

Psm. 11:3

# Baptists For Liberty

Prov. 29:2

*"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." Galatians 5:1*

## NEWS LETTER

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### The Battle Songs of Joy!

"The greater our present trials, the louder will our future songs be, and the more intense our joyful gratitude." (Charles Spurgeon)

James 1:2-4; *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

Philippians 4:4-7; *"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

1Peter 1:6-8; *"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"*

- Bro. Donnie Burford

*"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." ~ Colossians 3:12-15*

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### Children Like Clean Cups and Platters

by Bro. Jeff Short

Families have days where nothing seems to go right. We are getting ready to go somewhere and problems pop up at every turn. One kid is sick, another is tired, and maybe others have chosen this extremely inconvenient time to embody contrariness. We've barely begun and Mom has already had just about enough and is twitching and ticking like an animal shelter mutt with one eye.

We arrive at our destination looking like unmade beds and realize one kid's hair didn't get fixed, one has on two left shoes of different colors, and another is sporting a mucus mustache. It always somehow works out that at just such a time as this, *that family* shows up. You know the one with several children impeccably dressed as if heading to a photo shoot, who march in appropriate birth order at precisely one arm's length, and always use appropriate manners and etiquette for whatever social situation they are in. They all smile with glistening teeth as though they have time to visit the dentist regularly. They never raise their voices above a polite conversational tone and you can only imagine they have mastered the control of their children by telepathy. That family.

(continued on page 17)

# Sermon

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. II Timothy 4:2



## “The Wrath of Man”

by Bro. Todd Bryant

It is not uncommon to hear preachers speak on the wrath of God. That has, historically, been a subject that accompanied good gospel preaching. However, there is generally little said on the practical matter of “the wrath of man.” It is that which I will deal with in this article today.

“For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” (Jam. 1:20).

The verse before us today is found in the first chapter of the most practical book in the New Testament. James has just instructed us to be “swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath” (Jam. 1:19). The subject of the wrath of man is directly related to speech. I am afraid that we often get James’ instructions reversed and we are slow to listen, swift to speak, and swift to wrath. James implies that we should be doing far more listening than we are speaking. I have heard many “compliments” given to a person because they always “spoke their mind.” Dear friends, that is no compliment. That shows a lack of spiritual maturity (Jam. 3:2). If we are ever to grow up out of infant Christianity into adulthood, we must get a hold on our proudest member—our tongue. It is with this member that friendships are lost, churches are split, witnesses are lost, and wounds opened that might never be completely healed.

Many think it is a matter of boldness to speak your mind on everything. That is not the case. Ecclesiastes 3:7 tells us that there is “a time to keep silence.” Oh how many times have we spoken up and ruined our opportunity God has given because we “spoke the truth” in anger and bitterness. It is this subject that we wish to elaborate on today. It is referred to in our text as “the wrath of man” and James was inspired to say it “worketh not the

righteousness of God.” In modern terms we might say that speaking the truth with a bad attitude doesn’t accomplish anything as far as the work God has called us unto is concerned. We need to make sure that we strive to have a good attitude when we represent the Lord and our church. If you are a child of God, this should be constantly on your mind.

If “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God” then religion is nothing to get angry over. If you are a child of God and you get angry over the things you believe, you are not doing God’s work. When you, as a child of God, are full of bitterness against those you should be trying to help, you are not doing the work of God. According to this verse, God doesn’t bless work done out of anger. We are to love all men. You might say, “Well, God hates the workers of iniquity and I do to.” You are not God and have no right to hate anyone. Jesus said, in Matthew 5:44, “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” This is not an option, this is a commandment. You are to love those who don’t love you. “That’s not fair” one might say. “I treat people the way they deserve. I give them the love they earn from me.” Aren’t you glad God didn’t treat you the way you treat others?

James again was inspired to instruct us in James 3:17-18 that “the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.” If you are looking to mature in your Christian walk, here’s a verse to challenge you. God’s gift to us begins pure. God doesn’t give imperfect gifts as man does. The walk of a child of God is to be full of peace and gentleness. We are to be easy to get along with. We are to be merciful. We are to treat all men well despite how they treat us. There can be no doubt that this isn’t easy for the flesh. However, it is still the commandment of God and should be kept.

Matthew 5:9 says, “Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.” It is one thing to call one’s self a Christian. It is quite another thing for somebody else to refer to someone as that. Do you have a desire to be called a child of God? Do you have a desire for people to see Jesus in your life? The Bible says you will be seen as such if you are a peacemaker. I have known many a person who I dreaded to see coming because I knew they caused turmoil every time I was around them. They were not very peaceable. The flesh leads us to be bitter and angry. The Spirit leads us to be peaceable and gentle. Do we sow the “fruit of righteousness...in peace?” Perhaps we should simply ask if we sow the fruit of righteousness at all. It seems our Sovereign Grace Baptist people are so afraid that they might be called an Arminian that they leave off the things God has plainly instructed. One of these things is that we should be a good witness. We need to be striving daily to tell people the Good News. Our mouths ought to be full of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for “the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth” (Rom. 1:16). When we do sow this fruit of righteousness, it should be sown in peace. Two times the Good News is referred to as the “gospel of peace” (Rom. 10:15; Eph. 6:15). When we witness, we are to do so in peace. When we instruct, we are to do so in peace. When we disagree, we are to

do so in peace. Remember, “the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”

“And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth” (II Tim. 2:24,25). This verse is related to James 3:17-18. We must not strive. That is, we must not be brawlers or fighters. We must not be brawlers with our fists or with our mouths. I have witnessed a number of “fights” in which a punch was never thrown. We must be gentle. We must be able to teach people. You may say, “Well, I’m just not a good teacher.” You must learn to teach if you want to serve God. I don’t mean in a class at church, I mean to the people you see regularly in your daily routine. We must learn to have patient. Don’t be like the man who said, “Lord, please grant me patience and grant it to me today please.” Patience is learned through trials. We must realize that everybody hasn’t been given the opportunity that we have to know the blessed truths that we do. Knowing that, however, should be a driving force that pushes us to get the truth out to people in a way that they can understand it. In this, I am not necessarily speaking about the lost (though they can be included to some degree). I am speaking of those who bear the fruits of regeneration, but have a lack of maturity in their Christian life especially in the area of theology. Lastly, we need to witness to people in hopes that God “will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.” Do you witness to people just because God said to? Again, maybe the question should be “Do you witness to people?” You should witness because God told you to. However, you should also witness because you have a desire to see the person saved that you are speaking to. You need to love the people you share the gospel with. Therefore, we must love everybody and act as though we do.

“I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting” (I Tim. 2:8). We are to constantly lift up hands of prayer. We are to do this without wrath and doubting. When we gather for worship, it shouldn’t be out of wrath, but, out of love. I have heard sermons preached that sounded like an old farmer driving a lazy mule after about 10 hours in the sun. In other words, I’ve heard sermons preached out of, what seemed like, anger. According to our text verse, this is not accomplishing the work of God. We shouldn’t “preach mad.” Our worship services should be filled with love—for our Savior, for His truth, for the membership, for the visitors, and for the lost.

People of God, we are not to be a wrathful people. It seems some people think it’s right to “lose your religion” while trying to defend it. How sad. We have the example of our Savior who was always full of love and was never a respecter of persons. He treated everybody with love as the law demands (Mat. 22:37-40). We, as Christians (and Baptists for that matter) need to be known as peacemakers. We need to be known as a people full of love. We should have a love for our Savior first and foremost which should be seen in our daily lives. We should have a love for the work that God has called us unto. We should have a love for the people God has called us to minister unto. As long as we are doing God’s work with wrath and anger in our heart, we aren’t doing God’s work.

## “A Mind at Peace”

by Bro. Jeff Short

Oftentimes through the wrath of man and the providence of God, we find ourselves in unexpected situations. Uncertainty causes much anxiety to us and our minds become greatly distressed. This is man responding to his circumstances. We are responsive creatures and cannot help but respond in some way to an unexpected circumstance. However, a prolonged response of anxiety is not Christian.

Paul had learned to be content from one extreme state to another and everywhere in between ([Philippians 4:11](#)). The secret of his contentment was stated plainly in the first chapter of the Philippian epistle, “**For to me to live is Christ**” ([Philippians 1:21](#)). He was Christ-centered, providing a sure and steadfast anchor for his soul. The storm may come suddenly and his vessel rise and fall with the swelling sea, but his position was fixed because of the anchor.

God’s word to His people is this: “**Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee**” ([Isaiah 26:3](#)). With our mind stayed on God, we will not waver with the tumult of circumstances. The peace spoken of is in contrast to protracted anxiety of mind over uncertainties. The passage does promise we shall never be exposed to danger, but that we may abide the danger with peace in our mind. So, let us be stayed on God, trusting in Him, and let storms come what may.

*Jesus, Savior, pilot me Over life’s tempestuous sea:*

*Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rocks and treacherous shoal;*

*Chart and compass come from Thee, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

*As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;  
Boisterous waves obey Thy will When Thou sayest to them “Be still!”*

*Wondrous Sovereign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.*

*When at last I near the shore, And the fearful breakers roar  
‘Twixt me and the peaceful rest. Then, while leaning on Thy breast,*

*May I hear Thee say to me, “Fear not, I will pilot thee.”*



# “Your Heart Controls Your Life!”

by Bro. M. J. Seymour, Sr.

“For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes. A good man **out of the good treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man **out of the evil treasure of his heart** bringeth forth that which is evil: for **of the abundance of the heart** his mouth speaketh. And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Lk. 6:44-46)

In Proverbs 28:25, we are told: “He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.” The “proud heart” carries not only the idea of arrogant self-importance, but also the idea of greed being associated with it. A person with an arrogant self-important heart is also a greedy person. The words “shall be made fat” refers to one being abundantly satisfied. Hence, an arrogant heart is always stirring up strife for self-gain, and a heart trusting in the Lord shall always be at peace being abundantly satisfied. The condition of the heart dictates the actions of one’s life. Arrogance stirs up strife; trust in the Lord rests in a satisfying peace. One’s life is a reflection of his heart.

Jesus said: “For **from within, out of the heart** of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.” (Mk. 7:21-23) From whence comes the outward indulgence of evil? It comes out of the heart. An evil heart will manifest itself in a habitual craving for and a participating in a life of ungodliness. It is its nature to reveal its enmity against God.

If the heart is reconciled to God by the work of the Holy Spirit through the blood of Jesus, the heart is made anew with the laws of God written in and upon it. Then, that which comes forth from the new heart will bear the emblem of the Holy Spirit – “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” (Gal. 5:22-24) Man’s natural brute beast instinct is to engulf himself with ungodliness. The new heart in Christ crucifies the desires of the flesh that he may live in the likeness of his Master.



Mr. Practical 

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. ||| John 1:4



with Bro. Todd Bryant



## Patience and Peace

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” – Colossians 3:12-15*

Our generation is unique. Never before has communication been so easy. It’s a great blessing to me that telephones, email, text and social media allow me to keep in touch with family members that live hundreds of miles away. I have brothers and sisters in Christ that live in other countries that I’ve been able to easily converse with through these mediums. However, these same means of communication which can be used beneficially have displayed openly and publicly the hearts of many. It’s impossible to logon to Facebook or Twitter or Instagram without seeing some post that attacks a group one disagrees with. These posts may be political, religious or even sports related. But, social media feeds are flooded with them. I’ve come to thank God for the “unfollow” button as much as the medium itself.

“God’s chosen ones” are called to a much higher standard. Yet tragically, I see very little difference on social media between the lost and the saved. Certainly, the language may be cleaner from children of God but the attitude is much the same. And honestly, it’s easy to get dragged into such debates. I’ve been accused publicly of being a compromiser more than once on social media – and often just in response to a simple Scripture post. It’s where we are, I suppose. But it is not God’s plan for His children. We, as the family of God, need to recognize this problem, repent of it and change our actions whether we are Tweeting or talking on the phone or personally witnessing to a lost neighbor. We are called to be good to the world – to love the people around us. Yet, our calling towards our own blood bought brothers and sisters in Christ is even higher. This is the subject of our text verse. However, we are going to focus specifically on two words – patience and peace.

It's been said that patience is a virtue. A virtue is simply "behavior showing high moral standards". So by this standard, part of being a moral person is having patience. We don't often think that way, do we? I mean, if a person is not a drunk or an adulterer or a murderer or a curser or any other gross type sin, we generally count them as moral. But what of impatience? Are we to regard patience (or, longsuffering, as some translations render this Greek word) as something necessary to bring a child of God to spiritual maturity? Seeing that patience is fruit from the Spirit of God (**Galatians 5:22-23**), can there be any doubt? If we are following the Spirit's perfect work in us as God's children, our patience should mature. Particularly, we should be patient with "each other". Yet sadly, this is not generally the case in modern Christianity. Certainly, the hundreds of denominations today can often be blamed for doctrinal deviations among believers. Yet, this is not always the case. Schisms (yes, even among Baptists) often occur because of a lack of patience with one another.

Every issue of our faith is not a first tier issue. I know this statement is sometimes opposed. However, Biblically it is a fact. The Gospel is THE first tier issue. A departure from the Gospel is considered to be apostasy worthy of excommunication. Nothing is more important than the truth of the Gospel. To put anything on the level of how God saves sinners is simply to misunderstand the theme of Scripture. Warning after warning after warning is issued in the Bible warning the readers not to depart from the Gospel. Certainly, error is error and we should fight for the truth wherever and whenever the Bible speaks.

Some 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tier issues may limit our fellowship with other believers. But let us not put anything on the same level with the Gospel. As Paul writes to the saints at Rome, he clearly is answering questions in regard of dietary laws or holy days. In our society, we'd often demand an answer over such things and "stand our ground" firmly when our position is opposed. Oddly enough, Paul told his readers, "Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind" (**Romans 14:5**). Paul is actually encouraging liberty in this passage on "lesser" issues where we have a difference of opinion. Though the Book of Romans is full of strong language surrounding the Gospel, Paul's approach to some other matters is one of liberty. We can only learn to give liberty when we learn patience. Being impatient with others brews division.

When we learn patience, we may find peace among ourselves. Now make note – I am not in any way saying we can compromise on clear truths of God's Word. If that's the idea the reader is getting, he is missing the point. Where the Bible is clear, we stand firm. However, we must do so in a peaceful way. In contrast to the legalists of His day, Jesus described His followers by saying, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons-of-God" (**Matthew 5:9**). If social media is the gauge, there isn't much "peace-making" within Christianity today. We can disagree without being constantly on attack mode. Even Paul's instruction to Timothy included clear direction to be patient with those he preached to – "I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2

**Timothy 4:1-2**). Essentially, Paul instructs Timothy to preach the Bible (plug for expository preaching here). He is to do this whenever and wherever God opens a door. He is to do this whether the hearers agree with the Bible or not. But he is to do it in a way that shows forth the fruit of "patience". In fact, Paul emphasizes patience so strongly here that it is rendered "complete patience" by the translators. Patient teaching is peaceful. And the Spirit's fruit of peace results in patient teaching. You truly cannot separate the two.

Every child of God...every blood bought elect...is so loved by God that He gave His own Son to face crucifixion by an angry mob to redeem them. Ultimately, the Father poured out His wrath on His own Child to pay the sin debt of every one He had chosen. Many of these don't agree with us completely over every doctrinal matter. Many of these aren't Baptists. Many of us were blessed enough to hear solid Biblical teaching from the crib up. Many others have never so much as heard of the doctrines of grace. Does that mean we are more loved by the Father than those outside our ranks? Absolutely not! They were as "foreknown" by God as we were (**Romans 8:29-30**). They were redeemed the same way we were. They are as much a member of God's family as we are. They are as assured glorification as we are! Let us share the truths of God's Word with them patiently in hopes that we can win them to it. If we are merely trying to prove we are right and they are wrong, we have missed the point. That is far from being a peacemaker. I've heard more sermons that merely tickled the ears of the congregation than I'd like to admit – that is, sermons that patted the congregation on the back for being far better than everybody else. It would be best if we stopped preaching to those that weren't present in our assemblies and started preaching to those that are. Such preaching will conform God's people to His Word. This will include the fruit of peace and patience.

Child of God, you are called to a higher standard than the world. America may be a country where debate is allowed and perhaps even encouraged. If the news media knows anything of our society, division sells. And certainly, exercising your rights as an American citizen is allowed as long as it is done in accordance with the doctrine taught in God's Word and with the attitude outlined for us in God's Word. However, we must not allow the attitudes often shown forth in our country to so influence us that we are divisive in our churches. Preach grace – but preach it gracefully. Preach the truth – but preach it with peace and patience.



# “Patience; Boy Do We Need It and More of It!”

by Bro. Donnie Burford

Patience involves not only learning to put up with others, but also learning to restrain and deal with ourselves. It can only be done through Grace. Practicing Grace towards others, especially when they don't deserve it and Seeking Grace to keep our wick from being lit so we don't explode as we do!

Hebrews 12:1-3; "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds."

Psalm 37:7-9; "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth"

James 1:3-4; "Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Ecclesiastes 7:8-9; "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools."

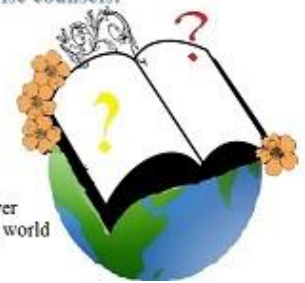
Ephesians 4:1-2; "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering (Patience), forbearing one another in love;

Romans 5:3-5; "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

## The Forum

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

~ Proverbs 1:5



Questions and Answers to help the believer  
make sense of our sin filled & confusing world

### *Peace, Stubbornness, Patience*

**How do we demonstrate the fruit of peace in a world that is always at war, with itself, with us, and with God?**

**Bro. Raul Enyedi** (*Pastor of Adunarea baptista "Harul suveran"*

*[Sovereign Grace Baptist Assembly], Bocsca, Romania*): War and conflict are results of Satan's rebellion and, later, the fall of Adam. In the garden, before the fall, there was a perfect harmony between God and man, between Adam and Eve and between them and the rest of creation. That harmony was lost upon their disobedience and the whole world was thrown into chaos and conflict. But the Prince of Peace came, Lord Jesus that will restore the initial peace in the world. He reconciled us with the Father, and we are no more His enemies. Our Lord put a stop to our rebellion against God and gave us His Spirit, who works peace in our hearts. He cleanses our conscience so that we have peace with ourselves. He pours His love in our hearts, in such a way that we can love our neighbors, and even our enemies.

The peace from God is not affected by outward circumstances. We can have peace in the midst of trials. Why? Because God is sovereign, He is in control of the situation. The more we understand that every little thing that comes our way is worked by God for our good and His glory, the less will circumstances be able to rob us of our peace. Peace exists only when the believer has close communion with the Lord. When we drift apart from Him, we leave the secure area and find ourselves surrounded by darkness, dangers and doubt. When this happens, we always lose our peace. When we return to Him and trust Him with our lives, we will have peace no matter what the outward circumstances may be. We have to show others the peace, the tranquility produced by the Spirit in the midst of trials and adversities.

In a world scarred by continuous wars and conflicts, we should stand out as people who can live in peace with others. First, we should learn to exercise godly love in all our relationships, starting with our families and churches. Who would believe that we are followers of the Prince of peace if among us is hatred, strife, contention, rivalry and division? We have to learn to

discipline and censure our flesh, our sinful nature before we can manifest peace to others. Before a useful plant can bring forth fruit, the weeds around it must be suppressed. The works of the flesh must be dealt with before we can enjoy abundant fruit of the Spirit. And this is a daily exercise.

We will face various situations in which we will either fuel a conflict or quench it. Some practical general advices that will help us remain peaceful and peacemaking: don't focus just on yourself, don't seek revenge or to necessarily prove that you are right, don't rally people against some one that is wrong or offended you, and eradicate gossip from your life. Instead, be patient and ready to rather suffer personal loss than prolong a conflict. Be ready to forgive and give second chances. And always keep a communication channel open. Don't wait for the offender to come to you, but be always ready to initiate reconciliation, even though you are the offended one.

And remember that the fruit of peace does not stand alone. The fruit of peace is associated with the rest of the virtues that form "the fruit of the Spirit". Fight against the works of the flesh and cultivate all the virtues of the Spirit, and their effects will increase in your life, they will bear abundant fruit.

**Bro. Jeff Short (Pastor of Charleston Baptist Congregation in Charleston, WV):** First, we have to have peace with God, which comes only through being justified by faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). Then we do everything by prayer and God's peace will keep our hearts and minds in his peace (Philippians 4:6-9). God's peace goes with us. Second, we live in and by God's peace, which has a few different implications for our lives. (1) We are to be peace-makers in our homes, businesses, communities, and churches (Matthew 5:9). (2) We should especially strive for peace in the church body with our brothers and sisters (1 Thessalonians 5:13). When we are strife in the church body, we ask send a confusing message about the Gospel to those that are without (Colossians 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:12; 1 Timothy 3:7). (3) Concerning unbelievers, we are to strive to live peaceably with them (Romans 12:18). (4) We are to respect and earnestly pray for our governmental leaders that we may live peaceable lives (1 Timothy 2:1-2). (5) We must be willing to not return evil for evil and to seek peace (1 Peter 3:8-11).

**What are the differences between being stubborn and being long-suffering?**

**Bro. Raul Enyedi:** I am not sure I can give a detailed difference between the two. While both adjectives have something to do with perseverance, stubbornness is more an unreasonable determination not to yield or give up. In many cases, stubbornness is something negative, because the stubborn one will not listen to others or to reason. While we should be determined and unyielding when it comes to moral principles or

to God's Word, we should always be open to correction and teaching.

Long suffering is the quality of being slow tempered and is the opposite of being wrathful or throwing fits of anger, which is a work of the flesh (Gal. 5:20). Long suffering is an attribute of God (Rom. 9:22; 1 Pet. 3:20) and is the fruit of the Spirit, which conforms our character with the Lord's (Gal. 5:22). Long suffering has more to do with forbearing persons than circumstances. A long suffering person is not quick to anger, or to exercise revenge upon enemies. And regarding friends, such a person will not end relationships easily, but will show patience, love, and forgiveness even to those that are hard to bear. May the Lord give us abundance of His fruit in our lives!

**Bro. Jeff Short:** I don't think I've ever considered stubbornness and longsuffering as being alike. If they are, it would have to be as stubbornness considered in a good sense, i.e. perseverance, endurance, stick-to-it-iveness. Stubbornness in the negative sense is obstinance and insolence. This is a chief characteristic of a fool as noted in such proverbs as Proverbs 1:7; 10:8; 12:15; 15:5; & 27:22. Longsuffering is virtue of bearing up under affliction and maltreatment for the cause of Christ (1 Peter 3:14). I suppose it would be stubbornness of a sort to bear up under the weight of one's follies, but there is no glory in it (1 Peter 2:20).

## HOME BAPTIST CHURCH

### ANNUAL BIBLE

### CONFERENCE

was held April 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> There where 14 messages, each delivered by a different preacher. You may listen to these sermons

online by going to the Home Baptist

Church's [website](#)

<http://www.homebaptistchurch.org/>, [clicking](#)

[here](#), or going here

<http://www.homebaptistchurch.org/Pages/Conferences/2017Conf.html>



## *“Attempting to Make Goats Act Like Sheep”*

by Bro. Curtis Pugh

If it were not so sad it would be amusing to read and hear preachers and others trying to get spiritual goats to act like spiritual sheep. It seems that some people think that everyone that ever “made a decision for Christ,” or “prayed the sinner’s prayer,” or “got baptized,” etc., are saved in spite of the way they live. Because of this idea again and again we read and hear religious leaders hammering away trying to get lost people to act like Christians.

It seems clear that they think that there are genuine Christians who continue to live exactly like the world. Nothing could be further from the truth! Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me,” (John 10:27), but these folk say that Jesus’ sheep do not follow Him. Jesus said, “For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit,” (Luke 6:43), but these folk say that a good tree brings forth rotten fruit: i.e. that a true child of God can live an immoral life. Jesus said, “Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them,” (Matthew 7:20), but these folk seem to think that true Christians do not necessarily produce good fruit.

It is unpopular today to believe the Bible although many give lip service to it. Paul wrote: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new,” (2 Corinthians 5:17), but some folk, it seems, believe that a born again individual will not experience what it means to be a new creation in Christ. Hebrews 12:14 says: “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord,” but it seems some think it possible to go to be with the Lord without any holiness.

It is true that spiritual goats act like goats. They think like goats, love the things of this world, dress like goats, seek after goat-pleasures, indulge in goat-excesses, etc. In short they acted like goats before they “made a decision” or “prayed the sinner’s prayer,” or whatever they did having been told by false teachers that their act would cause them to be born again. They do not understand that the new birth is a matter of God’s intervention in their lives and has nothing to do with their wills for God says of those born again, “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God,” (John 1:13). In spite of these clear words, “Not of works, lest any man should boast,” (Ephesians 2:9) the natural mind reasons that it is possible to do something which will get God to save a sinner. So it is that some goats are obviously goats while other goats make a pretense at being religious, claiming to be spiritual sheep. But you cannot make a goat into a sheep.

## *“Real Peace”*

by Bro. Todd Bryant

*“There is no peace,”* says the Lord, *“for the wicked.”* - **Isaiah 48:22**

There is but one place to find real peace. There are not many ways, as some wrongly suppose. True peace is found in the person of Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death for our sins. Paul said, *“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (**Romans 5:1**). The moment we trust Christ, we are reconciled to God. Prior to that time, we were *“dead in our trespasses and sins”* (**Ephesians 2:1**) and had *“no hope and without God in the world”* (**Ephesians 2:12**). In regeneration, God immediately draws us to Christ and gives us this peace which the world does not comprehend.

Sin is often pleasurable. That’s where the temptation lays. James says, *“But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death”* (**James 1:14-15**). Sin can be tempting. As believers, we have the Holy Spirit warring against the flesh. The world does not have this. Thank the Lord for His Holy Spirit that leads us and guides us!

It should be pointed out that the sin of the world is temporary. Moses chose *“...to suffer affliction with the people of God”* rather *“than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin”* (**Hebrews 11:25**). Moses understood that the pleasures of sin are *“passing”*. Can we not see this? Does not the drug addict have to repeatedly return to drugs to get high? Does the alcoholic not have to repeatedly abuse alcohol to find this temporary pleasure? Is this not the case with every human addiction? None of them produce real peace. The peace (or rather pleasure) which is produced by sin is temporary, at best.

As James pointed out, the ultimate end of sin is death. We know that Paul said, *“...the wages of sin is death”* (**Romans 6:23**). Yet, we often forget this truth when temptation is dangled in front of us. So, not only is sin temporary; not only can it not give real peace; but sin ends in death! Oh, how our text verse must ever ring out true – *“There is no peace,”* says the Lord, *“for the wicked”* (**Isaiah 48:22**). The wicked may enjoy a little temporary pleasure. But, it is not real peace. It is not God-given peace.

Child of God, pause today and thank the Lord that His Spirit guides you and wars against your flesh! Thank Him today that He has shown you the Way of real peace! Thank Him that you *“have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (**Romans 5:1**).



## ***Virginia Supreme Court Protect 1st Amendment Rights of Judges!***

Rutherford Institute & ACLU Urge Virginia Supreme Court to Protect the First Amendment Rights of Judges to Speak About Matters of Public Concern

**Press release Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2017** — RICHMOND, Va. — The Rutherford Institute and the American Civil Liberties Union have asked the Virginia Supreme Court to protect the First Amendment rights of judges to educate the public about apolitical matters relating to the administration of justice. In an amicus brief filed with the court, Rutherford Institute and ACLU attorneys argued that Judges Rudolph Bumgardner III and Humes J. Franklin, Jr., did not violate an ethics rule forbidding judges from engaging in certain “political activity” when they spoke publicly about the problems that would result if the Augusta County Courthouse was moved to Verona, Virginia.

Attorney Rodney A. Smolla of Delaware assisted The Rutherford Institute and the ACLU in arguing that the judges’ activities constituted core political speech protected by the First Amendment.

“We are witnessing a transformation of the courts into pallid, legalistic bureaucracies governed by a new breed of judges who are careful to refrain from saying, doing or writing anything that might compromise their future ambitions,” said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute and author of [\*Battlefield America: The War on the American People\*](#). “Given the turbulence of our age, what we really need are constitutionalist judges who are not afraid to speak out about the importance issues of the day. For instance, Justice William O. Douglas, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court for 36 years, believed that the ‘Constitution is not neutral. It was designed to take the government off the backs of the people.’”

In June 2016, it was determined that the voters of Augusta County, Virginia, should decide at the November general election whether it should move its courthouse, at an estimated cost of \$45 million, from Staunton to Verona. Judge Bumgardner, who was a Circuit Court Judge in Augusta County for 25 years before serving on the Virginia Court of Appeals, and Judge Franklin, who was a Circuit Court Judge in Augusta County from 1997 until 2012, each had substantial experience with the benefits of the courthouse being located in Staunton and wanted to make sure the public made an informed decision on the question of whether the courthouse should be moved. The judges were asked by the Augusta Citizens Coalition, an *ad hoc* group of community members who were opposed to moving the County courthouse, to provide voters with their unique perspective and knowledge on the issue. The judges attended public forums, including a town hall meeting and a county fair, where information was disseminated and competing views on the move of the courthouse were discussed. The judges also wrote an opinion piece that was published by local media outlets pointing out that no facility study of the proposed move had been completed, that having the county and City of Staunton courts in the same facility was more efficient for the public and attorneys,

and moving the courthouse would increase the cost of legal proceedings and services. However, the judges did not urge voters to vote one way or another on the move, but stressed that the citizens have the power to make that decision. Just before county constituents voted to move the courthouse, a county supervisor filed an ethics complaint against the judges alleging that they violated a state rule requiring judges to refrain from “political activity inappropriate to the judicial office,” except on “measures to improve the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.”

The Rutherford Institute has made a PDF of their letter to the Virginia Supreme Court available to read on their website [click here](#) or type in the address on your computer: [http://rutherford.org/files\\_images/general/04-21-2017\\_Bumgardner\\_Amicus-Brief.pdf](http://rutherford.org/files_images/general/04-21-2017_Bumgardner_Amicus-Brief.pdf)

## **ORDER LIST: 581 U.S**

Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 the Supreme Court published the PDF of “ORDER LIST: 581 U.S.” This document is a long list of the courts opinions on why they will or will not hear a case. It is quite long and maybe tedious to read but you may do so [here](#) [https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/042417zor\\_c1o2.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/042417zor_c1o2.pdf)

## ***Attorney General's Plan to Cease Justice Dept. Oversight of Police***

Rutherford Institute Denounces Attorney General's Plan to Further Police Militarization, Cease Justice Dept. Oversight of Police Misconduct

**Press release Thursday April 20, 2017** — WASHINGTON, DC — Denouncing a plan by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions to increase the flow of military equipment to police and have the Justice Department cease its oversight of police misconduct, The Rutherford Institute warned that if the federal government persists in its pursuit of policies that ignore systemic problems within local law enforcement agencies at the expense of the safety and constitutional rights of the American people, “we the people” will all suffer. In a letter to the Attorney General, constitutional attorney John W. Whitehead urged Sessions to align the Justice Department’s priorities with that of the Constitution and, in doing so, not only protect the civil rights of citizens against abuse of power by state and local law enforcement but also “help police departments get better” by holding them fully accountable to the rule of law.

“Far from being isolated or anecdotal as the Attorney General has claimed, incidents of excessive force and police misconduct have become so prevalent as to jeopardize the integrity of all of the nation’s law enforcement agencies,” said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute-. “If the federal government continues to sanction systemic police misconduct while escalating the militarization of civil law enforcement agencies, it risks devolving the nation even further toward a police state that imperils the liberty and safety of the American people.”

Federal law gives the U.S. Attorney General the authority to bring a lawsuit to prevent state and local law enforcement agencies from engaging in a pattern or practice of violating the constitutional rights of persons. The Justice Department has used this authority to investigate and sue several cities and their police departments, including Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri, which had repeatedly and regularly violated the civil rights of citizens by using deadly force, conducting illegal arrests and searches, and retaliating against persons for exercising their right to free speech. These lawsuits resulted in consent decrees between the Justice Department and local governments in which the local government agreed to submit to federal oversight of its policing and to make reforms to their police departments in order to stop the systemic abuse of citizens by police officers.

However, after being appointed to the office of Attorney General by President Trump, Jeff Sessions announced that the Justice Department would conduct a sweeping review of these consent decrees, signaling a retreat of the federal government from its commitment to protect citizens from civil rights violations by police officers. At the same time, legislation has been introduced in Congress to step up the provision of surplus military weapons to local governments under the “1033 Program,” removing limits placed on the program by President Obama.

In refuting Sessions’ claim that federal oversight of local police unfairly impugns officers by focusing on “the individual misdeeds of bad actors,” Whitehead makes clear that the facts do not bear out the claim that police civil rights violations are isolated or anecdotal. Indeed, police abuse of authority and power is not limited to a few areas of the country, but occurs regularly throughout the United States as a result of SWAT team raids gone awry, misguided knock-and-talk policing tactics, police officers who shoot first and ask questions later, battlefield equipment that is ill suited for domestic law enforcement purposes, and systemic deficiencies in training structures and police accountability.

The Rutherford Institute has made a PDF of their letter to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions available to read on their website [click here](#) or type in the address on your computer: [http://rutherford.org/files\\_images/general/04-19-17\\_Sessions\\_Policing.pdf](http://rutherford.org/files_images/general/04-19-17_Sessions_Policing.pdf)

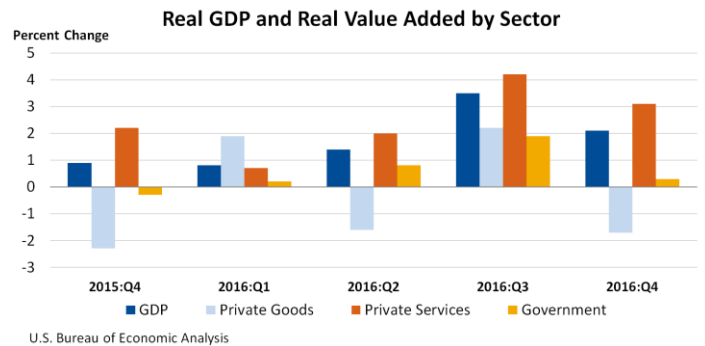


## State of the economy in the final quarter of 2016

Friday, April 21, 2017 BEA (Bureau of Economic Analysis) published their report “Gross Domestic Product by Industry: Fourth Quarter and Annual 2016” with the heading of “Finance and Insurance Led Growth in the Fourth Quarter”

High lights:

- For the finance and insurance industry group, real value added—a measure of an industry’s contribution to GDP—increased 6.3 percent in the fourth quarter, after increasing 9.0 percent in the third quarter. The fourth quarter growth primarily reflected increases in Federal Reserve banks, credit intermediation, and related activities, as well as insurance carriers and related activities.
- Retail trade increased 5.7 percent, after increasing 2.6 percent. The fourth quarter growth primarily reflected an increase in other retail, which includes gasoline stations, as well as building material and garden equipment and supplies stores.
- Professional, scientific, and technical services increased 3.6 percent, after increasing 2.6 percent. This was the eleventh consecutive quarter of growth and primarily reflected increases in miscellaneous professional, scientific, and technical services, which includes industries like architectural and engineering services; scientific research and development services; and management consulting services.



Read their report by [clicking here](#) or typing in <https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/industry/gdpindustry/gdpindustryrelease.htm>

Next release — July 21, 2017 at 8:30 A.M. EDT for: Gross Domestic Product by Industry: First Quarter 2017



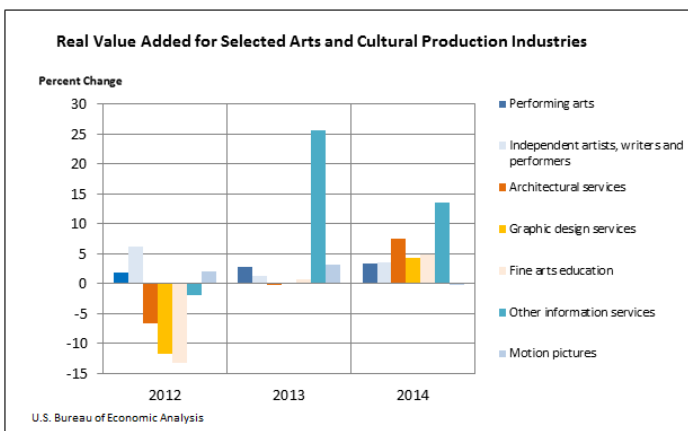
## Arts and Culture Grow for Third Straight Year – From BEA

Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Bureau of Economic Analysis released their report on Arts & Culture which reflects data from 2012-2014.

“Arts and cultural economic activity nationwide grew an inflation-adjusted 1.9 percent in 2014, according to new statistics released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis. That compares with a 2.4 percent increase in real value added from all arts and culture industries for 2013 (table 1). Arts and cultural economic activity accounted for 4.2 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), or \$729.6 billion, in 2014 (table 2).

For the first time, the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account includes state-level estimates of employment and compensation.

Information services and design services were the leading contributors to the nationwide growth in 2014. Core arts and cultural production industries, including performing arts, design services, fine arts education and education services, grew 3.2 percent. Supporting arts and cultural production industries, including art support services and information services, increased 1.6 percent.”



Read their full report [here](https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/general/acpsa/acpsanewsrelease.htm):  
<https://www.bea.gov/newsreleases/general/acpsa/acpsanewsrelease.htm>

## Views From Canada

Of old hast thou  
laid the foundation  
of the earth: and  
the heavens are the  
work of thy hands.  
Psalms 102:25

with Sis. Grace Brooks



## Life & Death in Canada

*This article was published in an earlier issue of Baptists for Liberty (Issue #29 March/April 2015) under the title “Canada- Brace yourself for Perilous Times”. We felt it merited publishing again with a few additions and edits to reflect the current state of affairs. At the end of the article, there is a link to recent news report from Life News about what's happening regarding assisted suicide in Canada.*

"I will be prime minister for all Canadians," Prime Minister Justine Trudeau told a crowd after winning the historical majority Liberal vote. (He assumed office on November 4, 2015) He vowed to unite Canada and embrace our diversity. Prime Minister Trudeau is a leader that started out listening to Canadians. I don't follow politics much, but during the election campaign, I felt Justin Trudeau to be a bit of a smooth talker and his promises way too big to be true.

### On abortion

He is a pro-choice. "It is not for the government to legislate what a woman can do with her body," he said. The Liberal party voted against limits on abortion. He lost his cool when the government voted on abortion.

Our prime minister manhandled, and swore, at one member who was slow at getting to his seat. Trudeau was anxious to get the abortion vote underway. He also elbowed another member of Parliament. New Democratic Peter Julian described the prime minister's action inappropriate for the one holding the highest position in Canada.

The liberal government does its best to use its majority to unite debate on assisted dying (euthanasia). At 42 years of age, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau knows how to get what he wants. He's legalized assisted dying.

In early 2015 Canada's majority-Conservative government, led by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, stood firmly against the euthanasia of the elderly and physician-assisted suicide. Parliament voted 228-59 against a private bill to permit the

euthanasia of handicapped elderly. Despite all this Canada is expected to pass a bill and legalize assisted suicide and abortion.

Yet on February 6, 2015 the Supreme Court of Canada said they find such rulings to violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom, therefore charged the Federal government with drafting a law to permit the practice.

In Canada the Campaign Life Coalition is the largest pro-life organization. Its main function is to help the unborn, speak for those that can't speak for themselves in other words. This includes lobbying against stem cell research, and other scientific practices supposed to be for the good of the citizens of this country, such as killing babies at the earliest stages of life.

In 1969 for a woman to get an abortion, she had to go before a panel of three physicians. Then she had to find a physician willing to carry out her wish to abort.

Only nine years later in 1988, The Supreme Court of Canada threw out this section of the Criminal Code their reason being that these "safeguards" violated the Canadian Charter of Rights. The unborn are left without protection. In Canada there's publicly funded abortions-for any reason. At one time the only reason for abortion was rape, or incest or the pregnancy somehow threatened the life of the mother.

The conscience rights of the physicians who object to abortion and other procedures they feel sick to the stomach at, are under attack in most provinces. In Ontario the pressure is deeply disturbing.

Many Canadians greet this ruling with great joy.

PSALMS 127:3 "lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward."

God gave us children to enjoy, to raise properly in a home environment- not to murder before they even see the light of day. The animal kingdom show more affection for their young than that.

We, as Christians, read our Bibles and are warned by Jesus that times like this would arrive. We can see these signs now concerning the sad state of affairs in our country. Hospitals and Doctors don't come close to meeting the standards of compassionate medical care. Murder is on the minds of those in high places and Doctors have become The Agents Of Death. Do you trust your Doctor?

MATTHEW 24:21 "FOR THEN SHALL BE GREAT TRIBULATION, SUCH AS WAS NOT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TO THIS TIME, NO, NOR EVER SHALL BE."

LUKE 21:28 "AND WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH."

Is there anything our leader, Prime Minister Steven Harper, can do? Can the Supreme Court of Canada overrule the Prime Minister?

#### **Parliament can:**

- 1.) Evoke Section 33 of the Charter of rights and Freedom.
- 2.) Pass new legislation governing physician assisted suicide.
- 3.) Do nothing.

#### **What is this Supreme Court Of Canada?**

This Supreme Court Of Canada has the final say in Canadian law. As it is the last court to appeal to, it is the final say of all litigants. It embraces both the civil law of Quebec and the common law of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and the territories.

#### **MORE READING ON THIS SUBJECT:**

[CANADA'S SUPREME RULING TURNS DOCTORS INTO "AGENTS OF DEATH"](https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/supreme-courts-assisted-suicide-ruling-turns-doctors-into-agents-of-death-t).

<https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/supreme-courts-assisted-suicide-ruling-turns-doctors-into-agents-of-death-t>

[CANADIAN PM SLAIN "ACTIVISTS" FOR FORCING ASSISTED suicide ON THE NATION.](http://www.lifenews.com/2014/07/04/euthanasia-activists-push-assisted-suicide-for-everyone-not-just-the-old-or-ill/)

<http://www.lifenews.com/2014/07/04/euthanasia-activists-push-assisted-suicide-for-everyone-not-just-the-old-or-ill/>

[LEGALLING ASSISTED SUICIDE IS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CANADA'S MOST VULNERABLE.](http://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/legallizing-assisted-suicide-results-in-discrimination-against-canadas-most-vulnerable)

<http://www.lifesitenews.com/opinion/legallizing-assisted-suicide-results-in-discrimination-against-canadas-most-vulnerable>

Brace yourselves Canadians for turbulent times ahead. We can recognize this by the signs Jesus gave his elect while still with His church on this earth.

What are we as Christians to do? Keep our feet firmly on the rock, Jesus, and steep ourselves in God's word. It may be possible to kill the body but our souls go right through to heaven-for eternity. This is merely a passing wave in God's plan.

Second Thessalonians 2:2 "That ye be not soon shaken in mind or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter, as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand."

\* [Canadian Doctors Are Refusing to Kill Their Patients in Assisted Suicides](http://www.lifenews.com/2017/03/15/canadian-doctors-are-refusing-to-kill-their-patients-in-assisted-suicides/)

<http://www.lifenews.com/2017/03/15/canadian-doctors-are-refusing-to-kill-their-patients-in-assisted-suicides/>



## In Health

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. ~ III John 1:2

with Bro. John Fry D.C.



### Lawn Mower Injuries

If you are like most, you probably have already made a number of passes on your yard with a lawn mower this year. It seems like the grass needs mowed twice a week right now to keep up. During this time of year, I always see an increase in low back injuries that occur around the home. Many of these are caused from back strains from using mowers and weed eaters.

As everyone knows, mowers can be dangerous. Emergency rooms treat about 80,000 people a year due to lawn mower injuries according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission. Out of the 80,000 treated, most are men and about 9,000 injuries occur in children and teenagers. Most of these injuries are preventable.

The most common injuries to occur from mowers are typically cuts, burns, and broken bones. Many of these injuries occur to innocent bystanders who are struck by flying debris. Children may also be injured by touching hot motor parts.

The most common areas for injury are typically the hands, legs and feet/toes. These areas are followed closely by eye injuries. Most amputation injuries occur to the feet/toes or hands/fingers.

Since these studies were primarily derived from ER visits that need quick emergency treatment, there is not much mention of low back pain. However, after many years of experience in chiropractic, I know I can count on new patients every month during mowing season. The fact can't be avoided, mowing can be hard work!

Some of my more regular patients will mention they plan on mowing later after an adjustment and will tell not to worry because they have a rider. The thought is that if they are sitting, they can't hurt their back. That seems like a logical conclusion, but is one that is entirely false.

When riding a lawn mower, the spine is under constant vibration and stress and typically the individual riding it hits a few unsuspected holes along the way that jar the back and neck. This will often cause a back that is already hurting worse or flare up a condition that is prone to re-injury. Using ice for 20-30 minutes immediately after mowing might help.

Because of this, you might be surprised to know, I often

recommend for patients that are able and have smaller to midsize yards to use a self-propelled mower. The walking is good for you and there is no getting knocked all around. Just be careful starting it as we do see a lot of shoulder injuries from pull starts!

If there is one piece of lawn machinery though that tops them all for injuries it is the weed eater. Not only do you have a pull start and flying debris all over, now you add a swinging motion that rotates the lower back over and over. This repetitive motion often irritates the facet joints of the lower back that can cause low back pain that radiates into the hips. Heavier weed eaters with straps can also lead to neck strain.

Lawn care is a must this time of year and all that comes with it. If you do start to develop back pain after mowing, either immediately or more often than not, the next day, consider chiropractic care. Typically these types of injuries heal fast with proper care.

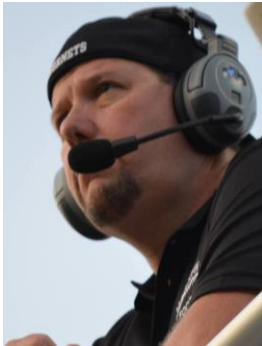
If you have any questions or comments that you would like me to address in a future article, please do not hesitate to contact me on Facebook or call me at 304-522-7246. Until next time, I pray that you might be in health.



## Bible Jocks

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

1 Corinthians 9:24



### Patiently Pacing

by Bro. Mark D. Campbell

The Bible is full of running analogies. The one thing about always being short and fat is that I always hated running. Since I hated to run, I can still feel that pain in my side, I never fully

understood the running analogies in the Scripture. In this article, I want to try to expand on the analogy of running with patience.

Your first question might be; “Mark, if you hate to run, how can you expand upon the running analogies?” Well, you might recognize I used the past tense for hate when I stated I hated to run. Actually, I now love to run! Oh, I’m still short and fat, but the pain I used to get in my side is long gone. Without going into too great of detail about why I run and how I got started; let me just say that a family history of heart trouble has encouraged me.

So, what about running with patience? Hebrews 12:1,2 has many lessons to teach concerning running with patience. Today, I only want to focus on running the race set before you with patience. I thought I knew the analogy. I thought I knew what it meant to run with patience, until I started running. Let me see if I can share with you my experience to help you understand a little more about this analogy.

First, let’s focus on the race set before us. It has been my experience that runners never just run. They always have a goal in mind. They either set out to run a certain distance, or a certain amount of time. Either way, they have a goal. Most runners also are always trying to push that goal farther or faster. They always have a “race set before” them.

So, how does patience fit into the analogy? When I started running, I had a goal of being able to run a 5k (3.1 miles). When I first started, I could barely run ½ mile. Slowly, I worked to be able to run that 5k. I ran that for a while and then started stretching my mileage. I wanted to run a 10k. SHEW! 6.2 miles for a fatboy like me? I started pushing myself to attempt to reach

that goal. I would start out great, but after a couple of miles I would become exhausted. It was at this point, I had to learn to push through difficulties if I was going to reach my goal. Then, I learned about pacing, or running with patience.

A friend of mine explained that when runners attempt to run several miles, they need to learn to set a pace. Actually, you want your first mile to be your slowest, you want to conserve energy. Then, at the end of the race, you will have the energy to finish the race strong. In actuality, in order to properly pace yourself, you must hold yourself back at the first. You must put forth a conscience effort to conserve energy so you can finish well.

So, what is the writer of Hebrews teaching us? I wish I had enough space in this article to talk about laying aside weight. I would talk about my thoughts while I was running. I would think, if I didn’t like to eat so much, if I wasn’t so fat; my running would be easier. But, I don’t have the space in this article to get into that.

Here’s what I think we can learn from the analogy. First, you have a race set before you. Think about what your race is. What is your goal for your walk with Christ? What is God’s goal for you? Many people may feel unfulfilled in their Christian life because they have no goal. Then, since they have no goal, they never get a sense of achievement. Maybe sometimes they give up striving because they have nothing for which to strive.

Second, run that race with patience. Recognize it takes patience to run. Remember, you will face difficulties, stumbling blocks and injuries. You will face setbacks and a lack of desire. Don’t let any of these keep you from your goal. One thing I have found out when running is that the body is stronger than the mind. The mind will think it needs to quit, but the body still possesses energy. So, run with patience. Pace yourself. Hold yourself back if needed. Do not expend all your energy at the beginning and give up the fight. Run with patience so you will be able to endure. So you will be able to finish strong, shining a bright light unto God’s glory!

### The Peaceful and Long-suffering Sports Fan?

by Bro. Troy McGahan



What does Peace and Long suffering mean to a sports fan? Let me illustrate it like this.....as you know I am a UK fan in all sports. Especially Basketball and even more so in Football. Yes you read that right, as much as I enjoy UK Basketball. I love UK Football. For years UK has been a great basketball program that contends for Titles of some sort, football not so much. During Basketball season there is a peace that permeates the fans (at least until tournament time). In football season it starts off with

hope and optimism and most years it ends in a lesson in futility. You end up with another disappointing season. People ask me why do you hold out hope? Why do you keep cheering for them? All I have to do is look at last year's Cubs. For over 100 years they were an exercise in futility. No matter how promising they were they would find a way to lose. Until last season, they finally beat the odds. That's why I keep cheering for my boys in Blue. Because at the beginning of the season we have the same record as Bama, no losses (or wins but, you get the idea). I am optimistic that it will all work out. That's great as a Sport's fan but, how does this apply for the Child of God? As a Christian I am to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. The difference is as a Child of God the peace I have is not based on my circumstances rather it is most of the time in spite of my circumstances. As Paul wrote about this in the Galatian letter he was writing to people who were hated and mocked for being Christians. Notice how they Build on each other in Galatians 5:22 "Now the Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace and Long suffering...." Paul was telling them you start with Love (Love for God), then joy and joy is not based on happiness or happenings many times it is in spite of the circumstances. I have joy because I have Jesus, my sins are forgiven and heaven is my home even if I am living in a cardboard box under a bridge. Then we come to peace regardless of your circumstances we can have peace. A calm in our soul even when the waves around are swamping our boat of life. Then we build on peace with long suffering. We are to be Long suffering (patient) in spite of how we feel, or what is going on we move forward for the glory of God. Things are tough in this life but, my hope is not in having "my best life now". Dear Child of God don't get despondent, don't despair. Is life difficult at times? Yes!!! However, Let us trust the God of heaven and exhibit the peace and Long suffering we have because of him.



## “We Are Growing Trees”

by Bro. Jeff Short

Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. ~ [Matthew 13:32](#)

“You cannot grow a beard in a moment of passion.”

So said G. K. Chesterton in *Tremendous Trifles*. Dissent if you wish, but he was right.

Young men are often impetuous and young preachers particularly so. Their zeal is admirable but they are easily discouraged when they have not the whiskers to match the length of their vehemence. So they have to tarry at Jericho ([2 Samuel 10:5](#)), but that is time well spent if they learn the lesson.

Pastors are tasked with “perfecting the saints” ([Ephesians 4:11-12](#)). They are charged with a flock, which they must lead and feed so that they grow and mature. Growing things don’t typically grow in great leaps all in a moment. They grow slowly and consistently over time. If we are not paying attention, it might seem they grew overnight, but that is not the case.

Christians are compared to growing things in the Scriptures such as wheat. They are more often figured as trees—palms, myrtles, cedars, and willows. The maturing child of God is likened to a tree in Psalm 1. It takes time for trees to grow tall and strong.

There are no real short-cuts.

I once had a boss who liked to say, “The best time to plant an oak tree is twenty years ago. The next best time is today.” Growing up with mine reclamation has taught us that grass can be grown quickly. You can spray the hydroseed on the mountain side and have grass very quickly. I guess if you are interested in quick results, hydroseeding is the way to go. But, brothers, we are not growing grass. We are growing trees.

But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

~ [Psalm 1:2-3](#)

The maturing Christian is a tree with deep roots that drinks from the rivers of water. His leaves are green and he bears fruit in season. He grows through the Word of God and little by little he is stronger and taller. It takes time to grow trees and it takes time to grow saints. Patient plodding is the only way.

Young pastors are frequently discouraged because they overestimate what can be accomplished in one year and underestimate what can be accomplished in five or ten. Sometimes they erroneously conclude there is nothing more they can do and they must move on to somewhere else after a short while.

Take heart and have patience. We are growing trees. Trust in the Spirit to do His work and trust in the Word of God. Be committed to faithful exposition of the Word and know the Spirit will take the edge of that sharp sword precisely where it needs to go. Jonah’s gourd came up in a day, but it was also withered and gone the next. Desire fruit that will remain to the glory of God’s name.

## *“Resting In God's Providence”*

by Bro. Donnie Burford

Glad my Faith doesn't rest in People or Politics, but in God and His Providence. The Sovereign guidance and control over all things and that in accordance to His Divine purpose!

Yes, we are to live responsibly, but ever remembering that ultimately God has it all under His control!

Psalm 103:19; *"The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all."*

1 Chronicles 29:11; *"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O LORD, and You exalt Yourself as head over all."*

Psalm 37:1-3; *"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed"*

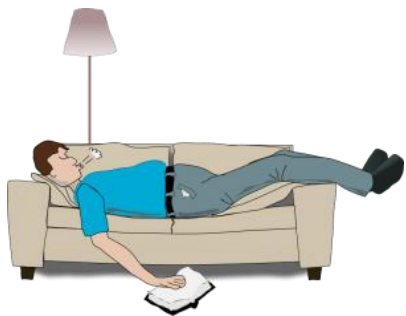
Daniel 4:35; *"And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?"*

Psalm 66:7; *"He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah."*

Matthew 6:26; *"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"*

Romans 8:28; *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose"*

Psalm 4:8; *"I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety."*



## *“Peace Through Faith”*

by Bro. Todd Bryant

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God” – Romans 5:1-2

Free grace! That must ever be the cry of Bible believing Christians. When we stand before God’s holy throne, our righteousness must ever be found in Christ alone – plus nothing. If you somehow believe you are working your way into fellowship with God or even keeping yourself in fellowship with God, you need to examine the Scriptures related to the ability of the flesh. Simply, we cannot be good enough to meet God’s righteous standard.

So God, in His infinite grace and mercy, chose to save some of Adam’s fallen race “by grace through faith”(Ephesians 2:8). The favor we receive from God is unmerited – that is the definition of grace. Even the faith we have is a gift from God, according to Ephesians 2:8. This faith is very important. We cannot limit the importance of it and remain true to the Scripture.

Our text verse today plainly says we are “justified by faith”. This is taught multiple times in God’s Holy Word. But one may ask, how does this harmonize with the clear fact that we are “justified by [Jesus’] blood” (Romans 5:9)? One thing we know for sure, these passages agree and any lack of harmony is in our understanding.

It seems that Ephesians Chapter 2 contains much information which would help clear up any misconception here. Due to the Fall, man and God are at odds. Man is naturally dead in his trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1). We all were disobedient from the moment we drew our first breath. Due to the Fall and the sin nature we inherited, we were rebels of the state, so to speak, with God being the State. As a result, we “were by nature children of wrath, just as the others” (Ephesians 2:3).

Therefore, while we were in an unbelieving state, we were enemies of God and running from Him. God, as the righteous State, looked on our sin with wrath. As the Righteous Judge, God’s wrath must be appeased or we will all suffer eternally in the Lake of Fire. There is no middle ground. There is no pardon under God’s standards. “Be holy for I am holy” is the only standard God can give (1 Peter 1:16). Yet, through Christ, God’s wrath towards us is appeased and His love, mercy and grace can flow to us in a righteous manner.

Yet naturally, we are still rebels. Full reconciliation has not been made. Certainly, God’s wrath has been appeased through



the work of Christ. Yet, we are still said to be “dead in [our] trespasses and sins” and even “children of wrath, just as the others”. Wonderfully, Ephesians 2:4 tells it all by the first two words –“But God...”. It goes on to tell us that God works out our salvation “...by grace through faith...” and even this faith “is a gift of God”. In this, full reconciliation is made. God’s wrath towards us is appeased and our wrath towards Him is. And beautifully, it is all His work.

Child of God, take a moment today and remember who you were before God’s grace drew you with chords of love to Christ. Thank Him today for reconciling you to Himself through the cross of Christ and the faith He gave you to trust Him.

## “Children Like Clean Cups and Platters”

by Bro. Jeff Short  
(Continued from front page)

Thou shalt not covet . . . any thing that is thy neighbor’s.  
– [Exodus 20:17](#)

Families have days where nothing seems to go right. We are getting ready to go somewhere and problems pop up at every turn. One kid is sick, another is tired, and maybe others have chosen this extremely inconvenient time to embody contrariness. We’ve barely begun and Mom has already had just about enough and is twitching and ticking like an animal shelter mutt with one eye.

We arrive at our destination looking like unmade beds and realize one kid’s hair didn’t get fixed, one has on two left shoes of different colors, and another is sporting a mucus mustache. It always somehow works out that at just such a time as this, *that family* shows up. You know the one with several children impeccably dressed as if heading to a photo shoot, who march in appropriate birth order at precisely one arm’s length, and always use appropriate manners and etiquette for whatever social situation they are in. They all smile with glistening teeth as though they have time to visit the dentist regularly. They never raise their voices above a polite conversational tone and you can only imagine they have mastered the control of their children by telepathy. That family.

They drill by us in West Point cadet fashion and each click of their perfectly polished patent leather shoes sounds out the cadence of our failures and varying emotions to our ears.

*Click*—bewilderment.

*Click*—embarrassment.

*Click*—frustration.

*Click*—anger.

*Click*—disappointment.

*Click*—bitterness.

*Click*—jealousy.

Whoa! Hold on to that last one—jealousy. Why can’t our kids be more like their kids?

Sometimes families see that family that seems to have it all together and either give up, because we will never be like that, or else they want to become that family or die trying. It can be discouraging and hopeless. If we’re not careful here, we can set up an idol we are bowing down to and serving. If there is a positive blessing that can come from the downfall of some well-known family ministries in recent years, I hope it is that we will stop idolizing “perfect” families. It is wise to learn from others, but let us learn with discernment and never try to impersonate others through blind copying. We really shouldn’t want to be like *that family*.

### All Photoshoped and Airbrushed

The picture you have in your mind of that perfect family is not true to reality. It’s all Photoshoped and airbrushed. You’ve mentally composed an image that’s always in just the right light. You are seeing them at their absolute best and comparing your family at its absolute worst. There are two obvious problems with this. First, it is not a fair comparison. Second, it is not a comparison that should be made in the first place. A perfect family is not the standard of measure and measuring ourselves against others is not wise ([2 Corinthians 10:12](#)). You should realize that you can’t possibly be like *that* because that family isn’t actually like *that* either. Families are a group of sinners varying in age, size, and gender, but all sinners all the same. There is no such thing as a “perfect” family.

### All that Glitters is Not Gold

You should also realize that while you’re looking at that family’s best, you’re not seeing their worst. You don’t know what their weaknesses are. They seem to do well in some areas, but no individual or family does

well in all areas all the time. You don’t see where they are failing. Beside this, there are some families who major on the public appearance. Their kids know where to stand, where to sit, and when to be quiet. Usually those kids are not being taught far more important things. It’s not always easy to tell the difference between a family that is doing well in some areas and a family that is putting up a front and a public fiction.

### Bridge Out Ahead!

You’ve probably heard the joke about the two men standing by the road holding signs. One sign read, “The end is near!” The other sign read, “Turn around before it’s too late!” A car passes by them and then they hear screeching tires and a splash. Another car passes while the driver shouts angrily at the men. The car goes out of sight and they hear more tire screeching and more splashing. A third car approaches and slows by the men so the

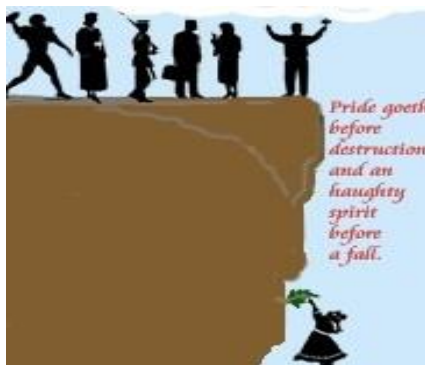


driver can read the signs. The driver then stomps on the gas, flinging rocks at them and then they hear the same screeching and splash. The first man looks at the second man and says, "Maybe we should hold up a sign that says, 'Bridge out ahead!'"

That joke works and illustrates two points germane to our topic—misperception and obscured vision. The passersby misinterpreted what they saw, thinking it was a couple of religious nuts trying to evangelize them. They also suffered from limited vision because at that point the drivers could not see around the bend that the bridge was out. Likewise, we need to realize that the picture we have of that perfect family is a snapshot capturing one moment in time. We have misperception problems because even in that one moment of time we are not seeing the whole picture. We are not perceiving their flaws. Our vision is also obscured because we are looking at one moment in time and we are not seeing the end result of that family. We are not seeing how they turned out. This problem of limited vision is one reason why Solomon teaches us not to be too hasty in declaring one way better than another because we cannot see the end ([Ecclesiastes 3:22](#); [6:11-12](#); [8:7](#)).

### Don't be Quick to Garnish Whited Tombs

Hopefully I have relieved some burdens by this point, but I hope to give further encouragement. I mentioned previously that we can learn from others and we can and should. However, we need to take heed from whom and what we are learning. In this case, we don't want to be like Rehoboam who rejected the counsel of his elders and betters and chose the counsel of his peers ([2 Chronicles 10:6-8](#)). The counsel of the gray-headed who have already done well at raising children to adulthood is far weightier than the example of the grand marshal and his parade of peacocks, no matter how well the peacocks can keep time with their steps.



If we are majoring on matters of public appearance, we probably have some pride issues we need to deal with. Jesus reserved his harshest rebukes for those who majored on outward appearances ([Matthew 23:5-12](#), [23-33](#)). One

sure-fire way to raise up a Pharisee is to follow the program of the Pharisees. We don't want to be or produce Pharisees. We need a sense of priority in what things are more important than others ([Luke 10:38-42](#)) that we not be giving undue attention to appearances. We should not be content to clean up our children like the outside of cups and platters. We should pray diligently for their salvation. We should always be quick to pray for and encourage other families. Let's stop comparing ourselves and being quick to criticize and condemn others. Let's be quick to put on humility. Parenting is hard and we need immeasurable grace to do it anywhere near well.

## "Tempting the Holy Spirit of God"

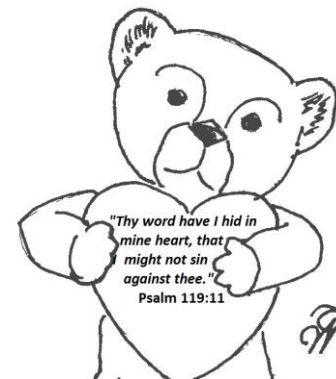
by Bro. M. J. Seymour, Sr.

It is written: "...Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart **to lie to the Holy Ghost**, ... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. ... Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together **to tempt the Spirit** of the Lord?" (Acts 5:3,4,9)

The word "tempt" as used in this passage means to put to test with an ill intent. When Ananias and Sapphira agreed to lie, their ill intent was to put to test the Holy Spirit of God. They set out to masquerade before the church of the Lord as being great because they had sacrificed much in their giving. The sum of money was not the issue, but lying to the Holy Spirit by pretense was the issue. They were putting to test the reality of God, the omniscience of God, and the swift judgment of God. They were putting to test the Holy Spirit of God with the ill intent to purposely deceive the pastor and the church.

There are many who attach themselves to a church for "just in case" reasons. They are not totally sure there is a God, but "just in case" they will step into the role. They do not believe He is really omniscient; or they think, "well, He will understand." Of course, since "He understands," His long-suffering will automatically grant endless opportunities for us to have second chances. Oh, let us not forget, "He is a God of great love; He would not harm anybody." Because they have yet to comprehend the reality of God, they press forward in their pretenses and lies, testing the Holy Spirit of God in the midst of His blood-bought church. Besides, no one will ever know.

With wicked hearts these pretenders conceive lies to cover up their evil tempting of the Holy Spirit. They may believe it is only a meager pretense before the church, but God considers it to be an outright lie to His face. God weighs it as an ill-intended test of His holiness, truthfulness, and righteousness. God purchased the church with His own blood and, thus, does not consider the masquerading as a small matter. God in His long-suffering may give a space of time for repentance, but He will not hold guiltless the unrepentant liars. Pretense in the house of God has an evil intent against its Master. God cannot and will not hold guiltless those that flaunt their masks in the midst of His church, because the intents of their hearts are fabricated and rooted in a lie. Pretense is an evil test of the holiness of God!



# Historical Marker: *The Massacre of St. Bartholomew*

by C. H. Spurgeon

From the April 1866 *Sword and Trowel*

NOT until the day of universal restitution will the infamous atrocity perpetrated on the eve of St. Bartholomew, 1572, by the Roman Catholics on the unoffending Huguenots or Protestants of France, cease to be remembered with the most intense horror. The coolness of the proceedings which instigated such a carnage, and the devilish passions which led Catholic nobles and statesmen to burst the bounds of humanity by heading the massacre, make the event unparalleled in the history of gigantic crimes. There, is no shadow of doubt as to who the originators of the plot were. The Roman Catholics had conceived the bitterest hatred to the Huguenots, and were determined that the land should be rid of them. Catherine de Medicis, whose furious enmity to Protestantism made her an admirable mover in the dreadful design, controlled her son, Charles IX. sufficiently to make him a mere puppet in her hands. Admiral Coligny, one of the most prominent advisers of the King of Navarre, who was then at the head of the Huguenots, was invited to attend the Parisian court. Coligny was the especial object of the Catholics' resentment, and an unsuccessful attempt was therefore made upon his life. The Queen-mother, finding that this part of her scheme had failed, represented to the king that the Huguenots were clamorous for revenge upon the nobles of the court for the attack upon Coligny. These representations had the effect of frightening the weak-minded king, who at once authorized the massacre of the offending Protestants.

Our illustration represents the first attack of the murderous Catholics in the streets of Paris. Charles IX. is in the act of giving the first signal by firing a gun from the window of his palace. Coligny with his household was murdered, and his body thrown out to the mob. Everywhere the cry was heard, "Kill every man of them! Kill the Huguenots!" The streets were reeking with the blood of men, women, and children. Not an individual suspected of a leaning towards the Reformed religion was suffered to escape. While this scene was going on, the Protestants of Lyons, Rouen, and other cities, fell victims to the savage fury of the Catholics. The massacre was carefully planned so as to break out at the same hour in various cities and in their suburbs. By some it is supposed that at least 100,000 persons suffered death. The estimate given by Sully at 70,000, has, however, been adopted. It is pretty certain that at least 10,000 were destroyed in Paris alone, and this estimate does not include the 500 who belonged to the higher orders. It is said that "the roads were rendered almost impassable, from the corpses of men, women, and children,—a new and appalling barricade."

The monstrous deed received the high approval of the Pope and his Cardinals, and thanks were impiously made to Heaven for the distinguished favor that had been rendered to the Church. The then head of the English Church by law established (Queen

Elizabeth) seemed to take the matter equally well; for we find her immediately afterwards receiving the French Ambassador, and accepting thankfully a love-letter from the Duke of Alençon; and, in a few months, standing at the font as godmother to the child of the murderous King of France.

By the side of these facts we ought to place a few computations which will show that the unexampled outrage on St. Bartholomew's Eve is only a part of a line of policy which the Church on the Seven Hills has carried out during the twelve hundred years of its existence. Mr. D. A. Doudney, the incumbent of Bedminster, near Bristol, recently mentioned at a public meeting that at least fifty millions have been put to death by the Romish Church. That estimate gives us the number of martyrs *annually* at 40,000, or more than 100 a day for the last twelve hundred years. Spain especially has had her share in the responsibility of this iniquity, for under forty-five Inquisition trials, between the years 1481 and 1808, 31,658 were burnt alive, 18,049 were burnt in effigy, and 225,214 were condemned to galleys or imprisonment. It must not be supposed that in consequence of the respectable appearance which Catholicism is now necessitated to put on that the nature of Popery is changed. It is, and from its organization must continue to be, ambitious of supremacy. Even the *Times*, which looks upon the proselytizing schemes of the Romanists with cynical indifference, believes that it is impossible not to recognize in the recent complaints of English priests and dignitaries "something of that perverse ambition which has always been the bane of Roman Catholicism. A purely religious power the Roman Catholic Church never has been, is not now, and it seems to have made up its mind that it never will be. Though it still embraces half Europe in its spiritual sway, it laments the loss of a few petty provinces in Italy with a bitterness far keener than that of the exiled dukes." That this ever-increasing ambition will not rest satisfied until England shall bow before the Beast may be readily believed; and that all the efforts now being put forth to weaken the progress of Protestantism in this country have as their central object the humiliation of a liberty-loving people is too plain a fact to withstand. To obtain its ends Popery would not despise the most atrocious and abominable means. If our Savior's words, "By their fruits shall ye know them," have any significance whatever, they may be appropriately used in reference to this insidious Church. What have been the fruits of this fearful heresy during the period of its almost unlimited sway, but spiritual and political oppression as well as persecution in its grossest and most multifarious forms? Looking at the atrocities of this Church, one would feel tempted to question whether its character of being "Drunken with the blood of the saints" is not too mildly drawn. The only defense of God's true Church is in God. By the constant preaching of his Word, and by the uplifting of the cross, we hope the day will come when no invectives will be required to denounce the gross imposture which has for so long a time "made the people to sin."

# “Light Affliction: 2 Corinthians

4:17”

by Bro. Jeff Short

**“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory”**

~ [2 Corinthians 4:17](#)

This verse seems paradoxical to life. While it ends on a high note of glory, it is eclipsed by the dissonant chord in the beginning. To read of a “light affliction” that is only “for a moment” is difficult for many who have suffered or are suffering in significant ways. Why? Because their suffering doesn’t feel light and it doesn’t seem momentary.

You might be tempted to roll your eyes at Paul as though he were a fifteen-year-old prattling about the hardships of life. The earlier part of the fourth chapter is sufficient to disabuse us of any notion that Paul does not know suffering. He wrote:

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed

~ [2 Corinthians 4:8-9](#)

A brief survey of his life reveals many afflictions:

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true; As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed; As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

~ [2 Corinthians 6:4-10](#)

For, when we were come into Macedonia, our flesh had no rest, but we were troubled on every side; without were fightings, within were fears.

~ [2 Corinthians 7:5](#)

Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

~ [2 Corinthians 11:24-28](#)

When we put the words of our text against the background of Paul’s life, we cannot think that he did not know what he was talking about from experience. He walked through the valley of the shadow of death and he also found comfort in the rod and staff of the Shepherd.

Two juxtapositions give us our perspective. The first is our “light affliction” compared with the “weight of glory.” This isn’t levity nor is it a denial of the severity of afflictions human suffer. Even the sharpest affliction is but light in comparison to future glory. Paul wrote in [Romans 8:18](#): **“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”** There is no unit of measure that compare the two and that future glory is such a weight that afflictions are hardly a feather when compared. The second is the “moment” of afflictions compared with the “eternal” glory that awaits. What are a few years in light of eternity? Even if we suffer our entire life, it is but a moment in light of eternity. The Bible consistently reminds us how short life is. The span of our suffering does not merit a blip on the timeline of eternity.

Our suffering is a light moment. That does not mean it isn’t real or painful. It does mean that there is an end to our suffering—a final, forever end.

The two ends of the verse are joined in the middle by *working*. The affliction is neither random nor pointless. It is not some sort of hazing on our way to eternity. The affliction that comes to us from the hand of our loving Father is working glory in us and for us. It is sanctifying.

Before we close, let me touch on an objection. I just said that our affliction comes from the hand of God. This is exasperating to some. How can such a thing be? A lengthy defense could be provided, but rather let us look at an example. The great affliction of Jesus was from the hand of His Father.

“For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.”

~ [Acts 4:27-28](#)

Christ’s death was from the hand and counsel of God. It was the fulfillment of His will and He permitted that cruel slaughter by evil men. Christ knew this as He told His disciples that this was the reason He had come into the world ([John 12:27](#)). Christ accepted the affliction, knew it was momentary, and knew it was accomplishing a greater good.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

~ [Hebrews 12:2](#)

## Baptists For Liberty

"And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts." Psalm 119:45

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