolutionary! In fact, it is interesting that most all commentaries, even by Church of Christ commentators, maintain that the words of Jesus are not to be taken literally. There is a scene in the movie “Gandhi” where the famous pacifist who led the movement to free India from British rule is talking with a “Christian” minister about the words of Jesus. Gandhi, who is Hindu, tells the minister that he is going to follow the teaching of Jesus about not resisting evil and turning the other cheek and use a non-violent approach to seeking Indian independence. The minister, who claims to be a Christian, replies that the words of Jesus are metaphorical and not to be followed literally. The irony is that the Hindu accepts the words of Jesus literally, and follows them, but the professed Christian does not.

Judy and I were eating in a restaurant recently and all the waiters and waitresses had on shirts with messages written on the back. One young man had an unusual message on his shirt. “There are no traffic jams on the second mile.” I was impressed that the restaurant allowed their employees to wear those kind of messages in these days of political correctness and bias against religion. But, I also wondered how many people in the restaurant recognized the message was a reference to the words of Jesus. Most people, I presume, have heard about going the second mile, but I fear in our age of Biblical illiteracy not many know it comes from the Bible.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus teaches a radical and revolutionary doctrine. His followers, he declares, will love their enemies, turn the other cheek when slapped, pray for the persons who abuse them, and go the second mile. In Roman times a soldier or government official who was traveling on government business could by law compel ordinary citizens to carry their baggage for one mile. Citizens were under obligation to carry the load for a mile, but could not be compelled to carry it further. Jesus, incredibly, tells His followers to go the second mile! Can you imagine what the people listening to this sermon in person must have thought? They despised Roman rule and occupation and the idea of carrying the baggage beyond what was required was unthinkable. Surely, they must have thought, He cannot be serious. His words must be metaphorical, not literal! Even today, many if not most Christians, cannot believe that Jesus expects us to follow his teaching literally.

I believe our Savior does intend for us to follow His teaching literally. He expects us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek, and go the second mile! Radical? Revolutionary? Oh yes, no doubt about that. Christians have always exasperated unbelievers. How could they forgive those who persecuted and murdered them? How could they sing when being led to their deaths? Why wouldn't they serve in the army? Why would they carry a soldier's baggage a second mile? Why? We are like Jesus! He went the second mile when He left the ivory palaces of Heaven and came down to walk among men and become a man acquainted with sorrows and a sharer of our griefs. Coming to earth and living as a man was the first mile, but He went a second mile that led to the cross and an awful death on behalf of not only His friends, but His enemies. Who would do that? No, there is no traffic jam on the second mile!

When a Christian was compelled to carry a soldier's baggage a mile he did so, but then looked up at the soldier and declared, “I will carry the load a second mile!” The soldier or government official must have been startled and thought, who would do that? Perhaps the soldier would ask, “Why would you volunteer to go a second mile?” “I am a Christian, and I am following the teaching of my Master, the Lord Jesus Christ,” would be the humble reply. That reply and the journey of a second mile had a dramatic and powerful impact on the world then, and still does today when Christians follow the teaching of their Master. If you are on the second mile you are not going to have to worry about traffic or traffic jams. However, the reward of being on the second mile is knowing we are on the road with our Savior!