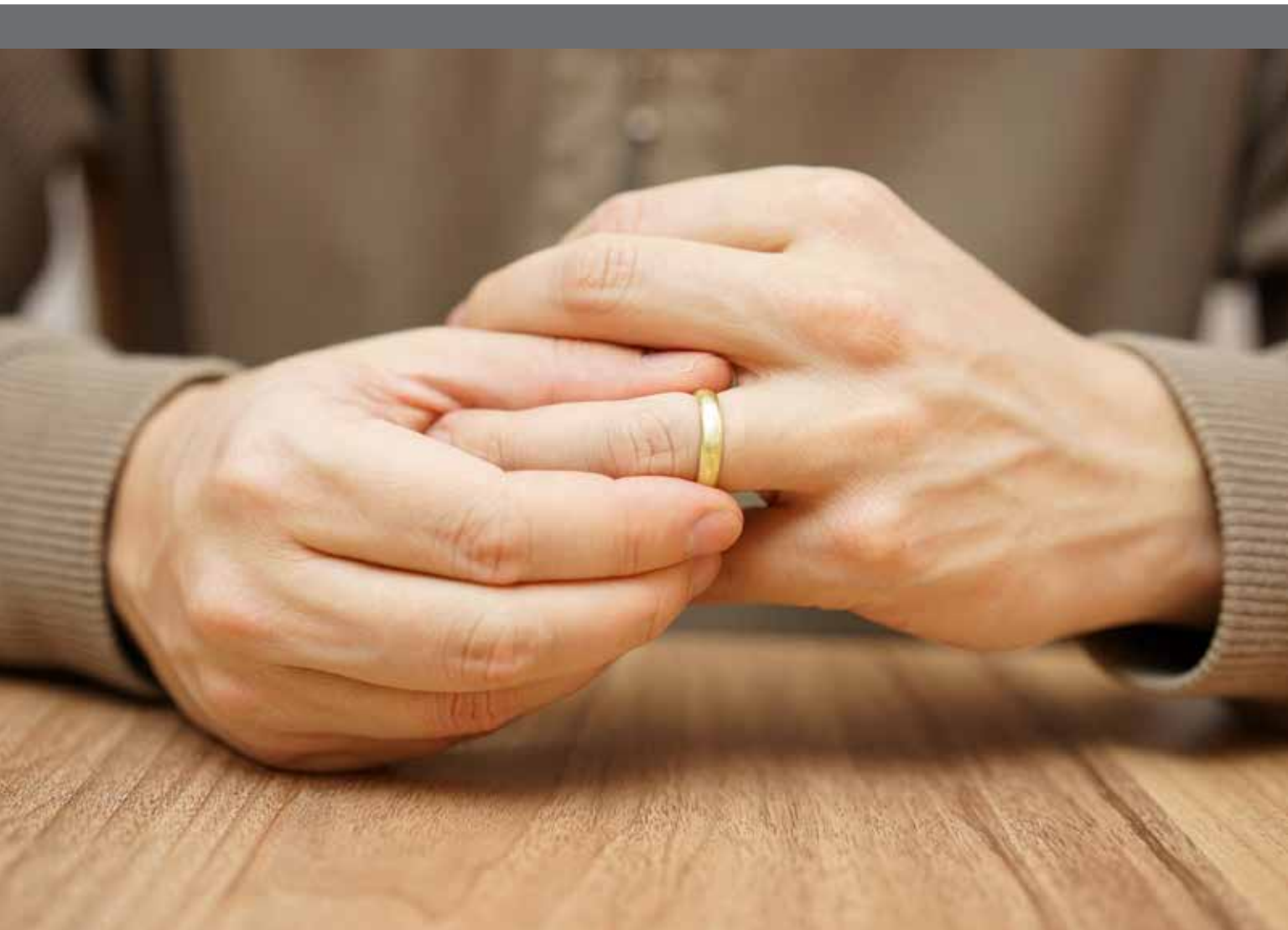


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# TRUTH

==== MAGAZINE ====



## **THEME: THAT'S LIFE (2)**

After Forty Years – **P. 2**

You Can Save Your Marriage – **P. 18**

Facing Illness, Disease, and Death – **P. 32**

# After Forty Years

By Mike Willis



Mike Willis, Editor  
tmmikewillis@gmail.com

On June 18, 2016, Sandy and I celebrated our fiftieth wedding anniversary. Such events give occasion for one to reflect on his life, reassess his priorities, and make plans for the future. I am becoming increasingly aware of my age, as I approach “threescore and ten” (Psa. 90:10). Though I have many plans for future things to do, it is time to hand the role of editor to someone else.

In December 1976, I received a call from my brother, Cecil, during which he asked me to edit *Truth Magazine* for a few months while he got his life back together. I was aware that his marriage had deteriorated to the point that he and his wife were separating. As many of you know, the marriage was never reconciled and Cecil passed from this life in 1997. A more permanent arrangement for editing the weekly periodical, *Truth Magazine*, was necessary. So, in the spring of 1977, the Board of the Guardian of Truth Foundation officially asked me to serve as editor.

In December of this year, I will have completed forty years as editor of *Truth Magazine*. During this time, I not only have edited the magazine, but I have moved the Foundation to become more involved in publishing literature for Bible classes. Already Cecil had led the Foundation in purchasing the *Journeys Through the Bible* literature from Sweet Publishing, renaming it *Walking With God*. Then the Foundation published

*Truth in Life* which has served the needs of churches for many years.

During my tenure as editor, I have overseen and led the revision of the pre-school and elementary books in *Walking With God*. In addition, we have published a series of adult workbooks on every book of the Bible named *Bible Study Textbooks*. We have also published a series of more than seventy workbooks in the *Truth in Life* adult workbooks. I have edited 25 volumes of *Truth Commentaries* with two more volumes nearing publication as I speak. I have edited fourteen years of the Truth Lecture series and many other single titles. There are about 100 tracts that have been edited and re-edited.

A lot of an editor’s work involves going over very carefully (two to three readings) what others have written. As you probably can tell, I have dearly enjoyed writing as well. I have written about thirty workbooks for the TIL and BTB series, as well as two full-length books, the commentaries on 1 Corinthians and Galatians in the *Truth Commentaries* series, in addition to my work as editor.

Most of these years, I was also working with a local church with its schedules of Bible classes and preaching.

## Seismic Changes in Information Distribution

In the years since I began editing the magazine and Truth Publications,

the publishing world has changed dramatically. The internet has made digital distribution of information as accessible as the keyboard on your laptop. The quarantine which the *Gospel Advocate* initiated against non-institutional brethren in 1954 would be ineffective today. The internet enables churches and individuals to distribute their sermons, class materials, bulletins, and other materials at a low cost and make them available to anyone who has a computer or smart phone in any place in the world.

There are some down sides to the internet as well, most of which I will not mention. For the church, a down side is that so much material that is published is someone thinking out loud. The internet has enabled the building of social networks in weeks that would have taken years to form through printed media. Sometimes these networks of brethren are healthy and sometimes they provide opportunity for those with similar minds, whether factional or moving toward looser views of Bible authority, to have instant and constant contact with each other.

For distribution of materials, the internet is probably as much a watershed event in our generation as Johannes Gutenberg’s invention of the printing press in 1440. With the invention of the printing press, Gutenberg made obsolete a revered and honored profession – that of being a scribe. Undoubtedly, there were many scribes who rued

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## Christians Under 30

# Babel and Religion

By Ethan R. Longhenry

Consider, for a moment, many of the most iconic buildings created by humans around the world. What purpose did they serve? Some are funeral monuments for powerful rulers, but most have some sort of religious function. The temple complexes of Thebes in Egypt, the Parthenon in Athens, the Pantheon in Rome, many of the temples in central America and southeast Asia, and many medieval churches and mosques were all dedicated to the service of some god or another. In our “secular” age many of the great building projects are really devoted to some “god” of our age: money, power, fame, etc.

We should not be surprised by this tendency; it was manifest in humanity from almost the beginning. In Genesis 11:1-9 we are told of the building of the Tower of Babel on the plain in the land of Shinar. Early humans built this tower to make a name for themselves and so they would not have to be dispersed around the earth (Gen. 11:4). But what sort of tower would they have built? In ancient Mesopotamian societies only one type of building compared: the ziggurat, terraced stepped pyramid structures built to serve the various gods of the Sumerians and Akkadians.

But why would the Genesis author speak of a large “house of worship” for Mesopotamian gods as motivated by an attempt to make a name for themselves and so they would not be scattered? The Genesis author is no doubt making a critique on the religion

of the Mesopotamian world akin to the message of the Apostle Paul in Romans 1:18-32. The Mesopotamian pantheon did not really exist; the Mesopotamians did not honor God as the Creator, even though they should have perceived His hand in the creation and within themselves, and so, futile and darkened in their thinking, ascribed the glory and honor due to the Creator to the various forces in His creation. Mesopotamian religion, which would go on to influence Canaanite and even Greco-Roman religion, was man-made. The monuments they built did not honor God their Creator; they were tall, awesome, and seemingly majestic, but they were all to glorify and honor the humans who created them.

What is true about the Tower of Babel remains true about human religion to this day. People build large buildings and large organizational infrastructures to make a name for themselves even if it is nominally in the service of some god or another. Much of what goes by the name of “religion” is really just the vain imaginings of humanity imposed upon others. How many religious values promise humans what they have always really wanted? If such things seem too good to be true, they probably are.

These days fewer and fewer people give credence to the ideas of “organized religion,” yet they prove just as enthralled with man-made gods as their ancestors. The Sumerians served Inanna and the Greeks served Aphrodite; too many Americans prove willing to

serve their views of love and sex just as fervently. Money is the preferred god of many; others seek after fame or power. Not a few have made a god out of themselves and what they think. All evoke the fundamental sin of mankind at Babel.

We can see all around us how many people attempt to make a name for themselves and to maintain a tribal identity in the name of religion. Yet we ought not prove blind to how we are tempted to make a Babel within Christianity as well. Many profess to follow Jesus but really attempt to make a name for themselves; their religion is not motivated by the Christ as much as selfish ambition and personal gain (cf. Phil. 1:15-18). Even sincere Christians are tempted to make a Babel out of their interpretation and understanding of Scripture, attempting to definitively declare things to be true based on their interpretive structures without merit in what God has actually revealed. Such is why we must continually subject ourselves, our understanding, and our behavior to God in Christ, and seek in all things to glorify Him and not ourselves, lest we make a Babel out of our religion, and find ourselves condemned on the final day! 📖



Ethan R. Longhenry

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## Women's Section

# Teaching Our Children: The Principle of the Teacher (3)

By Aleta Samford

**Synopsis:** Sometimes children grasp concepts easier than we realize. When we pry open their minds with lots of questions, amazingly helpful things tend to tumble out.

“So, Class, just what IS a timeline?” I asked the children one day. With gesturing arms, eight-year-old Carson said, “It’s a schedule of the past, present, and future.” I was speechless. How simply put! I had never thought to describe it that way.

Let’s turn to the Scriptures. Did the Lord ever speak in terms of the past, present, and future? Consider the dialog between God and Moses in Exodus 3-4. Moses asked, “What shall I say to them [the Israelites] when they ask, ‘What is His name?’”

“And God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations’” (Exod. 3:13-15)

In an effort to motivate and encourage a timid and fearful man who doubted his abilities to do what He was asking, God spoke in terms of a timeline. His reputation spoke for Him in the knowledge of Who He was, what He had done, what He was planning for the present, and what He would do for all generations. He was stirring up the mind of Moses, motivating him and assuring

him that He would be with him through all that He expected of him.

This is the assurance we teachers must pass on to our children. Tell them of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Emphasize the three promises He made to them and how He kept every single one. Help them know Him through His deeds (Exod. 10:2). Help them like Him first, because our goal is to cultivate love, and “like” must precede love.

But first and foremost, set these truths in YOUR heart. Do YOU know the three promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Do YOU know every incident where these promises were fulfilled? Do YOU like the God of Heaven, the Great I AM? Do YOU love what He did and what He does and will continue to do? If you do, then your students will draw from your enthusiastic love and they will discover their own love for the Lord. As their knowledge continues to grow, they will know exactly where to turn in time of need because you have assured them that God keeps His promises.

I said before: “A timeline shows children that God created and dealt with real people just like them. It shows that He had a plan and that the

plan continues.” I like Carson’s version better. I LOVE God’s version the most.

Sharpen that spade. Stir up the minds of your children. Bring your timeline to life. If possible, bring it down to eye level for quick and easy interaction. Add pictures for focus; use it for reviews. In my opinion, aside from the Bible, it is your best tool. **1**



Aleta Samford

Aleta is the wife of Gene Samford who preaches for the church that meets in Kemp, TX. She has taught Bible classes for forty years and, in an effort to help other women join the ranks, presents a series of lessons based on her own experiences and *The Seven Laws of Teaching*. Her email address is [aletas10@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aletas10@sbcglobal.net).



By Bobby L. Graham



Bobby L. Graham

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**QUESTION:** My friends often complain that the Bible is obsolete. How can I show someone that the Bible is relevant?

**ANSWER:** If you are spiritually strong enough to withstand these assaults on the inspired writings of the Bible, you might be able to point these friends in the right direction. On the other hand, “evil companionships corrupt good morals.” These words of warning from Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:33 appeared first in the context of doctrinal error – namely, the denial of the resurrection of the body – to caution the brethren against being led away into this error. I pray that you will be strong and courageous to try to help them, if your own faith is not about to falter at any time in your efforts to help them.

The answer to your question is a bit involved, but I shall try to use the brevity demanded in this column. The relevance of the Bible is concerned with whether it has any important bearing on life today. While many admit its historical and religious significance, they deny its relevance by charging that it is an outdated book with little or no value in our modern world. Does the Bible retain any application to life today? Does it meet either individual or societal needs or possess any other value for people? I believe the following points demonstrate the continuing value of the Scriptures.

**1. God has not changed** (Mal. 3:8; Heb. 13:8). The passing of time and the fluctuations of history in no way reflect

variation in God (Jas. 1:17). From the beginning of the Bible to its end, God and His eternal purpose remained the same; in fact, such was God’s purpose before the world began (Eph. 1:4; 3:11). While man the creature is subject to time, God the creator exists and operates primarily outside the realm of time and is therefore timeless. There has never been any reduction or increase in His love, wisdom, mercy, or tolerance for sin.

**2. The Bible has not changed** (Psa. 119:89). Being firmly fixed in the heavens, it does not vary as men’s creeds, doctrines, or dictates do. Divine standards of right and wrong never change, because God does not change. Murder, adultery, cursing, and idolatry have always been wrong. Religious practices have sometimes changed because God has educated humanity, developing them for a higher level of understanding and service. The lessons taught under some earlier arrangement has always pointed to some future spiritual relativity (allowance of divorce, idolatry while developing spiritual maturity in Israel, Passover-Christ, Levitical priesthood-all saints, etc.). Although some think that society’s shift on morals/ethics reflect God’s changing on such matters (unmarrieds living together, homosexuality, no-fault divorces, lewd dress), but God’s

ways and thoughts never depend on man’s (Isa. 55:8-9). Such presumption, warned about by the psalmist in 19:13, endangers the souls of people.

**3. Society’s needs have not changed.** If anything ever changes in gigantic fashion over the centuries, it is society. The changes evident in society in no way reflect the genuine needs that society has, but rather the passing whims of fickle people. The major change seen in the last century is society’s departure from God, but it still has the same fundamental need for God. In fact, all of the problems of society come from the people who comprise it, but it is their failure to utilize the God-given solutions for their needs and problems which contribute to society’s problems. Crime and its punishment, the need for honest government, the abuse of welfare, racial prejudice, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, spousal abuse, child abuse, terrorism, and other such problems have not disappeared but increased, if any change has happened. The Bible addresses all of these needs; in fact, not one of them involves a principle not found in the Bible. The application of Bible principles to such problems would remove them as problems.

**4. Human needs have not changed.** The earlier enumeration of societal problem/needs reminds us that they ►

all begin with human needs and problems not being addressed at a lower level, before they mushroom to affect society. Man has always needed an understanding of who he is, where he came from, why he is here, and where he is going. Such philosophical questions are addressed in Acts 17:24, 27, 31 and other passages. Man's spiritual needs, resulting from his failure to deal with the more basic questions just covered, include such matters as guilt, depression, despair, hopelessness, and fear. Bookstores, television programs, and other media have dealt with all of them many times, but never to the extent and in the basic way in which the Bible does. You see, the God who made man also wrote the Bible

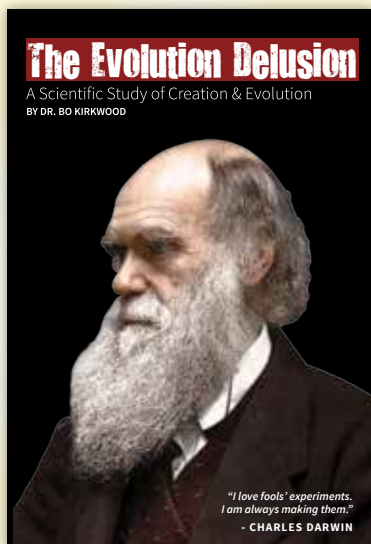
and understands what man needs. On a more fundamental level, the Bible deals with the basic problem of sin as it severs man's right relationship with God and then shows how God in Christ provided for the restoration of that relationship (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). Its treatment of salvation is fundamental to all the other problems.

The Bible is not a relic of antiquity which many claim for it, but an always fresh, always needed, always relevant message from his Creator for man's earthly and eternal good. Its practical relevance depends on its being practiced. Those who have believed it and taken it to heart have spoken most about its value for the present day,

while those protesting it as irrelevant and outdated have never sincerely tried it themselves. It answers man's most basic questions, solves his most pressing problems, and produces a satisfied person along the way. It is no surprise that God refers to it as the living word, which lives and abides forever (1 Pet. 1:23).

When the schools had the Bible, they had fewer and smaller problems. When society accepted the Bible, its problems also were smaller and fewer. When more individuals embraced the Bible, they had fewer and smaller problems. The Bible was the answer then, and it remains the answer for today, for you and for me. **IT**

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## Archaeology

# The Roman Road

By Barry Britnell

**D**uring the first century, the Romans were in control of most of the known world. To assist them in mobilizing armies or transporting goods, they built a series of roads. Their roads were professionally built, efficient, and used extensively for several centuries. Given the amount of time that has passed, sadly many of these roads are long gone.

Over the past few years, I have read a number of articles about the existence of a segment of one of these roads in Galilee. I knew exactly where it was located, but I was unsure of how to reach it.

Last June, I was traveling in Israel as a member of the Appian Media ([www.appianmedia.org](http://www.appianmedia.org)) team filming at locations associated with the early life of Jesus. I recommended that we try to find this road as it would provide an opportunity for us to take video of it and discuss the ancient Roman world.

The road is located in a field just east of Golani Junction. From the information I had received, the road can be reached by driving to the back of a local restaurant, then walking through a field for a couple hundred yards. Unfortunately, recent highway construction in the area caused us problems in getting to where we needed to be.

Undeterred, we decided to approach it from a different way. After receiving permission from a local gas station owner to leave our vehicle on his property, we loaded up our camera equipment and headed out.

We climbed over a guard rail. Then we crossed a road and climbed over another guard rail. We passed through a ditch and then up a fairly steep incline for nearly a third of a mile. As we approached the top of the hill, it came into our sight. Located exactly where I thought it would be, this 2,000-year old Roman road stretched out before us. It was fairly worn, but still a beautiful thing to see.

In the first century, this road would have stretched from the Mediterranean Sea, through Galilee and down to the Sea of Galilee. We read in the Gospels how Jesus and His disciples traveled through this area many times. In John 2:12, after Jesus attended the wedding in Cana, the Scripture says that “after this, Jesus went down to Capernaum.” In order to travel between Cana and Capernaum, Jesus would have probably

taken this same road. Realizing that we were walking where Jesus walked was a humbling experience.

As I stated, the Romans originally built these roads as a way of transporting goods and services, as well as mobilizing their armies. It is ironic that the first century disciples used these same roads to spread the good news about Jesus. What was built for one purpose, was used for a totally different purpose for the glory of God. **1**



Barry Britnell

Barry Britnell writes and teaches regularly on the subject of Biblical Geography. He has been to Israel four times in the last four years.



# Still “Winning”?

By David Dann

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life” (Gal. 6:7-8).

Hollywood actor Charlie Sheen has built a reputation as an arrogant, immoral, drug-addicted, womanizing party-animal. He is a man who has lived an entirely ungodly lifestyle and has made sure the whole world knows that he is proud of it. When questioned in 2011 concerning his three failed marriages and his then-current sexually immoral relationship with two women, Sheen responded by saying, “So what we all have is a marriage of the hearts. And to sully, contaminate, or radically disrespect this unit with a shameful contract is something I’ll leave to the amateurs and Bible grippers.”<sup>1</sup> When questioned that same year concerning his problems with substance abuse and addiction, Sheen responded, saying, “The only thing I’m addicted to right now is winning.... Just winning every second.... Winning, anyone? Duh, winning!”<sup>2</sup>

According to Charlie Sheen, a lifestyle of divorce, drunkenness, drug-fueled revelry, and fornication is one that constituted “winning” at life.

On November 17, 2015 Sheen appeared on NBC’s *Today Show* and said, “I’m here to admit that I am in fact HIV-positive.” He went on to say, “It’s a hard three letters to absorb. It’s a turning point in one’s life.”<sup>3</sup> HIV is, of course, the virus that many health

professionals believe is responsible for leading to the deadly condition known as “Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome” (AIDS).

In light of this turn of events and the apostle Paul’s instruction in Galatians 6:7-8, please consider the following:

**1. “Do not be deceived.”** Sin is deceptive. Charlie Sheen believed he could live an immoral, ungodly lifestyle and still be “winning” because he was a rich and famous celebrity. But there is a side of sin that is not often advertised by the world. Jesus said, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man” (Mark 7:21-23). Sin deceives, defiles, and destroys those who practice it.

**2. “God is not mocked.”** When it came to his sexually immoral lifestyle, Charlie Sheen mockingly referred to those who believe in lawful marriage as “Bible grippers” and stated that his chosen lifestyle was the “winning” one. But the Bible says: “the way of the unfaithful is hard” (Prov. 13:15). “Winning” can very rapidly turn into losing when one chooses a life of rebellion against God’s instruction.

**3. “Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”** Like many others, Charlie Sheen chose to live his life as though his abominable actions would yield only permanently pleasant results. However, there is a reason the Bible speaks of “the passing pleasures of sin”

(Heb. 11:25). Sin has a way of destroying one’s life in this world, and will certainly result in eternal destruction for the one who refuses to repent. As James puts it: “sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (James 1:15). Sinning does not result in “winning.”

## Conclusion

In the case of Charlie Sheen and all others who have been duped into believing they are “winning” even while they are losing, we would do well to remember that our God “desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Tim. 2:4). “Winning” is actually the opposite of the outcome of the sinful lifestyles of Hollywood’s celebrities. The true winners are those who forsake sin and follow Jesus. “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 15:57).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.usmagazine.com/entertainment/news/charlie-sheens-10-craziest-quotes-201123>

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2015/11/17/health/charlie-sheen-health/> 



David Dann

After having worked with local churches in Indiana, Canada, Florida, and Texas, David Dann moved to Kentucky in April 2016 to work with the Hebron Lane congregation in Shepherdsville. He and his wife, Cynthia, have been blessed with six children.

# I Refuse to Pay to Be Insulted

By Daniel H. King, Sr.

“Mr. King, I was just calling to try to get you to renew your subscription to the *Tennessean*. Is there a reason why you have not sent in the check to renew?” asked the nice lady on the other end of the telephone. “Yes, there is,” I replied. “I refuse to pay money to be insulted and offended. I am tired of it, and this is where I draw the line.” The lady made inquiry as to what exactly I meant by what I said, so I went on: “Your editorial staff is made up of left-wing liberals, both politically and religiously. Nashville, Tennessee is a conservative area, generally speaking, and yet your newspaper has decided to attempt to indoctrinate us all with propaganda that we do not agree with, so more and more of us are deciding to leave your readership. Are there no conservative writers that you can use to tell the stories? Must you try to force-feed us this leftist pabulum?”

The polite representative on the phone could not answer my question or respond to my protestations. She may very well have agreed with me on what I said. She could not say that to me, of course, even if she did. Certainly, a host of others do, some of whom even work for the paper. We were nice to one another from the first word to the final, “Good-bye.” I knew that she was just doing her job. She knew that I was just venting. No doubt she hears it a lot in our part of the country. Many of us have come to refer to this particular newspaper as, “That rag.” It is sad to see a regional institution that has been

around for such a long time come to this sad fate. But it could have been predicted easily by anyone who saw the paper turn in the direction that it has in recent years. After the buyout in 1998 by Gannett of the *Nashville Banner*, which was generally the more conservative of the two papers, and its subsequent shutdown, the days of local competition in the news business in our area ended. Afterward, there was not a conservative alternative in the city to the left-leaning news outlet. Consequently, it has become ever more radical in its perspective and its staff clearly has set out to “convert” the people of our area to the agenda of the political and religious left.

The last time the issue was visited by the press was in 2008, when it was reported that the paper had lost 6,000 copies over a one year period. It dipped even more on Sundays, plunging more than 13,000 copies, a nearly 6% decline (and this in a city that now has only this one newspaper, and thus no competition at all). My wife and I would register as among those whom they lost. Fact of the matter, they lost us more than once. I quit the paper several years ago and then reluctantly rejoined the ranks of readers, only to be insulted anew and quit them again. In the end, I decided not ever again to pay money to have my convictions affronted by elitist snobs who think that conservative Christians are unintelligent and belong in the Stone Age with other primal beings.

Now, admittedly, there are some things going on that are changing the way Americans get their news. One is the so-called “alternative media” in the form of conservative talk radio shows, which have tended to pull the veil off the mainstream media’s bias toward liberalism and secularism and against traditional mores and values of the nation. Cable and satellite news is also hot, especially the so-called “fair and balanced” FOX network. Another is computer-sourced media outlets and the blogosphere. Online sources have become quite popular and represent hot competition for the staid old newspapers and their cousins on the dying network channels (ABC, NBC, CBS).

CNN sizzled for a while in the cable arena, but their candle is also burning out in the face of so many alternative sources, since they tend to be very liberal and secular in their orientation just like the networks. What you get from one, you get from the others. Only in the case of CNN you are served up a 24-hour version of the same anti-Christian, anti-traditional family, anti-patriotism, anti-flyover country, “New York is the navel of the earth” and “the *New York Times* is the gospel truth” diet.

Most of us are fed up with that gruel and we have a taste for something better and more nourishing. So, we have decided to go elsewhere to get our news and information. And that is precisely what *we have* done. As one blogger ►

observed, “The technology exists to completely re-invent how television news is done – make it faster and better. The changes necessary, however, will prove too frightening for network news executives. They would rather go down with the ship than produce a quality news product, unfortunately for the rest of us” (Michael Rosenblum, *RosenblumTV*).

Whether quality or not, many of us are through with the networks and their quaffed, made-up model newsreaders (as they are rightly dubbed in Great Britain), who are little more than overpaid stuffed shirts full of arrogance and attitude. In our view, they can have their leftist propaganda. There are alternatives now, many of them, and we choose to make use of them and get our news and information about current events from those alternative sources. We will not pay good money constantly to be insulted and offended by them. There might have been a time when there were few choices in the matter, but that time is over.

And I, speaking personally, will not pay hard-earned dollars to listen to them spew their line of political and philosophical propaganda that is anti-God, anti-religion, anti-traditional family, pro-abortion, pro-homosexuality, pro-transgender, etc. Long ago they gave up being neutral in the culture wars. They are clearly on the side of every radical departure from long accepted societal norms and hateful to all that is good and righteous. So let them go down to the bottom of the ocean with their dying corporate sponsors. In our book, it cannot happen soon enough.

Now I recognize that there are aspects of what I have written here which might be characterized as somewhat regional and limited in terms of my own geographical area,

and that you may not live in a part of the country where these precise circumstances prevail. But more than likely even though you do live elsewhere, you understand exactly how we feel about this situation, and have experienced similar things yourself. The media conglomerates of our day touch even the smallest of towns and villages through the various outlets that are available in any given region of the country. But my advice to other Christians like myself is that we should stop paying money to have these people insult our values and disrespect our faith and our traditional morals.

As a voting bloc we may not be able to elect a President or even vote out of office those who despise who we are and what we stand for, but we can vote with our dollars when it comes to such matters as these. We can vote to put them out of business by refusing to buy what they sell and thus starving the evil beast that they have become. They are all “for profit” businesses even though many of them at this juncture are bleeding cash from every orifice. So stop paying them to blaspheme God and ridicule Christianity! Get your news and information from one or more of the alternative sources that are now so readily available. Those are my thoughts on the matter, for whatever they may be worth. **TM**

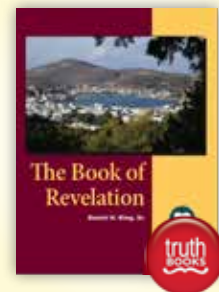


Daniel H. King, Sr.

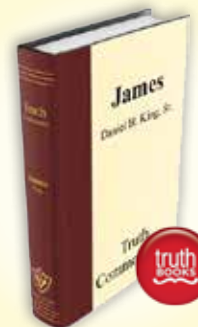
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# Will the Dead Get a Second Chance?

By Kyle Pope

Since the development of the unscriptural concept of Purgatory by the Roman Catholic Church man has often dreamed that an opportunity exists after death for those who are not right with God to be saved. If that were true, it would be a direct contradiction of many clear teachings found in Scripture.

Paul, for example, taught, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10, NKJV). If we will receive judgment for the things done “in the body,” it is clear that we cannot change our spiritual condition once the spirit has departed from the body in death (cf. James 2:26). The Hebrew writer taught, “it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). If “the judgment” is said to follow the one death of the body, any condition the soul faces while awaiting final judgment cannot alter one’s spiritual condition. Finally, while the Bible does teach that departed souls wait for final judgment in the place of the dead, known in the Old Testament as *Sheol* and in the New Testament as *Hades*, upon death one’s spiritual condition (as determined by life “in the body”) is set. Two realms are separated from one another in Hades. Jesus called one “Abraham’s bosom” (Luke 16:22) or “paradise” (Luke 23:43) and the other “torments” (Luke 16:23). Jesus makes it clear in His account of Abraham’s

discourse with the rich man that souls within these realms cannot cross from one place to the other. Abraham declared, “those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us” (Luke 16:26).

In spite of this there is a passage in Peter’s first epistle that has been used to try to argue for some type of purgatorial second chance after death. The text reads:

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water (1 Pet. 3:18-20).

It is clear from Jesus’ words to the thief on the cross, and from Peter’s teaching on the Day of Pentecost, that upon Jesus’ death He went into Hades (Luke 23:43; Acts 2:27-31). The argument is that Peter’s phrase “spirits in prison” (in the text above) refers to spirits in the hadean realm, and the words “went and preached to” describe Jesus teaching souls who were in the hadean realm during His time in Hades prior to His resurrection.

We would agree that the phrase “spirits in prison” refers to souls who are presently in the hadean realm. It is clear, however, that the words “went and preached to” are not talking about preaching that was done in Hades, but preaching that was done by “the Spirit of Christ” through Noah to those “who formerly were disobedient, when once the divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared.”

*How can we know this?* First, we know to which realm of Hades Jesus went upon His death. He told the thief on the cross, “today you will be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:43). Those in Abraham’s bosom (or paradise) were not the disobedient who perished in the flood, and there is no reason to believe that He crossed from “paradise” into “torments” during His time in Hades. Second, we should note that throughout Peter’s writings great emphasis is placed on the Divine Spirit’s operation within prophets in the past. For example, in the first chapter Peter addresses prophets of the past who foretold the coming of salvation in Christ. In discussing this he describes divine inspiration in an interesting way. In their prophecies they were, “searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating” (1 Pet. 1:11). Peter says here that prophecy came through the inspiration of “the Spirit of Christ”— what a powerful affirmation of the Deity of Christ! Peter would declare in his second epistle that prophets spoke “as ►

they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Pet. 1:21), but in 1 Peter 1:11 he says “the Spirit of Christ” worked within them. Peter affirms that Jesus is God and there is a unity of work and purpose that exists between the three persons of the Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

When Peter says that Jesus “went and preached to” these souls he is returning to the point he made in the first chapter. Just as the “Spirit of Christ” worked in the prophets of the past, the “Spirit of Christ” worked in Noah “a preacher of righteousness” (2 Pet. 2:5)—“while the ark was being prepared” (1 Pet. 3:20). Christ’s Spirit was working in Noah to warn the souls who perished in the flood. The words “souls in prison” describes their present condition, not the time when the preaching took place.

Today we hear people use similar language all the time. On the news we may see a mother weeping at the graveside of her son who turned to crime and died through his involvement in criminal behavior. She might say, “I warned that boy in the grave that this is where it could lead!” Now when is she saying that she warned him? We wouldn’t think she was speaking of a warning that happened after death. We would understand that her warning happened when the boy was alive. The words “in the grave” refer to the boy’s present condition, not the time of the warning.

That is Peter’s point. The rebellious souls who lived “in the days of Noah” had a chance to respond to the Divine warning, but that chance was while they were alive. Christ’s Spirit preached to them, but He did so through the preaching of Noah in the days prior to the flood “while the ark was being prepared.” This passage

offers no hope for a second chance after death—it is a solemn warning to us to listen to the words of Christ now, while our spirits are “in the body” (2 Cor. 5:10). **✚**

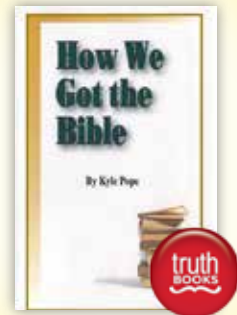


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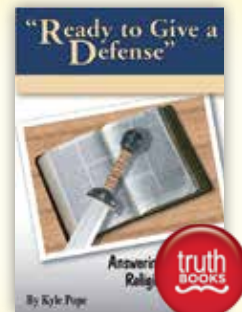
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# Away from Home

By Chris Reeves

**D**ifferent situations in life cause us to leave home for the first time. It may be for travel, work, schooling, or vacation. I think of those individuals who go off from home and join the military. At this time of the year, I think of our young people who leave home to go off to college. It is always good for young people, when they are away from home, to remember their Creator in the days of their youth (Eccl. 12:1). But, what in particular, can a young person do to remain strong and faithful to the Lord when he is away from home? Consider some Bible examples of young people and their conduct when they were away from home. What can you do?

First, *remain true to God's word and the values upon which you were raised.* I think of young Joseph who was seventeen when he was sold into Egypt away from his home in Canaan. When Potiphar's wife suggested that they commit adultery together, Joseph could have justified that act in his mind. He could have said, "No one will know," "I deserve this," or, "Just this one time." But no, he refused the sexual proposition of Potiphar's wife and said to her: "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Gen. 39:9). Joseph was raised to fear God and, when he was away from home, he remained true to that value. So can you!

Second, *be devoted to God over all others.* When Ruth left her homeland of Moab and returned with Naomi to

Judah, she was determined to serve the one, true God. She said to Naomi: "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (Ruth 1:16). She could have been selfish and remained behind in her comfortable homeland. She could have taken the easy way out and stayed home, but her devotion to God was greater. She later married Boaz and became a part of the lineage of Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:17-22; Matt. 1:5). You can be selfless and devoted too!

Third, *resolve to be good and maintain the good habits that you have developed in life.* When young Daniel and his friends were taken from their home in Judah many miles away to Babylon, they remained faithful to God. Daniel had resolve. He "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself" (Dan. 1:8). Daniel's friends also showed their resolve when they refused to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. They said: "We will not serve your gods, nor worship the golden image which you have set up" (Dan. 3:18). Daniel also maintained his good habits. When he was told not to pray to his God, he prayed anyway. He "kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Dan. 6:10). Take note that he prayed "as he did aforetime." He prayed just like he had always prayed. He had made a good habit of prayer in his youth and he was not going to stop that now. You can remain faithful to God away from home if you will have resolve to do so and

if you will maintain your good habits. Keep up your constant prayer, daily Bible reading, and regular attending of worship services with faithful brethren.

Fourth, *tell others about God and the right way.* When a young Jewish maiden was taken from her homeland in Israel to Syria, she was made a servant to Naaman's wife. When Naaman contracted leprosy, the young maiden told Naaman's wife about Elisha, the prophet of God. She said, "Would that my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! Then would he recover him of his leprosy" (2 Kings 5:3). When Naaman finally did what Elisha "the man of God" (2 Kings 5:14) told him to do, he was cleansed of his leprosy. Naaman said: "Behold now, I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel" (2 Kings 5:14). Naaman learned the truth from "the man of God" about the one, true God, and all from a young maiden who was away from her home. Share the message of the gospel and the truth of God to others and this will keep you strong.


Fifth, *act upon your courage and stand up for what is right.* When the Jews were taken from their home in Israel to Babylon, some of them found themselves later in Shushan (Persia). One of those Jews was Mordecai and he had been raising his uncle's daughter, Hadassah, better known as Esther (Esth. 2:5-7). After Esther became queen, Mordecai informed her of Haman's plot to kill the Jews throughout the province.

Mordecai encouraged Esther to save her people because the time was right – “for such a time as this” (Esth. 4:14). She showed courage and did just that. Esther made plans to approach the king about the matter, knowing that she might perish for doing so. She said: “If I perish, I perish” (Esth. 4:16). What courage! The rest of the book of Esther is about how she foiled Haman’s plot and saved her people. When things go wrong around you, show courage and stand up for what is right!

Sixth, *don’t waste all the good that others have worked hard to give you.* When the prodigal (meaning wasteful) son was given his inheritance that his father had worked hard to get, he left home and went into a far away country. There “he wasted his substance with riotous living” (Luke 15:13). We need to learn not to be wasteful (Luke 16:1). When you leave home, don’t waste your parents’ good name, reputation, or character (Prov. 22:1), don’t waste your example (1 Tim. 4:12), and don’t waste all your proper training (Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4).

Finally, *stay active sacrificing and serving in the Lord’s work.* Young Timothy became a Christian when Paul was preaching in Lystra (Acts 14:6-7) and later left his home in Lystra to travel with Paul on his preaching trip (Acts 16:1-5). When Timothy was away from home, he remained active in the Lord’s work. Paul wrote about Timothy: “For I have no man likeminded, who will care truly for your state” (Phil. 2:19-21). Paul sent Timothy to Corinth (1 Cor. 4:17; 16:10), to Philippi (Phil. 2:19), and to Thessalonica (1 Thess. 3:2, 6). On one occasion, Paul even left Timothy in Ephesus to do the Lord’s work there (1 Tim. 1:3). Timothy was Paul’s “fellow-worker” (Rom. 16:21). His work with Paul kept him faithful to the Lord while he was away from home. If you will stay

active and serving, individually and with the local church, you will stay faithful.

Yes, there are times when we have to leave our earthy homes. Let us all remain faithful to the Lord when those times come so that one day we can “be at home with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:6-9). 

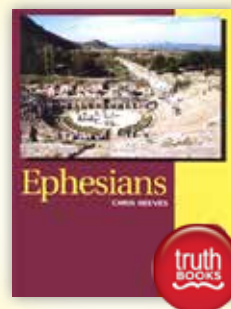


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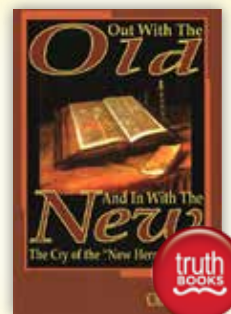
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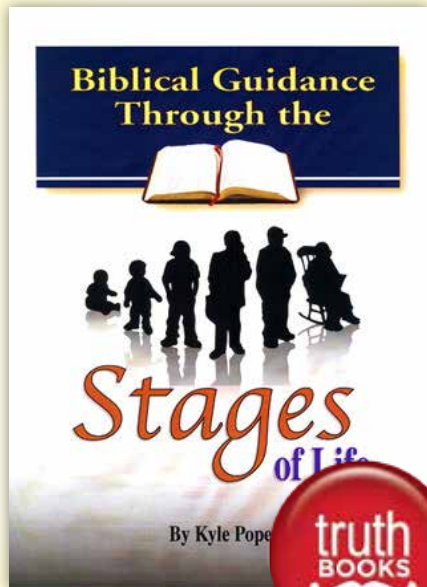
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## That's Life (2)

# Confronting Crisis

By Mark Mayberry

**H**ow do Christians effectively confront the crises of life? The noun “crisis” [plural: crises] is variously defined as, (1) a stage in a sequence of events at which the trend of all future events, especially for better or for worse, is determined; turning point; (2) a condition of instability or danger, as in social, economic, political, or international affairs, leading to a decisive change; (3) a dramatic emotional or circumstantial upheaval in a person’s life; (4) Medicine/Medical: (a) the point in the course of a serious disease at which a decisive change occurs, leading either to recovery or to death; (b) the change itself; (5) the point in a play or story at which hostile elements are most tensely opposed to each other” (*dictionary.com*).

Sometimes knowing the derivation of a word is helpful. The English word “crisis” can be traced back through the late Middle English to Latin and finally, to ancient Greek. The Greek word *krisis*, derived from *krinō* (to judge, decide), is defined as “a decision, judgment.” It may refer to the legal process of judgment, such as the activity of God who stands in judgment upon all mankind (both in the past, present, and future), the judgment of a human court, such as the Sanhedrin/Jewish Council, or personal decisions regarding right and wrong. In times of crisis, when faced with making a decision, we must choose between two or more options. In physical journeys, do we continue

going forward, or turn around? Do we go straight ahead, or turn aside to the left or the right?

On a recent trip, Shereilyn and I stopped in Meridian, Mississippi. We spent the night at the Country Inn, located on Bonita Lakes Drive, across from Bonita Lakes Mall. I thought, “Tomorrow morning, I’m going to run around the lake.” Awaking at 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, I donned my running attire, and took off in the wrong direction, and continued 3 km into the country, looking for the lake, which never appeared. Finally, I stopped at the top of a long and steep hill, saying, “This isn’t right.” So I turned around and headed back. The good thing about running is that it really doesn’t matter where you run, as long as you can get back to where you started. When I made it back to the motel, the sun was up, the fog had lifted, and I could now clearly see that Bonita Lake was just over the hill, ½ km east of the motel, in the opposite direction from which I had run.

Spiritually speaking, we often face similar situations. We may be lost, headed in the wrong direction, etc. Do we continue pursuing our present path, or do we stop, turn around, and go in the opposite direction? If we are striving to do right, will we continue going forward, drawing nearer to God, or will we be guilty of backsliding, and turn away from God?

In the definition of “crisis” provided above, one of the spiritually significant meanings is “a turning point.” Consider the negative example of the naïve young man, described by Solomon, who foolishly pursued an illicit affair: “Passing through the street near her corner; and he takes the way to her house, in the twilight, in the evening, in the middle of the night and in the darkness...” (Prov. 7:1-27). Reflect upon the positive example of the prodigal son, described by Jesus, who after committing a succession of bad choices, came to his senses and decided to return to his father (Luke 15:11-32).

Again, in the aforementioned definition, another spiritually significant meaning of “crisis” is “a condition of instability.” We overcome internal instability by taking advantage of the gifts Christ has given that help us grow and become more spiritually mature (Eph. 4:7-16). We overcome external instability by trusting in the Lord (Psa. 46:1-11).

How should believers react when faced with either physical or spiritual crises? We should rise to the challenge by being calm, consistent, thoughtful, and prayerful,

**Be calm.** In Psalm 4, entitled an evening prayer of trust in God, David praised God for having relieved him in his distress. Offering counsel to his readers, the Psalmist said, “Tremble, and do not sin; meditate in your ►

heart upon your bed, and be still” (v. 4). Before Elijah was taken up by a whirlwind to heaven, the sons of the prophets confronted Elisha, saying, “Do you know that the Lord will take away your master from over you today?” Each time this occurred, Elisha responded, “Yes, I know; be still” (2 Kings 2:1-6, esp. vv. 3 and 5). In contrast with the frenzied rituals of paganism, made all the more frantic because of the muteness of idols (1 Kings 18:25-29), the Lord God securely sits upon His heavenly throne, powerfully and perpetually present, accomplishing His eternal purpose in the face of all human and satanic opposition (Psa. 2:1-6). Therefore, let all the earth be silent before Him (Hab. 2:18-20).

**Be consistent.** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Spiritual leaders manifest similar stability. Therefore, may we all endeavor to be constant, dependable, reliable (Heb. 13:7-9). Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection constitute the heart of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-11), demonstrating God’s saving power, providing the basis of our hope for the future, and compelling us to steadfast devotion (1 Cor. 15:50-58). Vacillation has no place among the faithful; rather, we live with cheerful purpose, trusting in the promises of God (2 Cor. 1:15-22).


**Be thoughtful.** In times of crisis, we should attempt to quiet “the lizard brain.” This concept has been popularized by Seth Godin, an American author, entrepreneur, marketer, and public speaker. The lizard brain is that small voice in your head that resists your dreams, holding you back, and causing you to fail. Lizards only seek survival, desiring the warmth of the sun and living fearfully of others. They don’t take chances. They only want to eat and be safe. The lizard brain will fight (to the death) if it has to, but would rather run away.

In a blog post entitled, “Quieting the lizard brain,” Godin says, “How can I explain the never-ending irrationality of human behavior? We say we want one thing, then we do another. We say we want to be successful but we sabotage the job interview. We say we want a product to come to market, but we sandbag the shipping schedule. We say we want to be thin but we eat too much. We say we want to be smart but we skip class or don’t read that book the boss lent us. The contradictions never end. When someone shows up and acts without contradiction, we’re amazed. When an athlete just does the sport, or when a writer just writes the words, we can’t help but watch, astonished at the purity of their actions. Why is it so difficult to do what we say we’re going to do? The lizard brain” ([http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths\\_blog/2010/01/quieting-the-lizard-brain.html](http://sethgodin.typepad.com/seths_blog/2010/01/quieting-the-lizard-brain.html)).

Spiritual parallels abound: Paul communicates a similar concept in describing the conflict between the flesh and the spirit (Rom. 7:14-25). Yet, victory over the flesh is made possible through Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:1-8). Over and over, God says, “Do not fear!” When Israel departed from Egypt, and was seemingly trapped between the advancing army of Pharaoh and the waters of the Red Sea, God said, “Do not fear” (Exod. 14:13-14). After having suffered an initial setback, Joshua was told to courageously attack the city of Ai (Josh. 8:1-2). Foreshadowing the persecution that must inevitably befall Christians, the Lord Jesus Christ said, “Do not fear” (Matt. 10:24-31; Rev. 2:9-11).

**Be prayerful.** We should pray at all times (1 Thess. 5:16-18), but especially when problems are too big for us to handle alone (1 Pet. 5:6-7). When confronted by the Assyrian army, and the insulting ultimatum of Rabshakeh, personal representative of Sennacherib,

king of Assyria, Hezekiah entered the house of the Lord and prayed, laying his problem and peril out before the Lord (2 Kings 19:14-19). God marvelously answered. Remember that God is our helper. In the words of the Psalmist, “I will not be afraid, what can man do to me?” (Psa. 56:1-13; Heb. 13:5-6).

In this special issue of *Truth Magazine*, devoted to the ongoing theme, “That’s Life!,” we consider how Christians face various crises of life. Sandy Willis focuses on “You Can Save Your Marriage.” David Shadburne examines the heart-wrenching theme of “Facing Illness, Disease, and Death.” Patrick Bradford reflects upon principles that help when “Experiencing Job Loss.” David Halbrook discusses “Pulling Up Roots.” We hope you benefit from these thoughtful articles and will look forward to reading the remainder of the articles in the September issue. 



Mark Mayberry

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## That's Life (1)

# You Can Save Your Marriage

By Sandy Willis

**H**ow can I have been married for fifty years? I am yet so young! Being married this many years is almost unheard of in modern society. Many people have had two or three marriages, but Mike and I are very happy with one another. He's my best friend and I love and respect him very much. But this wasn't always so!

Many may look at us and assume it has been an awesome journey without any conflicts and tears. But, all marriages have rocky places and ours is no exception. When anyone tells you otherwise, I usually think or say that they are lying or just awfully dull! It is true that some haven't had to deal with the major issues we did. We had major problems that had to be addressed, not small problems like one's mate leaving the cap off the toothpaste. We couldn't just ignore them and pray them away.

Marriages that survive take work and commitment; marital happiness does not come without effort. Even in those marriages where both husband and wife come into the marriage without serious scars from their childhood, adjusting to living with one another takes effort. We all come from different backgrounds and every person brings his/her own set of baggage. My baggage was full of rocks, perhaps boulders.

I came out of an abusive home (for more information related to the problems of coming out of an abusive home, see my chapter in *God Give Us*

*Christian Homes* [CEIbooks.com], 464-475). My father was overbearing and domineering. I was afraid of him. When Daddy came home, the best thing to be was invisible. I never knew what would set him off. When he was drinking, he did not need a reason to explode with rage. I did not know anyone else who had that kind of home. This background created major problems in our home – problems that were not going away just because I prayed. They had to be worked through. Coming from this background, the cards were stacked against us.

Mike and I got married when we were eighteen years old. Our first ten years together were very unhappy for both of us. Neither of us was qualified to address the problems we were facing.

## Reasons We Were Able to Survive

As I think about what kept us together, here are the reasons we were able to survive:

1. *Our commitment to God.* More than any other thing, *this saved our marriage.* Though we came from different backgrounds, both of us had been taught that marriage was a “once in a lifetime commitment” (see Rom. 7:2). When we went through those difficult years, both of us agreed that divorce was not an option. If a person has problems in her first marriage and doesn't work through them, she will

take them with her to her second, third, or fourth marriage.

2. *We got help.* We tried to work through our problems alone over several years, but our conflicts only grew more intense. As we look around us, none of our friends seemed to have the kinds of problems we were facing. So we lived with our “dirty little secret” that we had marriage problems. I lived under the mistaken idea that we were abnormal – that no one else had problems like we were facing. Not even our closest friends knew that we were struggling. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, Christians didn't talk openly about marriage problems; I was too embarrassed to talk to my brethren. Today our society is more open, which makes it easier to reach out to fellow Christians.

What added to our difficulty in finding help was that some of our respected preachers condemned going for help to psychologists, psychiatrists, or marriage counsellors (these were not so available in the late 1960s). So, here I was – unhappy – and made to feel guilty if I took medicine for my depression or reached out to seek professional help in addressing our marriage conflicts. We were being told from the pulpit just to pray and trust in God. Don't misunderstand me. I believe in both prayer and trusting in God, and Mike and I did both. But I was being told that the reason I was feeling depressed was that my faith was weak. So, for ►

years, we struggled – in an unhappy marriage – and, on top of that I was made to feel, both by other Christians and my husband, that I also was a failure. Being made to feel guilty just pushed my spirits lower than before. (As an aside, let me suggest that you be careful in telling people who are going through marital conflicts that their faith is weak. It may push them over the cliff of despair and despondency. We prayed a lot as the years passed, but still our conflicts were ever present.)

Mike was attending Christian Theological Seminary which had a counselling program. He was desperate for help so he decided to take *me* and get *me* fixed! While there, he learned that he had brought baggage into our marriage as well which also had to be worked through. All of the time (about a year of weekly visits) that we were attending counseling sessions, we kept it a secret. We did not want to let members know that their preacher and his wife were having marriage problems.

Don't think that counselling is easy. Dealing with marriage conflicts is painful and hard. You have to talk about the things that cause the conflicts, digging up things that you had rather keep buried. It is unpleasant, but necessary. We would go to sessions feeling pretty good toward each other, only to have the counsellor make us face an issue that forced us to express our different perspectives. When the sessions ended, our feelings had been brought back to the surface. Leaving the counsellor's office, we went back home and argued about the problem all over again. I thought, "What good are we doing?" I was more frustrated. But what I began to notice was that our fusses were not as often – the time between them grew longer and the conflicts were less intense. I began to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

The main point that I want you to take from relating our painful conflicts is this: If both of you want to save your marriage, you can! I know, because we did!

### Things I Have Learned

1. *Don't settle for an unhappy marriage.* I didn't want to just live under the roof with my husband. I wanted to enjoy our lives together. There will always be conflicts in a marriage, but a couple should strive to work out these things. Resolve to meet each other's needs. Mike once said to me, "My daddy didn't do that for my mom." I replied, "I'm not your momma!" The couple needs to work out what is best for the

### Be Willing to Share Your Story

I am no longer trying to hide our "dirty secret" – too embarrassed to say we had problems, major problems. Who knows? There may be those sitting around us at worship services whose hearts are heavy and burdened. They feel alone and think that no one understands. I am ready to tell these brothers and sisters, "I have been where you are. There is hope! There is happiness for you!"

two of them, which is involved in leaving father and mother and cleaving to each other (Gen. 2:24).

2. *Communication is vital.* Problems do not disappear on their own. One needs to get them out on the table. This does cause turmoil. No one likes to fuss, but if problems do not get resolved, they will continue to pop up in your lives. We talk about everything – me more than him. Even now after fifty years, we deal with things. We do not want to jeopardize our happiness by allowing things to fester. At different times, each of us has hurt the other's feelings, even

when neither of us intended to make the other feel that way. We can choose either to let it fester or say, "You hurt my feelings." It is better to clear the air.

3. *Keep your love alive.* This means taking time for each other, especially when the children are small. After all, the best gift that a mother can give her children is to have a happy, satisfied, and contented husband. Another reason to keep your love alive is that, one day, the children will have grown up and left the "nest," and you will be left with a person you may not even like. If you have neglected that relationship, you will be living with a stranger. My husband is my best friend, and I am his.

### Conclusion

So, as we have reached this milestone of our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in our lives, we can look back through the fusses, the tears, the hurt feelings and now see that we had created for ourselves, through the providence of God and those who helped us, a wonderful, happy marriage. We didn't give up and my message to those who may be experiencing problems in their marriage is this: Don't give up! There is help available. In the Indianapolis area, we are blessed to have at least two Christian counsellors. One of them, Art Adams, has a website called "Leaving the Pit." Art has started compiling a list of other Christians who are professionally qualified to address marriage issues. You may want to reach out to him. 📖

*Enjoy your journey!*



Sandy Willis

Sandy Carol (Parson) Willis is the wife of Mike Willis and mother to Jennifer Mann (husband: Robert; sons: Corbin and Ian) and Corey Willis (wife: Meagan; daughters: Raven and Tori). She enjoys being with

people and sharing her experiences in creating a happy home with those who are struggling.

## That's Life (2)

# Facing Job Loss

By Patrick Bradford

Everyone experiences loss. Yet, all losses are not equal, and not all loss affects everyone the same. You can experience the same kind of loss repeatedly, and be affected differently each time. This has been true of our family when it comes to experiencing job loss.

We are an adoptive family. In our adoption journey, we had a unique experience we would like to share, which has had a big impact on how we deal with loss. Our social worker had us write out a “Loss Timeline.” We were instructed to document all of our memories of loss, the year it occurred, and how we coped. My wife and I performed this process, beginning with childhood until our marriage; then we did this again, starting from marriage to the current time.

It was eye opening to catalogue the amount of loss we had endured together over the course of ten years. The list included deaths in the family, infertility, multiple job losses, major moves, unrealized personal dreams, experiencing poverty, having no health insurance, and facing cancer. Our social worker looked at our timelines, stared at us dumbfounded for a moment, and asked, “How are you two still married? Any one of these things could cause someone to split up. How are you still together?”

Various things helped us cope, but the common thread that held us

together was (and remains) our love and dedication to God. Quitting was not an option, so we looked for solutions. Sometimes coping required learning things the hard way; sometimes it came naturally.

**Here are some lessons that came naturally to us:** Surround yourself with people who care about you. Count your blessings; appreciate what you have, and what you can do. Look for reasons to laugh — often. Get the focus off of yourself. Find ways to serve someone else. It is surprising how painful “mountain moving” can be. It doesn’t matter the amount you are able to do; just do something, however small the individual act may seem. Recognizing that pain is a catalyst for change, look for ways you can grow and become more compassionate from facing difficult experiences. Think of it as character polishing. Having a firm foundation in Bible knowledge before facing trials is essential. Be familiar with God’s word: Love it. Live it. Share it. Teach it.

**These were some of the harder lessons to learn:** Pray and pray again. Give your concerns to God, and really leave matters in His hands. Accepting that some things are too big and too heavy to carry on your own, cast your cares upon the Lord. Don’t worry. Make a plan and act upon it, but don’t obsess over it. If it doesn’t work, start over, making adjustments as needed. Share your burdens: without whining

or complaining, let others know of your need. Never just assume people understand your situation. If others are unaware of your needs, they cannot comfort or help you. Lean upon others. Drawing upon their strength, allow others to serve on your behalf. Help comes in many ways. Sometimes it is strange and bewildering. Sometimes it comes secondhand. Sometimes it surprises you in its generosity. Sometimes it is small and offered by a child who really has nothing to give you but encouraging words and hugs. Accept it all. It is all a blessing. It is all a form of love. Seek contentment. Understand that comparison is such a thief of personal joy. Those who measure themselves by themselves are not wise. Don’t give your joy away. Avoid anger. Bitterness will blind you to your blessings. Find ways to move past annoyance, wrath and resentment. Trust that God has something good in store for you. Remember that every good and precious gift comes from above. The Lord is a God of grace. The Lord will provide if you let him.

It has been ten years since we wrote our original loss timelines. We have experienced many more hardships since then. Yet, these tools still help us in our journey. Life is hard, but it is also good when you walk with God.

To address the topic of dealing with loss of employment, the prior must be stated to set the tone and background for what this topic means ►

to our family. As the sole provider for our home, experiencing job loss has had intense ramifications. The value I find in the aforementioned “Loss Timeline” is that it allows me to step back and get a “30,000 ft. view” of where we have been as a family, and what we did to overcome the losses that we experienced. Learning from the past (with its failures and successes), and being guided by God’s wisdom, we can formulate a plan to face future challenges. If you think about it, this is why God provided us with the Old Testament: learning from the failures and successes of those who have gone before, we see the importance of adhering to the plan God has for us today (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:10).

I can only speak for myself; you will have to look at your time line and discover your truths. By honest self-evaluation, I tend to be a workaholic: I need to be working, and need to feel like I am doing something to propel me forward and provide some sense of security for my family. I don’t totally base my sense of self-worth on my work but I have found that as jobs come and go I have become more confident in my skills and my ability to serve in my role as provider. Yet, this has come at a price: As one who tries to be loyal to my employer I have often (to my families detriment) placed my focus on keeping a job. This has come not only in working long evenings and over weekends but even during “vacations.” The result has been a loss of health, respect, and spiritual focus.

The sad thing is this: to the world I was considered a loyal, hardworking employee and a trustworthy co-worker. Yet, in the end this meant nothing, to the company for which I was working. I was just another number, not personally valued as an asset, but treated as a commodity to be traded. Only by losing that particular job was I able to open

my eyes and see what I had really sacrificed in that working relationship. Over the years since then, I have tried to maintain a good reputation and a level of professionalism that displays Christ in my life; yet, I have tried to refocus and maintain a proper set of priorities.

All things are temporary. This is the nature of this physical world in which we live. As a man who is trying to lead his household physically and spiritually, this perspective can easily get lost. This world is not our home. For all the planning and worrying we do about saving for the future, getting our children into the right schools, keeping our bodies operating at peak performance – in the end it is all for naught if we have not taken care and planned for our spiritual future. Jobs come and go. We face happiness and hardship, joy and sadness. Life will happen, and then one day it won’t. Plain and simple – it won’t. This life will end. Ask yourself: what will it all be for if we never obey the gospel, or if we neglect the spiritual man after having once put on Christ in baptism?

If you want to know how to handle loss, whether it be a job, a loved one, a friendship, etc., Christ is where all questions are answered. As we look back at our timeline, this is the constant that has guided our family, over and over, year after year. We begin by referring to our “Loss Timeline,” or “Grief Timeline.” In reality, it is neither: I choose to see it as a display of God’s hand in our lives. **T**



**Patrick Bradford**

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## That's Life (2)

# Pulling Up Roots

By David Halbrook

Almost completely gone are the days of the “old family homestead”—cherished tracts of land passed down from one generation to the next. Instead, in exchange for a higher paying job or for higher education, Americans happily choose to “pull up roots” and relocate, but the ease of relocating comes at a price. Furthermore, it is easy for us to be forced to relocate against our own preference or desire. “To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven” (Eccl. 3:1). We will never have all the answers to “Why did this have to happen...?” and the book of Job is our counselor in that regard. On such uncertain occasions we must not only accept the reality of each “season” but also that God “has made everything beautiful in its time” (Eccl. 3:11). While we wait for that beauty to appear, what will we do? Consider the value of examining our expectations, our comparisons, and God’s promises.

**Examine our expectations.** Just because something is common, does not mean that it is guaranteed or “our right.” It is normal and common for children to outlive their parents. It is normal and common for man to enjoy the fruit of his labor. Yet, Job unexpectedly lost both of these. Often the things that deeply disappoint and hurt us are the result of misplaced expectations. Even wise Solomon could not escape that. To some degree, he expected women, wealth, and wisdom to offer him stability and satisfaction,

yet they could not deliver when God was not on the throne of Solomon’s heart (1 Kings 11:1-8; Eccl. 1-2).

We may have plans and dreams about how the next five or ten years of our lives will go. We may invest money, time, heart, and soul in those plans and dreams and feel like we are losing all we invested when we must leave the place and people connected to them. But it is only fair to ask ourselves, “When I made those plans, how certain was it that they would be fulfilled? On whose word was I confident in those plans?” When my expectations are rooted in a business contract, the experiences of Joseph in Egypt shows us that “employers” may treat us unfairly. When my expectations are rooted in family, Joseph demonstrates that family relationships can take unexpected turns. When my expectations rely upon good health, the patriarch Job (and common human experience) reminds us that our health is always potentially fragile, even in youth. So, when my expectations are unmet and I am disappointed and heartbroken at having to “pull up roots,” it will help to examine my expectations.

**Be cautious in comparisons.** When we are forced to “pull up roots” and to fill boxes to fill a moving truck to fill a new house, it is easy to feel sorry for ourselves by thinking about all the people who have not had to do the same. “Why do some preachers get to work with a church for decades, while I was asked to leave after \_\_\_ years?”

“Why didn’t they ask my co-worker to leave, after all he \_\_\_ (insert any reason)?” “My parents or grandparents lived in the same place all their lives... why can’t I?” Ecclesiastes 7:10 warns us not to say, “Why were the former days better than these? For you do not inquire wisely concerning this.” It is not sinful to wonder about these things, but if we are going to compare ourselves to others, we should be fair. What about the preachers, co-workers, and family members whose circumstances are equal to, or more difficult than yours or mine? More so, compare yourself to people of the Bible, whom you admire and claim to imitate in various ways. Abraham likely had a comfortable home in Ur, but submitting to God’s wisdom, he wandered from place to place (and we are the beneficiaries of that plan). Moses did not get to live with his family throughout his childhood and as an adult, God told him to leave Midian and return to Egypt. As a result, Moses spent the rest of his life as a wanderer, mostly due to the sin of others. What about Joseph, Daniel, the saints of Acts 8:3-4, etc.?

Above all, compare your life with Jesus’, whose travels began by leaving Paradise. In His youth, He was born in Bethlehem, soon was taken to Egypt (maybe that can comfort parents who struggle with relocating their children), later left Egypt, and returned to His homeland. Then, in adulthood He had no place to lay His head but relied upon the hospitality of others (Luke ►



9:58; 10:38-42). Talk about “pulling up roots”—your life isn’t so hard, is it?

**Remember God’s promises.** When we assess our expectations and make comparisons, we especially should ask “What has God **not** promised?” and “What **has** God promised?” Should I be overly surprised when man disappoints me? Humans have been doing that for thousands of years, and I have disappointed others at times. In fact, God never promised that I would “put down roots” or that I would never have to “pull them up.” God never promised that I would remain in a particular occupation all of my life (including the work of an evangelist). God never promised that I would live close to my family. God never promised that \_\_\_\_ (you fill in the blank). So, if God never promised these things, they are not my “rights.”

Remember that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2), and our Father knows how to give good gifts to His children (Matt. 7:11; James 1:17). Because God can do anything at any time and make things beautiful in their time, we must wait until we can see what He will do (Job 42:2; Eccl. 3:11). This process is eloquently described in Psalm 77, where in a time of despair, the author recalls God’s salvation for Israel from Egypt and that “Your way was in the sea, Your path in the great waters, and Your footsteps were not known” (v. 19). We know that Israel was “relocating” for the better, but they had their doubts. Meanwhile, God’s way was in the sea—where no one expected it and no one could anticipate it. In fact, as Israel waited by the sea and saw Pharaoh’s army approaching, they were standing on the shores of their salvation but did not realize it. Their job was to wait, and at the right time, “You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron” (v. 20). Apparently, recalling this comforted the psalmist and it should comfort us as well. It is not

possible for us to always know where and how God will provide for us in the changes of life. By faith, we simply must wait until the sea is opened and His path is evident. This is not always as obvious to us as was the path through the sea for Israel, but we serve the same God who keeps the promises He has made. “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5). When we are convinced that He keeps His promises, we may boldly say: “The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Heb. 13:6). Distinguishing what God has and has not promised will help us to pull up roots when we must and seek God’s help in finding where they should be planted next.

In conclusion, emotional roots are among the most difficult to “pull up,” but there is a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted (Eccl. 3:2). When life changes without our permission or approval, “consider the work of God; for who can make straight what He has made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: surely God has appointed the one as well as the other, so that man can find out nothing that will come after him” (Eccl. 7:13-14). God intended for this life to have twists and turns so that we would not forget our frailty and dependency upon Him. If we enjoy the process of “putting down roots” then remember that God created all things, including roots. He created them so that they could be transplanted without destroying the plant and in time, regain the vitality and fruit-bearing ability that brings joy to man and glory to God. So, when you must do it, pull up your roots in faith and prepare to bear fruit wherever you are planted next. After all, even people who remain planted on the “old homestead” will be uprooted at death. Keep your first hopes and dreams in heaven. Be steadfast each day. Make your confidence in

God immovable. In every place and circumstance, abound in the work of the Lord, knowing that even the labor of relocating is not in vain in the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). **TL**



David Halbrook has done the work of an evangelist since 2003 and is currently in the process of “pulling up roots.” He can be reached at: [davidhalbrook@hotmail.com](mailto:davidhalbrook@hotmail.com).

## That's Life (2)

# Facing Illness, Disease and Death

By David Shadburne



David and Christian Shadburne

**W**e understand that our existence here in this life is limited. James 4:14 compares our lives to a vapor that quickly disappears. The 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm, verse 10, reiterates this point when it says, “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for soon it is cut off, and we fly away.” No one is assured of how long his physical existence will be: not the new born infant, the teenager, the middle aged or even those older.

Regardless of the duration of our lives, we receive many blessings, and there are many occasions of joy we experience. Joys that come instantly to my mind include meeting and marrying my wife of soon to be twenty-seven years; the birth of my three sons, watching them grow, spending time with them and baptizing all three of them; spending time with my aging parents and in-laws. My list could go on and I’m sure we all could name hundreds of things in our lives that bring joy and for which we are thankful. This is part of God’s plan. If there is ever a doubt whether God wants us to enjoy life and be happy, take time to search the words “joy,” “happy,” and “rejoice” in your Bible. Over and over again, God tells us what it takes to be happy (Ps. 146:5; Prov. 16:20; 28:14). We are told by God to rejoice (Ps. 2:11; 5:11; Prov. 5:18; Eccl. 11:9; Rom. 5:2; 12:15; 1 Thess.

5:16). God tells us where joy is found (Eccl. 2:26; Jer. 15:16; Luke 6:22-23).

Yet, we also know that we will face difficulties during this life. This should not come as a surprise. People face difficulties. People get sick. People die. The fact is we all will die unless the Lord returns first (Heb. 9:27). Illness, disease and death bring heartache, tears, and questions. The question for us is how do we face the challenges of life? I thought I understood that challenges would come. I thought I understood the intensity of the challenges I would face, but recently the true aspect of challenges and difficulties became even clearer.

In May of 2015, my twenty-one year-old middle son, Christian, was diagnosed with Esthesioneuroblastoma Stage Four. We had never heard of this disease, but soon found out it was a very rare and aggressive cancer. Prior to this, Christian was a very healthy pre-med student at Western Kentucky University. Now he and his doctors were fighting for his life. An initial eight rounds of chemo left him nauseated where he couldn’t eat. Thirty-two additional radiation treatments to his head left his throat so blistered that he couldn’t swallow. All his nutrition had to come through a feeding tube for months on end. He experienced a loss of forty pounds.

In late 2015 and early 2016, we saw improvement. Everything seemed ►

to be stabilized. He could eat, and the feeding tube was removed. He was gaining weight, gaining strength, and able to move back to Bowling Green. Then a few weeks later, everything changed. The aggressive cancer was back with a vengeance. Another chemo treatment was tried unsuccessfully. We moved my son into hospice care on May 23, and he died on May 26, 2016 at 5:50 a.m. He was 22 years, 3 months, and 4 days old.

I don't think a parent is ever ready to see a child get seriously sick, much less die. I remember my initial response to his diagnosis. Obviously there were tears and questioning why this was happening. I prayed more than ever. My wife and I, along with Christian's girlfriend, were at his bedside when he died. With broken hearts, we cried, yet that wasn't the whole scope of the feelings we experienced. As I sit here writing this less than three weeks after burying my son, I can see lessons my faithful son was trying to teach me. These are lessons and help that he garnered from God's word, lessons that my heavenly Father wants all of us to learn.

- **God knows what we are going through.** He knows our joys and He knows our sorrows. I think about how Jesus cried at the death of Lazarus in John 11:35. I think about the love that my God has for us. A love that goes beyond what we can even begin to imagine in sending His Son to die for us (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8). We have a high priest in Jesus who sympathizes with us (Heb. 4:15). I'm reminded of the hymn, *Does Jesus Care?* With the emphatic answer, *"Oh yes, He cares; I know He cares, His heart is touched with*

*my grief! When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares."* I take great comfort in knowing He cares. I don't have to face this sorrow alone. I have a physical family to support me. I have a spiritual family that has supported us in various ways over



David and Christian Shadburne

the past year. More importantly I have a Father and a Savior who are there for me during these difficult times (1 Pet. 5:7).

- **It is all going to be ok.** When Christian was first diagnosed with cancer, he sat down and spoke with my parents. He said it "was all going to be ok, that he may not live long, but that he would be waiting for them in paradise." Over and over again he made statements like "I am the lucky

one" and "I'm not living for this world." How true this is. Today, and for years to come, we will grieve over Christian's death. We miss him deeply. There is nothing wrong with grieving; it is normal and important to do. But we do not grieve as those in the world who have no hope (1 Thess. 4:13). As Christians, we understand that our citizenship is not here. This earth is not our home. We long to go home. When a faithful Christian dies, it is truly gain. The faithful go home to be with God in a place beyond compare (Matt. 6:19-20; Phil. 1:21; 3:20-21; Rev. 21:4).

One day in the hospital a few weeks before his death, my son said there were two things he really wanted to do in this life that he understood would not happen. He wanted to marry his girlfriend Anna, and live with his younger brother Noah when Noah went to college. He was sorry and sad about this, but he then mentioned in his next breath that there was something he had really missed in recent weeks: going to worship services and worshipping God. He said soon he would be able to worship the Lord eternally. His sadness turned to joy. The point that was driven home was the importance of putting things in perspective. What is most important to us? Living for the day, or living for our God? If we live for God, a home awaits us and everything is going to be ok.

- **Be thankful.** While my son is no longer with me, I am thankful for twenty-two years of happiness and memories he gave us. We were not guaranteed to have him for any length of time, but we had ►

... Continued from page 29

## FILL THE PHILIPPINES WITH

# Songs of Praise!



The harvest is abundant in the Philippines. Poverty, however, makes it difficult for them to provide such things as Bibles and hymnals. Hymnals are desperately needed and our brethren are constantly pleading for them! English is a 2nd language for many, so they can sing in English—and they love to sing! You or the church of which you are a member can send your used hymnals or buy new hymnals and send to our Filipino brethren. There are two ways to send hymnals to the Philippines.

**1.** Find a local business operated by a Filipino and ask about shipping balikbayan boxes. A large box holding 60–90 hymnals ships for about \$125. Ron Halbrook (halbrook@twc.com) or others who have visited or corresponded with the Philippines can provide names and addresses of brethren longing for hymnals.

**2.** Ship or take the hymnals to Ron Halbrook, 3505 Horse Run Ct., Shepherdsville, KY 40165, and he will take care of shipping them to the Philippines. Ron has volunteered to find funds for shipping, but it would be helpful to provide the funds when the hymnals are delivered to him.



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him for twenty-two years. We would have loved to have had him longer, but that was not to be. I am thankful that he was a faithful Christian. I am thankful that through the grace, love and mercy of God, my son is better off now than he ever was here. For these things I am thankful and can raise my voice to God in thanksgiving and praise (Eph. 5:20; Col. 2:7; 3:17; Phil. 4:16; 1 Thess. 5:18).

My son gave me two examples of this in practice in his life: The last public prayer he led he thanked God for trials in our lives understanding that these trials make us stronger, and, when handled correctly, bring glory to God (1 Pet. 1:7). Also, during the last week of his life, as the doctors were coming to his room in tears, my son was consoling them. He understood the doctors tried their best, and he appreciated their efforts. He also understood that, however much he had suffered in the physical life, it could not be compared to what awaited him (Rom. 8:18). We need to be thankful for what we have here, and for what awaits the faithful when this life is over.

- **Be excited.** On Friday May 20, just six days before Christian's death, my wife and I were sitting with him in our bedroom. He started giggling and laughing. I asked him what was going on, and Christian said he was excited. I was confused. My son was terminally ill. We had already talked about hospice care and knew it was coming soon. What could he be excited about? His response was, "I am just so excited. I am excited to be in heaven, man. It is going to be so amazing up there. I don't have to hurt anymore. I don't have to worry about nothing – nothing. I don't have to worry about Donald Trump. I don't have to worry about paying for stuff. I'll be singing and glorifying God and being with the saints. It's going to be fun. It's going to be fun." I can quote this because I was blessed to be able to record it on my cell phone. I've listened to it often over the last three weeks. Christian understood victory was soon. He lived a life where he could say, "I fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I kept the faith and a crown of righteousness awaits" (2 Tim. 4:7-8); "O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory" (1 Cor. 15:53-57); "I would rather be at home with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8-9). How I pray that we all have this faith in our lives.

The night before Christian's death, I read a dozen or so passages to him about heaven, victory, putting on the incorruptible, and judgment. At his death I texted some of my friends and family that Christian had graduated. He has gone to a place better than I could give him to a Father that loves him ►

even more than I do. I mentioned earlier that the scope of feelings we experienced at Christian's death included sorrow, but there was more. You see there was also happiness. He was free from the pain of the cancer. He was going to receive something he had been working for, a reward for being faithful. Prayers were answered. No, his physical body was not healed, but he had remained strong and faithful. He made a positive impact on so many during his period of sickness. That was the answer to our prayers.

Christian made it clear to us that he didn't want a funeral because, "They are too sad." He would tolerate a visitation which was to help his family and friends. What he really wanted was a celebration. He knew something better awaited him. He wanted to share that joy, happiness, and hope. When we became sad he would ask us, "Why?" Two days before he died a high school friend came in to see Christian. His friend was in tears. He told his friend to wipe those tears away, or he would get out of bed and do it for him. You see faith, hope, and love directed his attitude elsewhere. Sadness and fear were replaced by joy and hope.

At Christian's visitation, an estimated 1,600 people attended. It felt like I heard, "I don't know what to say" repeated 1,600 times. I understood that then and understand now. If you are or someone close to you is facing illness, disease, or death, what I want to say to you is, "You can overcome!" You may not be able to get your health completely back, but you can overcome. You may lose your physical life, but, if you are faithful, the victory is yours through Jesus Christ our Lord. He cares. He will help you bear your burdens. Everything is going to be OK if you are faithful to God. It is a reason to rejoice

and be excited when a saint leaves this mortal body. Even when times are tough, there are still physical blessings we receive, in which we rejoice, and for which we may be thankful.

Yet, I also know and understand that grief can be overwhelming. Losing someone close to you results in a hole in your life. That is dangerous for Christians. Satan wants us to doubt, to despair, and to turn our backs on God when things get tough. My son ordered a key chain for me about a week before he died. I received it earlier this week. On the key chain in his own handwriting is "I love you Dad. Stay Strong." So that is my last exhortation to you – stay strong. "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10; 2 Tim. 2:1). By our words and actions, let us teach our families and friends how to live for God, how to die in hope, and how to be strong when facing the difficulties of life. **TT**



**David Shadburne**

In addition to Christian, David and his wife, Cindy, have two other sons: J.D. and Noah. He can be reached at [david.shadburne@parkcommunity.com](mailto:david.shadburne@parkcommunity.com)

David Shadburne is the Executive VP of Park Community Credit Union. He lives in Winchester, KY and worships at the Overland Church of Christ in Lawrenceburg, KY.

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# The Invitation of Jesus

By David Flatt

In the eleventh chapter of Matthew, Jesus offered words of rebuke, warning, and invitation. He addressed people who lived in the towns of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. These towns were scattered throughout the region of Galilee where Jesus labored for most of His ministry. In spite of the great opportunities they had to learn the truth of Jesus, they had rejected Him. They rejected Jesus just as they had earlier rejected John the baptizer. John and Jesus took very different approaches to calling Israel to repentance; however, they responded to both like petulant children. John and Jesus could not satisfy the desires of these people. They wanted to receive something physical from the Messiah. The Messiah offered something spiritual. In their rejection, Jesus boldly declared the ancients from Sodom and Gomorrah would have an easier day of judgment than them. The same can be said of us if we reject Jesus.

Rather than condemning them for their disobedience, the eternal love of the Messiah compelled Him to continue to invite them to Himself. Jesus prayed, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal

him. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:25-30). There is much to be learned from the invitation of Jesus. Consider several important aspects of the invitation of Jesus.

Notice Jesus invites, "Come unto me" (Matt. 11:28). This simple expression contains an important dynamic to our relation to Jesus. Jesus gives direction. The direction Jesus gives is based on His authority. For example, note the reaction to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount: "And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes" (Matt. 7:28-29).

In the aftermath of this sermon, Jesus' authority was acknowledged by those He encountered (Matt. 8). Jesus was approached by a leper when He came down from the mountain: "And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" (Matt. 8:2). The leper made an appeal to Jesus by acknowledging His authority. Jesus responded, "I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed" (Matt. 8:3). Jesus exercised His authority and spoke a few words. The leper was instantly cleansed. In the remaining chapter, a Roman centurion appealed

to Jesus' authority (Matt. 8:8-9). Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law by touching her with His hand of authority (Matt. 8:14-15). Jesus cast out evil spirits with words of authority (Matt. 8:16). Jesus commanded a stormy sea to be at peace (Matt. 8:26-27). Finally, with a single word, "Go," Jesus cast out a devil (Matt. 8:32). Yes, Jesus has the authority to give direction.

Also, Jesus directs us. Many do not seem to understand this critical aspect to the dynamic of our relation to Jesus. Many talk about inviting Jesus into their hearts. This is upside down, inside out, and backwards (1 John 4:10). We do not invite Jesus. He invites us. As Jesus viewed a crowd of people one day, He was saddened by their lack of direction. They were scattered like sheep without a shepherd (Matt. 9:35-36). In sin, we live without direction. We are hopelessly lost and unable to find our way to God. Isaiah said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isa. 53:6). He later wrote of the nation of Israel, "Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths. The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for ►

brightness, but we walk in darkness. We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men” (Isa. 59:7-10). While this passage describes Israel, this metaphor applies to all who live in sin. Jeremiah equally agreed with Isaiah’s assessment of the people: “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O LORD, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing” (Jer. 10:23-24).

Continuing, Jesus directs us to Him. In an age where religious pluralism advances daily, we need to be emphasizing the uniqueness of Jesus. Regarding His role in directing us to God, Jesus taught, “No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 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 6:44-45). Later, Jesus told the apostles, “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). Peter taught only through the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth we must be saved (Acts 4:10-12). Yes, Jesus is the captain of our salvation leading, commanding, and directing us (Heb. 2:10).

Additionally, Jesus invites those who are burdened (Matt. 11:28). Sin is the burden to which Jesus refers; it is often emphasized in this passage. This is true. However, consider what the burden of sin does to us. Burdens weigh us down, slow us down, and exhaust us. Sin will do this to us in all of our relationships. Sin will burden the relationship between husbands and wives. For example, anger, envy, and sarcasm will exhaust a marriage and prevent the marriage from reflecting Christ in the world.

Also, sin will burden our relationships in the church. Instead of advancing the Gospel of Christ in the world, division and personal animosity will exhaust and prevent local churches from reflecting Christ in the world. Most severely, sin will burden our relationship with God.

What can be done with the burden of sin? We must choose to remove the burden. The Bible says, “let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:1-2). With Christ, we can lay aside the heavy burden of sin.

Lastly, Jesus invites us to rest (Matt. 11:28). This is one of the paradoxes of Jesus’ teaching. In the kingdom of God, citizens rest through labor. By responding to the invitation of Jesus, we can rest assured knowing our sins are forgiven and we have hope. With this assurance, we can labor in the work of the Lord. Paul wrote of himself and stated, “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” (2 Tim. 1:12). Paul lived with rest through labor; therefore, he could die in hope: “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

In conclusion, Jesus invited, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matt. 28:11). Jesus continues to invite those burdened with sin to experience rest of forgiveness and hope. Jesus continues to wait for our response with open arms. How will we respond? **T**



David Flatt

David Flatt and his family currently labor with the Thayer Street congregation in Akron, Ohio. They have been there since 2008. [dflatt85@yahoo.com](mailto:dflatt85@yahoo.com).

# By the Resurrection

By Johnie Edwards

**S**o many things are true because of the resurrection! We take a look at the phrase, “by the resurrection”:

**1. Jesus is Declared to be the Son of God.** Writing the Romans, Paul penned as he wrote of Christ, “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead” (Rom. 1:4). The resurrection did not make Jesus the Son of God, He already was, but it gave credence to His claim that He was the Son of God!

**2. Qualified Apostles.** One of the qualifications for an apostle was that he see the Lord after He arose from the dead. As a replacement of Judas was being made, Scripture states, “Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection” (Acts 1:22). This is one reason Jesus appeared to Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:3-6; 22:14-15; 1 Cor. 15:5-7). This teaching helps us understand why there can be no apostles today; none is qualified to be an apostle!

**3. Baptism Saves.** Without the resurrection, baptism would be of no value! Yet, Peter affirmed, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us ... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 3:21). And yet there are those who say there is no resurrection! The Sadducees were those “who say there is no resurrection”

(Matt. 22:23; Acts 23:8, 1 Cor. 15:12). The faith of some was overthrown because they were taught “the resurrection is past already” (2 Tim. 2:17-18).

**4. Gives Hope of an Inheritance.** Writing in his day, Peter said, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...” (1 Pet. 1:3-4). If there had been no resurrection, “Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (1 Cor. 15:18-19).

**5. Christ Arose.** “But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen” (1 Cor. 15:13). It is by the resurrection that “...Christ is risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept” (1 Cor. 15:20). If there is no resurrection, “we are yet in our sins” (1 Cor. 15:17). If Jesus did not rise from the dead, “our preaching is vain, and your faith is also vain” (1 Cor. 15:14). A non-resurrection gives false hope to those “also which are fallen asleep in Christ; they are perished” (1 Cor. 15:18). This makes the promise that “the dead in Christ shall rise first” not so (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

**6. Assures Us of a Judgment Day.** Paul’s sermon on Mars Hill points out: “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he

hath ordained ; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:31). As surely as our Lord resurrected from the dead, there will be a day when men will stand before God to be judged (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10). **TT**



Johnie Edwards

Johnie Edwards has been preaching 65 years. He preached for the church of Christ in Ellettsville, IN, for 40 years. At the present time, he is working with the Church of Christ West in Plainfield, IN. [johnieedwards@gmail.com](mailto:johnieedwards@gmail.com).



... Continued from page 2

the day that the printing press was invented. Modern developments have had similar effects. The camera and dark room no longer exist in the print shop; the Compugraphic typesetting computers have been replaced by laptops, the time when 1000s of copies of books were printed requiring hundreds of thousands of dollars in inventory is giving way to print-on-demand publishing.

Distributing books electronically is also affecting change. One needs to know how to make his materials available, not only in PDF, but also for Kindle (AZW) editions, ePub, and other formats.

In recent years, books, as well as many other products, are being distributed by Amazon, which almost monopolizes the book business. It is nearly impossible to compete with Amazon in price, speed of delivery, etc. Large book store chains have folded because of Amazon's competition, as well as many mom-and-pop local bookstores. The ones that have survived are those that have carved out a niche for themselves. The internet has changed marketing as well. Advertising that is done through a catalogue was adequate forty years ago, but in today's market place, having expertise in on-line marketing is essential.

I have said all of that to bring me to this. A younger leader is needed for the Guardian of Truth Foundation, one who has skills that I am profoundly deficient in. I have felt for several years that I have become a hindrance to the growth of the Foundation rather than a valuable asset. The doctrinal and spiritual battles that have been fought through the forty years of my work have alienated some brethren; indeed, every skirmish leaves some alienated who will never be friends of the Foundation in the future. (Perhaps, there was wisdom

in America's Congress imposing a limit on how many years a president can serve. Most presidents use up all of their political capital in eight years.) Though I am not running in a popularity contest, perhaps I have used up my capital among some brethren, though I hope that I have been a benefit to others. Though I have no intention of giving up in the battle for truth, every engagement in my editorial role takes its emotional toll on both the editor and his family.

The Foundation needs capable men who can take us into the digital environment more effectively than I can lead them there. A younger generation is needed to pick up the voids created by an older generation, just as I stepped in to fill the place that Cecil left empty, relying upon the outstanding support, encouragement, and contributions of their own skills by such men as Ron Halbrook, Steve Wolfgang, Dan King, and others. A new generation must now move to the front to replace our own aging and dying generation.

Having reached the conclusion that this is what the Foundation needs, and personally admitting that I am tired from carrying the load of working two jobs for forty years, I have tendered my resignation as editor of *Truth Magazine* effective at the end of December 2016.

### **Mark Mayberry Is the Next Editor of *Truth Magazine***



The Foundation's foremost desire is that our organization publish and distribute products that are useful to Christians

individually and churches in their local works. Creating a large organization with a profitable bottom line is not our foremost goal, although having an organization that operates in the black is essential. Attractive publications distributed by an efficient and successful marketing team is useless if what is distributed is not consistent with Bible teaching. So our primary goal is to keep in place a leadership that adheres to the word of God.

The Board of the Guardian of Truth Foundation has chosen Mark Mayberry to be the next editor of *Truth Magazine*. I have known Mark Mayberry since the 1980s when he preached for the congregation where my parents attended in Groveton, TX. The son of Donald Mayberry and Ruth Hutcheson Mayberry, Mark was born on February 23, 1957 in Nashville. Raised in Middle Tennessee, Mark spent most of his childhood in Clarksville, where he obeyed the gospel and was a member of the South Clarksville congregation. He met Sherelyn Finley while attending Florida College, and they were married in 1978.

After moving to Texas, the Mayberrys lived in Groveton (79-81), Tyler (81-86), and Cooper (86-91), laboring with faithful brethren in each community. In 1991, they moved to Clarksville, TN, and spent seven years working with the Warfield Boulevard congregation. The family moved back to Texas in 1998 to the city of Alvin, located south of Houston, which remains their home. They continue to work and worship with the Lord's church that assembles at Adoue Street, where he also serves as an elder. Mark has made repeated trips overseas to preach the gospel.

Mark has written articles for various religious journals, but most often for *Truth Magazine*. He has been serving ►


... Continued from page 33

as a Board Member of the Guardian of Truth Foundation for several years.

His personal character is blameless; his effectiveness as a family leader is demonstrated by his godly wife, Sherelyn, and his two sons, Nathan (who serves as a deacon at the Hebron Lane congregation in Shepherdsville, KY) and Ryan, who married my niece's daughter, Emilee Henry. Mark is meek, kind, and humble, but strong enough to draw a line in the sand that cannot be crossed without consequences. His commitment to the word of God is widely recognized. His disciplined life makes him fully capable of meeting the deadlines associated with a monthly periodical. Those who have been perceptive may already have noticed that he is writing an Associate Editorial each month, that he helps edit special issues of the magazine, and that his name is joined with mine as the editor of this year's lecture book, *This World Is Not My Home* (he did most of the work). So perhaps this announcement is not a total surprise.

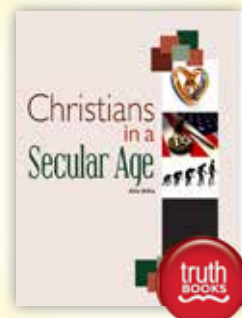
I want to take this occasion to express publicly my gratefulness to this Foundation for giving me the opportunity to serve in the capacity provided me over the last forty years. One maxim, which is attributed to Confucius, says: "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." I have been blessed to have this kind of occupation for my entire career; I have never dreaded facing another day at the office, although there have been stressful situations sometimes associated with my work. As I have now come to this milestone in my life, I want to express my thanks for those who have been kind enough to read my editorials and the other articles in *Truth Magazine*, my books, workbooks, and tracts. I extend my thanks to both the Foundation and

Christians around the country for this unique opportunity to serve.

I have been blessed to work with some of the best people on earth – Ron Halbrook, Steve Wolfgang, Dan King, Mark Mayberry, Scott Willis, David Shadburne, Tom Mitchell, Connie W. Adams, Dickie Cooper, Fred Pollock, and others who are no longer affiliated with the Guardian of Truth Foundation. In more recent years, I have had opportunity to work with John Gentry, Phillip Stuckey, Kyle Pope, and David Dann. Thank you gentlemen for your support through your share of these years. There are no perfect editors, as typos amply prove, but for the more serious mistakes of judgment, I beg for your charitable assessment of my life. I have sought to serve with an unwavering commitment to and an awareness that my Lord calls all men to account. My prayer is that my life and work have given glory to my Lord Jesus Christ. 

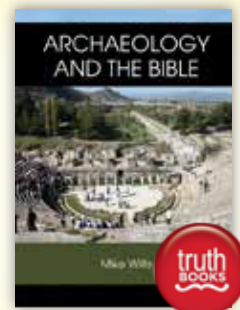
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The following congregations have paid for advertising in *Truth Magazine*. Inclusion of churches in this list is not an attempt by *Truth Magazine* to certify their faithfulness to God. We do believe the vast majority are striving to uphold the Word in faith and practice.

To make changes to your ad, contact:  
[tmmikewillis@gmail.com](mailto:tmmikewillis@gmail.com)

## ALASKA

### ANCHORAGE

Rose Street church of Christ  
3124 Rose Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Webb (907) 350-8358

## ALABAMA

### BIRMINGHAM

Pine Lane church of Christ  
3955 Pine Lane Bessemer, AL  
(N. side of Exit #6 at I459)  
Bible Study 9:15 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Deason (205) 425-2352

### BIRMINGHAM

Vestavia Hills church of Christ  
2325 Old Columbiana Rd. (near I-65 & Hwy. 31)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: David Banning and Doy Moyer  
(205) 822-0018 or 822-0082

### FLORENCE

College View church of Christ  
851 N. Pine St. (Next to University Campus)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.,  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Kenny Moorer (256) 766-0403

### HUNTSVILLE

Chapman Acres church of Christ  
2137 Penhall Dr., NE (I-565, Exit 21, right on  
Maysville Road left on Chapman Avenue,  
right on Penhall Drive)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Isaac Muñoz, [www.chapmanacres.org](http://www.chapmanacres.org)

### MOBILE

West Mobile church of Christ  
129 Hillcrest Road  
Worship 9-9:30 A.M., Bible Study 9:30-10:30 A.M.  
Worship 10:30-11:30 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(251) 342-4144 or 342-2041  
Ken Sils - Minister (765) 307-8048

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Wednesday 6 P.M.  
Contacts: Brian Moore: (334) 279-1077  
Charles Martin: (334) 283-2983

### PARRISH

McArthur Heights  
church of Christ, 5082 Hwy. 269  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
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### SCOTTSBORO

Eastside church of Christ  
John T. Reid Pkwy., (Hwy. 72, 2 mi. E. of Hwy. 35)  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M.  
Worship 10:30 P.M., Wednesday Summer 7 P.M.  
Wednesday Winter 6 P.M.  
Evangelist: Aaron Andrews  
(256) 574-1603 or 575-2664

## ARKANSAS

### CONWAY

Hwy. 65 church of Christ  
271 Highway 65N  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Bruce Reeves, Bldg: (501) 336-0052

### CONWAY

Eastside church of Christ  
1540 E. Oak Street 72302  
Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday Worship 6 P.M.,  
Wednesday Bible Classes 7 P.M.  
[www.conwaychurchofchrist.org](http://www.conwaychurchofchrist.org)

### CONWAY

Prince Street church of Christ  
2655 Prince St., (Hwy. 60)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(501) 339-6917

### FORT SMITH

South 46th St. church of Christ  
2323 South 46th Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
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Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Norman E. Sewell  
[www.cappsroad.org](http://www.cappsroad.org)  
870-741-9104 or 870-741-5151

### JACKSONVILLE

church of Christ  
1807 McArthur Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(501) 982-6413 - church bldg  
(501) 533-8801 - Jason Lankford  
[www.mcarthurdcoc.com](http://www.mcarthurdcoc.com)

### JONESBORO

StoneRidge church of Christ  
514 Airport Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Dick Blackford (870) 933-9134  
[rlb612@aol.com](mailto:rlb612@aol.com)

### LITTLE ROCK

church of Christ  
7115 West 65th Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Don McClain, Res. (501) 847-6677  
Study (501) 568-1062

### MARVELL

Marvell church of Christ  
Highway 49 • Marvell, AR 72366  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(870) 714-1472 or (870) 338-1833

### PINE BLUFF

church of Christ  
4700 W. 28th Street  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:35 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Clarence W. Fell (870) 879-2097

### POCAHONTAS

Westside church of Christ  
3644 Hwy 90 West • P.O. Box 43  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M.  
Afternoon 1 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Herbert Starr, Evangelist

### TEXARKANA

church of Christ  
2301 Franklin Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Rick Boswell

## ARIZONA

### GLENDALE

church of Christ  
6801 N. 60th Avenue  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:40 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steven Harper

### TUCSON

church of Christ  
145 N. Country Club Road  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Hugh Delong  
(520) 326-3634 or 722-3179

## CALIFORNIA

### BELLFLOWER

Rose Ave. church of Christ  
17903 Ibbetson Ave.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(562) 866-5615, <http://www.roseavenue.org>

### CANOGA PARK

(San Fernando Valley)  
church of Christ  
7054 Winnetka Ave.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Afternoon 2:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Minister: Bruce Evans (818) 795-5566  
Spanish congregation (818) 701-0112

### FOLSOM

church of Christ  
900 E. Natomas St. • P.O. Box 492  
1903 Ibbetson Ave.  
Sunday Bible Study 9:30 A.M.,  
Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.,  
Sunday Bible Study 4 P.M.,  
Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: David Posey  
(530) 676-9514 or (916) 608-4866  
[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)

### LONG BEACH

church of Christ  
3433 Studebaker Road  
Bible Study 9:50 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
JP Flores (562) 420-2363  
Mark Reeves (562) 377-1674  
[www.JustChristians.org](http://www.JustChristians.org)

### OCEANSIDE-VISTA

church of Christ  
2020 Sunset Dr.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(760) 940-8003

## COLORADO

### GRAND JUNCTION

church of Christ Western Slope  
2923 North Ave., Unit 3  
Grand Junction, CO 81504  
Worship 10:30 A.M., Evening 5 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Study 6 P.M.  
[www.churchofchristwesternslope.com](http://www.churchofchristwesternslope.com)

### LOVELAND

Poudre Valley church of Christ  
4202 North Garfield Avenue  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Afternoon 1:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Richard Thetford (970) 667-0469  
[www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org](http://www.poudrevalleychurchofchrist.org)

### MONTROSE

San Juan church of Christ  
1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 1:30 P.M., (970) 249-8116

## DELAWARE

### MILTON

Lighthouse church of Christ  
14574 Coastal Hwy. Rt. 1  
Worship 9:30 A.M., Sunday School 10:45 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., (302) 644-7379

## FLORIDA

### DESTIN

South Walton church of Christ  
64 Casting Lake Road  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(850) 622-3817  
[www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com](http://www.southwaltonchurchofchrist.com)

### FORT LAUDERDALE

Northside church of Christ  
912 NW 19th St.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(954) 763-1404

### FORT MYERS

Southside church of Christ  
13641 Learning Court  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: David P. Schmidt  
(239) 433-2838 or 482-2158

### FROSTPROOF

Frostproof church of Christ  
40 W. "A" St., Frostproof, FL 33483  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., (863) 635-2607 or 635-4278

### GENEVA

church of Christ  
Ave. C and 2nd St.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
(407) 349-9998

### JACKSONVILLE

Marietta church of Christ  
8150 Driggers Street  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jamie Rhoden, (904) 781-5704  
or 693-0432, [www.mariettaccoc.com](http://www.mariettaccoc.com)

### KEY LARGO

Key Largo church of Christ  
100695 N. Overseas Hwy.  
33037 m.m. 100.7 on US 1  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: William LeDent (305) 451-1194

### MARY ESTHER

church of Christ  
6 Lane Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Joey Rankin (850) 244-9222

### MIAMI

church of Christ  
Eglise du Christ de Miami  
8343 NE 3rd Court  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Minister: Junot Joseph (305) 244-8295



## LEITCHFIELD

Mill St. church of Christ  
733 Mill Street, Highway 62 E.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:55 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Michael Hardin  
(270) 259-4968 or (270) 300-3239  
[www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.millstreetchurchofchrist.org)

## LOUISVILLE

Valley Station church of Christ  
1803 Dixie Garden Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Dudley Ross Spears (502) 937-2822

## LOUISIANA

### GONZALES

Southside church of Christ  
405 Orice Roth Road, 70737, (Baton Rouge area)  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: R.J. Evans (225) 622-4587  
[rjevans@eatel.net](mailto:rjevans@eatel.net)

### MANY

Lakeside church of Christ  
12095 Texas Hwy. (Hwy. 6 W.)  
12 miles west of Many  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(318) 256-9396

### STONEWALL

N. DeSoto church of Christ  
2071 Highway 171 (South of Shreveport)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(318) 925-2733

## MARYLAND

### SEVERN

Southwest church of Christ  
805 Meadow Rd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Brandon Trout  
(410) 969-1420 or (410) 551-6549  
[www.swcofchrist.com](http://www.swcofchrist.com)

## MAINE

### PORTLAND

church of Christ • 856 Brighton Ave.  
Leave Maine Turnpike at Exit 48  
(Breakwater School)  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Second service immediately following morning  
worship. Mid-week Bible Study. Please call for  
times & places. (207) 839-3075 or 839-8409

## MICHIGAN

### CEDAR SPRINGS

W. Michigan church of Christ  
Sr. Citizen Center, 44 Park Street  
(Grand Rapids Area)  
Worship 11 A.M., Bible Study 12:30 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Joseph Gladwell, (616) 975-2778  
[westmichcofc10@yahoo.com](mailto:westmichcofc10@yahoo.com)

## MINNESOTA

### DULUTH

church of Christ  
4401 Glenwood St.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Bible Study 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Taylor Ladd (218) 728-3233

### ST. CHARLES

church of Christ  
636 Whitewater Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Bible Study 2:15 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M., call for location  
FREE Bible correspondence studies  
Evangelist: Robert Lehnertz (507) 534-2905

## MISSISSIPPI

### BOONEVILLE

Oakleigh Dr. church of Christ  
101 Oakleigh Dr.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 4 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Building: (662) 728-1942

### CLINTON

McRaven Rd. church of Christ  
301 McRaven Rd. (I20, exit 36)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Leonard White  
(601) 925-9757 or 924-2645

### MERIDIAN

Grandview church of Christ  
2820 Grandview Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Sun. Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
(601) 482-0543, (601) 479-3394 or (601) 934-3675  
Contacts: Ron Cooper & Jim Young  
[youngins@comcast.net](mailto:youngins@comcast.net)

### MERIDIAN

7th St. church of Christ  
2914 7th Street  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
(601) 483-3101

### SOUTHAVEN

church of Christ  
2110 E State Line Rd. (Exit I-55), (Memphis area)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: James A. Brown  
(662) 342-1132 - church Building

## MISSOURI

### BLUE SPRINGS

Southside church of Christ  
4000 SW Christiansen  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Brett Hogland (816) 228-9262

### CAPE GIRARDEAU

North Cape church of Christ  
121 S. Broadview St. Suite 2,  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63703  
Sunday Bible Study 9:15 & 10 A.M.,  
Worship 11 A.M., No Evening Service  
Wednesday 6 P.M./CST, 7 P.M./DST  
Evangelist: Jerry Lee Westbrook (573) 334-9673

### DONIPHAN

Southside church of Christ  
Hwy. 142 E. ½ mile (P.O. Box 220)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(573) 996-3251 or 996-3513

### FAIR GROVE

church of Christ  
217 N. Orchard Blvd.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Walter Myers (417) 830-8972 or  
(417) 736-2663

## KENNETT

church of Christ  
703 Harrison St.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(573) 888-6778 or (870) 650-1648  
*Nolan Glover, Preacher, www.westsidchurchofchrist.us*

## LILBOURN

church of Christ  
P.O. Box 270 • 211 Benton St.  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Shane Williams, (573) 688-2234  
or 748-5204

## RAYTOWN

Sterling Ave. church of Christ  
5825 Sterling Ave. (Near Sports Complex)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Norman E. Fultz, (816) 356-3096  
or 554-0836  
[www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org](http://www.sterlingavechurchofchrist.org)

## ST. JAMES

church of Christ  
685 Sidney St.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:15 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Lynn Huggins (573) 265-8628

## ST. JOSEPH

County Line church of Christ  
2727 County Line Rd.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 3 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(816) 279-4737  
[www.countylinechurchofchrist.com](http://www.countylinechurchofchrist.com)

## NEBRASKA

### BEATRICE

church of Christ • 7th and Bell  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., 233-4102 or 228-3827  
[www.churchofchrist7bell.com](http://www.churchofchrist7bell.com)

## NEW JERSEY

### VAUXHALL

church of Christ  
Milbourn Mall Suite 6., 2933 Vauxhall Rd.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Contact: Harry Persaud  
phone: (908) 964-6356 • cell: (908) 964-8570

## NEW MEXICO

### ALBUQUERQUE

Heights church of Christ  
7801 Zuni Road, S.E.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Darrel Yontz (505) 266-7577  
[www.heightschurchofchrist.com](http://www.heightschurchofchrist.com)

## NEVADA

### RENO

Central church of Christ  
2450 Wrondel Way, Suite A  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(775) 786-2888

## NORTH CAROLINA

### CHARLOTTE

Charlotte church of Christ  
5327 S. Tyron Street  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10: A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(704) 525-5655

## OHIO

### BEAVERCREEK

Knollwood Creek church of Christ  
1031 Welford Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Afternoon 3 P.M., Wednesday Afternoon 1 P.M.  
Wednesday Evening 7 P.M.  
(937) 426-1422  
[www.knollwoodchurch.org](http://www.knollwoodchurch.org)

### CINCINNATI

Blue Ash church of Christ  
4667 Cooper Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Russell Dunaway, Jr. (513) 891-3174  
[www.blueashchurchofchrist.com](http://www.blueashchurchofchrist.com)

### CLEVELAND

Lorain Ave. church of Christ  
13501 Lorain Ave.  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(330) 723-0111 or (330) 590-0227  
or (216) 322-9392  
[www.lorainave-churchofchrist.com](http://www.lorainave-churchofchrist.com)

### COLUMBUS

Laural Canyon church of Christ  
409 McNaughton Road  
Bible Study 9:45 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(614) 868-1375, [www.lccc.net](http://www.lccc.net)

### DAYTON

West Carrollton  
28 W. Main Street, 45449  
Early Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 9:30 A.M.  
Worship 10:25 A.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Michael Grushon (937) 866-5162  
or 848-3779, [www.wc-coc.org](http://www.wc-coc.org)

### FRANKLIN

Franklin church of Christ  
6417 Franklin-Lebanon Rd. 45005  
Sun. Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Sun Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Tues. Bible Study 6:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Josh Lee (937) 789-8055  
or (937) 746-1249, [www.franklin-church.org](http://www.franklin-church.org)

### FREMONT

church of Christ  
3361 W. State Street, 1 mi. W. of Fremont  
on U.S. Rt. 20  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(419) 849-3340 or 849-2980  
[www.fremontchurchofchrist.com](http://www.fremontchurchofchrist.com)

### HAMILTON

Westview church of Christ  
1040 Azel Ave.  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:45 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Eugene Ford (513) 856-9288

### HILLIARD

church of Christ  
4840 Cemetery Rd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(614) 876-4089

### MANSFIELD

Southside church of Christ  
687 Mansfield-Lucas Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6 P.M.  
James Bond: (419) 526-2868  
Leon Bond: (419) 525-3684  
church: (419) 522-8982

### NEW LEBANON

New Lebanon church of Christ  
1973 W Main Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.,  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Wed. Bible Study 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Bruce Hastings (937) 687-7150  
or (937) 478-0367



## HOUSTON

Spring Woods church of Christ  
9955 Neuens Rd. at Witte Road  
Worship 9 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Evening 6 P.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: (713) 419-1750  
[www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com](http://www.springwoodschurchofchrist.com)

## IRVING

Westside church of Christ  
2320 Imperial Dr. (closest to DFW Airport)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Mark Roberts (972) 986-9131  
[www.JustChristians.com](http://www.JustChristians.com)

## LANCASTER

Pleasant Run church of Christ  
831 W. Pleasant Run Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(972) 227-1708 or 227-2598

## LUBBOCK

Indiana Ave. church of Christ  
6111 Indiana Avenue  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(806) 795-3377  
[www.lubbockchurch.com](http://www.lubbockchurch.com)

## LUFKIN

Timberland Dr. church of Christ  
912 S. Timberland Drive  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 9:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: Harold Hancock & Reagan McClenny  
(936) 634-7110 or 632-7070

## MANSFIELD

Northside church of Christ  
1820 Mansfield-Webb Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Tom Roberts (817) 466-3160

## NACOGDOCHES

Stallings Dr. church of Christ  
3831 N.E. Stallings Drive  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelists: Randy Harshbarger & Jay Taylor

## PLANO

Spring Creek church of Christ  
2100 W. Spring Creek Pkwy., (North Dallas Suburb)  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(972) 517-5582, [www.planochurch.org](http://www.planochurch.org)

## SAN ANTONIO

Grissom Rd. church of Christ  
5470 Lost Lane at Grissom Rd.  
San Antonio, TX 78238-2700  
Bible Classes 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday (Ladies Class) 10 A.M.,  
Wednesday (Bible Class) 7:30 P.M.  
Terry Starling, Evangelist  
[www.grissomroadcoc.org](http://www.grissomroadcoc.org)

## SAN ANTONIO

Pecan Valley church of Christ  
268 Utopia Avenue, (I-37 S.E. Exit Pecan Valley)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Clyde W. Carter (210) 337-6143

## SHERMAN

Westwood Village church of Christ  
314 N. Tolbert  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jim Smelser

## TEMPLE

Leon Valley church of Christ  
4404 Twin City Blvd.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jason Garcia  
[yourfriendjgar@gmail.com](mailto:yourfriendjgar@gmail.com)  
[www.biblemoments.org](http://www.biblemoments.org)

## WACO

Sun Valley church of Christ  
340 E. Warren St. (In Hewitt, a suburb of Waco)  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Marc Smith  
(254) 666-1020 or 420-1484

## THE WOODLANDS

Woodlands church of Christ  
1500 Wellman Road • P.O. Box 7664 (77380)  
Bible Class 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:20 A.M.  
Evening 5 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(281) 367-2099  
[www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org](http://www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org)

## VIRGINIA

### CHESAPEAKE

Tidewater church of Christ  
217 Taxus Street  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Steve Schlosser (757) 436-6900

### CHESTER

Chester church of Christ  
12100 Winfree St., (Central to Richmond,  
Hopewell, Petersburg, & Colonial Heights)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
church Building: (804) 796-2374, (804) 385-2725  
or (804) 271-0877

### NEWPORT NEWS

Harpersville Rd. church of Christ  
315 Harpersville Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.

### RICHMOND (METRO)

Courthouse church of Christ  
Courthouse Rd. at Double Creek Ct.  
(2.2 miles S of Rt. 288)  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Gene Tope (804) 790-1629  
[www.courthousechurchofchrist.com](http://www.courthousechurchofchrist.com)

### RICHMOND

Forest Hill church of Christ  
1208 W. 41st Street  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6:00 P.M., Wednesday 7:00 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jack Bise, Jr. (804) 233-5959

### RIDGEWAY

church of Christ  
2970 Old Leaksville Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 5:30 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
[www.churchofchristatridgeway.com](http://www.churchofchristatridgeway.com)

### ROANOKE

Blue Ridge church of Christ  
929 Indiana Avenue N.E. (5 min. from Roanoke  
Convention Center)  
1st Lesson 9:15 A.M., Bible Study 10 A.M.  
Worship 11 A.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(540) 344-2755

### VIRGINIA BEACH

Southside church of Christ  
5652 Haden Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Robert Mallard (757) 464-4574

## WASHINGTON

### BELLINGHAM

Mt. Baker church of Christ  
1860 Mt. Baker Hwy.  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
Evangelist: Joe Price (360) 752-2692 or 380-2960  
[www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker](http://www.bibleanswer.com/mtbaker)

## WEST VIRGINIA

### CHARLESTON

church of Christ  
873 Oakwood Road  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:50 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Jonathan Chaffin (304) 342-5637  
[www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com](http://www.oakwoodroadchurchofchrist.com)

### CLARKSBURG

Westside church of Christ  
Davisson Run Road  
Sunday Morning 9:30 A.M.  
(304) 622-5433  
[www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net](http://www.westsidechurchofchristwv.net)

### FAIRMONT

Eastside church of Christ  
1929 Morgantown Avenue  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(304) 363-8696 or (304)844-2437

### GLADESVILLE

Gladesville church of Christ  
2906 Gladesville Rd., Independence, WV 26374  
Sunday Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 10:45 A.M.  
Sunday 7 P.M., Wednesday 7 P.M.  
(304) 864-3078

### MOUNDSVILLE

Moundsville church of Christ  
210 Cedar Street  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10:30 A.M.  
Evening 6:30 P.M., Mid-week 7:30 P.M.  
Evangelist: Tony Huntsman (304) 845-4940

### PARKERSBURG

Marrtown church of Christ  
825 Marrtown Road  
Bible Study 9:30 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 7:30 P.M.  
(304) 422-7458 or 893-5227

## WYOMING

### RANCHESTER

Ranchester church of Christ  
Hwy. 14 West, Ranch Mart Mall  
Bible Study 9 A.M., Worship 10 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday 6:30 P.M.  
Contact: Bob Reich (307) 655-2563

## CANADA

### CALGARY, AB

Northside church of Christ  
803 20A Avenue NE  
Bible Study 10 A.M., Worship 11 A.M.  
Evening 6 P.M., Wednesday Bible Study 7 P.M.  
+1 (403) 452-5116  
[www.churchofchristcalgary.com](http://www.churchofchristcalgary.com)

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