

The Mountain Messenger

A CHRISTIAN VOICE FROM THE MOUNTAIN STATE AND BEYOND

**BOLD PRAYERS:
CONFIDENCE IN FAITH**

**THE HEART OF GOD'S
MATTER**

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

Along with other great articles by...
Douglas Pell, Joshua Hall, Mike Tincher, and
more...

“...The churches of Christ greet you” (Romans 16:16).

Editor's Note

When strong emotions enter the arena of life, many of us know the struggle of trying to control our tongue. “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers” (Eph 4:29 NKJV). We know the passages, such as this one, that encourage humble and graceful communication with each other and the love we are to even show our enemies (Matt 5:44). The way we speak to each other is very important, and despite what others might have said in the past, words can hurt. The words of these Christian writers within *The Mountain Messenger* are given to edify. Though the truth can be painful, we present it with love, so we do not injure but build up.

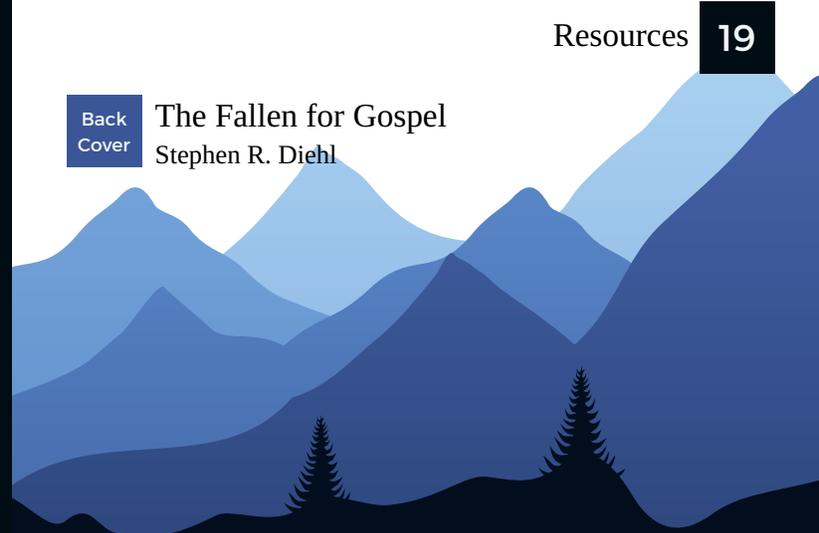
“Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me” was one of the sayings I heard in my youth. It was used to try to teach me that words never hurt. “You are rubber, and I am glue, and whatever you say bounces off me and sticks to you” was another one of those funny sayings to help me with hateful words. The truth is, those mean things people said hurt. Still think words cannot hurt us? Open your heart to asking the wife of the umpire who sits in the stands and hears the cruel comments made about her husband by some of the rude spectators. Ask the family of the teenager who took their own life because of the words of bullies. Really, you do not have to go much farther than yourself. Did it hurt when someone disrespected you with something they said? Many people have spent some time recovering from the burns caused by the tongue. Burns that harm physically and spiritually. “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell” (Jas 3:6). Words can kill. The false teaching of God’s word has harmed many souls. This is a reason why the Bible encourages us to train our speech and to prefer to say the truth in love, or when we have to have difficult conversations; we construct them in such a way that our words could be likened to be as sweet as honey. “The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones” (Prov 16:23–24).

The Bible will tell us to eliminate the things in our lives that produce filthy language, such as anger, wrath, and malice (Col 3:8), and dwell on good works. This is what we want to accomplish with *Added to the Church*. Let us work to replace those evil distractions with great things, such as the fruit of the Spirit. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law” (Gal 5:22–23). Enjoy the words within this issue, for they are centered around the word of God.

Executive Editor — Daniel P. Curry, Jr. “DJ”

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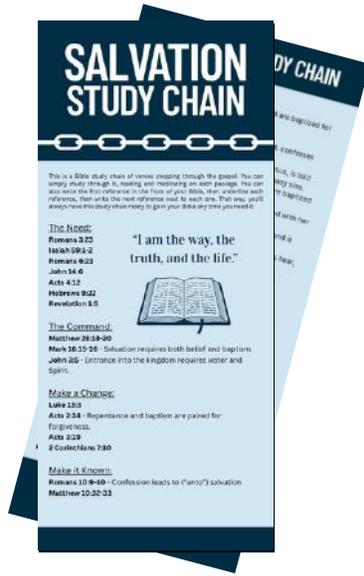
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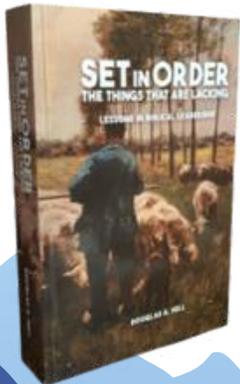
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Graphic Editors — Andrew J. Robison V, Kaylynn Robison
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Set In Order The Things That Are Lacking



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BOLD PRAYERS

CONFIDENCE IN FAITH

Dale Babinsky



Should we be bold in our prayers to God? When we think about bold prayers, it's important to clarify that boldness does not mean being brash or disrespectful. Instead, boldness in prayer is about having confidence in our faith and in our relationship with God. The early disciples exemplified this when they prayed for boldness in Acts 4:27–29. They sought to be confident and not

Bold Prayers: Confidence in Faith

Dale Babinsky

cowering, a sentiment that can be challenging for us to imagine today.

Being bold in our prayers does not discount our approaching God with humility, not demanding our rights, but recognizing who is great and who is not. God desires for us to come to Him with anything, just as we would want our children to feel comfortable approaching us with their needs and concerns. This is beautifully illustrated in 1 Timothy 2:1–3, where we are exhorted to make supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving for all people, including those in authority, so that we may lead a peaceful and godly life.

The Old Testament provides several examples of bold prayers. Abraham's prayer for Sodom in Genesis 18:23–25 is a striking instance. Abraham appears to be giving advice to God, which is quite bold. He continues to negotiate with God, asking what if there are only 45 righteous people, then 40, 30, and so on, down to 10. Despite his boldness, Abraham remains respectful, saying, "please don't be angry" (Gen 18:32).

Moses also demonstrated boldness in his prayers for the children of Israel. When God was angry with the Israelites for creating a golden calf, Moses boldly interceded on their behalf, reminding God of His promises and the great things He had already done for them (Exod 32:11–13). Similarly, Habakkuk, frustrated by the evil in Judah, boldly questioned God, asking when He would address the injustice (Hab 1:2–4). God's response reassured Habakkuk that He had everything under control.

In none of these situations did God rebuke them for their boldness. Instead, their bold prayers were met with understanding and action.

In the Old Testament, approaching God's throne was a solemn and restricted event. The Mercy Seat, where God would meet with the Israelites, was in the Holy of Holies, accessible only to the High Priest once a year on Yom

Kippur (Exod 25:21–22; Lev 16). The approach was filled with trepidation, and there were numerous barriers and regulations to follow.

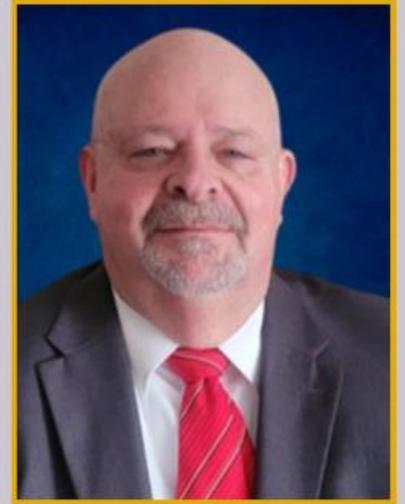
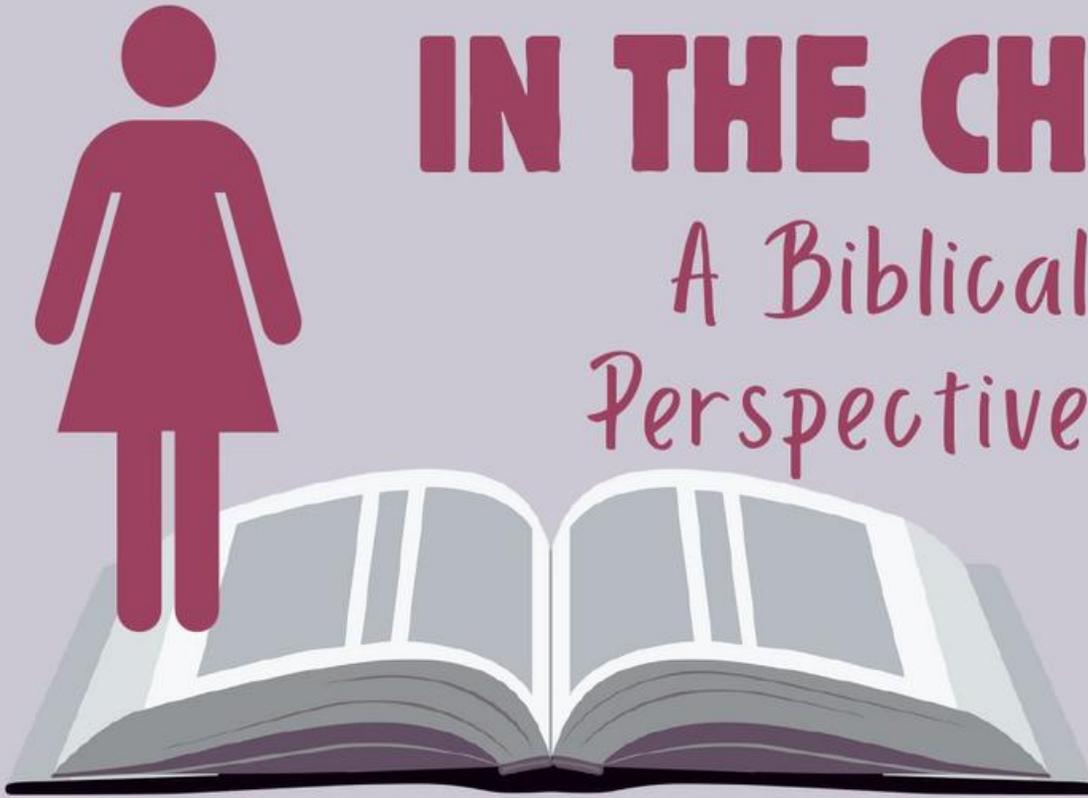
However, through Jesus, we now have the privilege to approach God's throne with boldness and confidence. Hebrews 4:16 encourages us to come boldly to the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find grace in times of need. This access is available 24/7, and it is through Jesus, our High Priest, who has passed through the heavens and can sympathize with our weaknesses (Heb 4:14–15). Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we can enter the Holiest place in Heaven, where God resides (Heb 10:19–22).

Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can draw near to God with confidence and boldness. This is a tremendous blessing, and we should exercise this privilege by coming to God first in prayer when faced with trials, rather than as a last resort. God wants us to come to Him confidently, knowing that He hears us and cares for us (Jas 5:16). ▲



THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE CHURCH:

A Biblical Perspective



Mike Tincher

In today's world, many people question what role women should have in the church. Some believe that the Bible's teachings on this topic are outdated, but as Christians, we must follow God's Word rather than change with society. The tail mustn't wag the dog. The church is to impact society, not the other way around. The Bible clearly shows the great value of women and also explains the roles they are given in the church.

Some think this issue is about whether women are important or capable, but that is not the case. The Bible praises women as valuable and wise. Proverbs 31:10–31 describes a virtuous woman as priceless, and Proverbs 18:22 says that a man who finds a good wife has received a blessing from God. Women have great worth and intelligence, but God has given them specific roles in the church.

God has set an order of authority. In 1 Corinthians 11:3, Paul writes, "But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God" (NKJV). This structure is not based on human culture but on God's

creation. Women are encouraged to take part in worship, but they must do so in a way that respects this order.

The Bible also teaches that women should not lead in the church assembly. In 1 Corinthians 14:34–35, Paul says, "Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law." This is not meant to belittle women but to keep worship in line with God's plan. Also, according to this Scripture, if women have questions, they are encouraged to ask their husbands at home. Paul confirms this again in 1 Timothy 2:11–12, saying, "Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence." This is not a rule from culture but is based on creation, as Paul explains that Adam was made first, then Eve (1 Tim 2:13–14).

Some claim that these teachings were only for the first-century church and do not apply today. However, every passage that speaks about men's and women's roles in the church connects these roles to creation, not to a specific

The Role of Women in the Church: A Biblical Perspective

• Mike Tincher •

time or place. The Bible also instructs women to dress modestly (1 Tim 2:9–10). This does not mean they cannot wear jewelry, but that they should focus on their faith and good works more than their outward appearance, just as Peter teaches in 1 Peter 3:3–4.

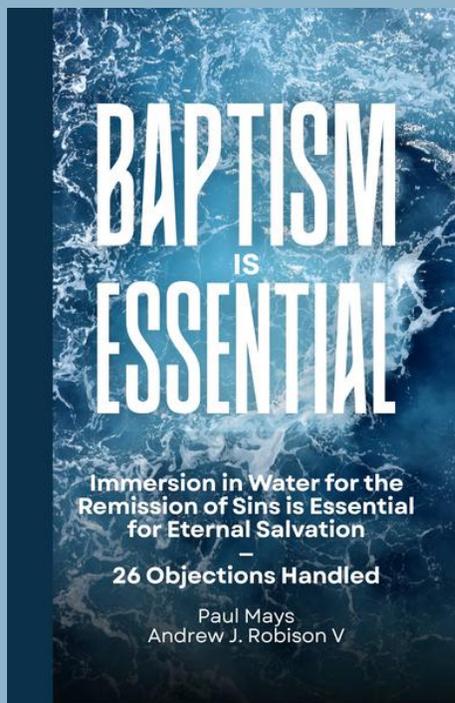
God created different roles for men and women in the church, and we must respect His design. John 12:48 reminds us that Jesus' words will judge us on the last day, not modern opinions: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day." The Lord's church must follow the Bible, even when society disagrees.

Women's roles in the church are honorable and important. They are called to teach children (Titus 2:3–5),

do good works, and help the church's mission. Men should support women in these roles, knowing that both men and women have important jobs in the body of Christ. Galatians 3:28 teaches that all Christians are equal in salvation, but this does not mean men and women have the same responsibilities in the church. Such as women are never to teach or take the lead over men in any form of a corporate or personal worship setting, as well as the running of the day-to-day operations of the church.

By following God's Word, the church can stay true to His will. Rather than following changing social trends, we must remain faithful to Scripture, respecting the roles God has given to both men and women. It is my prayer that we will prayerfully look into this and rightly divide God's truth in His Word and do His will. ▲

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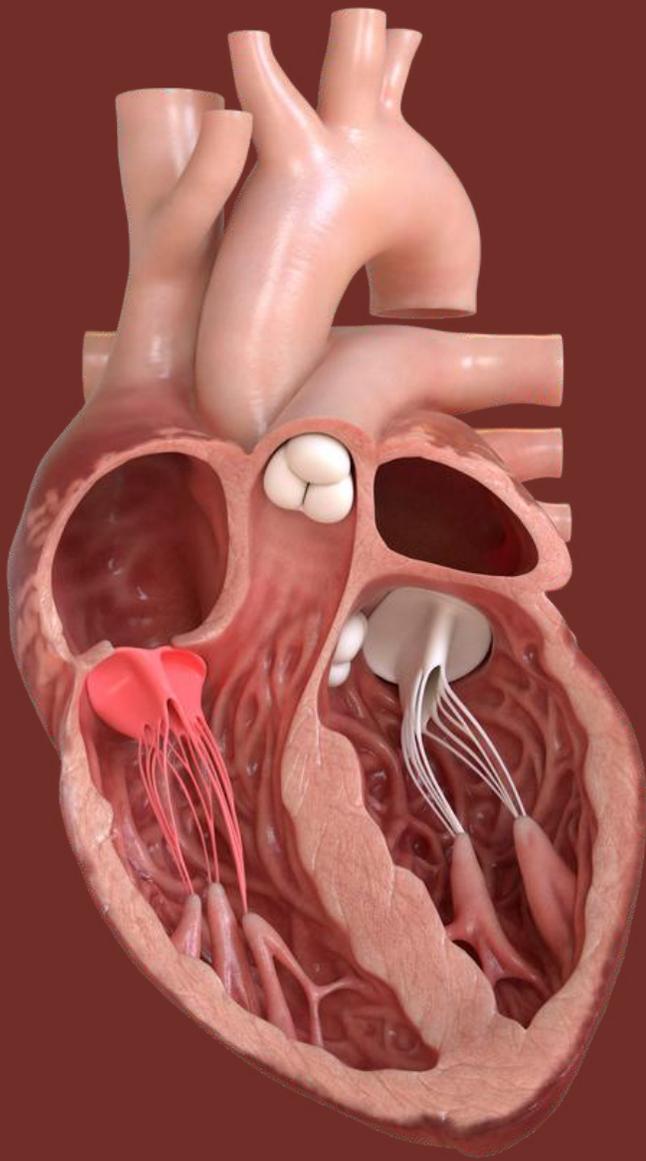
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THE HEART OF GOD'S MATTER

Deborah Amos (PhD- Biomedical Sciences)



The time has come to move into one of the most complex systems of the body: the cardiovascular system (CVS). The CVS contains a couple of main groups of organs, the heart and blood vessels, which can be broken down into many sub-groups. The heart is what we will focus on in this



article, and in the next edition, we will move into the blood and lymph vessels. The heart is a muscular organ primarily composed of cardiac muscle tissue. It contains four different chambers, unlike many other species, which may not have a closed circulatory system. Humans have two atria and two ventricles, although some texts will call the auricles an additional two chambers. Auricles have a very special function. Their name is the same as the outer ring of the ear (auricle), and so these structures are also sometimes referred to as “elephant ears.” They are a lifesaver when blood pressure rises and there is abnormally high pressure and an excess volume of blood in the atria. These structures are able to expand so your heart doesn’t explode! Without taking an anatomy course, most individuals don’t realize the organization of muscle connecting the bottom of the heart (apex) to the widest section of the heart near the top (the base). The whirl-like pattern is important to ensure all of the blood leaves the atria to drop into the ventricles and then from the

The Heart of God's Matter

• Deborah Amos (PhD- Biomedical Sciences) •

ventricles into either the pulmonary trunk to oxygenate the blood at the lungs or to the aorta to send blood to the body tissues. Something important to note, truly showing the intricacy of God's design, is how not all of the blood coming up the aorta is sent towards the head and tips of your fingers and toes. In fact, if it were, the heart's tissues would die! Two major arteries of the heart, the right and left coronary arteries, supply the heart with blood so the walls of the heart and associated tissues are provided the adequate nutrients and oxygen for the heart to keep pumping. Without nutrients, oxygen, and ATP (energy), that area of the heart would die. The most intricate part of this mechanism is that when the left ventricle, the thickest portion of the heart, pumps the blood through the aortic valve, the pressure forces a semilunar valve open (aortic semilunar valve). As blood pressure begins to fall, the valve slams shut to ensure blood does not flow back into the left ventricle again. At the same time, the valve prevents back-flow, and when it shuts, it also forces blood through the two coronary arteries, sending blood down so the heart's cells/tissues are supplied as well! How cool! Blood in the coronary arteries is then sent through arteries, capillaries, and veins and is collected in a sinus at the back of the heart so it can enter the heart again and be sent to the lungs to be deoxygenated. The other valves of the heart, the pulmonary valve and two atrioventricular valves (left and right) have a similar mechanism of disallowing blood to back-flow into the previous chamber. The pumping action is coordinated in "syncytium." This just means in coordination resulting from the connection of heart tissues. Despite how

diagrams explain blood flow and make it appear as if each chamber pumps singly and in a line, with the help of the cardiac conduction system, each atria contract simultaneously as do the two ventricles. This signaling is maintained by proper coordination of ion channels and action potentials that give rise to the heart's muscle contractions that send blood from one location to another through the heart and out to the body. The conduction system is imperative to maintaining a normal heart rate, rhythm, and pressure, and special types of sensory cells are precisely placed to regulate these mechanisms in times of rest, high physical stress, internal mechanical stress of other organs, and emotional stress. Without these sensors and the ability to alter heart rate and pressure, we would never be able to maintain adequate blood flow to the brain, muscles, and other organs when we run, jump, lift heavy objects, or encounter circumstances that activate the sympathetic nervous system. Isn't our God magnificent? He has created an organ that is able to self-monitor pressure, rhythm, blood volume, and more with the help of the brain and nervous system. Furthermore, the heart is able to maintain optimal nutrient delivery to all of the organs of the body when the body is asleep, at rest, walking, running, exerting maximum force, and through the most stressful conditions. In the next edition, please look forward to investigating the vasculature of the body: the arteries, veins, capillaries, and lymphatic vessels. The understanding of these smaller organs and their structure/function can give us an even greater appreciation for God and His magnificence shown in His creation (Psalm 104:24). ▲

Daddy, What Are You Doing?

Joshua Hall

Anyone who has ever raised toddlers knows they are filled with questions. Like “Where did this come from?”, the famous “Why?”, and my current favorite, “What are you doing?” My two-and-a-half-year-old daughter asks, “What are you doing?” (what seems like) one hundred times a day. Most of the time, the answers are simple: “I’m walking” or “I’m eating dinner with you.” On a Sunday morning, a few weeks ago, she asked during a time that has really caused me to think about her innocent question a little more deeply.

We were visiting a congregation while on vacation, I had just taken of the bread during communion (Matt 26:26) when she looked at me and said “Daddy, what’re you doing?” Her oh so common question in that moment changed my thoughts during that communion service, and really has been on my mind ever since. What am I doing? As Christian parents, what are we doing?

In my two and a half years of being a dad, I have really come to realize how much of what I do matters. Kids, especially little kids, imitate everything that you do. Paul “..urged..” those in Corinth to “...imitate me” (1 Cor 4:16 NKJV), showing that our example matters, and it has to mean something—Paul’s definitely did. He expands further on his example when he says later in the letter, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ” (1 Cor 11:1). As Christians, and as parents, we need to live lives worthy of imitation, lives molded to Christ (Phil 5:8; 1 John 2:6).

We are familiar with the command “...seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matt 6:33), but do we actually practice it? We want our children to be godly children; we want them to want to go to church, sing Bible songs, say prayers before they eat and sleep, and be kids on the pathway to heaven. Are we setting that example for them? If we spend little to no time discussing

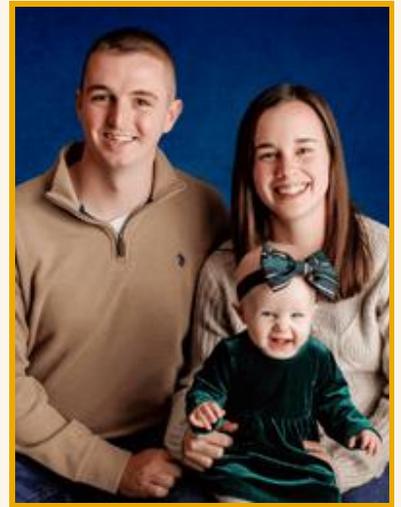
spiritual matters outside of the assembly, can we really be surprised when our kids do not want to pray or sing the songs from Bible class, because that is “church stuff?”

Are we locking in on a four-hour football game, but scrolling through our phone during a thirty-minute sermon? Are we showing them that the baseball camp on Wednesday night is more important than their knowledge of His Word?

These things (and many more), though they seem

small, add up, and they become our example to our children. I fear that if we forget the power that our example holds, especially over our children, that we will end up with a Judges 2:10 situation. “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel” (Judg 2:10). We as parents and as Christians need to be aware of our actions and the examples that we set to those around us and to those who look up to us.

That Sunday morning, during communion, my response to my daughter was simply, “Thinking about Jesus, can you think about Him with me?” As I have thought about it since then, I am doing so much more than that anytime I partake of communion, attend a church service, pray with my daughter, and live my life as a Christian. I am representing Jesus to her, I am showing her what she needs to look for in a husband one day, I am giving her an example. My prayer is that all Christian parents can one day look at their children and say, “Imitate me, as I also imitate Christ.” ▲



BUT I DON'T LIKE TO

Douglas Pell



“But I don’t like to” is one of those brutally honest answers that can only come from a child’s mouth. In a *USA Today* survey published many years ago, 1,074 youths, 19 and under, were asked why they don’t clean

their rooms more often. These were their responses: I don’t like to (66%), not enough time (29%), I’m too lazy (28%), the rest of the house is dirty (6%), no reply (2%). Some respondents gave more than one answer. In a way, their answers are very refreshing and make us aware that people do things for their own reasons, not ours. The Lord has known this about us since the beginning. When the pure heart of David penned Psalm 119, the Lord must have smiled. “My soul is crushed with longing after Thine ordinances at all times” (Psalm 119:20 NASB).

For every David that existed, countless other “I-don’t-like-to” people displayed their decision in unimaginable ways. “Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Gen 6:5).

Let’s change the question to something more appropriate for Christians under the watch-care of the elders. I wonder what the answers would be if we asked 1,074 struggling Christians, “Why don’t you attend weekly worship with us more often?” Other questions are equally challenging to get brutally honest answers to, like the following:

- Why aren’t you growing in the knowledge of God (2 Pet 3:18)?

- Why aren’t you more involved with the church? (1 Cor 12:25)?

What about the following question for our most faithful, mature men?

- Why don’t you desire to lead the people of God as an overseer, as described in 1 Timothy 3:1?

Would we hear answers like, “But I don’t like to?” Again, this highlights a valuable axiom I have learned over the course of my decades of managing, leading, and coaching others. People do things for their reasons, not ours. Therefore, my job is to find out their reasons. I believe in the power of the Gospel as revealed in God’s Word to save (Rom 1:16) and to complete us (2 Tim 3:16–17) for the purpose for which God created us. However, sometimes our delivery is by the wrong person, at the wrong time, and in the wrong venue. Welcome to the world of shepherding, where leadership is an art form. Overseers, visiting in living rooms and kitchens, are more suitable for hearing “their reasons.” There is never a convenient time, so you must purposefully make the time. Episkopos [overseer] is a Greek compound word (epi, over + skopeo, to look or watch). Elders look over or over-watch the flock of God. If you are not visiting [Gr. episkeptomai] the members, to oversee [Gr. episkopos] them is impossible. The correlation between overseeing and visiting is undeniable.

Dear elders, please review your commitment system (also known as your calendar) and let me know when you have scheduled your next visit to the brethren in their homes. You won’t be sorry that you went, even though your first reaction might be, “But I don’t like to.”

NO EXCUSES

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

Clista Heintzman

“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid” (John 14:27 NKJV). This world is filled with troubles, and troubles are common to all of us. There is no escaping the problems of conflict, sickness, aging, and dying in this life, and it is easy to allow these to overcome us with worry and despair. Jesus came that we might have peace. Peace can only come through Him, but how can we find the peace that Christ offers? When Jesus spoke of the heart in John 14, He referred to the mind. I would like to offer some suggestions for finding mental peace that have been of great help to me over the years, especially in times of great stress and trial.

First, change worry into prayer. Worry is wasted energy, but prayer is powerful and effective when we pray according to the will of God, pray believing that God hears, and pray without doubting (Jas 1:5–7; 1 John 5:14–15). Prayer puts our load on the One who can handle it. Prayer releases our worries and allows us to refocus our minds. Philippians 4:6–7 enforces this thought. Telling God what we need and thanking Him for what He has already done allows us to experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. The caveat is that we pray in faith, believing we will receive what we ask.

Second, we must change fear into faith. How can we do that with so many things pressing upon us? We keep our eyes focused on Jesus (Matt 14:22–33). While Peter kept his eyes focused on Jesus, he could walk on water. It was when he took his eyes off Jesus and focused on the winds and waves around him that he became fearful and sank. The winds and waves are ever present, but we are promised that if we build on the Rock, our house will stand firm. (Matt 7:24–27). Proverbs 14:1 teaches of the wise woman who builds her home and family upon the

truths, principles, and promises of God’s Word. A woman who does this will be like the woman of Proverbs 31, who clothed herself with strength and dignity—she laughed without fear of the future (Prov 31:25). I have some words taped to my computer that are based on Joshua 1:7. I do not know where I found them. “Be very courageous—show fixed determination rather than fear in facing life’s challenges.” “Trust in the Lord with all your heart...” (Prov 3:5). Do not fear but have faith in the God of heaven and what He can do. Nothing is too hard for the Lord (Gen 18:14). Someone once said, “God and a grasshopper can defeat any giant.” Paul said in Ephesians 6:16, “Above all, take the shield of faith...” With it, we will be able to stop anything Satan throws at us.

A third key to finding peace is to change idleness into work. Peace of mind is sometimes more easily achieved if the mind is busy with purposeful duties. Idleness is truly the devil’s workshop. Christians have a continual purpose—to do good works. “We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works” (Eph 2:10). Think of women in the New Testament who set the bar for us—Dorcas, Priscilla, Mary and Martha, Lydia, and the poor widow. They showed through example that we should grow, shine a light, store treasure in heaven, and offer spiritual sacrifices. We have been saved to do good works. If we are in Christ, we always have a purpose.

God bless us in our search for peace. Change worry into prayer. Change fear into faith. Change idleness into work. ▲



WHAT ABOUT CONDUCT?

Cole Curry

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 4:12, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (NKJV). What Paul is saying to Timothy is not to avoid things that will make people despise your youthfulness. But whenever we are young, we are sometimes more prone to do things that are not “in word,” “in conduct,” “in love,” “in spirit,” “in faith,” or “in purity.” Violating these things can make people feel angry or irritated at us and cause us to be a poor example. Instead, Paul goes on to say that we should act in a better way and be conscious of our conduct.

In word: Let your words be seasoned with salt (Col 4:6). What does salt do? It makes things taste better, and we should do the same in the way we talk and speak, in a way that is uplifting and encouraging, and not breaking down and destroying. “Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you” (Prov 4:24).

In conduct: How you conduct yourself is a very important thing; if you conduct yourself in a poor manner, people will use that against you. Rather, conduct yourself in a way that when they try to make up bad things about you, people will know that it is wrong because of how you typically conduct yourself (Titus 2:7–8). We will mess up, but we should try to conduct ourselves just as Christ did.

In love: We should be that good example to others in how we love and care for people. “Let all that you do be done with love” (1 Cor 16:14). Show people that you have a love for Christ and for them (John 13:34–35).

In faith and in spirit: We should express our faith in the way that we act. If you are serious about your faith and continuously show and express your faith to others, it will encourage others to grow their faith. Your faith should be strong enough to be willing to do anything for God (2 Cor 11:23–29). Paul was willing to put his life on the line for Christ. He put his faith and serving Christ above everything else.

In purity: We should strive to be pure in our thoughts, our lives, and how we act. Christ said in Matthew 5:14 that we are the light of the world. How are we to be a light if we are doing wrong? Short answer: We can’t. We need to take this to heart and use these things that Paul is telling Timothy and be an example ourselves, in word, in conduct, in faith, in spirit, in love, and in purity. We will fall and sin, but because of Christ, we can be forgiven and go on to remain faithful. So be that example in other people’s lives, and it will surprise you how much good it will do. ▲



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Becoming Like Children



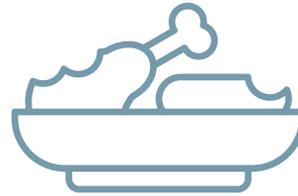
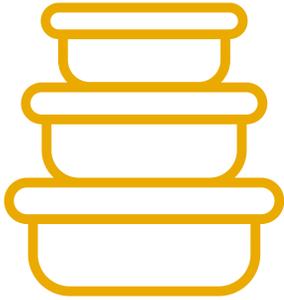
October 18
Ages 11 & Up

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Do We Give God the Leftovers?

Connor Curry



In the book of Malachi, we read of the ongoing downfall of the children of Israel's faithfulness and obedience toward God. The beginning chapter is laid out in a way where God tells the Israelites something, and then He predicts their response. In Malachi 1:2, God tells the Israelites that He loves them, then God predicts their response by saying, "In what way have You loved us?" God then replies, saying, "Was not Esau Jacob's brother? Says the Lord." Yet Jacob I have loved;" God tells the children of Israel that He has loved them by choosing Jacob over Esau. Then in Malachi 1:6 God lists one of the Ten Commandments specifically, honor your father and mother, but then God says, "A son honors his father, And a servant his master. If then I am the Father, Where is My honor? And if I am a Master, Where is My reverence? Says the Lord of hosts To you priests who despise My name. Yet you say, 'In what way have we despised Your name?'" (Mal 1:6 NKJV). We see in just these two instances that the Israelites have gone so far away from God and have twisted His laws so much that either they have become blind to the law, or they are just deliberately going against God's laws. Continuing on, it is revealed to us what exactly the priests were doing wrong. In Malachi 1:7-14, it reads that the priest would take the sick, the lame, and the blind to sacrifice to God when it was clearly told to them what to sacrifice, which was the best that has no defect (Lev 22:17-20). God, seeing this, then goes on to ask them. Why not offer it to your governor? Would he be pleased with you? Or would he receive you kindly? (Mal 1:8).

This is where we get our application, in our lives, do we give God the leftovers? When we go to church on Sunday, what is our attitude like? Do we feel it as a burden? Or do we act like a different person outside of worship, but when we do get into worship, we act like a faithful Christian? "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him (2 Cor 5:9). We need to be a Christian every day of our lives, not just on Sunday or Wednesday, because then if our faith is only practiced two days a week, then we are giving God the leftovers. "Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls" (Jas 1:21). ▲



What a Friend

Cheyenne Blizzard

In the movie *The Little Mermaid*, we see a scene that portrays reality. In order for Ariel, to get human legs, she has to make a deal with the sea witch Ursula. The deal was Ariel had to give up her voice to Ursula and get the prince to kiss her before the sun set on the third day; if she didn't, Ariel would belong to Ursula forever. Ariel, desperate to get her wish, made the deal with Ursula. Ariel then found herself stuck in a horrible position. The prince didn't kiss her before the sun had set. She immediately turned back into a mermaid and was sent to live with Ursula forever. When Ariel's father found out what had become of her, he went to Ursula and made a deal with her for him to take his daughter's place.

Ariel in this story represents us in our selfish ways. She was desperate to get what she wanted, and she wouldn't let anything stand in her way, which caused her to make the deal with Ursula. When we want something so bad in life, we often stop at nothing to get it. And Satan is right there to tell us that there is a way to get what we want; we just have to give ourselves over to him. He even tried to get Jesus to follow him. In Matthew 4, we read of Satan coming to Jesus to tempt him. In verse 8, he takes Jesus up

on a high mountain and shows Him the kingdoms and tells Him he would give them to Jesus if He worshiped him. Satan knew Jesus wanted the people to be followers of Him, so Satan said he would give it to Jesus if he would just give



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His life to him. Satan is always coming after us to get us to serve him. 2 Corinthians 11:14 tells us that Satan comes to us as an angel of light. Ursula came to Ariel, sounding wonderful because she could make her dreams come true. Satan does the same to us; he comes disguised as a good person to try to ensnare us. We have to watch for those temptations.

Ariel's father took her place in life. When we make mistakes like going astray, Jesus brings us back to Him. In Luke 15:4–7, Jesus tells a parable of the lost sheep and tells us that He does the same thing for us, He leaves the 99 to look for us when we go astray to bring us back. Jesus is there for us and leaves the 99 to bring us back to Him. What a friend we have in Him! ▲



Are You the SPIRITUAL LEADER?

Daniel P. Curry, Jr.



As we approached the church building, it was about 30 minutes before the service began. A truck was stopped under the canopy, which covered the front entry of the building. Husbands will often act as gentlemen and drop their wives and children off there so they do not have to walk in the rain. This time, it was not raining. Still, men drop their wives off at the church door to save her the walk through the parking lot, another act of love. It is a small gesture that is not overlooked and gives testimony to his wife that he values her.

On this occasion, the truck under the church canopy dropped off a woman, and her husband called out from his driver's side window, "I love you," and drove on, leaving the church parking lot and entering the busy roadway out from the building. How sweet! This man clearly loved his wife. His wife held the door open for my wife and me with a smile and greeted us as we entered the building. Some of us men reading this article may not always drop our wives off at the front door of the church building, even when it is not raining. However, you do something even more powerful, something much more appreciated and valued, an act of love for her and your family. You walk into the church building with her.



Are You the Spiritual Leader? • Daniel P. Curry, Jr.

The Scripture will call her “the weaker vessel,” and she is weaker physically, but it is undeniably true that often it is the case that a woman is superior spiritually (1 Pet 3:1–2). Here is the call to action with this short article. Men, your wives are not meant to shoulder the responsibility of being the spiritual leader in the home (1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:22–24). That is your position as the Christian husband, but often, it is seen that she is doing all the heavy lifting. He might drop her off at the church door, but she is the one doing all the fighting against Satan in your home. The husband is to be the spiritual leader, laboring together with his spouse. “Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, **and as being heirs together of the grace of life**, that your prayers may not be hindered” (1 Pet 3:7 NKJV emp added).

Husbands, your Christian wife, will work with you and submit to your leadership, so be very careful where you are leading her. Ananias and Sapphira are, unfortunately, great examples of husbands leading their wives down the wrong path. In Acts chapter five, it is written that Ananias sold a possession and kept back part of the proceeds. This was an action of deceit while everyone else distributed all of the proceeds (Acts 4:34–35 cf. 5:1–2). This decision will cost Ananias his life (Acts 5:5). In doing this terrible thing, Ananias, being the spiritual leader, influenced his wife, and you can also read the consequences.

Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?” She said, “Yes, for so much.” Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.” Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying her out, buried her by her husband. Acts 5:7–10

Notice the Bible says they had “agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord.” Ananias was acting alongside his wife, but not “...as being heirs together of the grace of life...” (1 Pet 3:7), but as heirs together of death. Men, be the spiritual leader that God desires you to be, and do not leave it up to her to go about it alone while you drop her off at the door and drive off, going down the wrong path. She just might follow you. ▲



Events



AUGUST

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — August 15 Harrisville, WV

POLISHING THE PULPIT — August 15-21

Sevierville, TN • polishingthepulpit.com

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — August 22 Pennsville COC
Stockport, OH

AREA-WIDE SING & PIE FLING — August 29

Moundsville, WV • Meet incoming WVSOP* students!
Singing: 7-8pm, Desserts: 8pm-?

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — August 29 Pursley COC
Sistersville, WV

SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — September 5 Sunrise COC
Parkersburg, WV

BLUEGRASS & BBQ — September 6

WVCYC* • 12pm - 5pm • wvcyc.com

OHIO VALLEY AREA PREACHERS' MEETING
— September 9 • 1 Willard Ave. Moundsville, WV •
10:30am - 12pm • Lunch Provided

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — September 19
McKinleyville COC Wellsburg, WV

OCTOBER

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — October 3 New Concord,
OH

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — October 10 North End COC
Parkersburg, WV

FALL CAMP — October 18 • WVCYC* • 10am - 7pm
Register with QR Code on graphic (page 13).

VICTORY LECTURES — October 19-23

Moundsville, WV • “Birth of the Messiah’s Nation:
Genesis 12-50” wvsop.com/victory-lectures/

FRIDAY NIGHT SING — October 24 Lower Paw Paw
COC Lower Salem, OH

*WVSOP:

West Virginia School of Preaching
2 Willard Avenue
Moundsville, WV 26041

*WVCYC:

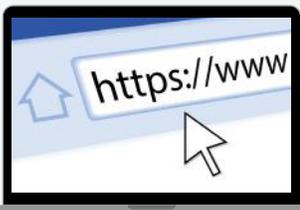
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Resources

General Resources

 **Added to the Church** - Publisher of Mountain Messenger, New Testament Expositor - [addedtothechurch.com](https://www.addedtothechurch.com)

 **Our Authors** - Meet the authors of The Mountain Messenger!
[addedtothechurch.com/christian-authors/](https://www.addedtothechurch.com/christian-authors/)

 **West Virginia School of Preaching** - 2-year program of classes taught by sound Christians - [wvsop.com](https://www.wvsop.com)

 **Sharp Five Media** - Affordable church websites and media by a member of the church - [sharp-five.com](https://www.sharp-five.com)

 **Bible Call** - Access Bible information recordings online or by phone. - [biblecallonline.com](https://www.biblecallonline.com)

Songs & Hymns

 **Teaching and Admonishing** - Free to listen and use original hymns by members of the church - [churchofchristsongs.com](https://www.churchofchristsongs.com)

 **WVCYC "Pressing On" CD** - Contact Andy Robison to order your CD or Thumb Drive!
andycd2020@gmail.com

Podcasts

 **The Religious Coffee Hour** - Podcast hosted by Hunter Melott found wherever you listen to podcasts.

 **Authentic Christian** - Podcast produced by GBN, hosted by Aaron Gallagher and Scott Ingram
[gbntv.org/the-authentic-christian/](https://www.gbntv.org/the-authentic-christian/)

Deepen Your Knowledge

 **Apologetics Press** - Articles, videos, books, etc. focused on the defense of New Testament Christianity - [apologeticspress.org](https://www.apologeticspress.org)

 **Gospel Broadcasting Network** - Provides Bible-based and unbiased resources from the Word of God - [gbntv.org](https://www.gbntv.org)

 **Focus Press** - Provides podcasts, articles, videos, books, and daily devotionals. - [focuspress.org](https://www.focuspress.org)

 **World Video Bible School** - Videos and free study courses on Biblical topics - [wvbs.org](https://www.wvbs.org)

 **Through the Scriptures** - Study through the entirety of the scriptures - [throughthescriptures.com](https://www.throughthescriptures.com)

 **Families of Faith** - Bible materials for families & churches. - [familiesoffaith.store](https://www.familiesoffaith.store)

 **Salvation Study Chain Cards** - Order these tract-like evangelism tools for your congregation. - bit.ly/study-card

Fun and Games

 **Birble** - Bible version of Wordle. Guess the five-letter word from the KJV Bible! - [ajrv.us/birble](https://www.ajrv.us/birble)

 **Memoria** - Bible verse memorization tool. Removes 1 word at a time as you practice. - [ajrv.us/bible/memoria](https://www.ajrv.us/bible/memoria)



4788 Stillwell Road
Davisville, WV 26142

“The Fallen for the Gospel”

Stephen R. Diehl

As many a Christian has fallen,
soldiers of the cross.
To spread the gospel, the Power,
to save the spiritually lost.

From the Sea of Galilee,
waters so Blue.
To the Atlantic and beyond,
where all is new.

From the Northern Lights,
to the Southern Sands.
The Good News is preached,
all over God’s land.

Blood has been spilt,
all over this earth.
To proclaim the gospel,
to give the lost a new birth.
Blood has been shed,
in our blessed land.

For freedom to spread the gospel,
shall forever stand.
The light of the Gospel,
the Glory of Christ.
The Son of God, ransomed
His Blood; His Father’s price.



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