

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." Galations 5:1*

## NEWS LETTER

Issue #17

February 2014

**Monthly Verse:** *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." - I John 4:18*

### ***"Does God Love Everyone?"***

*by Bro. Curtis A. Pugh*

You may be surprised that such a title – such a question – would even be asked in this modern day of religious activity. Probably every preacher that you ever heard preaches as if the Bible says that God loves everyone. Perhaps you learned the songs, "Jesus loves me, this I know; For the Bible tells me so" or "Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world." Well, just where is it that the Bible actually says that God loves every person? Why do religious people teach little unsaved children to sing such words? Usually those who hold this idea run to John 3:16 where the Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I assure you that John 3:16 is true! However, John uses the word "world" in several different ways, but never does he use the word "world" to mean every human being that ever lived or ever will live. Check it out for yourself! There are verses which will convince Bible believers that the Bible says that God has a holy hatred for some people. It just is not possible to say that God loves every human being and be true to the Bible! Do you have enough honest courage to read on?

Important phrases in the following verses have been underlined for emphasis. Are you ready? *"The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth"* (Psalm 11:5). *"As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated"* (Romans 9:13). *"The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man"* (Psalm 5:5, 6). *"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him... A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren"* (Proverbs 6:16 & 19). *"And ye shall not walk in the manners of the nation, which I cast out before you: for they committed all these things, and therefore I abhorred them"* (Leviticus 20:23). *"Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished"* (Proverbs 16:5). *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons"* (Hebrews 12:6-8). *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him"* (John 14:21). These verses indicate that there are some people unloved by God! Both Old and New Testament verses have been quoted!

Other verses could be cited, but are these not sufficient for Bible believers? Do you believe the Bible? If so, must you not conclude that the idea that God loves all men is unbiblical? Did you notice that the actual name of one man whom God hated/hates is given in the Bible? Some try to dodge this issue by saying that the name "Esau" refers to his descendants and not to him as an individual. But were not his descendants individuals? The passage in Hebrews 12:6-8 starts out, "For whom the Lord loveth..." Such a phrase can only mean that while

there are those "whom the Lord loveth" there must also be those whom the Lord does not love. Such a qualifying statement cannot mean anything less! Why, in the light of these verses, do not modern preachers preach on the verses? Why do they preach that God loves everybody? Do these preachers believe the Bible? Or are they so ignorant of what the Bible says as to not know these verses exist? Or is some unscriptural denominational organization or theological system keeping them from preaching all that the Bible says? Would headquarters in Nashville, Texarkana, Conway, Springfield, Tulsa or Broken Arrow be upset if some preacher actually stepped out of line and preached the whole Bible? Or is it the local unscriptural "deacon board" to be pleased? More importantly, what are you going to do about these verses? Are you going to stand for "all the counsel of God?" (Acts 20:17). Or will you compromise what the Bible says with error just to be popular with your preacher and your church? If you continue to tell this lie about God – and stand with others who tell it – what will you do when you face the Lord? Do you think that God is going to be pleased with those who tell lies on Him? Oops! Does your preacher tell lies on God? The Bible talks about liars: *"These six things doth the LORD hate... A false witness that speaketh lies..."* (Proverbs 6:16 & 19). *"But... all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death"* (Revelation 21:8). Do you have enough courage to give this article to your preacher? Will you, personally, stand for all the Word of God – or just the popular parts?

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## Sermon: "The Need Of Humility"

by Bro. Troy McGahan



"He that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (John 4:20)

### Humility in Relationships

One of the greatest attributes that is needed today in God's people and in the Lord's NT Churches is that of humility. For this is one way we show that we are his disciples. Now maybe you are thinking "I thought love was the way you show you are a disciple?" That would be true but, you must understand that true humility and love go hand in hand. This is how we display our love for one another and for our Savior. What a solemn thought, that our love to God will be measured by our everyday interaction with men and the love it displays; I am afraid that most of us will find that many times our professed love for God will be illuminated in our lack of humility for what it really is and that is a false piety. It is even so with our humility. Do we really think we are humbling ourselves before God if we can't do so with our spouse or people in Church and everyday dealings. Humility is manifested by our actions to others. Can we prove that we are truly Christ like because we have made ourselves of no reputation.

One of the problems I see is we have too many people, making a reputation for themselves and not seeking to exalt the reputation of Christ. If I have to hear another singer on the radio brag about how many people come to hear them or a preacher talking about what I have done or what I don't do I will get sick. The fact of the matter is whatever is accomplished in our ministries or Churches truly has not been accomplished by anything that we have done but, it was (in the past), is (the present) and will be (in the future) God doing every bit of it. What arrogance to actually think that we can do anything to please or benefit God in anyway at all. Let us remember that when in the presence of God lowliness of heart has become, not a posture we assume for a time, when we think of Him, or pray to Him, but the very spirit of our life, it will manifest itself in all our bearing towards our brethren and also in our thoughts towards ourselves.

The lesson is one of great importance: the only humility that is really ours is not that which we try to show before God in prayer, but that which we carry with us, and carry out, in our ordinary conduct; the insignificances of daily life are the importance's and the tests of eternity, because they prove what really is the spirit that possesses us. It is in our most unguarded moments that we really show and see what we are. To know the humble man, to know how the humble man behaves, you must follow him in the mundane occurrences of everyday life. Is not this what Jesus taught? It was when the disciples disputed who should be greatest; when He saw how the Pharisees loved the chief place at feasts and the chief seats in the synagogues; when He had given them the example of washing their feet—that He taught His lessons of humility. Humility before God is nothing if not proved in humility before men.

I believe the Scriptures bears record that Paul was a man of great humility. To the Romans he writes: "*In honor preferring one another*"; "*Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to those that are lowly*"; "*Be not wise in your own conceit.*" To the Corinthians: "*Love,*" and there is no love without humility as its root, "*vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, seeketh not its own, is not provoked.*" To the Galatians:

"*Through love be servants one of another. Let us not be desirous of vainglory, provoking one another, envying one another.*" To the Ephesians, immediately after the three wonderful chapters on the heavenly life: "*Therefore, walk with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love*"; "*Giving thanks always, subjecting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ.*" To the Philippians: "*Doing nothing through faction or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind, each counting others better than himself. Have the mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant, and humbled Himself.*" And to the Colossians: "*Put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, even as the Lord forgave you.*" Certainly Paul gives us much to consider about humility.

When we consider the lack of humility in our lives is it any wonder that so many lost people despise God and the things of God because they see the hypocrisy of so called Christians with their bitter spirit and terrible attitudes. Is it any wonder children that were reared in sound Churches will not have anything to do with worship of the most high because they have seen the arrogance and lack of humility amongst their own families. It is not supposed to be about us and how smart we are or how wonderful we think we are. Rather, it is supposed to be about the love and power of the most high and his mercy toward us. Our prayer should be God give me the mind of a Child, the heart of a servant and the humility of Christ. If this was so our world would be greatly impacted for Christ.

It is in our relationships to one another, in our treatment of one another, that the true lowliness of mind and the heart of humility are to be seen. Our humility before God has no value, but as it prepares us to reveal the humility of Jesus to our fellow-men. Let us study humility in daily life in the light of these words.

The humble man seeks at all times to act up to the rule, "*In honor preferring one another; Servants one of another; Each counting others better than himself; Subjecting yourselves one to another.*" The question is often asked, how we can count others better than ourselves, when we see that they are far below us in wisdom and in holiness, in natural gifts, or in grace received. The question proves at once how little we understand what real lowliness of mind is. True humility comes when, in the light of God, we have seen ourselves to be nothing, have consented to part with and cast away self, to let God be all.

The soul that has done this, and can say, So have I lost myself in finding Thee, no longer compares itself with others. It has given up forever every thought of self in God's presence; it meets its fellow-men as one who is nothing, and seeks nothing for itself; who is a servant of God, and for His sake a servant of all. A faithful servant may be wiser than the master, and yet retain the true spirit and posture of the servant. The humble man looks upon every, the feeblest and unworthiest, child of God, and honors him and prefers him in honor as the son of a king. The spirit of Him who washed the disciples' feet, makes it a joy to us to be indeed the least, to be servants one of another.

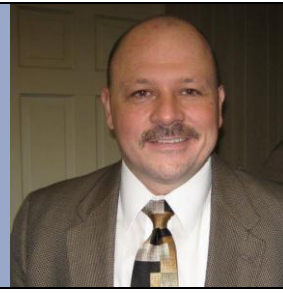
*"With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."*

~ Ephesians 4:2-3



***“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”***

by Bro. Jeff Short



*“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”* ~ Psalm 56:3

The Christian, though entered into innumerable blessings, is not without fear. David could well recognize his danger, for he prayed, ***“Mine enemies would daily swallow me up”*** (Psalm 56:2). He was not so proud he could not admit of fear within. Paul was one who had also entered into similar experience. He wrote, *“For, when we 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).

David was not indulged in blissful ignorance; he was a sensible man who knew enough to be afraid when he was in great danger. He was not wrong in this, for he resolved, *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”* In a certain sense, fear can be a blessing and preserver of our life. One reason we do not drive an hundred miles per hour on the highway at night is fear. We teach our children as they grow to fear certain things. Not all fear is bad, nor is it wrong. Faith puts fear in the right place, making us fear God and not man.

A wonderful fact to our minds is that fear and trust were co-occupants within the Psalmist. *“What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.”* How could these abide together? All fear has not been banished from the present life of God’s people. The presence of fear within David was not of itself wrong, but whenever fear reared its head, he would trust in God. Though fear might have been present, it was not in the majority. Fear was overruled by trust and had to give place to confidence.

The key is that fear was not debilitating for the Psalmist. If he had given in to fear, he had been paralyzed, unable to go forward. This was not the case, however, because of trust. He said, *“In God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me”* (Psalm 56:4). He reiterated, *“In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me”* (Psalm 56:11).

Note also that trust did not result in dishonesty. In other words, his trust did not involve talking himself into the fact that man could not do anything to him. Rather trust in God enabled him to *“not fear”* and *“not be afraid”* of *“what flesh can do”* to him and *“what man can do”* to him.

The antidote for fear is simple and efficacious—trust in the Lord. Though fear is not banished, it can be overcome. Are you debilitated by fear? Are you afraid of something and have become practically paralyzed because of it? Let us then consider a few words from God to direct our trust in the time we are afraid.

Do you have a fear of the dark and of the night? Are you robbed of rest by fretting in the absence of the sun? Hear God’s Word: *“When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet”* (Proverbs 3:24).

Are you afraid of being rejected? Are you kept from witnessing a good confession before men because you fear being rejected? Do you worry you shall be forsaken of any caregivers? Hear then the Word of the Lord: *“When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up”* (Psalm 27:9).

Do you fear going hungry? Are you afraid the food source will dry up, or the economy will take a dive? Hear God’s Word of promise: *“Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd*

*in the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation”* (Habbakuk 3:17-18).

Lastly, are you afraid of God’s hand turning against you? Do you fear that evil shall come and not just good? Be assured with Job, who said, *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him”* (Job 13:15).

## Forum: “The Purpose Of Fear”

**Questions:** What is the purpose of fear? Is it okay for believers to feel afraid? How should Christians respond to fear?

**Bro. Hansel Villazor** (*Pastor Providence Baptist Church San Carlos City, San Carlos, Philippines*)

Fear is two fold in nature- positive and negative. Positively God demands fear to Him. In Proverbs 1:7 *“The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.”*

Here the object of fear is the Lord. This means we have to be submissive to Him. We have to respect our God. We have to give Him the reverence that only belongs to Him. On this case, it is good for believers to fear the Lord. It is a command of God so that we can attain knowledge and wisdom. Psalms 111:10 *“The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do [his commandments]: his praise endureth for ever.”*

Contrapositively, there is a fear that God does not want for the believers to have because it produces wrong results. For instance in Matthew 25:25-28 *“25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, [there] thou hast [that is] thine. 26 His lord answered and said unto him, [Thou] wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: 27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and [then] at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. 28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give [it] unto him which hath ten talents.”*

This fear is not what God wants for the believers. Another worst fear a person might have is seen in Revelation 21: 8 *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

## News

**One of the bigger news stories since our last issue was the President’s State Of The Union Address on January 28<sup>th</sup>. A few hours before President Obama gave his speech The Tenth Amendment Center sent out primitive press release;**

January 28, 2014  
President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Obama,  
I just wanted to let you know that I won’t be listening to your speech tonight. I won’t be reading about it tomorrow, either.  
I don’t have time. I’m too busy working to nullify virtually everything that you and your friends are doing.  
Maybe another time, OK?

Regards,  
Michael Boldin

## Tenth Amendment Center

They also posted on their website a blog post containing the press release along with information on specific actions they're working on and how others can get involved:

<http://blog.tenthamendmentcenter.com/2014/01/state-of-the-union-statement-and-rebuttal-from-the-tenth-amendment-center/#.UvlsTIEiyB0>

**I could not find a transcription of the State Of The Union on the official White House website nor has it been posted at C-Spann as of this publication, however you can find it and a video at this link**

<http://www.mediaite.com/tv/president-obamas-2014-state-of-the-union-address-full-transcript/>

**Other responses to the president's speech include:**

**The House Republican-** given by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-5) in a video [http://youtu.be/mmhX9SS\\_AeE](http://youtu.be/mmhX9SS_AeE)

**The Constitution Party issued a written press release as follows:**

Dear Fellow Constitutionists,

Over the past few months the Constitution Party, with your help, has made inroads on several fronts – a new website, a new newsletter format, social media and internet advertising, ballot access battles in several states, and many more behind-the-scenes efforts by tireless patriot volunteers across the nation. We are making tremendous strides towards helping states build and improve their websites, improving our media relations, growing our social media outreach, too many ways to be listed in this brief email.

We are actively engaged in building a strong political opposition to the current two-party duopoly that is rapidly descending into a chaotic tyranny, as is evident from President Obama's recent State of the Union address to Congress, the nation, and the world.

President Obama laid down the gauntlet at his first cabinet meeting of the year when he said, "We're not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we're providing Americans the kind of help they need. I've got a pen and I've got a phone."

Click here to hear Darrell Castle (2008 Vice-presidential candidate) and Cynthia Davis (four-term Missouri State Legislator) present the Constitution Party Response to the State of the Union.

Our goal is simple: we want to re-establish the American Constitutional Republic, according to the actual intent of the Founding Fathers.

Forget everything you have known about or experienced under the tutelage of the current two major parties. The Constitution Party is not your granddaddy's political party. It is not your father's political party. It probably isn't the political party you first supported. The Constitution Party is committed to putting Principles before Party. Which principles? The principles embodied in the Declaration of Independence, the 1787 Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Find out about our basic Seven Principles on the national website.

The Constitution Party does not play Super Bowl politics. The Constitution and the impact it has on the American people, indeed the world, is not a simple football game between two opposing teams, whose strategy is to win the victory at all costs. Scoring a constitutionally-correct touchdown means standing up against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and saying "No, that is not within the authority granted to my office by the federal Constitution (or state Constitution, etc.). I will not do it."

The Constitution Party is committed to putting forth constitutionally-committed candidates. Congressmen, the President, the Courts, elected and appointed officials at all levels of government have lost the vision of what constitutes a representative republic based on the Constitution. It is time for the Constitution, and the American people who believe in its principles, to have duly elected officials willing to make the tough decisions necessary to save the American economy and American Liberty.

We need you to make real change happen in America.

We need your time, your volunteerism. We are a grassroots, from the heart, organization. 99.9% of us take no pay for the work we do to build the Constitution Party. We do not rely on lobbyists or Daddy Warbucks. We are fighting against a corrupt system, which has no desire to support a political party that will not give those in charge the power, glory, and gain they seek. We need volunteers at all levels. Visit the State Parties page of our website to contact your state leaders or area chairman. Roll up your sleeves, it's a hard job, but somebody has to do it and that somebody is you.

We need your financial support. It doesn't matter how small or how often, just donate. Only you can provide the resources necessary to fight for ballot access in several states. Only you can give us the resources to expand our advertising outreach. Only you can choose to invest in a political party with the will to make the hard decisions necessary to restore Liberty. Only you can make a donation today!

We need your Vote. We need your commitment to vote for, or become, a constitutionally-committed candidate. No one else is going to do it for you. Stop wasting your vote on candidates who continue to support party over principle. If you don't vote or run, then who? Contact your State Party or area chairman to find out more.

Explore our website and our commitment to the Constitution, then decide for yourselves if you are willing to take the next step and become an active participant in the great struggle for Liberty, both for ourselves and our future generations.

Sincerely, Karen Murray  
National Communications Director

**Darrell Castle** and four term **Missouri State Representative, Cynthia Davis**, take an in-depth look at the recent State of the Union Address on Cynthia's [Home Front](http://www.castlereport.us/state-of-the-union-address-in-depth-analysis-with-st-rep-cynthia-davis/) podcast here <http://www.castlereport.us/state-of-the-union-address-in-depth-analysis-with-st-rep-cynthia-davis/>

**Libertarian Party response**

Libertarian Party Executive Director Wes Benedict issued the following statement today in response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address:

Thanks to unprecedented levels of government interference and government coercion, Americans' rights are violated like never before. We are harmed by taxes, regulations, prohibitions, and shocking privacy intrusions.

Unfortunately, most of the harm and injustice of government occurs because too many Americans support existing government policies. We're suffering under a tyranny of the majority. Our Libertarian hope is that we can convince enough Americans to change their minds. We hope voters will come to understand that government is force, and force is unjust.

Here are some of the problems we see.

The government debt situation is atrocious. Government debt is a terrible thing, because it forces future generations to pay off debts they never agreed to incur. From 2001 to 2008, George W. Bush doubled the debt, mostly with the support of a Republican Congress. Since 2009,

Barack Obama and the Democrats (and Republicans) have nearly doubled it again. It doesn't matter whether Republicans or Democrats control the government. Libertarians would quickly balance the budget by cutting spending on everything, including entitlements and the military.

Thanks to the work of Republicans and Democrats, America has declined in the Economic Freedom Index. We've been sliding for years, and now we're down to #12. We're below Australia, Canada, and Denmark. Libertarian policies would get us back to #1.

Government should stop creating programs to fight economic inequality. Some economic inequality is natural and healthy in a free society. Actually, government often creates artificial inequality by granting special privileges to certain businesses or classes of people. Republicans and Democrats do that all the time. Libertarians prefer a level playing field.

The employment situation is still pretty bad. Why? Because government gets in between employers and employees, and tries to dictate everything. Minimum wage laws, hiring laws, firing laws, subsidies, and business taxes all make it harder to create jobs and find jobs. These laws are supported by both Republicans and Democrats. Libertarians would eliminate the minimum wage, employment red tape, and business subsidies and taxes.

Since 2001, the federal budget has exploded. Whenever the government spends money, it displaces it out of the private sector. That means the government is making more choices about how we use our resources, and free people are making fewer choices. That inevitably harms our economy. Libertarians would eliminate most programs, and cut spending on the rest.

If there's one thing we have learned since 2001, it's that we can't trust what government officials say. They lie. Bush and Cheney said there were weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. James Clapper (Director of National Intelligence) said under oath that the NSA does not collect data on Americans. Those are a couple of the most outrageous lies, but there have been many others. The more power government has, the more government officials will have the opportunity and incentive to lie. Libertarians would greatly reduce government power.

Government should not be trusted to tell the truth about global warming, or to create restrictions in the name of fighting it. Look at the waste and environmental damage caused by government ethanol subsidies!

It used to be that if you said the government was watching you, people thought you were paranoid. Now, partly thanks to the efforts of Edward Snowden, everyone knows it's true. Between the Patriot Act, the IRS, the FBI, and the NSA (and probably other agencies as well), Americans have no idea whether ANYTHING they do is private anymore. Government should respect people's privacy, not violate it. Libertarians would end foreign wars, and end the War on Drugs, which would take away most of the government's excuse for spying. Libertarians would also repeal the Patriot Act and other invasions of privacy.

What about Obamacare? The problems with American health care go far beyond Obamacare. The problem is the whole huge mess that government interference has created. For decades, the government has done nothing but undermine health care by interfering in the health care market, and creating mandates and prohibitions that override our choices. Obamacare took a bad situation and made it worse — but let's not forget that it was already very bad. And that's thanks to the efforts of both Democrats and Republicans. As stated in our platform, Libertarians would "recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of

health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions."

Libertarians believe that government should have no involvement in education whatsoever. That goes double for the federal government. Unfortunately, the federal government massively interferes with education today: subsidies for preschool, subsidies for K-12 education, subsidies for higher education, and lots of mandates and regulations thanks to efforts like the Republicans' No Child Left Behind law. Our children would be much happier and better educated if government would get out of the way. Libertarians would eliminate the Department of Education and repeal No Child Left Behind.

Republicans and Democrats have also created a mess with immigration. The immigration debate has nothing to do with border security; it's all about employment. Currently, millions of foreigners work here illegally, because Republicans and Democrats have made it almost impossible to do legally. Libertarians would make it very easy for foreigners to come here, live here, and work here.

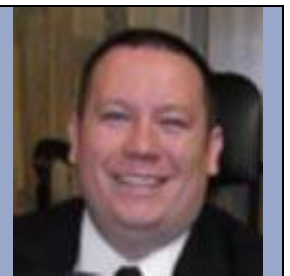
How about the military? The Libertarian attitude is pretty simple: the U.S. military should leave other countries alone, even if their governments are unstable, and even if there are people living there who hate Americans. We need to cut military spending a whole lot. Try getting Republicans or Democrats to support ANY cuts to military spending.

Amid all this gloom, we do see a bright spot: the War on Drugs. In 2012, voters in Colorado and Washington passed initiatives to end prohibition of marijuana. Recently the New Hampshire House of Representatives did so too. A majority of Americans now believe that marijuana should not be prohibited. As time goes on, we believe that more and more Americans will join us in opposing the War on Drugs. We're pleased President Obama is moving in our direction on this issue.

All in all, the state of our union is a big mess created by Republicans and Democrats. [Libertarians offer a path forward](#) to peace and prosperity. [Our 149 elected Libertarians](#) nationwide work to implement libertarian policies directly. Hundreds of other Libertarians [run for office](#) each election cycle.

## *"Hymn History and Scriptures: Psalm 34"*

*by Bro. Nathaniel Hille*



*"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." -Psalm 34:1*

I feel impressed to deal with a hymn from the Holy Spirit's Hymnal. I invite the reader to turn to the 34th Psalm and read it in its entirety. As I understand it, this psalm was written of David, when he changed his behavior before Abimelech. I am told that this Psalm has a title before the first verse, of which contains this information. I have not an original Hebrew Bible in front of me, but I understand that this is to be accurate. It is the History of this hymn/psalm of which I want to look at.

The Bible records the story behind this psalm is primarily recorded in **1Sam.21:1-13**. However, if one is to get the full picture, we must turn

back and read in the previous chapter as well. **1Sam.20:31-33** states, *"Then Saul's anger was kindled against Jonathan, and he said, unto him, Thou son of the perverse rebellious woman, do not I know that thou hast chosen the son of Jesse to thine own confusion, and unto the confusion of thy mother's nakedness? For as long as the son of Jesse liveth upon the ground, thou shalt not be established, nor thy kingdom. Wherefore now send and fetch him un to me, for he shall surely die. And Jonathan answered Saul his father, and said unto him, Wherefore shall he be slain? What hath he done? And Saul cast a javelin at him to smite him: whereby Jonathan knew that it was determined of his father to slay David."*

King Saul sought to slay David! By the eyes of man, Israel had been made uninhabitable for David. Thus, David, in a lapse of faith, does flee the covenant land for fear of Saul (**1Sam.21:10**). Certainly we see the truth of the proverb *"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."* (**Prov.29:25**).

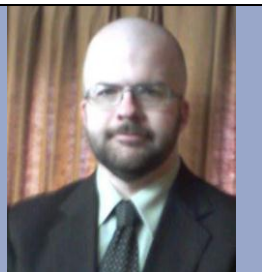
We really cannot blame David for leaving Israel, without ourselves being hypocrites, for the sun would set before we could number the times in which we have abandoned our walk with the Lord because it was too hot! So David fled to the king of Gath, Achish (**1Sam.21:12**) or Abimelech (**Title of Psa.34**). It is interesting to me, that David was once not afraid of Goliath of Gath (**1Sam.17:4, 31-37**), but now he fears both Saul and Achish. Notice, how little David is trusting in the arm of the Lord to deliver him...see how far he sinks down: he has fled Israel and now feigns (fakes) himself to be a mad man before a worldly king, a lost man. What a horrible testimony David bears out before the world. David brought not good news with him, but acted a fool before a heathen king.

How little did this speak of the God of Israel, whom had delivered the champion of the Philistines into the hand of David! David would eventually return to the land, even to Hebron (**2Sam.2:1**). I do not know the time when he wrote this hymn. I do not know of any original music to it. What I do know is that David wrote it upon this occasion. This was the time in which David penned, *"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."* David says, *"I will speak highly of, praise, bless the LORD at all times..."*. When we bless the Lord we do not seek anything from Him, but to render Him more glorious.

Let us do as David. Let us look upon His goodness, His wonderful works, and the mercies of God towards us that are new every morning (**Psa.107:8; Lam.3:23**). We must focus upon the Lord and not upon our circumstances.

David changed his appearance because his heart was changed. He ceased to fear man and began to fear and praise the Lord (**Psa.50:23**). May we receive instruction from this Psalm of David and go forth as he did *"at all times" blessing the Lord*. May we not act as a "mad man" to the world bringing shame and reproach upon the name of Christ, but always setting forth a worthy example of the name of Christ. Maran-atha. AMEN!

## *"The Spirit of Fear"* by Bro. David M. Green.



*"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* (II Timothy 1:7)

In nearly every debate about guns, the anti-gun folks nearly always turn to some form of fear mongering. This is true whether it is a discussion

in the back yard between neighbors, a debate in Congress, an interview on television, or even a discussion among the saints in a church setting. This is not of God, according to II Timothy 1:7. We must be aware of this and realize if it is not of God then it must be of the Devil.

### FEAR OF GUNS

To some folks, simply the thought of a firearm will bring about a panic attack. Brethren, this ought not to be so. The truth is that a firearm, or any weapon for that matter, is simply an inanimate tool. As such, they can be used for good purposes or for evil purposes, but as a tool, they themselves are neither good nor evil. Nearly anything inanimate can fall into this category. Consider for example, the knife of your doctor. When he performs surgery it is for a good purpose. Yet place that knife in the hands of a killer and it is used for an evil purpose. Even a car can be used for good, or it can be used to kill. (It can be used to take someone to church, or it could be rammed into a market and blown up.)

### FEAR OF ACCIDENTS

Some fear that a gun in the house will mean certain death and destruction because of an accident. Yet, we realize that accidents can happen with stairs, bathtubs, electric outlets, bookshelves, stoves, etc. In fact statistically speaking, gun accidents are very rare. The reason for their rarity is because of the fact that gun owners in America are responsible individuals. We understand what a gun can and can't do. And we know the proper rules for using a gun (any gun):  
Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.  
Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.  
Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use it.  
Always know your target and what is beyond your target.

### FEAR OF SHOOT OUTS

This fear is usually brought out when discussing the carrying of guns. Even though statistically it is shown to be a lie, many will act like the more citizens that carry guns the more crime there will be. For a great resource on the subject, read John Lott's excellent book, More Guns, Less Crime. The idea that there will be more violent crimes and acts of terror in the street as result of carry laws has been shown time and time again to simply be not the case. As of this writing, 48 out of 50 states have some sort of carry laws on the books which allow their citizens to carry guns. In all these examples, none of the states have experienced the widespread problems that these laws were supposed to have caused, and no state has ever repealed their carry laws. As a matter of fact, the trend is that the states allow their laws to be more relaxed as time goes on. This is a testimony to the gun owners across this land.

### CONCLUSION

It is truly a shame for the anti-gun folks to live in such fear. I can assure you that you are surrounded by gun owners many of whom carry guns every day. Lawyers, politicians, barbers, mothers, pastors, deacons, businessmen, doctors, etc. are among us. Men, women, young and old are law abiding gun owners.

I do not carry a gun because I am afraid. Fact is, if I were afraid, I would not leave my house. I carry a gun because of the sense of duty I feel to take care of myself and my family as well as other loved ones. Consider the following Scripture: *"But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."* (1Timothy 5:8)

God, in His Word, has placed a great sense of responsibility upon me as the head of my house. I am responsible to provide for my family. Of course, this includes many things, but it also means protection. To fail to provide proper protection is a great sin, and I own firearms because they are the best way to make sure they are properly protected. So the firearm is the best way to ensure of self-defense, defense of others (especially my own family), and defense of my home. In Christ's time upon the earth, the sword was the best choice, which is why He said to the apostles: *"...But now, he that hath a purse, let him take it, and*

likewise his scrip: and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one." (Luke 22:36)

## Point Of View: Bro. Dan Sullivan



Bro. Dan Sullivan Thai outreach minister Grace Bible Baptist Church Denham Springs, Louisiana

### About Bro. Sullivan-

"I was a member of Grace Bible Baptist Church for some years when I was sent to the field as an ordained minister of the church. Ordination allows me to represent Grace Bible Baptist Church on the field. I am very aware that the task I perform is an outreach ministry of the church. I represent the home church in teaching our faith primarily in the field, and much in the same manner that our Sunday School teaches our faith primarily within the assembly. We both voluntarily serve under the direction and supervision of the church and under the leadership of our pastor. Funding for the Thai outreach ministry is administered by the church in collection and distribution of funds. I am accountable to the church for withdrawals from these funds, and report the usage monthly. I am not salaried by these funds or the church. Several churches of like faith know of GBBC's Thai ministry (and these folks know me personally as well) and have joined in support of the task in Thailand.

"God has blessed me by giving me a wife that stands behind me and is of great assistance to me, and the ministry. Sunny is a Thai national and an American citizen, and is a member of our home church. We have no children of our own but are legal guardians to a girl and a boy, both teenagers. The girl, Amy, is our niece. The boy, Saam, is a member of the Dong Bang Baptist Church (which grew out of our ministry), and he is currently studying with me for the ministry. Amy lives with us, and Saam resides next-door in an upstairs room in the ministry facility."



(Bro. Sullivan teaching a new hymn at the Chiang Rai mission.)

### About the ministry -

"When sent by Grace Bible Baptist Church to the field in Thailand, all I asked was that I be given the authority to represent the church in matters of faith, practice and doctrine. I had secured a 'tent-making' opportunity

as an English teacher and stated that I would only seek ministry funding when and if the need arose. In the early years while witnessing and working among the hill-tribe mountain peoples in the far north, the Lord provided for this work solely through the tent-making principle. It was only when I began an urban ministry in Bangkok some years later that I felt the need to request that some assistance be raised if the Lord was so willing. Thanks to the Lord and His people, assistance was raised by our home church and through the fellowship of several churches of like faith. In time 'tent-making' work was reduced and ministerial work was increased. Today I still do 'tent-making' work by teaching part-time (one or two days a week) for three primary reasons -

1. **Legal** - *Tent-making* provides for a work permit as a teacher in Thailand. (A missionary permit is strictly issued by quota - requires government regulation and supervision - is very expensive - and forces us to be grouped and join in an alliance with all other "Protestants" including even the Mormons). The Thai government only recognizes two sects of Christendom - Catholic and Protestant. (This being said, missionaries have been given "religious tolerance" in unregistered mission activities for many years.)
2. **Practical** - although teachers in the local Thai school system do not make a very high salary (part-time even less), *my tent-making* does provide enough to give a small stipend, part of which is used to balance any overage in our monthly ministry budget. (Our church expects us to stay - and we have been able to stay - within the ministry's monthly budget.)
3. **Principle** - this is the most important feature of *tent-making* in the field. Tent-making as a part of ministerial training. Indigenous ministers and churches need to learn not to become totally dependent on foreign mission funds. We have had much more than a few "disciples" turn away because of this principle. I feel privileged to be able to lead by example in this. I also know of ministers at home that do provide or supplement their personal incomes by *tent-making*. Some of the churches which help us have pastors in this situation. These tent-making ministers are also full-time pastors! And some of these very churches give to us. Now I ask, how can I use funding for indigenous individuals working with us who refuse to practice this principle themselves? We have and still do share our blessings as we are able with those churches and their ministers of like-faith that need help, but only if they are willing to practice the tent-making principle themselves."

### About Thailand-

*What is the religious and spiritual atmosphere in Thailand like?*

Among missionaries Thailand is known as one of the most difficult mission fields in the world. Why? Even after decades of Catholic and Protestant missions the last census showed these statistics -

Buddhist 94.6%

Muslim 4.6%

Christian 0.7% [this figure includes every denomination of Christendom in Thailand]

other - 0.1%

(from CIA - The World Factbook - 2000 census)

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/th.html>" <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/th.html>

*Since the government only recognizes two classes of Christian missionaries do the people (citizens) also see only two kinds of Christians?*

"Yes, the the majority of Thais only know of two. Oddly (to us) they do not use the term 'Protestant', but rather 'Christian' instead. However, Christian means every denomination of Christendom that is not Catholic.

Here is a good place to clarify the government's position and recognition of Christendom, which in actuality is only two groups - Catholic and non-Catholic. However, the government takes this further

and only recognizes Roman Catholicism, and only these four non-Catholic denominations - the Southern Baptist, the Seventh-Day Adventist, the Evangelical Fellowship of Thailand, and the Church of Christ in Thailand. The government will authorize workers and register churches from among these groups.

This is bound to raise the question of how do ministries of other denominations work in Thailand then. They do so although not as legally sanctioned to do so. I think a significant point is this - part of the King of Thailand's title is 'Protector of All Religions', and this has not been just a title - he has shown tolerance towards all religions. Thus although there is no legal right for denominations other than those authorized to be allowed, there is a royal tolerance towards all religions. Although some refer to this as religious freedom, it is better referred to as a privilege under religious tolerance. Ultimately, this religious tolerance is and has been the Lord's blessing to those on the field in Thailand."

*You mentioned Mormons, are there a lot of Mormon missionaries in Thailand?*

The figure that I recall is that there are 175 Mormons active in Thailand. The same religious tolerance enjoyed by others extends to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, or any other group that cares to send someone out.

*What kind of government does Thailand have?*

"Thailand is a democracy with a constitutional monarchy and a parliamentary system of government. The King is the Head of State. The Prime Minister is the head of government. The Parliament consist of the Senate and the House of Representatives. The judiciary is called the Supreme Court. Thus there are 3 branches of government - executive, legislative, and judicial."

*What are some of the political differences of Thailand and the US?*

"We in the states have had one constitution and we have enjoyed a relatively stable system of government. There is no doubt that our Lord did bless those that established our form of government.

In Thailand, government instability has been part of its political nature since its change from an 'absolute monarchy' to a 'constitutional monarchy' in 1932. Since the change there have been 18 coups or coup attempts. There have been 17 constitutions or charters. Confidence in the long-term stability of government is very weak.

I must mention that, to the contrary, the current King has been on the throne since 1946 and is the pillar of national stability. He has at times stepped in to negotiate and settle differences when the political situations were out of hand. He has the complete trust and confidence of the people and is highly revered and that is certainly an understatement. To illustrate the mind-set of the populace, I'll use the example of an encounter that I had with one young student of about nine years of age. The verbal exchange has remained vivid in my memory. The young lady inquired as to, 'Who is the king of the United States?' I replied that 'we had no king.' Incredulous, she responded, 'Who takes care of your people?'

*How many ethnic groups and languages are in Thailand?*

"The ethnic Thai majority make up 75% of the population. They are Buddhist. Thais don't become Buddhist but they are assumed as Buddhist at birth. The predominate thought is that to be Thai is to be Buddhist. This is not to say that all Thais embrace or practice Buddhism, but most Thais will tell you they are Buddhist if asked - it is as much an ethnic question as a religious one.

The largest minority group is the Chinese at 14% of the population. Most noticeable in the Chinese form of Buddhism is their temple's elaborate and unusual designs. Most Chinese families have been here for

many generations and most speak Thai as their native language nowadays. However in the mountains of Thailand's northernmost province, Chiang Rai, live the relatively recent refugee soldiers of the Chinese Nationalist Army and their families and descendants. These soldiers and their families that were forced from China during the communist takeover. Christian missionaries were very active in China prior to communist rule and there are many Christians among the Chinese in this province.

Other minority groups collectively total 11% of the population. The "hill-tribes" of the northern mountains are probably the most well known of these minorities.

These are the 20 languages I found listed for Thailand -"

Language	Language family	No. of speakers
Thai	Tai-Kadai	52,325,037
Khmer	Austroasiatic	1,291,024
Malay	Austronesian	1,202,911
Karen	Sino-Tibetan	317,968
Chinese	Sino-Tibetan	231,350
Miao	Hmong-Mien	112,686
Lahu	Sino-Tibetan	70,058
Burmese	Sino-Tibetan	67,061
Akha	Sino-Tibetan	54,241
English	Indo-European	48,202
Tai	Tai-Kadai	44,004
Japanese	Japonic	38,565
Lawa	Austroasiatic	31,583
Lisu	Japonic	25,037
Vietnamese	Sino-Tibetan	24,476
Yao	Hmong-Mien	21,238
Khmu	Austroasiatic	6,246
Indian	Indo-European	5,598
Haw Yunnanese	Sino-Tibetan	3,247
Htin	Austroasiatic	2,317
Others		33,481
Unknown		325,134
<b>Total</b>		<b>56,281,538</b>

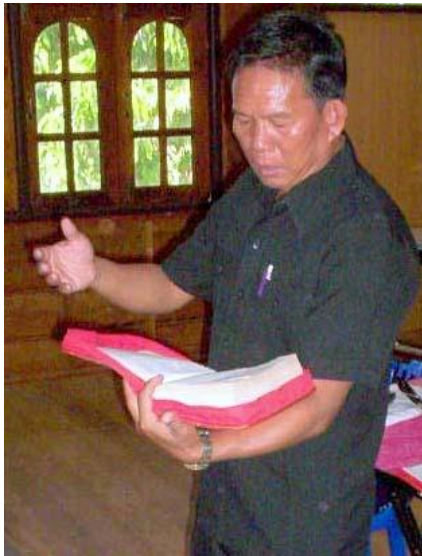




*(Bro. Sullivan's wife, Sunny, teaching a Sunday School class at Chiang Rai.)*

**Chiang Rai missions -**

"Besides the church mentioned above, we were used by the Lord to help establish two other churches. The Nong Wang Baptist Church in Udon Thani Province, and most recently a Burmese Baptist church in Chiang Rai Province. This church in Chiang Rai was made up of Burmese refugees, and with the lessening of political and military tensions in Burma, the church has now moved its physical location across the Thai border into Burma.



Let me state here that once a church is established, it is the Lord's church, and is completely autonomous from our ministry. However we do enjoy the fellowship and sometimes invitations to work among these churches, just as is done at home.

*(Pastor Sukent - Dong Bang Baptist Church)*

I have never "pastored" a mission church. We work what we refer to as "mission points" which could develop into Baptist churches if the Lord calls His sheep and provides leadership. We are principally working a new mission point in Chiang Rai for now. Chiang Rai is the northern-most proven of Thailand. It is interesting that Kalasin and Chiang Rai are the two poorest of the seventy-seven provinces of Thailand."

**Our home base -**

Our home base is in our ministry facilities located in Kalasin Province which is located in the northeastern or the "Isaan" area of Thailand. The ministry owns the facilities there and provides the meeting house in which the Dong Bang Baptist Church currently assembles. We also provide a parsonage for the church's pastor. We maintain an apartment on the grounds for our use when we are "at home". We love our home and our desire is to return home permanently in the future - but we feel there is a need for us here in Chiang Rai at present and possibly for some time to come.



*(Sunday morning service at Dong Bang Baptist Church)*

**Ongoing training -**

The young man which I have been training for ministry for a while now is not quite 18 years old, but is already displaying leadership abilities. Thus our work here tends to be among his peers as he learns to lead. We hope and pray to see the Lord use this effort to further His kingdom. Other efforts we'd like to see come to fruition remain between us and the Lord - if the Lord so wills He will provide the means.



*(Bro. Saam is training for the ministry and leads the services at mission point in Chiang Rai which is the northernmost province of Thailand.)*

What we have learned is that while evangelism is at the forefront of ministry, "feeding the sheep" is the key in developing a doctrinally sound, well-grounded, and permanent Baptist church membership which will not be swayed by every wind of doctrine. We think this can not be over emphasized nor neglected as if it were of no consequence. It has been our experience that it does take many years to mature a doctrinally sound and spiritually healthy flock being led by dependable indigenous leadership. We are not quick to help organize "mission points" into "churches". The Lord's churches must hold to the true faith. As scripture states so well, it is a struggle to hold to the old faith of our fathers.

Salvation is given and received freely; however "the faith" must be taught prayerfully, with God's Word being enlightened by the Holy Spirit and then embraced by the His people.

*"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend [struggle] for the faith which was once [one time, never again] delivered unto the saints." Jude 1:3*

Thanks for your concern for our ministry.



(Special singing by some of the younger members at DBBC.)

## “Devotion: Psalm 119:161”

by Bro. Jeff Short

“Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.” ~ Psalm 119:161

Happy is the servant that can find blessings in the midst of trials. We are instructed, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations” (James 1:2). David was suffering diverse temptations. Princes were his persecutors. These were men of high station and were supposed to be men of judgment and justice. However, they were persecuting David without a just cause. Where can one turn when the upholders of the law are the very violators of the law? Nevertheless, David found cause of rejoicing.

David’s trials had particular sharpness because of his persecutors. They were princes, men of high position. Yet, these were David’s peers. They gave him no respect, only reviling. “Princes also did sit and speak against me” (Psalm 119:23). Those of his own stripe, physically speaking, afflicted him. Perhaps, he sought understanding from those of similar standing. However, he found no comfort among them. Often those that are closest to us and those that we believe should understand are the ones that smite us the worst. Let some worldly unknown speak against us and we hardly pay attention, but let one that is close speak ill words and we are cut to the heart.

He suffered grievous trials being put to it without a just cause. He was walking in the right way and his enemies were multiplied. “Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies” (Psalm 119:157). An honest man is ashamed when his accusers speak the truth, but when they accuse him falsely he is grieved. David had not solicited his present abuse. His enemies were malicious. Yet there is joy for David, even in the time of trial.

David found joy in the fact that his detractors were wrong. They had not anything true to say. They were reduced to make themselves liars. Jesus said, “Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake” (Matthew 5:11). David was blessed in the false accusations of others. He had no reason to be himself ashamed. He was suffering for righteousness’ sake. “But and if ye suffer for righteousness’ sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled” (1 Peter 3:14). “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (1 Peter 4:16). In the midst of cruel mocking, David had reason to glorify God.

David was also blessed because his faith was increased. Though his enemies were multiplied, he said, “Yet do I not decline from thy testimonies.” He was persecuted without reason and said, “But my heart standeth in awe of thy word.” He was resolved to hold to the Word of Life, regardless of his enemies. They may delight themselves in worldly

endeavors, “but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.” He had looked into the face of afflictions and could say like Paul, “But none of these things move me” (Acts 20:24). He would not allow himself to be drawn off course by these distractions.

David found greater satisfaction in the meditation of the Word than in the strife of the world. Many are sidetracked by debates and arguments. Some lose their way through needless self-defense, becoming obsessed with turning everyone’s opinion. The scriptures prophesied of Christ, “He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.” (Matthew 12:19). He did not occupy His time with politics, trying to make everyone like Him and agree with Him. The blessed man of God finds “his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night” (Psalm 1:2). His friends may speak vain things and engage in unprofitable debates, but he declares of God’s Word, “Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors” (Psalm 119:24). David had joy because he believed, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

Lastly, David said, “But my heart standeth in awe of thy word.” He had a very high opinion of God’s book. He delighted in its precepts and feared its judgments. The opinions of worldly-wise men did not shake his faith in the right statutes and pure commandments of God. The Bible has many detractors and opponents today. Some, having become wise in the eyes of men, lead others astray through their criticisms of the Scriptures. Others pervert the Scriptures to conform to their determined doctrinal bent. The man of God approaches His Holy Word with awe. He prays, “Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law” (Psalm 119:18). Let us remain in awe of God’s Word and hold to His unchanging testimony.

## “Morning Devotional John 14:16-18”

by Bro. Stephen McCool sr.



John 14:16-18 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

In this chapter we see our Lord meeting with His disciples not long before His arrest and trial. Some of His disciples have questions and He is answering those questions. In verse 8 Philip ask our Lord; “shew us the Father”. Jesus quickly answers in verse 9; “Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?” Jesus goes on in the next few verses to remind Philip who He has been telling them He is. Jesus tells Philip; “Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me”.

Jesus is reminding Philip that the Father and the Son are one and that He, Jesus, is that One. But then we get to verses 16, 17, and 18 and Jesus reassures His disciples, that even though He is going to be leaving them He will not leave them with out a Comforter. He refers to this one as “another Comforter”. But also Jesus refers to this Comforter as the “Spirit of truth”. Who is this Spirit of truth? Well it can be none other than the Holy Spirit of God.

Also notice Jesus tells Philip that “for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” The word dwelleth is present tense here. So Jesus is saying that this Comforter is with you now but then He says “and shall be in you.” which is future tense, meaning that this Comforter is not in you yet but will be in you in the future. So we see here that Jesus is referring to Himself as this Comforter that He will leave with His people once He is gone.

So in this one short chapter in John we see our Lord, Jesus Christ, explain to His disciples that He is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Therefore Jesus has explained the order of the Holy Trinity. First we see Him referring to Himself as being one with the Father and then we see Him referring to Himself as being one with the Holy Spirit. So we see the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all wrapped up into One. Now with all that being said, I would like for you to think on this; if we are the children of God the Father and Joint Heirs with Jesus Christ, who is the only Begotten Son of God, and we have the Holy Spirit living within us like He promised; then what have we need of in this life? What fears should we have of the enemy? What blessings have been bestowed upon us because we have the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit living in us continually and forever?

And yet all the while He is here in us we bring shame before Him. We curse His name. We love not our neighbors as He command us too. We are in a constant struggle with our flesh to do the things that we once did as a lost soul living in a world full of sin. But, our God is faithful and merciful and gracious to those whom He loves. To those who belong to Him. To those whom He calls His children. Even though we revert back to our sin from time to time He is just and fair to punish us into submission. Like a father would would his child. Our Heavenly Father cares so much and loves us so much that even when we have sinned greatly against Him He is there to correct us and love us.

When our enemy the devil brings temptation into our life and we are being attacked from all sides by the temptations of this old wicked world; our Great Comforter is here for us. We know that through it all we have a Comforter who is our Father, His Son and His Holy Spirit and that we have access to the King of kings because we have this Comforter. What could possibly be a greater blessing than to know that we are a child of the King!  
Praise ye the Lord!!!

***Historical Marker***  
***“Studies in Esther Part 1”***  
*by Bro. Jeff Short*

#### INTRODUCTION

The book of Esther is named for its primary character. Esther was an orphan, Jewish girl raised by her uncle Mordecai who rose to fame and prominence through some rather unusual means. She is really the main focus of the book. The Hebrew name of Esther is *Hadassah* which means myrtle. The name “Esther” is a derivation of the Persian word for star. It is commonly referred to as the volume of Esther by the Jews.

#### TIME

The time of the events of this book is sometime after the Jews were released from Babylonian captivity. This was during the time it was permitted for them to return to their homeland, although a good number of them determined not to return to Jerusalem but stay in the Persian kingdom in and around Babylon. The time was after the temple was rebuilt between 536 and 516 BC. It was sometime after that in 444 BC that the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt. So, the book of Esther comes in between the rebuilding of the temple and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. During that time, the Persian empire permitted the Jews to

leave, if they wanted, and go back and rebuild their city and homeland. The events of this book cover about twelve years and come in between these two major events in the history of Israel. If Ahasuerus is indeed the King Xerxes, then the book of Esther comes in between the sixth and seventh chapters of the book of Ezra. This would give reason for the ardent faith of Ezra recorded in Ezra 8:22,

For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him: but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

The Jewish people had been delivered by a great deliverance in the book of Esther, without the help of extraordinary agency. And Ezra, thinking about or wishing to go rebuild the walls of Jerusalem in his time, made this statement. It is evidence of the faith of Ezra, which is substantiated in book of Esther.

The people had come to the very brink of ruin. They were almost exterminated as a people from the face of the earth. However, God saves and delivers them. Ezra would certainly be emboldened by this great deliverance and he said, “*I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers.*” He said, “*I could not go to the king and to the rulers of the world and seek help for the Lord’s work,*” and, “*The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him: but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.*” So, if Ezra had been preaching that God had his hand upon his people and was going to protect and deliver them and also that God was going to turn away their enemies, then it would seem that Ezra would have a lack of faith if he sought worldly help as far as the work of the Lord was concerned.

#### AUTHOR

The authorship of this book is uncertain. Some would attribute it to Mordecai. There is a good case for that, though that does seem unlikely. Some have attributed it to Ezra, some to Nehemiah. Some have attributed it to Jehoakim, the son of Jeshua. We do not really know the definite authorship of this book. I do not doubt that it was spoken by the Holy Spirit, but who the human penman was to write this book, I cannot be exactly sure.

#### AUTHENTICITY

We want to consider also the authenticity of this book and it has met with opposition and criticism. We read all the time of people who say of the Bible, “this part is not valid; this part is not authentic; this part was corrupted”. However, I believe the Word of God is complete and whole. Esther was canonized in the scriptures by the Jews and highly esteemed by them as well. The Lord, during his ministry on the earth, did not make any reference to the fact of them being in error in keeping this as a portion of the scripture. We see that also “*that unto them (the Jews) were committed the oracles of God*” (Romans 3:2). So it was committed to their keeping and the Jews highly esteem it. It is rejected by many because God’s name is not found in the text. There is also not a direct reference to God in this book. I know that the name has been pointed out by some to be hidden in four different places. The name “Jehovah” occurs there hidden in the acrostics in the original language. I believe in one other case the other name “I Am that I Am” appears. However, the name “God,” or any of His names in the scriptures, is not referred to in the text of this book. Many have found reason to reject it for that cause. The fact that God’s name does not occur in the text does not mean that God, His power, and His hand are not clearly seen throughout the book. I believe that it is. Asaph wrote, “*Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare*” (Psalm 75:1). The Psalmist seemed to indicate that the works of God declare His name and declare His name to be near. Even in the observation that the human eye makes of this universe and the world we live in, the works of God are clearly seen. The works of God are very evident in the book of Esther and God can be seen working through people, whether they be Jews or Gentiles. His

*"wondrous works declare"* His name to be near.

Though His name may not be spoken exactly in this book, there is no doubt His name is near because His wondrous works are found here. David declared, *"The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands"* (Psalm 9:16). One of the points about the book of Esther is that God does execute judgment upon Israel's, and therefore His, enemies even though they would seek out many different avenues in order to persecute. They really wanted to exterminate the Jews from the face of the earth, but we see that God effected a great deliverance and He did execute judgment upon the enemies of His people.

We can also see that God, and Christ in particular, is ever the Deliverer of His people in all ages. In Acts 7, the sermon that Stephen preached before the Sanhedrin council, we see how Stephen began before Israel was a nation and showed the development, or the greater revelation that God gave of Himself to them, all the way up until the time of the revealing of His Son in the flesh. We also see that he is showing how that Christ was ever the Deliverer of His people and especially in type through Moses and David and so on, in all ages.

We see in the book a deliverance brought to the people of Israel. Can we expect that it comes from any other source than from the Christ of Israel, the Messiah, the Hope, the Blessed One? I do not have any reason to expect that their deliverance came from any other means, than directly from God. Again, we see that this is brought out in the book of Esther and makes it very plain that God is all throughout this work.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of the book is to teach the divine providence of God. The divine providence of God is set out in a way that is so amazing in this book, because God here works in and through all the normal affairs of the earth and to turn them all to accomplish His purposes, and without the disturbance of a single natural thing. There was no great miracle that was worked here. Moses did not come and cast down his rod and it became a serpent and Moses did not come with all the plagues that came down on Egypt. Nor was there any miraculous birth or resurrection from the dead. There are no miracles recorded in this book. The main character, Esther, seems to be not necessarily of extraordinary great faith. However, God does still effect a deliverance for His people. The divine providence of God is something that is very difficult for us to get a handle on. The way that I look at the providence of God is this: You have the will of God and you have His decrees; you also have the eternal purpose of God, which I believe is eternal and immutable and a complete expression of God and His mind. I see the providence of God as the execution of God's purpose, whether He is working directly or indirectly. Whether He is working through agency or without agency. The direct hand of God came down in the time of Moses and the Scriptures speak of the *"tables of stone, written with the finger of God"* (Exodus 31:18). So, whether it be through agency or through the direct act of God. Whether through permission or whether through a causative effect, the providence of God is the execution of God's will.

I want to note two quotes from Alexander Carson regarding the purpose of the book of Esther in teaching the providence of God. Alexander Carson was one who understood something of the providence of God. I know my understanding of God's providence has been helped by the understanding that Alexander Carson had of God's providence. He said,

The great design of this portion of the Holy Scriptures is to display the wisdom, providence, and power of God, in the preservation of His people, and in the destruction of their enemies. (Confidence in God, p. 3)

He said further about the book of Esther,

In it we see the people of God providentially brought to the very brink of ruin, and delivered without a single miracle. The means employed to effect their destruction are by Providence

employed as the means of their exaltation and glory. (The History of Providence, pp. 176-177)

Here the very means the enemies of Israel used to try to effect their destruction, God used to effect their deliverance. We are given a view of the providence of God.

The Jews nationally, as they would look at the book of Esther, have reason here to take confidence in God concerning the promises of the restoration, the promises that pertain to the nation of Israel. Hosea prophesied, *"Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God"* (Hosea 1:9). This is a prophecy, and there are others, that God was going to set aside the nation of Israel. God was going to permit their dispersion, their scattering, throughout the nations of the earth for a time. Paul believed this and wrote in his epistle to the Romans,

*"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins"* (Romans 11:25-27).

Paul said in the first verse of this chapter, *"I say then, Hath God cast away his people?"* He answers in verse 2, *"God hath not cast away his people."* So, the promise to the nation of Israel is that they shall be regathered and restored. There is to be a literal restoration of Israel. They shall be brought again, although in the book of Hosea, he said they shall be called "Loammi" which means "not my people" because I am not their God.

The current situation with the nation of Israel is that they have been scattered among the nations of the earth and they have somewhat returned unto their homeland but there is a time of a future restoration when God is going to gather Israel out of the four corners of the earth. The book of Esther provides reason for confidence and reason for hope in this promise because if God would still, even though He would be in the shadows and it looks like a hands-off approach, know His people even though they were in Persia and not in their homeland and not observing the true religion and not worshiping God. God still had His eye on His people here in the book of Esther and God did not forsake them nor allow them to be destroyed from the face of the earth. If God has done this, then God will still watch over and care for His people though they be scattered. His eye is still upon them.

This book applies to all of God's people. This book could strengthen our faith and trust in Him that is mighty to restrain the wrath of men. Asaph writes from experience, *"Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain"* (Psalm 76:10). It is hard for us to understand that God can direct and be praised by the wicked acts of men. We certainly see the wickedness of men in the book of Esther. We certainly see that manifested in Haman and all of his devious plots. So God overrules the wickedness of the earth to restrain the wrath of man. The wrath of man that God does permit, praises God and works to His glory. God uses it to bring about His purposes. We look at times when we have a global conflict or times of uncertainty and we do not understand how someone could be so evil and depraved to do the things that terrorists have done recently and have been doing for many years. But the Bible says, *"the wrath of man shall praise thee."* God will indeed restrain the remainder of that wrath. This should strengthen our faith to really believe and trust in God who is able to overrule all the wickedness of men in order for His glory and our ultimate good as He did in Esther.

We see also that God uses the general, natural course of things to effect his purposes. God does not always work through some great sign or wonder or some great mysterious happening. We see that most often God works through the natural course of things He established when He created this earth. He *"sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust"* (Matthew 5:45). We might think very little of the rain or the sun. But the

book of Esther is one that shows God working in the most trivial of matters on this earth to bring about His purposes. We can look at the sun and the rain as coming from God and being used by God to accomplish His purpose on this earth.

God has His way in the “whirlwind and in the storm” (Nahum 1:3). He rebukes the sea and makes it dry. The mountains quake at Him. Even in the normal course and patterns of weather that we experience on this earth God is still in control of all these things and is working through all these things in order to effect His purpose.

## *“A Letter of Love”*

by Bro. Dr. Manuel J. Seymour, Sr.  
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(Clipart from <http://www.clker.com>)

One of the most difficult things in life is to get the ones you love so dearly to sit down for a heart-to-heart talk concerning their personal relationship, or lack of relationship, with the eternal Creator of the heavens and the earth—God. It is said there are two things one does not discuss: politics and religion. Of course, as we all know, this rule is never applied unless the person knows you have an opposing view in the subject of religion. The real issue is not about our personal views; rather, it is: Are we both in agreement with God?

Love is truly an unexplainable thing! Because of love it seems like we can never fully say all that we would. Frankly, we do not want to hurt the ones we love; but in so doing, we do extreme harm to them spiritually. We are quick to share all kinds of good news except when it comes to the greatest news of all; then, we shy away because we do not want to disrupt the relationship we have. It seems we can be very blunt when it comes to other matters without concerns of the relationship, but when it comes to spiritual matters, we become verbally imprisoned.

**Because I love you**, I need to impress upon you the Good News of everlasting life and the forgiveness of all of your sins through the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. When I think of you, my heart swells with tears; and I pray that in the day of the resurrection I will see you standing with me in robes of white before the throne of the Lord’s everlasting love singing that new song of His great salvation. It would truly break my heart not to sing with you before the throne of God and of the Lord Jesus in eternity to come. With the utmost of humbleness, I ask that you would please seriously consider this letter of love that we may rejoice together in the presence of the Lord of Glory for eternity. I love you enough to give this to you; please love me enough to read it.

The Holy Scriptures tell us:

*“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”* (I John 4:9-10)

It is not my intention to enter upon a theological discourse of the fall of mankind in Adam. Let three passages of Holy Scripture suffice to expose every man’s relationship to God if left in his natural born state.

1. *“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.”* (Romans 3:10-11)
2. *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”* (Romans 3:23)
3. *“If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”* (1 John 1:10)

No matter how much I love you or how much you love me, the fact of the matter is, we were born into this world as sinners. Other words used by the Scriptures are “unrighteous” and “ungodly.” These, of course, are not words that we would normally care to use in describing ourselves to others. Because of all of our good traits and characteristics, we perceive ourselves to be fairly good people. The problem is we look through human eyes rather than through the eyes of God. As humans go, we are quite good folk; but humans die, after that they must face the judgment of God. So the question is not how do we see ourselves but: How does God see us? The answer given in His Holy Word is that He sees all humans in their fleshly state as sinners; that is why the body must die and return to the ground from whence it came. *“Sin bringeth forth death.”*

Now, when a person dies, his spirit separates from his body, which must return to dust. But, where does his spirit go? The Scriptures only give two possible destinations: heaven or hell. But, to which one does it go? Well, that depends on the spiritual condition of his spirit. A human in the natural state in which he was born into this world has a spirit that is “dead in trespasses and sin.” This means he is dead spiritually. Such a spirit cannot dwell in eternity with the living God. The only place such a spirit can go in eternity is to the great abyss of the Lake of Fire known as the Second Death. Not exactly something we would envision for ourselves, is it? But, truth is truth, which is sometimes very difficult to accept. Yet, the sooner we accept the truth, the sooner we can do something about our eternal destiny. The question is, “Do you care where you will be spending your eternity?” I do care about your eternity and that is why I am sending this letter of love to you! I want you with me before the throne of the Lord of Glory forever! Yes, the natural man is “condemned already”; yet, this condemnation can be changed into justification through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. This process called being “born again” creates a new spirit creature within man that has complete forgiveness of sins and is guaranteed eternal life with the Lord Jesus and the eternal Father just as if you had never sinned. I truly pray that this will excite your heart to where you will want to hear how this can be obtained by you. I love you; love yourself enough to read more.

Jesus said: *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* and, *“Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”* (John 3:3,5-6)

It is really very simple. The natural man is born out of the flesh by a water birth. This natural man is also born out of sinful flesh; which makes it sinful. It is the law of nature. A dog is born out of a dog and has the nature of a dog. Man born out of sinful man has a sinful nature, which has a spirit that is dead because of sin. This follows the law of nature. If, however, the Creator—by His sovereign mercies and grace—directs His Spirit to enter into natural man and to give life to that dead spirit, it would be a birth out of the Spirit of God. The law of nature being what it is, that which is born out of the Holy Spirit must also be holy and without sin. Thus, that newborn spirit would see and would enter into the kingdom of God. Being born out of the Spirit produces a

new spirit life. God is eternal and by the law of nature that which is born of God is eternal. God has no sin and cannot sin, thus, that new spirit born of God has no sin and cannot sin. As it is written: *"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."* (1 John 3:9) The fleshly man is sin and must die and return to the dust of the ground; but the new spirit born inside man is born out of the Spirit of God and has no sin; therefore, having the nature of God, the new spirit must live eternally with God.

This is Great News, but how do we as such sinful, ungodly creatures, spiritually dead in these trespasses and sin, obtain this new birth out of the Spirit by His mercies and grace? Well, the Holy Scriptures lead us right to the answer. Remember, He said: *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."* (1 John 4:9) The answer is in Jesus Christ the Son of the living God. The answer is not in religion or in some religious activity; it is in Jesus the Son of God. If we desire to rejoice before the eternal throne of God, we must find out exactly what it is about this Jesus that gives us the answer of redemption. I love you enough to share with you the answer given in the Holy Word of God; please love me and yourself enough to honestly consider the God-revealed way to obtain eternal life and the forgiveness of sin.

Remember, the Scripture said: *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* The word "propitiation" simply means that God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, into the world to appease His divine justice against our ungodly sins. Now, it also said that the reason was *"not that we loved God, but that he loved us."* Man in his natural state does not love God. Oh, man makes many pretenses through various acts of religion, but the reality is that he loves the religious activities, not God. The sin nature of the flesh will never allow man to truly love God and to be at peace with Him. This is why Jesus told the religious man Nicodemus, *"Ye must be born again."* (John 3:7) Something beyond any act of the flesh is absolutely necessary for a man to enter into the kingdom of God. This something is that God must bring forth a new creation out of His Holy Spirit within the flesh of man; it is referred to as the birth of a new creature—a creature created by God with an eternal purpose. The new creature is of God and is of like nature with God—holy, without sin, and eternal.

Isn't this extraordinary! Sinful man can be transformed inwardly to a corresponding nature with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. But, make no mistake, this new nature absolutely requires the power of God by the Holy Spirit through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Not one element can be left out. The new birth, called salvation, is all of God by His grace and His mercies. There is no act you can perform to obtain it. As it is written: *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins."* (Eph. 2:1) The word "quickened" means to "make alive." Fleshly man is dead spiritually; therefore, his spirit must be made alive, which is by the power of God by means of the Holy Spirit.

How does one come to a real life changing knowledge of his sinful and lost condition? Well, let's refer to the Scriptures again. Jesus in reference to the Holy Spirit said: *"And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."* (John 16:8-11)

God has sent forth His Spirit with power to convince the conscience of spiritually dead men of their ungodliness, to give life to their spirits, and make them willing to receive the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. As it is written: *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power."* (Psalm 110:3) Also, *"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God, Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the*

*Father, cometh unto me."* (John 6:45) In the day that God sends forth his Spirit with power to make alive, convince, and teach, the recipient is overwhelmed with guilt and godly sorrow because for the first time he truly experiences and understands the reality and the due penalty for his sins. He is taught by the Father the truth of sin and that sin must bring forth eternal death. However, he is also taught the Good News that in Jesus Christ one can be freed from the penalty of eternal death and can receive the gift of eternal life, or redemption from the penalty of their sins. It is this Spirit taught knowledge in the souls of men that cause them to storm the cross of Calvary seeking the blessed Lamb of God. Remember, he said: *"Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh to me."* If the Father has made you to hear and has taught you of sin, of righteousness, and of the judgment to come, you will fly for refuge to the very feet of the Lord Jesus Christ crying out for grace, mercy, and forgiveness. If you will not come to Jesus, it is because you have not heard or been taught by the Father. Now, that ought to be an alarming thought.

Having ears to hear words does not mean that one hears in the heart. The Spirit speaks to the consciences and hearts of men, not to the fleshly intellect of men. The natural man does not, and cannot, receive the things of God; they are foolishness to him. Therefore, in his depraved wisdom he loses his own soul and is cast into the Second Death. Only the Spirit can make one wise unto salvation.

On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit convinced and taught in the hearts of three thousand souls, it is said: *"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* (Acts 2:38) When the Philippian jailor under conviction asked: *"Sirs, what must I do to be saved: And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."* (Acts 16:30-31) Jesus said: *"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* (John 3:18) It is also written: *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."* (John 3:36) The question is will you hear and believe? No one is too great of a sinner that he cannot be saved. No one is too old that he cannot be saved. If you will hear and be taught of God to the humbling of your soul with godly sorrow over your sins, then come to Jesus, for there is forgiveness and eternal life awaiting you. Jesus said: *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:37-40)

I love you and pray that you will love yourself enough to receive the testimony of God because: *"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart and soul!

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