Gideon

by Elder McKinley Wright (96 years old)
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During his sixty-five year ministry, the writer doesn't recall ever having preached about Gideon's battle with the Midianites. This seems strange, considering how thrilled he was as he recently read the account. Please read Judges 6:1-22. This article is mostly about his battle which is recorded in verses fifteen through twenty two in the seventh chapter. But the rest of the requested reading is needed so the reader knows who Gideon was and his faithfulness in obeying God.

When God communicates with an individual about something that He tells him to do, particularly if it is something that is so difficult that it seems beyond the capability of the person being dealt with, the Christian community refers to the communication as a calling. God "called" Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites. The Israelite people had stopped conducting themselves according to the standard that God had set for them. God punished them for their disobedience by sending the Midianites to oppress them. The Israelites cried unto the Lord because of the oppression of the Midianites. Then, God "called" Gideon to deliver them.

Gideon felt unqualified to accomplish what God told him to do. Every time God would tell him to "go," he would come up with a "reason" that he could not "go." If a person is looking for an excuse to disobey God, the devil will give him a basket filled with excuses, and then help him select one. God was patient with Gideon. When he would come up with a "reason," God would again tell him to "go." God didn't argue with him to convince him to "go." He already knew that he was supposed to obey God without delay and then depend on God to bless his efforts with success. Finally he ran out of excuses. Gideon raised an army of 32,000 men. He would probably have raised more, but those were all that he could immediately find. There were a lot of Midianites, and they were very strong. No doubt Gideon wanted to have an army strong enough to win the battle that would surely be fought. He had forgotten (if he had ever known it) that one person plus God is always a majority.

When God spoke to Gideon delivering the "call," Gideon knew how insignificant he was. His family was poor and he was the least person in his family. He asked God, "Wherewith (how) shall I save Israel?" God promised to go with him and give him victory. Anyone whom God has "called" to preach the Gospel can understand how Gideon felt. It was not that Gideon just did not want to "go." He didn't feel that he could do the job. He looked at his qualifications and they just didn't measure up to what he felt was required to accomplish what God was sending him to do. Gideon (like most preachers at first) was still thinking in terms of going in his own strength, a normal reaction.

Then God gave him a smaller task. Maybe He gave him this task to encourage him by giving him the experience of succeeding. Gideon's father, Joash, had an image (probably a statue) of Baal, a heathen idol. God told Gideon to destroy that image. He did so, incurring the wrath of the townspeople. They demanded that Joash turn Gideon over to them so they could kill him. Joash refused to do so, saying that if Baal had any power, he should be able to defend himself and not be dependent on them. Gideon was still not convinced that he had heard God correctly. He asked God to give him a sign. He might have been considering the possibility that it was Satan who was delivering this message to him, or he might have just been wanting to be sure he had heard correctly. There is no indication in scripture that Gideon was using the wool and the dew as an excuse for him to avoid obeying God. The writer gives him the benefit of doubt, assuming that he wanted only to be sure that he had heard God correctly. Many of God's servants (including the writer) have done the wrong thing by acting hastily.

In order to be sure that he was hearing God correctly, Gideon proposed a test. He would place a bundle of wool in a clean place where it would be exposed to the air and leave it out all night. Then he would look at it the next morning. If, during the night, dew had accumulated on the wool but the surrounding earth had remained dry, he would know that he had heard God correctly. If, on the other hand, the wool was dry but the earth was wet, he would know that he had not heard God correctly. He set the wool out, and the next morning the wool was wet, and the earth was dry. This seemed to indicate that when God told Gideon to "go," he had heard Him correctly. But Gideon was still not certain about the matter. Maybe it was normal that the wool be wet but the earth dry. How many mornings have you found your automobile covered with dew but none was visible anywhere else? Maybe the situation that he had set up was no test at all. To be certain about the matter, Gideon proposed that he place the wool like he had done on the previous night, but that this time when they looked the next morning the wool would be dry and the earth wet. When they looked the next morning the wool was dry and the earth was wet. Both tests had indicated that God was sending Gideon to do a job. So Gideon went.

The first thing Gideon did was raise an army. Thirty-two thousand men enlisted. No doubt he wished there were more. The Midianites are described in the Bible as being a host (an extremely

large number). So Gideon's normal reaction would have been to want as many soldiers as possible. But the first thing God did was tell Gideon that he had too many men! If they were victorious with so many soldiers, they would go home after the war thinking that they had delivered themselves. God was going to impress them to KNOW that they were victorious only because He had given them the victory! God still tells His children that our blessings are all because of Jesus and what He has done for us. It is sad that most Christians believe that all Jesus did was make a way for them to save themselves. We who know differently ought to be shouting the truth so loudly that their heresy is exposed. Then we ought to shout even louder.

God told Gideon to tell all who were fearful and afraid to return home. The greatest need of those who know the truth is that the truth be burning so strongly within them that they feel like Paul did when he told King Agrippa, "I Would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." (Acts 26:29). The ten thousand men that remained with Gideon were still too many to suit God. God took them to a stream and told them to drink water from the stream. 9,700 of them got down on their hands and knees, put their mouths beneath the surface of the water, drew water into their mouths and swallowed it. The other three hundred used a hand to scoop up some of the water which they then brought to their mouths. Their hand served the same purpose as a dog's tongue when the dog laps (drinks) water. God sent the larger group home, leaving only three hundred men to fight the Midianites. Gideon might well have wondered how he could defeat the Midianites with such a small group of fighters. However he didn't express any doubt. It seems that Gideon was committed to doing what God had told him to do and depend on God for victory. God encouraged him again.

The writer remembers how God encouraged him in the matter of preaching the gospel. He was in the Army during World War II. He married a couple of months before the end of the war. His wife was a devout member of another denomination. He re-enlisted in the Army at the end of the war and about a year later was sent overseas. His wife suggested that they begin a program of reading five chapters in the Bible each day; that they read them together until he left to go overseas, and that while he was gone they each continue the schedule. They would be reading alone, but each would know that the other was reading the same five chapters. A few months after he arrived at his overseas station, he began feeling a desire to tell others about what the Bible said. He knew this was about preaching the gospel. He wrote to his wife about his feelings, but when she wrote to him she would not mention the subject. He saw this as her disapproval. He wrestled with the situation. One night he had a dream in which she told him that their marriage was over. But she didn't say why it was ending. He thought this dream was a warning from God about what might happen if he went on with the idea of preaching. His wrestling became even more serious. He could not find any peace of mind until he decided that if his preaching cost him his marriage, it would just have to be that way. He had already resolved to not keep pushing for his wife's approval and hadn't mentioned it to her for several weeks. He still did not mention it to her. About three weeks after he finally decided to put God first (he was still wrestling with whether or not he had made the correct decision), he had another dream. In this dream he had been preaching for quite some time and was conducting a Meeting in the church in his wife's home town. When he began the sermon and looked out into the congregation, he saw her. When the sermon ended, she united with the church. This was only a dream, but the writer thinks it was a message from God that no matter how the situation turned out, God was in control and would make things right. This all happened sixty-eight years ago! I returned home on Labor Day, 1948. I had been corresponding with my pastor about my feelings. On Saturday morning before the third Sunday in September, 1948, when the writer arrived at the church (his first time at church since returning from overseas), the pastor told him that he wanted the writer to stand before the church. During the song service he wished aloud that he had a watch so he would not stand too long. His wife removed her watch and handed it to him. She has been by his side ever since. And God didn't leave Gideon to stand alone.

All but three hundred Israelites had been sent home. That night God told Gideon to go down to the place where the host of Midian was encamped. God told him that he would hear what the Midianites were saying and that after that, his hand would be strengthened. After it was dark, Gideon took his servant and did so. They overheard one Midianite tell another Midianite about his dream. In the dream he saw a cake of barley bread roll into their camp and demolish a tent. The other man responded that the dream was about the sword of Gideon and the fact that the Lord was going to give victory to the Israelites. Gideon was very much encouraged and encouraged the little band.

He then prepared them for battle. He divided them into three companies and gave each man a trumpet and a pitcher made of clay in which there was a burning lamp. Then he told them to each watch him and do what he did. The last thing he told them to do was surround the Midianite camp. When they were in place, Gideon broke his pitcher and began blowing his trumpet and shouting, "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon." The others joined Him. The Midianites became so confused that they began killing one another and running for their lives. So God gave victory to Israel! They were

freed from Midianite oppression.

In these days the church is being oppressed. She is beset on every side by humanism and other false doctrines. God has given us the weapons that we need to gain victory: the trumpet and the light. While Jesus was in the earth, He told His disciples, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32). The Truth is the only thing that will free us! It will not free us by just being read. IT MUST BE LIVED! As individuals, we must order our lives according to its teachings and our churches must conform themselves according to the truth both in faith and in practice. No matter how often we go to church, nor how loudly or sweetly we sing, or how many (or few) times we say, "Amen," if when people look at us we look just like the humanists and/or false teachers, we shall be unprofitable servants of God and showing no benefit of the truth within ourselves. And if the truth has not changed us, it has not benefited us. That does not mean that there is something wrong with the truth. The wrong is in our not believing the truth enough to obey it!

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"Thy Will Be Done"

by Elder William M. Mullis
Waycross, Georgia

"Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

Being able to pray to the sovereign God of Heaven and earth, Who is able to bless beyond measure, is one of the greatest blessings God's children have in this world.

The book of James sets forth some important principles concerning prayer. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But **let him ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." (James 1:5-7). "...Ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." (See James. 4: 2,3.) There are many times we receive not because we ask not. There are times we receive not because we are asking for carnal things; we ask amiss. And there are times we receive not because we do not believe!

With all that said, as well as all the other important teachings about fervent prayer availing much, it is also important that we learn to be reconciled to the will of God in our lives. While we should certainly pray fervently, and ask God to deliver us from our troubles, at the same time we should be able to pray, "Nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." (Matthew 26:39). Once Jesus knew it was the Father's will, He requested no more, He resisted no more, but rather said, "The cup which my Father hath given me shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11).

We can learn to be content in whatever situation we find ourselves. Paul said, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:11-13).

Paul had personal desires which were not always in harmony with the will of God in his life. When his will differed with God's, he was reconciled to God's will! Paul had a desire to depart and be with Christ, but it was God's will for him to remain and teach others. "I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again." (Philippians 1:23-26).

On another occasion, Paul had a thorn in the flesh and besought the Lord to remove it, but he again was willing to rejoice in doing the Father's will! "I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. **Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.** Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Corinthians 12:8-10). Paul was not only reconciled to the Father's will, but rejoiced in his affliction because he knew there was a purpose in his affliction, and that God's grace was sufficient for him in his affliction!

"No man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that **we are appointed thereunto**." (I Thessalonians 3:3). There are reasons for our afflictions, even though many times we do not understand why things must be the way they are. But if we believe in an all-wise, loving Heavenly Father who's in control of all things, we can trust Him to do what is best for us and to His honor and glory in everything! That is the reason Paul could say, **"I am exceeding joyful in all our tribulation."** (II Corinthians 7:4).

Look at some of the people of God who were reconciled to God's will in their lives:

Leviticus 10:1-3- "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. **And Aaron held his peace.**"

Judges 10:15-16 "And the children of Israel said unto the LORD, We have sinned: **do thou unto us whatsoever seemeth good unto thee;** deliver us only, we pray thee, this day. And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and his soul was grieved for the misery of Israel."

I Samuel 3:18- " And Samuel told him every whit, and hid nothing from him. **And he said, it is the LORD: let Him do what seemeth him good**."

II Samuel 12:23- "But now **he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."**

II Samuel 15:26- "But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; **behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth**

good unto him."

II Timothy 4:6- "For **I am now ready to be offered,** and the time of my departure is at hand."

May God help us all to pray, pray without ceasing, pray fervently, pray believing that God is able to supply all we need, and yet truthfully and fervently pray, "Nevertheless, not my will, but Thine be done."

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Evangelism

by Elder W. H. Durrence
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What scriptural authority do we have for evangelism? Evangelism is the work done by an evangelist. An evangelist is one who announces good tidings; therefore evangelism is the work of one who announces the good tidings of God's Holy Word. There are three scriptural references to the word **evangelist**: Acts 21:8, Eph. 4:11, and II Tim. 4:5.

Let us make some brief observations with regard to the Scriptures mentioned above. In Ephesians 4:11, the work of the apostle or prophet was to take the unwritten word and deliver it to the people. Though there were some references made by the apostles to the writing of the prophets of the Old Testament, without exception their writings were by divine revelation. As God spoke to or inspired them, they delivered God's message, though at that time it was unrecorded. The pastors and teachers primarily take the **written** Word and **expound** it to the people. What God inspired to be written, the pastors and teachers then explain and teach. However, sandwiched between them was the work of the evangelist. Philip was designated as the evangelist (Acts 21:8) not to denote an order, but to denote his work! In Paul's admonitions to the younger minister Timothy, he exhorts him to "do the **work** of an evangelist" (II Tim. 4:5). Clearly it is a work that needs to be done, and our people need to be doing more of it, simply spreading the good news of the gospel. These Scripture references are not only our authority for evangelism, but also an admonition for us to perform this needful work.

Some people have difficulty reconciling or harmonizing the doctrines of sovereign grace with the work of evangelism. They reason that if salvation is by grace and is altogether the work of God, not man, then why spread the gospel? Such misunderstanding of Bible truth would lead us to entirely stop all gospel preaching. However, it must be understood that one truth will not disqualify or distract from another. All teachings of truth will fit together as finely machined gears. The doctrine of election does not destroy the doctrine of evangelism, neither will evangelism deny election. It is evident that the Bible teaches both evangelism and election. As there are Scriptures that teach evangelism (cited above), there are also Scriptures which teach election (Eph. 1:4, Rom. 9:11, Rom. 11:5, and I Peter 1:2). There can be no doubt in the minds of those who give patient and diligent study to the Scriptures that election is supported in both the Old and New Testaments. How then does it harmonize with the New Testament teachings on evangelism? To gain this understanding, we must have an accurate appraisal of the purpose of gospel preaching.

Many people cannot harmonize evangelism and the doctrines of grace because they misunderstand evangelism's purpose. They suppose that to preach the gospel or bear the good news is intended to deliver people from the penalty of sin and save them for eternal heaven. Those who believe this generally also believe that there are people on foreign shores who will die and go to hell because the gospel was not preached to them. This is **not** a correct supposition! There is salvation from sin, but it is accomplished by God's work of grace and not the works of man (Eph. 2:8,9), such as preaching. There is a Saviour, but He is Jesus Christ the Son of God, not the man behind the pulpit with the Bible in his hand.

What then is the purpose of evangelism? It is intended to make known the work of grace in a person's life. When a person experiences the new birth, he possesses God's work of salvation in him. He is then able to understand the good news of the gospel. He needs to understand what he has experienced and to realize that his belief is evidence that he has been born again (I John 5: 1). Being chosen by God (Eph. 1:4), he is predestinated to be conformed to Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29). He needs to know that God gave His only begotten Son to die for his sins (I John 4:10). Such knowledge of grace will help him understand that heaven awaits him as his eternal home. It is good news from a far country (Prov. 25:25), for it is heaven's message, sent by God but delivered by man. The work of evangelism then is not to save people from sin's eternal penalty, but to tell them of and point them toward the One who did save them, that they might glorify Jesus.

Notice that what we call the "great commission" of Matthew 28:19,20 was not to **save** but rather to **teach!** "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." When the gospel is preached and people are baptized in the name of the Trinity, God the Father is acknowledged in election, God the Son in redemption, and God the Holy Spirit in regeneration. The total work of our salvation is declared to be by the Triune God and the glory is wholly His. Therefore evangelism is teaching.

When Paul went about doing the work of evangelism, by preaching the good news of Jesus, he did not save the people eternally but rather showed them how they were saved. Of Paul and others it was said, "These

men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation" (Acts 16:17). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). The good news of evangelism declares Jesus, the only way that sinners are saved or can be saved. "Neither is there salvation in any other..." (Acts 4: 12).

Philip the evangelist preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:35). The eunuch gave evidence that he was hungry for the milk of the Word, as a babe in Christ, born into God's family. Philip did not save him, but as an evangelist, he brought to the eunuch the message of his Saviour, Jesus Christ. Peter also did the same as he carried the gospel message to Cornelius, who had the marks of salvation before Peter preached to him and his house (Acts 10:2). We are therefore to go forth in evangelism, not to make children of God, but because there are children of God in every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation (Rev. 5:9). The work of evangelism is to carry the message or good news of Jesus. The evangelist does not save people eternally, but shows them the One who did. To those dead in sins, the message falls on deaf ears and is foolishness; but to those objects of sovereign grace, it declares the power of God in saving His people (I Cor. 1:18). The gospel does not give life and immortality, but rather it shines light upon life and immortality so that we may see and understand that eternal life is God's gift (II Timothy 1:10, John 10:28). Evangelism is intended to spread the good news so that more of God's children may rejoice in the knowledge of their salvation. God's name is glorified, and people learn how to serve the God who saved them by His amazing grace. By this declaration of God's grace, joy fills the hearts of God's children and becomes their unselfish motive for service to God.

In conclusion, evangelism or the spreading of the gospel enables God's children to know how to live according to God's will. Not only do we need the message of redeeming grace, but of serving grace as well (I Cor. 15:10). By the proclamation of the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24), we are taught how we may manifest our love for God. As He manifested His love by the action of sending His Son to die for our sins, even so we learn to manifest our love for Him by living in His will. Through the evangelism of gospel preaching, the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) is made known; and in obedience to God's Word, His children discover the path of joy (John 13:17). Evangelism spreads the gospel beyond its present boundaries and shines into a sin-darkened world with the blessed message of God's Word. God's people everywhere need this message, and we should be busy doing the work of evangelism.

When we understand that through evangelism a variety of important objectives are accomplished, then we will become more interested in it. Some desired objectives are: (I) God is glorified (Ps. 96:8), (2) His will is made known to men (Ps. 143:10), and (3) God's people are saved from error (James 5:19) and turned from this untoward generation (Acts 2:40). Such saving does not populate heaven, but it is part of God's purpose in evangelism. I hope that since evangelism is important to God, it will become more important to us also.

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Manna From God's Word

Doctrine

Webster defines “doctrine” as teaching, instruction, something that is taught. Hebrew and/or Greek meaning (Strong’s): “doctrine” something received that is instruction, chastisement, reproof, warning, restraint, learning, teaching, to instruct differently (teach other doctrine).

Deuteronomy 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass:

John 7:16 And Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

Mark 1:22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

Luke 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

Titus 2:10 Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

2 John 1:9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

1 Timothy 4:13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

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

Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 2:1 But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:

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Ancient Landmarks

by Bro. David B. Durrence
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As we begin to consider the subject of "ancient landmarks", my prayer is that God will fill us with His Holy Spirit, and give us wisdom, knowledge, and understanding to rightly divide God's precious word of truth.

We will use as a text, for our thoughts, the scripture found in the book of Proverbs, chapter 22, and verse 28: "***Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.***" Proverbs 23:10, also reads (in part): "***Remove not the old landmark; ---***".

The word **remove** means to: ***move or take away; backslide; turn back; to carry away.*** The word landmark means that which marks a border or boundary of something, such as "boundaries of a territory"

For an example, you buy a piece of real estate property. The surveyors will put a stake (a landmark) at all four corners of your property, and these landmarks define the boundaries of your property. That piece of property is bought and paid for by the labors of your hands, and it belongs to you. You can not legally move those landmarks outward and take your neighbor's property, nor can your neighbor move the landmarks inward and take your property. It is yours, and you have the legal right to defend it and keep it from being destroyed. Also, land inherited from our family forefathers is usually more precious to us because it represents our family heritage. Our forefathers lived and died on that land and those landmarks become even more precious to us.

I would like for us to consider the "***ancient landmarks***" of this great nation, the United States of America. What has happened to the landmarks that our forefathers have set? The landmarks under consideration are those laws and considerations of our Founding Fathers that were based on a "thus saith the Lord" from the Word of God.

This nation, like no other nation in the world, was founded upon the "Word of God Almighty", and Christian beliefs and principles. America is a young nation compared to great nations like China, Russia, Afghanistan, Spain; and the list goes on. Our Declaration of Independence of America was signed by our nation's forefathers some 230 years ago. It is clear that our forefathers used the Holy Bible as a guide while they prepared the Constitution of the United States of America. America was founded as a "Christian Nation"; and now the name of our Lord Jesus Christ dare not be mentioned in government funded buildings. The Ten Commandments cannot be legally on display to the public in Federal courthouses through out this land. Where have our "***ancient landmarks***" gone? Who has removed those "***ancient landmarks, which thy fathers have set***"?

I want to share with you some of the facts about early America, so you can better understand that these ancient landmarks of our forefathers have indeed been removed. Our nation's forefathers acknowledged the dependence of our nation upon God, and they recognized the Bible as the foundation of its laws, and supreme ruler of its conduct. John Jay, first Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court said these words: "***Providence has given to our people, the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty as well as the privilege, and in the interest of our Christian Nation, to select and prefer Christians for their rulers.***" Today, it is nearly impossible to get a Supreme Justice approved if they demonstrate any Christian values and principles. Christians are no longer sought out to rule in high offices in America, in fear that their Christian views may influence their decisions. What has happened to the "***ancient landmarks which our fathers have set"?***

In 1854, the House Judiciary Committee Report said of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States of America, and its amendments, that "***the universal sentiment of our founding fathers was that Christianity should be encouraged***". Two months later, the House Judiciary Committee Report said, "***The great and conservative element in our system, the thing that holds our system together, is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and the divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ".*** It was the desire of our forefathers to keep Christian principles in our government. Today, the government of America does not even want prayer in schools, nor the Ten Commandments displayed in Court Houses. The old landmarks of our nation have been removed. The stakes (landmarks) of our heritage and the boundaries thereof have been removed, and our heritage has been removed.

What has happened to the old landmarks that the forefathers established for this Christian Nation of America? These landmarks, which were based on the Word of God, have been removed. The Laws of the Land have been changed. Christian freedoms and liberties have been taken away. The boundaries have been moved and our land, with its freedoms and liberties, have been encroached upon. Our Christian landmarks have been stolen and replaced with new unconstitutional landmarks. The old landmarks have been hidden from the people. We have become a nation, not ruled by the people, for the people, but ruled by liberal judges and organizations that oppose Christian values.

Two of the things that ought to be of

great concern to all Christians are the laws governing abortion and homosexuality. Abortion is the murder of living babies while in their mother's womb; and homosexuality is sexual acts between people of the same gender and is an abomination in the sight of God. Yet, the laws of our land make it legal to kill unborn babies legalize same sex marriage in America. Brethren, these things ought not to be. I am told that there are even books about the homosexual lifestyle in public schools so that our children can understand, tolerate, and help them find their own sexual orientation. Brethren these things ought not to be. ***"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy forefathers have set".***

What about the "churches" today? It seems to me that the ancient landmarks of God's Word as set forth by our biblical forefathers, as recorded in the Holy Bible, the inspired Word of God, have been removed from many of the churches and religious groups today. It seems that men would rather trust in their ways rather than the ways of God. If the church will be the church of the living God, she will follow the teachings (from the Bible) of the Head of the church, which is Jesus Christ, who is the very foundation of Christianity. I hear of some ministers of the Gospel who are afraid to preach and teach the whole council of the Word of God, because they fear men (denominational hierarchy; Federal Government; liberal secular organizations; church members; etc.) instead of fearing God. Brethren, this ought not to be so.

The Word of God is very specific about the qualifications of a Bishop (preacher or Pastor) and a deacon. Preachers and Deacons are to be, among many other qualifications, the husband of one wife. The written Word does not say nor imply one wife at a time; it clearly says "husband of one wife". (see Titus 1 and I Tim 3) Until recent years, divorce and remarriage were not condoned nor tolerated in the ministry. But the Churches are removing the ancient landmarks! These are not my words or my thoughts; it is the Word of God. He alone sets the order for His Church. Where has the Ancient landmark of God's Word gone?

Today's churches, in so many ways have pulled up the landmarks and moved the boundaries of God's word to better suit the modern man of this "enlightened generation of love and tolerance" and have forsaken the God that we love and are endeavoring to worship. Many churches tolerate any and everything in the church, and fail to understand the truth of God's word that establishes the landmarks which rule the church. The head of the true Church of Jesus Christ is not the Pastor; not the Board of Deacons; not the majority. The head of the Church of Jesus Christ is Jesus Christ. He has set the Rule over His church, which is the Word of God.

God's Word tells the church how to deal with Her members who are walking disorderly (I Corinthians 5); about marriage and divorce and what constitutes living in adultery and what stand the church should take on these matters; about the position of women in the church; about how Christians should dress and conduct themselves in the world; and the list goes on and on. God has not left us to ourselves so that one church lives after this order or that order. God has given us His Holy Word so that we might know how to conduct ourselves as the body of Christ. We need to find and reclaim the landmarks of God's Word. They are not lost; they are just hidden. If we search for them, we will find them. Listen to the word of God found in II Chronicles 7:14, ***"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land."***

What has happened to the "ancient landmarks" of God's word concerning the Family? What has happened to: ***"husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church",*** or ***"wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands".*** What about: ***"train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it".*** What about disciplining children? Many parents are afraid to spank their children because of the laws of the land and the many courts of this land that would interpret spanking as "child abuse". The Bible clearly teaches that ***"foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from him".*** Parents are to teach their children about God in the home. Parents are to also teach by example. I heard one of our Elders make this statement, and I believe it to be so, "that as long as we parents live, our children are watching and learning from us." We are teaching and training our children as long as we live. What are we teaching our children today, and how are we preparing them to be the future Christian leaders in our Nation, the churches, and their families. Our children know if we drink alcohol, smoke tobacco, curse, swear, or look at filthy magazines. They see us when we cast a lustful eye after other men or women than our spouses. Children are affected by divorces in home. Marriage is not a trial to see if two people love each other; marriage is a life commitment. Living together outside the bonds of holy marriage might seem like a good idea, but it is fornication, and it is sin! ***"Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set"***.

How do we find those ancient landmarks that have been removed? The answer is found in the Word of God, Jeremiah 6:16, ***"Thus saith the Lord, stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein and ye shall find rest for your souls".*** We must stand in the ways of the Lord and ask for the old paths (the proven paths of God's Word), which thy fathers have set. When we do these things, we can be like the psalmist in Psalm 23, when he said, ***"He restoreth my soul; He leadeth me in the paths of righteous-***

ness for His name sake". We must look to the Lord for strength daily and pray this prayer unto God, "***Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths***" (Psalm 25:4). God has promised that if we will "***Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths***" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

As a nation; as the Church of Jesus Christ; as a family; and as individuals, we must search for the "ancient landmarks" in God's Holy Word, which our fathers have set before us, and we must reestablish them and conduct our service to God within the boundaries of those "old landmarks." We are not to add to or take away from the boundaries of the landmarks established in the Bible, but follow them, striving to please God rather than men. If we will walk through the strait gate and walk in the narrow way, they will lead to life in the Kingdom of Heaven, where there is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Remember the warning of the last chapter of the book of Revelation? We are not to add to or take away from the pure word of God. May we turn to God for the blessing of strength to do these things and follow God's Word, is my prayer for Christ's sake.

* * * \

"But God..."

by Elder Marty Mullis
Tifton, Georgia

For a text in this article, please take the time to read the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-49. Though you know the story of Joseph, I encourage you to read these chapters and see what all Joseph experienced. But the phrase on my heart is found in Genesis 50:20. Joseph was speaking to his brothers who had sold him into captivity and deceived their father Jacob into thinking that Joseph had been killed. Joseph said, "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; **but God** meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Can you imagine the joy that Joseph felt after all that he had been through: being sold as a slave by his own brothers; being in prison; years of suffering; then God lifted him up to be a powerful man in Egypt and to be like a son to Pharoah. Joseph then saw God's guiding hand as his own family came begging for bread. He realized that God had him in power to provide deliverance to his own brothers and his own father. This statement by Joseph to his brothers came right after his father, Jacob, died from old age. Isn't it wonderful to read of this story? It is marvelous to see God was working in the life of Joseph the entire time. He was right there lifting Joseph up in each trial he suffered. And after it was all over, Joseph looked back and said, "But God".

There are many times in the Bible where the writer pens, "But God", or "But my God", or "But with God". I want us to take the time to consider a few of these scriptures. As you are reading this, I want you to reflect back on your life, to try to see God working miracles in your life. Think back to times when the "deck" was stacked against you. Think about times when, by man's eyes, there was no way out of a bad situation. Pause, reflect, and see: "But God".

Consider David. I think you know the story of how King Saul became jealous of David. Because of the anointing by God on David's life, Saul came to hate and despise David. Please read I Samuel 23 to read in detail how Saul was on the hunt for David. Saul was seeking to kill David. But drop down to verse 14. "And David abode in the wilderness in strong holds, and remained in a mountain in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God delivered him not into his hand." Saul was a powerful man. He was the King. But God, in His mercy, caused the King of the land not to be able to capture and kill David. God kept His protective hedge about David, and delivered him from Saul time and time again! But God!

Another passage of scripture is found in the book of Psalms. Please read Psalm 73:23-26. I want to concentrate on verses 25-26. "Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. My flesh and my heart faileth: **but God** is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever." Here, David says that his flesh and heart faileth. Is that not true with every one of us? Aren't these physical bodies failing us? It has been said that every day we are blessed to live is a day closer to the grave. These physical bodies are but dust. They are mortal. They are in decline. Over seventeen years ago, my father was given about a year to live, due to issues with his heart. But God! Over seventeen years later, his heart is still beating. He is able to enjoy life. He is still able to preach. Praise God! Just as David said, "but God," my father can as well. Every one of us can say this about our own bodies. But God! These bodies are walking miracles. EVERY day we are walking miracles. Just as the passage of scripture already mentioned in Proverbs states that God has the King's heart in His hands, referring to God being able to control the manner in which a King would govern, God has every one of our hearts in His hand. It is He that blesses our hearts to continue beating and working in the miraculous way they do.

Please take the time to read Romans 5:1-11. Oh what a beautiful picture: a picture that paints how bleak, weak, and wretched man is. There is a clear realization that all of us are sinners. But God! That is the beauty! Beginning in verse 6, Paul says, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth His love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." That is the condition that you and I were in! There was nothing good in us. We were ungodly! We were sinners! But God! We ought to be shouting from the rooftops. But God…even though we were ungodly. But God… even though there was nothing good in us. But God…even though we were sinners. But God commendeth, that is He proved and established, His love towards us! Oh how thankful we ought to be! Do you recognize our condition? But God! Do you see His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ died for ME. He died for YOU.

In Ephesians 2, Paul gives us another "but God". Beginning in verse 1, Paul writes, "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the Spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature

the children of wrath, even as others. **But God,** who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." But God! Even when we were sinners, placed His Spirit in us. God was not just merciful. Paul says God was RICH in mercy! Paul does not just say that God loved us. Rather, he describes it as His GREAT love wherewith He loved us! Paul paints a sad picture of our condition. But God! Do you see His rich mercy towards you? Do you see His great love for you? Do you see His grace towards you?

I think a beautiful practical lesson can be found in I Corinthians 3: 6-7. "I have planted, Apollos watered; **but God** gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." Every one of us needs to remain humble before God. We have all been given talents. As God's children, we have all been called to do good works. No matter what God has called us to do in His kingdom, a great truth is taught here. So many times, we get caught up in our "accomplishments." Too many times, we have the mentality of Nebuchadnezzar. When God blesses us to be successful, we want to proclaim, "Look at what I have done". May God bless us to do the work he called each of us to do. But may God also bless us to remember… if ANY good comes from it, or if ANY increase comes from the work we have done… BUT GOD GIVETH THE INCREASE!

Another practical lesson of "but God" can be found in this same book. I Corinthians 10:13 reads, There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: **but God is faithful,** who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." My, what a magnificent promise we have from God here. Have you ever said, or heard someone say, "no one has ever gone through what I am going through"? No matter if we are being tempted to do evil. No matter if we are in a dark trial in this life. No matter if we are in a tempestuous storm. No matter if we are having to endure harsh tribulation. Remember…but God. No matter how big our problems in this life are… remember those two small words. But God. Remember the promise in this passage. But God is faithful!

There are other passages of scripture we could turn to, but let me close with this scripture found in Acts 13: 29-30. Here Luke is speaking of the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He says, "And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulcher." If that had been the end of the story, we would not have much hope. But in the next verse, Luke says, "**But God** raised him from the dead." But God. Praise God! What great hope this "but God" should give us. There has been great excitement in recent days over the discovery of what many think was the tomb of Jesus. I find no joy nor great expectation of any revelation if it is Jesus' tomb. Why? Because I know He is not there. He has risen! He was raised up! Who raised Him up? But God! We are all going to die! BUT GOD!

There are many beautiful words found in the written word of God. But right now, these are the two most beautiful words to me. But God. For when we find these two words, they are followed up with Good News! May God help us to remember these two words. No matter what we might go through, no matter how bad things get, no matter how dark it gets, no matter how the enemy may relentlessly attack. Remember…but God! No matter what your past looks like…but God! Remember…but God's great love. Remember…but God's rich mercy! Remember…but God's grace! Remember…but God's faithfulness! Remember…but God's greatness!

* *

We Need to Exercise Spiritual Vision!

Proverbs 29:18- **Where there is no vision,** the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

Hebrews 12:2- **Looking unto Jesus** the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 11:27- By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for **He endured, as seeing him who is invisible.**

Philippians 3:20- For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also **we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

II Kings 6:17- And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And **the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw:** and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

Job 42:5- I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: **but now mine eye seeth thee.**

Matthew 5:8- **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**

Be Thou an Example of the Believers, In Conversation!

by By Bro. Joshua Leach
Waycross, Georgia

"Let no man despise thy youth; **but be thou an example of the believers,** in word, **in conversation,** in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12).

For the last few months, we have been studying how to be a good example of the believers. Last time, we discussed being a good example in word, by the things we say! Right after commanding us to be good examples in word, I Timothy 4:12 declares that we ought to be good examples in conversation. Be thou an example of the believers in word and in conversation! The Bible isn't repeating itself here. The word conversation in the Bible means "behavior" or "manner of life." It is what you DO! It is how you ACT! It is your works! It is how you behave yourself!

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation **his works** with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish" (James 3:13-18). Show out of a good conversation your WORKS with meekness of wisdom! Be a good example of the believers in conversation, by what you do, your works!

It is not enough to just be an example of the believers in word (although that is extremely important as we studied last time). You must be a good example in conversation (manner of life, behavior, your WORKS) as well. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth" (I John 3:18). Husbands, do you just tell your wife, "I love you," or do you SHOW your wife? We ought to SHOW our wives we love them by our deeds (actions) out of a pure heart that is motivated by love. Jesus referenced Isaiah when He said, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me." (Study Matthew 15:8, Mark 7:6, and Isaiah 29:13.) You are only being an example of the believers in conversation when your actions speak louder than your words and SHOW others that you truly do love God by your actions! Your heart must be motivated by love toward God in truth, rather than by ulterior motives.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31). "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" (Colossians 3:23). Your motive behind your conversation (or manner of life) is extremely important! We are taught to be salt and light; not to hide our light under a bushel, but to let it "so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5). But then, in chapter 6, we are taught not to do "your alms before men, to be seen of them" and not to "pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men." What is the difference? The difference is the motivation! We ought to do our works before men to BRING GOD GLORY! We are not to do good works before men to make ourselves benefit or look good. Every action we take should be an example of the believers in conversation (manner of life or behavior), seen and unseen.

"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). Do you see the evil motivation of covetousness? If we do good to others out of covetousness, greed, fear, or any other motive besides our love for God, then we are not being examples of the believers in conversation (manner of life). Others should see that we live a life content with what God has given us, a life THANKFUL to Him! When I see others who are at peace and content when they do not have much, dear saints in the nursing home who have nothing but a smile and kindness, it gives me an example of the believers in conversation.

Help others! Visit the sick and afflicted! Visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction (James 1:27)! Feed the hungry! Clothe the naked! Take people into your home! Give to others! "…It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Do your jobs well! Take care of your stuff! Work hard! Do more work than is required of you! There is truth in the saying, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day." "...abstain from fleshly lusts...Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (I Peter 2:11-12).

Being a good example of the believers in conversation takes planning! The Bible teaches, "ordereth [our] conversation aright" (Psalm 50:23). We must put things in order! We must plan out our manner of life. If we don't plan to help others, visit the sick and afflicted, visit the fatherless and widows, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give to others, and more, then the devil will surely make us too busy to do it with other things that the world would have us to do. PLAN to be an example of

the believers in conversation. Plan out your good works, your good behavior, and your manner of life.

First, before having righteous conversation (behavior or manner of life), we must "put off concerning the former conversation the old man" and all the wicked deeds, or unfruitful deeds, that we did before trying to be examples of the believers. Study Ephesians 4:22-32! This whole book of the Bible is full of works that we ought to stop and works that we ought to be doing! Put away lying! Instead, speak truth! Let him that stole, steal no more! Instead, let him work with his hands "that he may have to give to him that needeth." (Notice the pure motivation there, not working for greedy gain but working to give to others.) Put away corrupt communication! Instead, edify others! "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Like Lot was with Sodom and Gomorrah, we should be "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked" (II Peter 2:7). We should do all we can to remove filthy conversation (behavior) from our lives and our nation. Study these verses that pertain to putting away our former bad conversation (behavior or manner of life): Galatians 1:13, Ephesians 2:1-5, and I Peter 1:13-19

Paul wrote this to the church in Philippi, "…let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries…" (Philippians 1:27-28).

In the 37th Psalm, we are taught to "be of upright conversation" (Psalm 37:14). Be upright! The entire psalm is filled with many things that we ought to do to be examples of the believers in conversation. "Fret not thyself because of evildoers…Trust in the LORD, and do good…Commit thy way unto the LORD…Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him…Cease from anger, and forsake wrath…[be] meek… sheweth mercy, and giveth…Depart from evil, and do good…speaketh wisdom…talketh of judgment…The law of his God is in his heart…Wait on the LORD, and keep his way…"

Warning: Psalm 37 also makes it clear multiple times that a godly example who is upright in conversation will be hated by the wicked. "The wicked plotteth against the just…The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow…to slay such as be of upright conversation…The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him." However, if we are upright in our conversation (manner of life), then God will deliver us from the hand of the wicked one way or another.

A good test to see if you are being a good example of the believers in conversation is to ask yourself if the world hates you. Jesus said, "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." Study John 15:18-19 and I John 3:13. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Timothy 3:12). Notice, not some, but ALL that will live godly in Christ Jesus SHALL suffer persecution. If you aren't suffering persecution from the world, then you are not being an example of the believers in conversation. Be a good example in conversation (behavior or manner of life) even when they persecute you, "whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing." Study I Peter 3:14-17. You are going to suffer! You can either suffer wrongfully for being an example of the believers in conversation, or you can suffer for evildoing which is far worse.

When others see what you DO, when they see your WORKS? Do they see an example of the believers? If not, changes need to be made so that you can adhere to the command in I Timothy 4:12 to be thou an example of the believers in word AND CONVERSATION (behavior or manner of life).

Also study II Corinthians 1:12, Philippians 3:20, Hebrews 13:7, I Peter 3:1-2, and II Peter 3:10-14.

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continued from page 7

Matthew 16:12 Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

Ephesians 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

1 Timothy 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

2 Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2 John 1:10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:

Prayer

Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

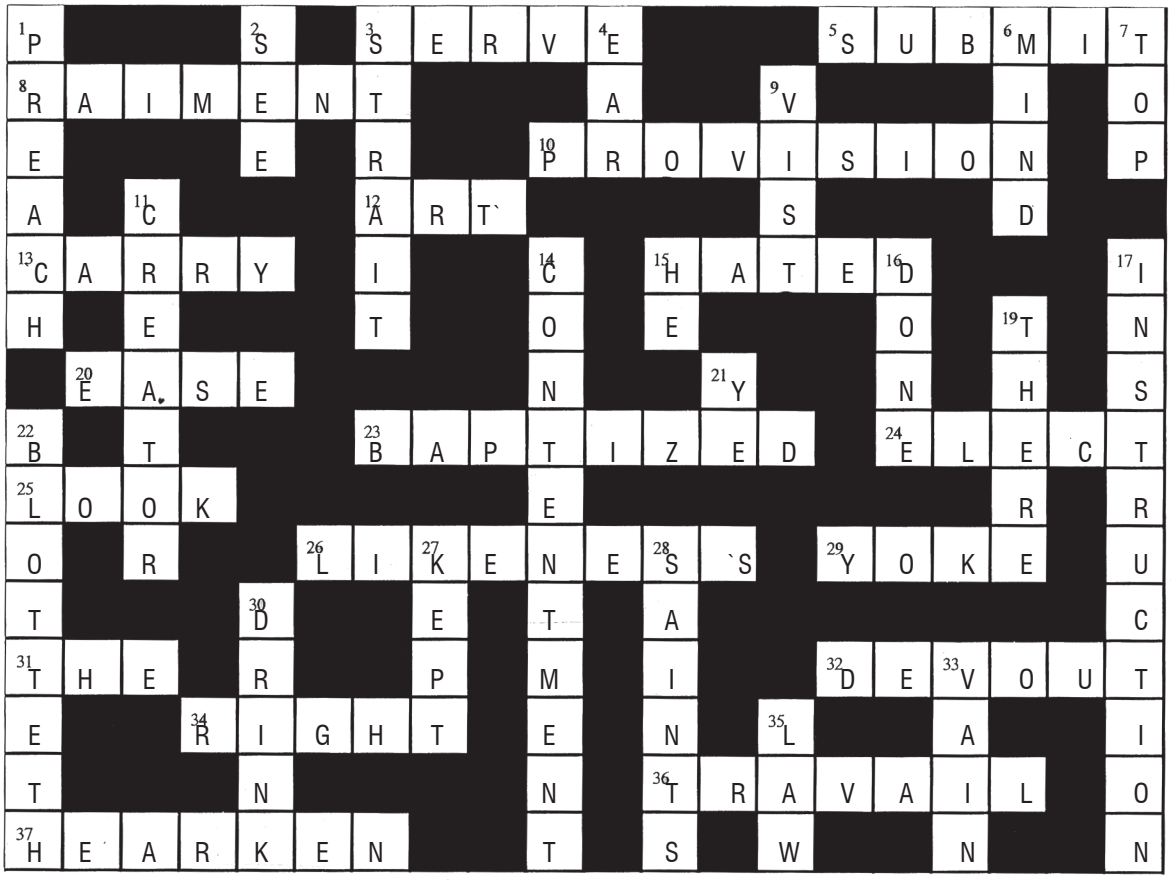
Compiled by Bro. Jimmy Hitchcock
Young Harris, Georgia

Bible Reading Calendar for January

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
1	Genesis 1,2	Matthew 1
2	Genesis 3,4,5	Matthew 2
3	Genesis 6,7,8	Matthew 3
4	Genesis 9,10,11	Matthew 4
5	Genesis 12,13,14	Matthew 5:1-26
6	Genesis 15,16,17	Matthew 5:27-48
7	Genesis 18,19	Matthew 6
8	Genesis 20,21,22	Matthew 7
9	Genesis 23,24	Matthew 8
10	Genesis 25,26	Matthew 9:1-17
11	Genesis 27,28	Matthew 9:18-38
12	Genesis 29,30	Matthew 10:1-23
13	Genesis 31,32	Matthew 10:24-42
14	Genesis 33,34,35	Matthew 11
15	Genesis 36,37	Matthew 12:1-21

DATE	MORNING	EVENING
16	Genesis 38,39,40	Matthew 12:22-50
17	Genesis 41	Matthew 13:1-32
18	Genesis 42,43	Matthew 13:33-58
19	Genesis 44,45	Matthew 14:1-21
20	Genesis 46,47,48	Matthew 14:22-36
21	Genesis 49,50	Matthew 15:1-20
22	Exodus 1,2,3	Matthew 15:21-39
23	Exodus 4,5,6	Matthew 16
24	Exodus 7,8	Matthew 17
25	Exodus 9,10	Matthew 18:1-20
26	Exodus 11,12	Matthew 18:21-35
27	Exodus 13,14,15	Matthew 19-:1-15
28	Exodus 16,17,18	Matthew 19:16-30
29	Exodus 19,20,21	Matthew 20:1-16
30	Exodus 22,23,24	Matthew 20:17-34
31	Exodus 25,26	Matthew 21:1-22

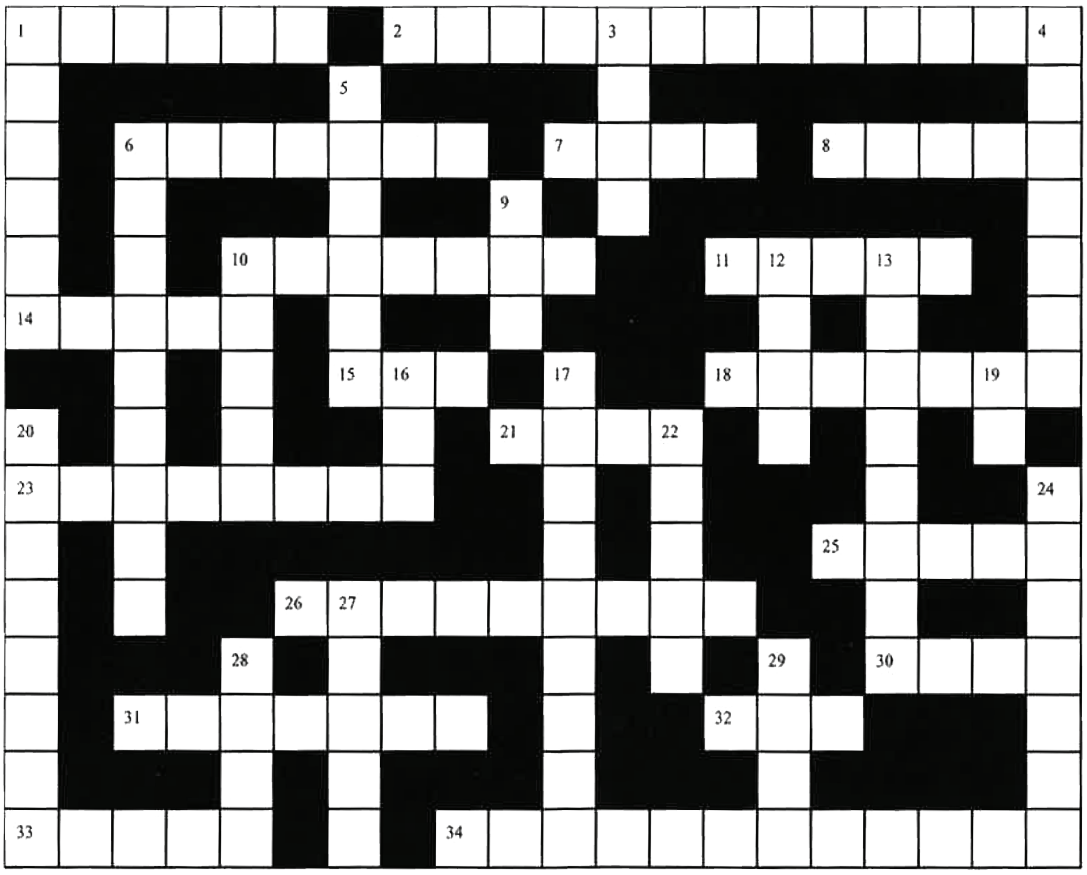
ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE DECEMBER 2016



Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a _____ of the hope that is in you..." 2. "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their _____, and the house of Jacob their sins." 6. "...and be _____ with such things as ye have:..." 7. Be not ye therefore like _____ them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask of Him." 8. "There is a way which seemeth _____ unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." 10. "...and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a _____." 11. "Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the _____, nor of the will of man, but of God." 14. "_____ into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise:...." 15. "The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he _____ little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer sleep." 18. "Any man that hath _____ must shew himself friendly:.." 21. "And it shall come to _____, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear." 23. "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding _____ with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." 25. "...for he hath said, I will never _____ Thee, nor forsake Thee." 26. "... Come and let us build up the wall of _____, that we be no more a reproach." 30. "Know ye _____ the Lord is God: it is He that made us, and not we ourselves;...." 31. "They _____ that they know God; but in works they deny Him,..." 32. "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of _____:..." 33. "For the kingdom of God in not meat and _____; but righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." 34. "Let your _____ be without covetousness:..."



DOWN

1. "God is our _____ and strength, a very present help in trouble." 3. "Let these sayings _____ down into your ears:..." 4. "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the _____ that forget God." 5. "...or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will _____ thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." 6. "And they _____ steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." 9. "For John said unto him, it is not lawful for thee to have _____." 10. "Cast thy _____ upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." 12. "But sanctify the _____ God in your hearts..." 13. "Wherefore he saith, awake thou that _____ and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light." 16. "Remember, therefore from whence thou _____ fallen, and repent, and do the first works;..." 17. "For with the heart, man beliveth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto _____." 19. "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous _____? 20. "For where two or three are _____together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." 22. "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be _____." 24. "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the ____ do:..." 27. "But while man slept, his _____ came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way." 28. "I must _____ the works of him that sent me, while it is day:..." 29. "For as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are _____ of God."