

Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho
PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850-0398
(417) 451-2057 -- www.obicollege.com

Return Service Requested

The STANDARD BEARER

Volume 48, No. 2

“A place where God can help Himself to young lives.”
Founder D. C. Branham

Mar./Apr. 2017

“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).



Special Speaker
Danny Swinnea

DECISION DAYS 2017 *March 23-26*

He wants it ALL Today

*“ALL thy Heart..., ALL thy Soul...,
ALL thy Mind..., ALL thy Strength” (Mark 12:30).*

**A time for prospective students
to have a first-hand look at OBI.**

High School Juniors And Seniors Come Free.

OBI COMMENCEMENT

We invite you to come and celebrate with the graduates.

Exercises will be Friday April 21, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Bible Holiness Assembly of God Church, 614 N. High Street, Neosho, Missouri



Jeremy Spurlock
Night Speaker



Dathan Tucker
AM Bible Teacher



Lonny & Lori Adams
Children's Workers

CAMP PENIEL 2017

Camp will be held Monday July 3- Friday July 7.

For more information call 417-455-6310

or visit: www.bibleholinessag.org



By Daniel E. Taylor
President

YOU AND HOLINESS

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?

and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate, saith the Lord and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty” (2 Corinthians 6:14-18).

*“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness in the fear of God**” (2 Corinthians 7:1).*

The full gospel message includes the call to holiness and it is to every believer just as it is with the call to salvation and to receiving the baptism in the Holy Ghost. According to 2 Corinthians 7:1, “Holiness” is an ongoing process in a believer’s life. Everything that pertains to a Christian’s spiritual life is “growing,” growing in grace and knowledge, growing in wisdom and understanding. “Perfecting Holiness.”

It is essential that you don’t let the devil give you a wrong perception of Holiness. If you are unfamiliar with a topic or concept

and you overhear people talking about it, you can totally misunderstand what was said. Sad to say misconceptions about Bible truths are as numerous as there are sects or denominations. And the problem of misunderstanding the truth of the Gospel goes all the way back to the early church.

The Bible doctrine of “holiness” has been a controversial topic in the church world for a long time. In church history every time God sent revival down through history, perfecting holiness was part of that revival. But as revival fires go out “holiness,” as it pertains to Christian living, becomes a controversial subject.

The main reason that the pursuit of holiness is one of the first things a saint takes off when they get cold in their souls is because the carnal mind hates the whole concept of holiness.

The carnal mind can’t receive the things of God, basically, because if it did it would have to stop being carnal. That is why when a carnal-minded person hears a sermon on “holiness” it makes them angry. Carnal-minded holiness folks will say the sermon was not straight enough. Carnal-minded worldly folks will say the sermon was over the top and too straight. But, there is a special group of people that I have preached to for years. They are the salt of the earth group that you find in almost every congregation. They want to know the truth so it will set them free!

Most of the negative feedback that you hear about holiness is in regards to peoples dislike of **restrictions**. The flesh has never liked to be told no. Adam and Eve didn’t like it, and neither do their descendants. But holiness, in spite of what many people say, is not about restrictions. When Jesus described Himself as the door of the sheepfold, He was not describing some miserable, confined, restricted existence! He was talking about protection, direction, connection, and perfection. So you and holiness get along depending on your

spiritual condition and the effect it has on your frame of mind.

I. Holiness Is Not About Restriction, It Is About Protection! In 2 Corinthians 6:14, it says that the way to keep protect yourself from the negative spiritual influence of unsaved people is to be careful and limit the length and type of contact you have with them. It is impossible to avoid all interaction with unbelievers. The text says, “*Unequally yoked!*” Paul is warning us that it is dangerous for a Christian to put themselves in a situation where they have to spend more time with unsaved people than they do with fellow Christians. It is interesting the word for the phrase, “*unequally yoked*” literally means “diversely yoked.” The implication is don’t try to work together as equals with unbelievers. So the verse is saying don’t spend too much time with unbelievers and don’t try to be like them.

In 2 Corinthians 6:15 it states that there is never going to be any positive spiritual fellowship between a believer and a lost person while they are in a secular setting. Paul is not talking about witnessing. He isn’t saying don’t reach out to the lost. Paul describes the sort of person he is warning us about in verse 15.

Belial is a word that means lawless, reckless or irreverent. Several places in the Old Testament the Bible calls people “*sons of Belial,*” which means a vain, worthless, lawless, reckless, irreverent, good-for-nothing person.

Paul emphasizes the importance of a separated life (a holiness life) with four rhetorical questions:

1. “*What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?*” (Or what common interest hath righteousness with unrighteousness)? *(Continued on page 3)*

Daniel E. Taylor, *Editor-in-Chief*

Wallace E. Joice, *Editor* Carol J. Joice, *Graphic Art*

Bimonthly publication of Ozark Christian Schools of Neosho. Printed in the U.S.A. **We are a nonprofit religious organization. Any contributions are appreciated and are tax deductible.**

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Standard Bearer*, PO Box 398, Neosho, MO 64850.

2. "What communion hath light with darkness?" (Can light and darkness actually mix)?

3. "What concord hath Christ with Belial?" (Can Christ join forces with an anti-christ spirit)?

4. "What part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever)?

Paul is saying to us, if you will think this through, you will see why the principles of Holiness are so important. Holiness protects our relationship with Christ. It helps us stay on the straight and narrow road to Heaven.

The Holy Ghost inspired Paul to ask five questions in verses 14-16. Why? Because the Holy Ghost is leading us into truth and the truth He is leading us into is: "The Importance of Holiness in a Christian's Life."

When a person gets truly saved, they are open to the truth of God's Word more than any other time. The devil knows this, and that is why he will try to get carnal-minded people in a place of influence, and get them to discourage you concerning holiness.

II. Holiness Is Not About Restriction, It Is About Direction. Holiness is a doctrine or a set of principles designed by God to give us a source of direction.

God directs a believer in a variety of ways through preaching the Word, and through the impressions of the Holy Ghost. One of the very first things the Holy Ghost directs us to do when we are saved is to give God an acceptable place to live. Preparing our hearts as a dwelling place for God through His Spirit is a joint effort between us and God.

Let's consider the question Paul asked in verse 16. "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" Can there be some kind of workable agreement between the temple of God and some false God? Do you think

there is some way we could work out an agreement where we could share this building with a casino or night club? Paul is not talking about a building where the church uses it one night and the devil's crowd uses it the next. Paul is asking if God can use it and the devil use it at the same time! Either Jesus has exclusive control of your life or He has no control at all!

What would it be like if we were trying to have church and a night club going on in here at the same time? Folks over here dancing in the spirit and folks over here dancing the Charleston or the Jerk? After an hour or two some folks from the night club came to church and the church folks to the night club. But you may say, "Brother Taylor, that is ridiculous." That is exactly the point Paul is making. There is no agreement or compatibility between the temple of God and idols. It is a like a three legged rocking chair; it won't work!

Paul goes on to answer the question by stating, you are a Christian and therefore you are the temple of the living God. Then Paul tells us that God himself has stated the terms of His contract when He purchased our soul. He says, "I am going to live in them. I am going to walk and do things through them. I am going to be their one and only God. And they are going to be my special people." So it is obvious from what God said that He intends to direct His people in a life of Holiness because He is holy!

The Bible is very clear in 2 Corinthians 6:17, that you can't be connected to the world and God at the same time. That means you can not focus your desires and loyalties on spiritual things and worldly things both. Double minded-ness and instability are the same thing.

Verse 17 makes it clear that God won't allow a dual connection. If you want to get plugged in with Him, you must unplug from the world.

III. Holiness Is Not About Restriction; It Is About Connection! I asked my son about the danger of a dual connection and he sent me a picture of a guy that worked for the power company. The man has a gruesome scar on his back and he lost one arm. He was transferring a power line from one pole to another and backed into a different power line. My son said, "Even when you are holding on to God as your power source, if you get hooked up with another power source that is out of sync, there is going to be a blow up! It can cost you a fortune to fix, and what is worse it will cripple and scar you for life!"

Sadly, there are many people that approach their spiritual life with the attitude, "I have a certain level of Christian living that I aspire to and I want to meet the minimum requirements for that level." But according to verse 17, a holy life of separation is a requirement for us to have a close connection with the Lord. Verse 17 also says there are three steps to developing a strong connection with God:

First you have to "come out from among them." The homosexual crowd has high-jacked the phrase "coming out." It means to identify yourself as what you are. It proves just how close we are to the tribulation when we see how many folks congratulate someone that comes out that they are gay. But Jesus calls us to come out from among those who live a wicked life in this world, and identify themselves with Christ.

"And be ye separate." That means not only identify yourself with Christ, but also practice a lifestyle that distinguishes you from the world; be separate, be different, be holy.

"And touch not the unclean thing." That means abstain from anything that would corrupt your soul or defile your testimony.

Verse 18 says that when we "connect" with the Lord, it is a Father-child relationship. The Lord on several occasions told His

(Cont. on pg. 6)



By Mike Pennington
OBI Guatemala
Field Director

“Two are better than one”

“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall. The one will lift up his fellow:” (Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10).

“Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples” (Matthew 11:2).

“...the testimony of two men is true” (John 8:17).

The Word of God gives ample expression to the power of dual effort in the work of His kingdom. Jesus sent two of his disciples to fetch a donkey, prepare the last supper, and sent them out in pairs to preach the gospel. He called some two at a time and appeared to two on the Emmaus

road after His resurrection. There were two angels at his tomb and ascension to give testimony and instruction. Corroboration in our witnessing endeavors provides unity, accountability, moral support, affirmation and a camaraderie that is unsurpassed in this world.

This spring semester at the Bible school in Guatemala we have 37 students from 7 countries- 24 from Guatemala, 3 from Honduras, and 2 each from Columbia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Mexico, and Nicaragua. When they go on evangelism four days of the week for the 15 week semester, they pair up to witness after a general open air service at a central park or market place. Apprehension and timidity gives

way to confidence and assurance the more they are involved in winning souls for Christ. By the end of their two year training, most can give a powerful witness of the saving grace of God, and the majority of them go on to full time Christian service.

We are grateful for those who continue to prayerfully and financially support missions. The lad’s two fish in his lunch, the widow’s two mites, and the Good Samaritan’s two pence still provide the means for God’s blessings and spiritual enrichment. Thanks for joining with us to train nationals to reach more souls. We pray for your local witnessing labors.

“...if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 18: 19).

Nicaraguan students



Mexican Students



El Salvadoran Students



Columbian Students



Costa Rican Students



Honduran Students





By Rachel Prihoda
2006 OBI Graduate

This article is a continuation of an excerpt from a biography *With C.T. Studd in Congo Forests* by Norman Grubb.

The last article left off at the end of an “interview with C. T. Studd by G. Percy Lister in the ‘Methodist Recorder,’ January 9, 1913.” This interview was given “a fortnight before sailing,” as “C. T. Studd prepared to return, this time to establish a work in the heart of Africa.”

Our readers, *concluded the interviewer*, will not need further argument to be persuaded that Mr. Studd is right. His is an enterprise true to the very genius of Christianity, apostolic both in its inception and execution, and one which will immediately appeal to the imagination of all who pray for the coming of the Kingdom of Christ. Heroic endeavour such as this is needed in these days to arouse the Church from her slumber. We need to hear the clarion call of modern Crusaders. By lightly touching easy and congenial tasks, the Church becomes enfeebled and unnerved. It is not in tea-parties, and galas, and pleasant comfortable meetings that she finds her strength. The appeal of Christ is to manly and heroic devotion, to daring deeds of faith and love, to danger and sacrifice.

“Shall the heart of Africa belong to the devil or Christ?” added Mr. Studd in a pamphlet which he published just before sailing. “By right it belongs to Christ, bought with His blood, but is now in the hands of the devil! Are we Christians content to leave it so? God forbid! ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature!’ But we have not gone to the heart of Africa! Christ has no witness there! To no creature there have we preached the Gospel! Christ made no exceptions! Dare we? Having begun to build, shall we omit to put on the roof? Obedience is the first duty of a soldier. Shall Christian soldiers disobey? ‘Ours not to reason

why! Ours but to do and die! Nothing venture, nothing have! Let us go up at once and possess the land. He goeth before us.”

“Thank God,” he adds at the close of the pamphlet, “there is still something on the earth really worth doing for the Lord Jesus Christ, and license to do it. Thank God there is no reason why the navy and the army should have a monopoly in heroes and heroism, unless we Christians basely surrender our birthright. Hear the word of the Lord: Zebulun was a people that jeopardized their lives unto the death, and Naphtali upon the high places of the field.

“The work will not be easy; the conditions of life must be the reverse of aesthetic or luxurious: temptations will abound: there are sure to be dangers as well as difficulties: the society there will not be of the first water: but the Lord Jesus will be there, and what better company is to be found on earth or in heaven for a Christian? If a man counts his life as of any account dear unto himself, or desires to live many years, he had better seek some softer job. But if he feels that for him the world holds no greater honour or pleasure than to fight for Christ in the firing line, except it be to die for Him in the hottest part of the field, then by all means let him come. If a man has doubts about the Holy Scriptures—which we shall give to the people as soon as may be—or insist on putting fancy interpretations upon them, he had better go elsewhere; for in the heart of Africa at least, a whole Bible, and full and simple faith therein, is of more value than the acutest intellect the world can boast. But if he is proud to be a ‘fool for Christ’s sake’ and can condescend to fight with the unnotched sword of the Spirit of God, let him come by all means. We ask the prayers of God’s people for those who ‘go to the front,’ that they turn not back nor flinch in the day of battle.”

**Excerpts from Chapter II
Beyond the Last Outpost**

The start was made in January, 1913. It took Mr. Studd and Alfred Buxton, his young companion of twenty-one, just ten months to reach their longed-for

destination.

George Schweinfurth, the explorer, was the first white man to reach the heart of Africa, forty years before. On arrival at the same spot on the banks of the Welle, he met the great chief Munza, the head of the Mangbettu, who had no less than 2,000 wives. Munza was murdered by chief Niangara, who ruled in his stead, and Schweinfurth, naming this “the very heart of Africa,” called the place Niangara.

“Thus it was,” they wrote, “that the new year 1914 found us encamped on the banks of the Welle in this ‘very heart of Africa,’ as Schweinfurth had described it, and planning its conquest for Christ.” The Heart of Africa Mission had been born.

“Before we started on this year of exploration,” wrote Mr. Studd, “God had given us the promise that He gave to Joshua, ‘Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you;’ and looking back thirty years later on this bold claim of faith, we can see how God has fulfilled this promise to the letter.

What a country they found! “Masses and masses of people! Hundreds of children! Roads lined with villages and plantations!” So ran Mr. Studd’s glowing report. “It was a solemn fact that in all the ages of history none of these masses had heard the voice or seen the face of a Protestant missionary. Some of the tribes we passed through had been engaged less than two months before in internecine warfare, so all carried bows and poisoned arrows; all, a short time back, had been regularly practicing cannibalism.”

**(With More Open Doors,
More Workers Were Needed)**

That brought an SOS to England saying, “**The whole region lies open to the Gospel, and to us! The fields are white unto harvest! But the labourers? Where are they? We have, thank God, got the country! We have got the place! We shall doubtless get the money! But where are the men? The spies have gone to the promised land and sent home their favourable report! It now rests with the Israel of God as to whether they will advance and occupy it. Now you young British Christian men! What will you do?**”

disciples that their relationship to God was more than just a “master-servant relationship.” Jesus called them friends. He told them to pray, “*Our father which art in heaven.*” A lost person’s relationship with the devil is always a “master-slave relationship.” But when we connect with Jesus and He leads us into a holy life and we become like Him for we see Him as He is, we realize holiness is not about restriction, it is about connection.

Notice what Paul is saying here: (Talking about the last three verses of chapter six,) Paul says, “having these promises ringing in our ears, let us keep

clear of anything that would cause us to mess up!” Let us work on allowing the nature of God (which is holiness) to have complete control of our life.” And when Paul concludes with “*In the fear of God,*” he is telling us that holiness is a serious and sacred subject.

A desire to live a holy life comes from a deep reverence for God. The more a person grows in their reverence for the Lord, the more they desire to be like Him. And the more they desire to be like Him, the more they desire to know about Holiness. The more that a person wants to be Holy, the more spiritual fruit they produce.

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Often people who think they are the most spiritual have little or none of these qualities.

But if a person is “*perfecting holiness,*” (which means trying to be completely like God,) they exhibit the fruit of the Spirit! Evidence of being connected to the vine is **much fruit**.

It is obvious from what the Bible says that “holiness” affects how you look and how you live! But that’s not all there is to holiness. Perfecting holiness in the fear of God is the act of working toward being as much like God as we can!

Editor’s Notes



By Editor
Wallace E. Joice

GREAT MEN MUSE ABOUT THE JEWS BLAISE PASCAL



The great 17th century thinker, **Blaise Pascal**, offered this observation: “This people is not eminent solely by their antiquity, but is also singular by their duration, which has always continued from their origin till now. For whereas the nations of Greece and of Italy, of Lacedaemon, of Athens, and of Rome, and others who came long after, have long since perished, these ever remain, and in spite of the endeavors of many powerful kings who have a hundred times tried to destroy them.” **Blaise Pascal** was a great French mathematician, philosopher, scientist, and mystic. He was considered by Albert Einstein, who was a Jew himself, to be the greatest intellect of the last thousand years.

ARNOLD TOYNBEE



This fact struck the historian **Arnold Toynbee** with awe. He wrote: “As for long life, the Jews live on—the same peculiar people—today, long ages after the Phoenicians and the Philistines have lost their identity. Their ancient Syriac neighbors have gone into the melting pot and have been reminted,

with new images and superscriptions, while Israel has proven impervious to this alchemy.”

MARK TWAIN



Similarly, **Mark Twain**, once declared, “The Egyptian, the Babylonian and the Persian rose, filled, then faded to dream stuff and passed away; the Greek and Roman followed, and made a vast noise and they are gone; other peoples have sprung up and held their torch high for a time, but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, or have been banished.”

“The Jew saw them all, beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind.

“All things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?”

JESUS OF NAZARETH

No one will ever understand Jesus unless they understand His Jewishness. Though He occasionally ministered to Gentiles, He said to the Syro-Phoenician, “*...I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel*” (Matthew 15:24). To the woman of Samaria He said, “Ye

worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews” (John 4:22).

Jesus also said, “*...This generation shall not pass, till all these things shall be fulfilled*” (Matthew 24:34). The Greek word from which *generation*” is translated is genesis. It means primarily an origin, a lineage or birth. It is undoubtedly used in this sense in this passage. This was the view of C. M. Ward, long time radio voice of Revivaltime, the radio ministry of the Assemblies of God. The view is by no means original with me or him.

The word is sometimes used of what we would call a “*generation.*” As in Luke 7:31, 32, “*And the Lord said, Whereunto then shall I liken the men of this generation? and to what are they like? They are like unto children sitting in the marketplace and calling, one to another, and saying, We have piped unto you, and ye have not danced; we have mourned to you, and ye have not wept.*” The usual interpretation is that those who see Israel become a nation will witness the consummation of the age. This cannot be for more than a “*generation*” has passed since Israel became a nation.

I believe that this prophecy indicates that Israel shall continue till Jesus comes. I would strongly urge those who read this article to read WANDERINGS: Chaim Potok’s History Of The Jews. This is a very objective view of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

An Excellent Spirit Comes from Being in The Presence of an Excellent God.

Exemplify Selflessness. The fullness of the Holy Spirit cancels out narcissism, hedonism, Satanism and humanism. We must shun religious pride, superiority, and loftiness, but cling to humility, the fear of the Lord and mercy. The fullness of the Spirit is in direct line with the capacity yielded to Christ; complete surrender brings a complete fullness. *“Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words”* (Jeremiah 18:2). Dietrich Bonhoeffer defines self-denial as “seeing only Christ, who goes ahead of us, and no longer the path that is too difficult for us.” No longer gazing in the mirror of self-content, self-complacency or self-righteousness, but looking to Him the author and the finisher of our faith.

Extend our Influence. When the woman came with the Alabaster box and she carefully poured it out upon Christ, she was making an extreme sacrifice of something she valued and dearly loved. This sacrificial offering was filled with love and admiration for Jesus Christ. It is noted in Scripture, “the fragrance filled the room,” her aromatic worship influenced the bystanders, and completely changed the atmosphere of the room.

Atmosphere. Influence is not a winning personality but by the aroma of Christ upon you. Influence is opportunity combined with people and place in a God-desired and God-defined arena. People of influence are atmosphere changers.

Placement. If we are to create purposeful and personal areas of ministry, we are challenged to get out of the box as the early church did. Of the 40 miracles recorded in

Acts, there were 39 that occurred in the marketplace. The prayer meeting of the 120 spread to be a gospel message on the street, and Cornelius was filled with the Holy Ghost in his home. The Holy Spirit in the book of Acts defies racism, borders, preconceived ideas and religious walls.

Ripples. Influence is God’s work through us while He is at work around us *“enlarging our coast.”* The ripple effect is when one is influenced, and then they open a door for another to be influenced. God opens doors as we walk in His presence patiently and prayerfully. *“And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldst keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested”* (1 Chronicles 4:10).

STUDENT TESTIMONIES



Adren Hamel
Sophomore

Coming to Ozark Bible Institute and College was a big change for me. I felt led to come to OBI at Decision Days in 2014. I never really saw myself attending. It wasn’t until October 25th of 2015, that I accepted the call to preach as well as the call to come to OBI.

As a Sophomore, I look back at the past year to see how much God has changed my life in just a year. True happiness only comes when you know you are right where God wants you to be. Being content in God’s will is worth more than anything this world has to offer. It is by His grace I am where I am today!



Bradley Stevens
Sophomore

Ozark Bible Institute and College has become a place that has given me friends, opportunities, and experiences; but most of all it has become a place of finding that intimate walk with Jesus. Here I have been able to experience the depth of His love for me in ways I have never known. I have found that I too can walk with Him daily just as the disciples walked. I have found clarity in His voice and direction for my life while growing in spiritual maturity.

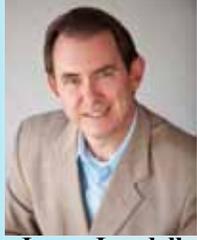
Without OBI, the Lord may have revealed these things to me in time, but with the constant support of faculty and my fellow students, my longing for a wholly committed life has been born. I thank the Lord for OBI, and for what it stands for, and what it has done for me.



Erika Lott
Sophomore

I am thankful for the opportunity that I’ve been blessed with to attend Ozark Bible Institute and College! The instructors are pouring so much into our lives daily. I count it an honor to sit under anointed teaching and preaching. OBI’s motto is, “A place where God can help Himself to young lives,” and the more time goes by, the more I’m finding this statement to be true! I am thankful for every ministry opportunity that I have received while here at OBI. God has truly changed my life through OBI and I am looking forward to all that He has in store!

Alumni In Action



James Laudell
Graduate 1981

How Should We Then Live?

Francis Schaeffer penned this title of his epic classic, *How Should We Then Live*, in 1976, covering the Rise and Fall of Western Thought and Culture. This thought-provoking classic challenged my life as a Bible School student and convinced me to seek God for this generation. The message resounds a warning and a challenge in these “last of the last days,” to *live our life to reflect Christ* and affect this current culture and future generations.

“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,” (2 Peter 3:9-12).

Here are Five Essentials for Living if we are to Change this Present Age.

Encouraging Words: Cursing is not the only form of language that grieves the Holy Spirit; discouraging, inflammatory,

divisive and slanderous words are equally damaging. Jeremiah, the prophet, was placed in a miry pit but thirty men pulled him out because of one man’s concern for the prophet. Volunteer to be the one bringing him out of the pit not accused of being the one that put him in the pit.

We Must Live Encouraging Lives with Encouraging Words to Lift the Discouraged: If we live a life of condemnation through the eyes of arrogance and pride, we have saved no one, helped no one, and lifted up no one, but if we preach with tears in our eyes and compassion in our heart, we will see deliverance and salvation. *Apples of gold in Pictures of Silver* requires us to use the right words in the right way. We must *live* right and *speak* right.

Extraordinary Faith: We must enlarge our faith to live in faithless times. Jesus cried, “When I come again will I find faith in the earth?” Faith is the essence of miracles and the modus operandi of healing—we are in dire need to *believe again*.

Not my Extraordinary Ability but my Extraordinary God: Lord, bring again a healing revival for the sick, the depressed, the confused and the afflicted. Preach healing, pray for healing, and believe for healing. Turn to the Word of God for an increase of faith, “*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*” (Rom 10:17). Healing of spirit, soul, body, mind, marriage and relationships. God has given each one a measure of faith, let’s sow faith that we might reap healing.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Excellent Spirit: Violence, anger and hate *lives by the sword and dies by the sword* but Daniel won the favor of a king because there was an excellent spirit in him. “*Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm*” (Daniel 6:3).

The Right Motive: Not looking for power, position, popularity or a platform but an inner *excellence* in the man who is walking with God.

The Right Method: Desire the essentials not the extremes because radical choices will bring an unbalanced life. Set your desires completely on Jesus and He will infuse the right Spirit within you.

The Right Message: Opinions do not get attention in the presence of God—we must have a heavenly message bathed in prayer and speak through the Holy Spirit. “*Thus saith the Lord*” is the most needed phrase in the church today. (Continued on page 7)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brother Don Snow is improving. His words are, “God is really helping me.” Please continue to pray for him and Sister Snow.

BIRTHS

Richie & Christin (Benner) Puckett, a baby girl, Stella Faye, born Jan. 31, 2017.

Anthony & Anna Sheridan, a baby boy, William Anthony, born Feb. 2, 2017.

Bryan & Sarah (Baker) McKelvey, a baby girl, born Feb. 6, 2017.

DEATHS

Sheryl (Bernard) Collins (1981 graduate) passed away Feb. 2, 2017. Our sympathy and condolences to family and friends.

2016-2017
Officers

Randy Snow, President
dsnows@msn.com

Mark Hutson, Vice-President
lisahutson61@aol.com

Sheila Shelton, Secretary
shelton_0204@yahoo.com

If you have a change of address or if you desire to receive more or fewer copies of “The Standard Bearer,” please indicate your desire at: 417-451-2057 or: psobl@hotmail.com